



# DIAMOND

## SPM MODULE



*Bahasa  
Inggeris*



KEMENTERIAN  
PENDIDIKAN  
MALAYSIA  
Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Johor



KERAJAAN  
NEGERI JOHOR

# P R E F A C E

This module is specially designed to assist Johor State English language teachers in their teaching and learning processes, especially in teaching ESL students of higher proficiency. This module focuses on major components in Paper 1 and 2 of the SPM English Language examination, which students need to master and further improve on, in order to achieve better results. The components are Continuous Writing in Paper 1 and Section A and Novel in Paper 2. Do note that this module focuses on selected sections that are meant for students of higher proficiency to obtain or maintain a higher grade in the examination. In this module, useful notes, exercises, activities and teaching approaches are provided to guide students step-by-step towards a better understanding of each component. It is hoped that the careful utilisation of this module, together with teachers' guidance and students' engagement, can help students to have a better grasp on what they are expected to perform during the SPM English Language examination, hence gearing towards achieving academic excellence.

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## CONTINUOUS WRITING

Continuous writing is a type of writing that requires the writer to write an essay based on his or her experience creatively. Candidates are expected to write just one out of five options in not less than 350 words.

## CONTINUOUS WRITING - 50 marks (One hour)

### A. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Read through all the topics and choose one.
2. Decide on the tense that you are going to use in your writing.
3. Your writing must be relevant to the chosen topic.
4. You must write in 'Standard English'. What is Standard English?
  - Correct grammar, sentence structures, vocabulary and spelling
5. Most errors in spelling during an examination are caused by carelessness.
6. You will need to have a vocabulary that is wide, precise and appropriate for the task you are answering.
4. Sentences should be of various length and types. Different sentence structures are used to achieve the effect you intended.
5. Paragraphing - many good compositions lose marks because of poor paragraphing.
6. Begin your sentences differently – you can start with a dialogue, an idiom or even a lyric of a song.

### SENTENCE STRUCTURES

In order to obtain a better grade in your writing, there must be a variety in your sentence structure. There are mainly three types of sentence structures. They are:

- a. Simple sentences
- b. Compound sentences
- c. Complex sentences

Examples of simple sentences:

1. Siti baked cookies.
2. Devandran and Kannan are brothers.
3. He hoped to win the grand prize.

4. I expected to see him that night.
5. She froze.

Using coordinating conjunctions to form compound sentences using 'FANBOYS':

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS	
CONJUNCTION	EXAMPLE
<b>For</b>	We listened eagerly, <b>for</b> he brought news of our families.
<b>And</b>	She didn't speak to anyone, <b>and</b> nobody spoke to her.
<b>Nor</b>	I don't expect children to be rude, <b>nor</b> do I expect to be disobeyed.
<b>But</b>	They rushed to the hospital, <b>but</b> they were too late.
<b>Or</b>	I will go shopping, <b>or</b> I will go camping.
<b>Yet</b>	Kelly was a convicted criminal, <b>yet</b> many people admired him.
<b>So</b>	I was feeling hungry, <b>so</b> I made myself a sandwich.

Examples:

1. Wee Ling wanted cereal, **but** Hui Ru preferred pancakes.
2. We went to the beach, **and** then we went to the mountains.
3. Benard was hungry, **so** he made some sandwiches.
4. They were poor **and** often suffered great hardship.
5. I ordered them to halt, **but** they took no notice.
6. He arrived late **because** it was raining heavily.

1. When it stops raining, we will play basketball.
2. You should brush your teeth before going to bed.
3. Because she is nice, Mrs. Indra let us read books that we brought from home.
4. The place where the body was buried has recently been discovered.
5. He said that he was innocent.
6. I was surprised when I heard her voice.

[illegible]



## ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING

One of the essays that the students rarely choose is argumentative essay as it is seen as very challenging due to a higher level of technicality in analysing and evaluating skills. However, it is advisable for students who master common organisation and has good control of language markers and sentence structures and styles to attempt argumentative essay.



## Checklist for Argumentative Essay

1. First of all, you need to understand that argumentative essay needs an *argumentative thesis which takes sides of an issue*. For example, "Every country should be given authority for further construction of nuclear plants".
2. An argumentative essay attempts to convince or persuade the reader. The subject for an argumentative essay should be an opinion that can be argued logically and supported by evidence. Have you chosen an appropriate argumentative subject? Have you explained the issue or case sufficiently?
3. The thesis of the argumentative essay should take a clear stand on the issue. Does your thesis express your stand clearly?
4. An argumentative essay should attempt to refute opposing arguments. Does your essay do so?
5. An argumentative essay should offer logical reasons and support for the writer's opinion. Does your essay do so?
6. Is your essay logically organised?

### Exercise 1

Study the following thesis statements. Put an **"A"** in the blank if the statement is argumentative.

1. \_\_\_\_ The earthquake in China was one of the most devastating in history.
2. \_\_\_\_ Future parents should be required to get licenses in order to have children.
3. \_\_\_\_ Most of the Penangites I met are quite hospitable.
4. \_\_\_\_ Students should have a say in the hiring and firing of teachers.
5. \_\_\_\_ Political books ought to be banned in the secondary schools' libraries.
6. \_\_\_\_ Having rugby teams in Malaysian universities is irrelevant.



## ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING OUTLINE

7. \_\_\_\_ respond  
quickly to the report.
8. \_\_\_\_ The citizens of this country should be allowed to carry guns.
9. \_\_\_\_ The Malaysian government ought to allow more immigrants into this country.
10. \_\_\_\_ Teenagers nowadays should be given their freedom to choose their own course at the university.



# Argumentative Writing Outline

## Title

### Introductory Paragraph

- Hook.
- Background issue.
- Thesis Statement to state your stance.

### Content Paragraph 1

- Topic Sentence 1 or Argument 1 to support your stance.
- Evidence and supporting details.
- Concluding sentence.

### Content Paragraph 2

- Topic Sentence 2 or Argument 2 to support your stance.
- Evidence and supporting details.
- Concluding sentence.

### Content Paragraph 3

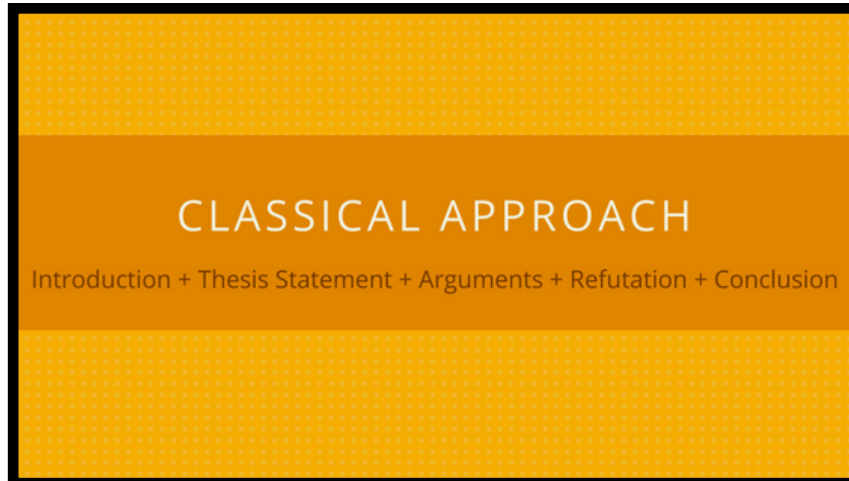
- Topic Sentence 3 or Argument 3 to support your stance.
- Evidence and supporting details.
- Concluding sentence.

### Counter-Argument and Refutation Paragraph

- Topic Sentence of the argument(s) which opposing to your stance.
- Elaboration.
- Refutations to the counter-arguments.
- More evidence to support your refutations.

### Concluding Paragraph

- Restate Thesis Statement and stance.
- Review 3 main points.
- Leave the reader with an interesting thought about your argument.



Now, after you have already identified and know how to precisely make the thesis statement, you need to outline its **arguments** and **topic sentences**.

**Example :**

**Teenagers should be given unlimited access to the internet. Do you agree?**

### **1. Introductory Paragraph**

**A) Introductory paragraph should:**

- be crafted around your thesis statement
- provide background information needed to understand your argument
- present pieces of evidence that back up that argument.
- introduce and set up the point, rather than laying out evidence in its support

**Introductory paragraph should not:**

- describe arguments or provide analysis that belongs to body paragraphs.
- give all the details that you are going to be arguing out even though the introduction is a road map to the rest of the thesis

<p><b>Start With an Enticing Hook</b></p>	<p>A catchy sentence or paragraph in the introduction which serves as an attention-grabbing element. Lead with an interesting fact or statistic, a quote, a personal anecdote, or a thought-provoking question. Your first sentence should draw the reader in and get them interested about the topic you are writing about.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p><i>Alexander Graham Bell once expressed his worries over the advancement of technology by saying that "I am worried that one day, technology will make the people near to us to become farther", and his anticipations seem to become true now.</i></p>
<p><b>Provide Some Background and Context</b></p>	<p>What's the situation? What are the events that lead you to your argument? Why should people care? Give enough background on the topic so that the reader can understand your argument—nothing more, nothing less.</p>
<p><b>State Your Thesis Statement</b></p>	<p>This is mainly the login of your essay. A thesis statement acts as the basis of your argument in your thesis. In a clear single sentence, it should <i>sum up the point you are trying to make</i>. It should also state the position of a particular issue that the reader will be able to argue against.</p> <p>The keyword is "<b>introduce</b>." State the main points that back up your argument and end it there. Leave the actual argument and analysis for the body paragraphs.</p> <p>The thesis is usually the last sentence of your introduction.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p><i>The disadvantages of unlimited access of the internet among teenagers are hazardous.</i></p>

**Introducing with Statistics:** "smoking should be banned from all public places"

Example:

Tobacco use kills more than five million people every year -- more than HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined, according to the World Health Organization."

**Introducing with an anecdote:** "granting the simple freedom in choosing one's clothes"

Example:

My older brother got jumped by gang members one day while walking home from the bus stop. He was hospitalized for a week due to injuries. The reason was simply because he was wearing a red shirt as part of his school uniform in an area that is controlled by a gang that wears blue. My brother knew this, but school officials didn't. If only one is granted the simple freedom to choose his own clothes as in the case of my brother, it would have saved him a lot of pain and suffering.

**Introducing with a thought-provoking question:** "Adding computers in schools will definitely improve the quality of learning"

Example:

Who likes to look things up in encyclopaedias anymore? The time has come for a change in doing research for homework, project papers and reports. Technology is growing all around us, but in school we are still restricted to using boring encyclopaedias and dictionaries. The school needs to keep up too. Computers for student check out surely a welcome improvement to our school. While everywhere else in the world technology is advancing, it seems like it stopped in schools since the first batch of PCs. Adding computers to our school will definitely improve the quality of learning for our many students.

## B) Body paragraphs

- consists of three or more paragraphs
- each presents a separate piece of evidence that supports your thesis statement
- should have a topic sentence for each paragraph of the body.
- should explain why your audience should agree with you. (reasons and support)
- make your argument even stronger by stating opposing points of view and refuting those points.

### 1. Reasons and support

- Usually, you will have three or more reasons why the reader should accept your position. These will be your topic sentences.
- Support each of these reasons with logic, examples, statistics, authorities, or anecdotes.
- To make your reasons seem plausible, connect them back to your position by using “if... then” reasoning.

### 2. Anticipate opposing positions and arguments.

- What objections will your readers have? Answer them with argument or evidence.
- What other positions do people take on this subject? What is your reason for rejecting these positions?

### 2. Content Paragraph 1

#### **Argument 1 :**

*I strongly believe that unlimited access of the internet among teenagers will affect their mental health.*

[...and more elaborations coming in to elaborate more on Argument 1]

### 3. Content Paragraph 2

Now, let's try on the second argument.

#### **Argument 2:**

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[...and *more elaborations* coming in to elaborate more on Argument 2]

#### 4. Content Paragraph 3

##### **Argument 3:**

My stance is so clear upon this matter simply because the teenagers are still immature to evaluate what's good or bad for their eyes to see from the internet.

[...and *more elaborations* coming in to elaborate more on Argument 3]

#### 5. Counter-Argument and Refutation Paragraph

**[Counter-Argument]** Some people said that teenagers should be given freedom to roam freely in the sea of the internet due to the fact that they need sufficient exposure of information and knowledge.

**[Refutation]** However, I have to disagree to this matter due to the fact that exposure to the unlimited access to the internet does not guarantee the time spent by the teenagers is focused on seeking for beneficial information. Instead, they tend to spend their precious time on.....

[more elaborations to show that the Counter-Argument is weak and will not stand]

#### 6. Concluding Paragraph

##### **C) Conclusion**

- write a simple and impactful conclusion.
- should not leave your essay hanging.
- should end adequately.
- need to show that the essay and the findings you have are in your favour.
- reinforce your points as the most sensible in your conclusion.
- summarize your thesis statement and main arguments and try to convince the reader that your argument is the best.
- tie the whole piece together. Avoid presenting new facts or arguments.

**Here are some conclusion ideas:**

- Think "big picture." If you are arguing for policy changes, what are the implications of adopting (or not adopting) your ideas? How will they affect the reader (or the relevant group of people)?
- Present hypothesis. Show what will happen if the reader adopts your ideas. Use real-life examples of how your ideas will work.
- Include a call to action. Inspire the reader to agree with your argument. Tell them what they need to think, do, feel, or believe.
- Appeal to the reader's emotions, morals, character, or logic.

**Restating your Thesis Statement:**

In conclusion, to allow teenagers to have full access to the internet subscription is a big NO-NO decision.

- [Review 3 main points and leave the reader with an interesting thought about your argument]

LIST OF VOCABULARY		
<p><b>1. analyse</b> consider in detail in order to discover essential features</p> <p><b>2. anecdote</b> short account of an incident</p> <p><b>3. argument</b> an assertion offered as evidence that something is true</p>	<p><b>1. counter-argument</b> an opinion offered in opposition to another position</p> <p><b>2. credibility</b> the quality of being believable or trustworthy</p> <p><b>3. deduction</b> reasoning from the general to the particular</p>	<p><b>1. evidence</b> knowledge on which to base belief</p> <p><b>2. fact</b> a concept whose truth can be proved</p> <p><b>3. fallacy</b> a misconception resulting from incorrect reasoning</p>
<p><b>1. bias</b> a partiality preventing objective consideration of an issue</p> <p><b>2. claim</b> an assertion that something is true or factual</p> <p><b>3. premise</b> a statement that is held to be true</p>	<p><b>1. formal</b> adhering to traditional standards of correctness</p> <p><b>2. generalization</b> an idea or conclusion having broad application</p> <p><b>3. hypothetical</b> a conjectural possibility or circumstance</p>	<p><b>1. induction</b> reasoning from detailed facts to general principles</p> <p><b>2. testimonial</b> something that serves as evidence</p> <p><b>3. thesis</b> an unproved statement advanced as a premise in an argument</p>
<p><b>1. persuade</b> cause somebody to adopt a certain position or belief</p> <p><b>2. position</b> an opinion that is held in opposition to another</p>	<p><b>1. reason</b> a fact that logically justifies some premise or conclusion</p> <p><b>2. reasoning</b> thinking that is coherent and logical</p>	<p><b>1. rebuttal</b> the speech act of refuting by offering a contrary argument</p> <p><b>synthesize</b> combine so as to form a more complex product</p>

LANGUAGE MARKERS  
FOR  
**ARGUMENTATIVE  
ESSAY**

AND SOME OF RELEVANT VOCABULARIES

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TO SHOW  
CONSENSUS



i can't agree more...

I strongly agree

Many people believe  
that...

This can also be seen  
to be true in...

This point is  
absolutely  
undebatable  
because...

My stance is so clear  
that...

TO SHOW  
DISAGREEMENT



I have to disagree  
with that...

I strongly disagree

Others might argue...

Corresponding with  
this...

Perhaps this point is  
true, however, I  
strongly oppose to  
this view simply  
because

That point is weak  
and debatable...

**This is a student's original written work and can be used as an exercise for students to identify errors.**

**STEP 1: Students need to identify errors which has not been corrected.**

**Online Gaming Can Help Teenagers to Become Creative Thinkers. Do you agree?**

It has become not common for teenagers nowadays to not know about online games. Online games has been part of a teenager's life. The likes of Fortnite, PUBG and Mobile Legends are some famous online games played by teenagers nowadays. Online games helps teenagers to become creative thinkers. I agree with the statement and I have some points to prove it.

My first point is teenagers who play online games can solve the problems creatively. Some teenagers do not like online games. This is because of the fun it offers. Some teenagers are interested in the challenge the games may provide. There are also some online games that require the players to solve some challenge in the games accordingly. This allows teenagers to look at various situations in various perspectives. This can help them meet the challenger's requirement. With this, teenagers are able to provide various solutions for various problems that they met. This allows them to think of ways and solve the problems based on the knowledge gained through online gaming.

In addition, playing online games can expand a teenager's imagination. It is because online games are made to engage the players' mind to the game's mechanics. This allows teenagers to think widely. They can also think of numerous possibilities that can happen. This can affect teenagers' imagination and it will expand based on how much the brain can imagine. This allows a teenager to have a very active imagination. Besides, they can also have a clear imagination that can help them in solving any kind of problems.

On top of that, playing online games can help to expand a teenager's way of thinking by asking for opinions. These opinions can be from someone of a different background. Some online games are provided with a messaging feature. This feature allows players to communicate with

other players. The communication system in an online game are often not limited by countries. This can allow teenagers to ask for opinions from various people, countries, ethnics and backgrounds. This can help them in expanding their ideas of the world and receiving many ideas. This can allow teenagers to learn a proper way of communicating with those from different countries so that they can practice it in real life.

In a nutshell, online games does help teenagers to become creative thinkers. This is due to their ability to look at many different perspectives, effective imaginations and opinions from a different party. While an online game does have its upsides, it does not give one the pleasure to sit in a room and stare at the screen all day. You have to do various kind of outdoor activities and participate in family activities. Playing too much online games will make you prone to become addicted. In fact, it can loosen your ties with friends and relatives.

## STEP 2 : Rectifying the mistakes

Paragraph	Original version	Explanation	Corrected Version
Para 1	Online games <b>has</b> been part of a teenager's life.	Online games is a plural subject therefore it takes a plural verb	Online games <b>have</b> been part of a teenager's life.
Para 1	Online games <b>helps</b> teenagers to become creative thinkers.	Online games is a plural subject, therefore it takes a plural verb	Online games <b>help</b> teenagers to become creative thinkers.
Para 2	This is because of the fun <b>it offers</b> .	The sentence before explains online games, hence, 'it offers' in the following sentence does not compliment it.	This is because of the fun <b>they offer</b> .
Para 2	There are also some online games that require the players to solve some <b>challenge</b> in the games accordingly.	'challenge' is a countable noun which has a plural form, therefore it should be some challenges.	There are also some online games that require the players to solve some <b>challenges</b> in the games accordingly.



Para 3	This allows <b>a teenager</b> to have a very active imagination.	'teenagers' is used as a plural subject throughout the paragraph, therefore this sentence should stick to the use of a plural form too, - 'teenagers'.	This allows <b>teenagers</b> to have a very active imagination.
Para 4	The communication system in an online game <b>are</b> often not limited by countries.	'system' is a singular subject which should take a singular verb to be - 'is'	The communication system in an online game <b>is</b> often not limited by countries.
Para 4	This can allow teenagers to learn a proper way of communicating with those from different countries so that they can <b>practice</b> it in real life.	'practice' is a noun in which a verb form - 'practise' should take place in this sentence.	This can allow teenagers to learn a proper way of communicating with those from different countries so that they can <b>practise</b> it in real life.
Para 5	In a nutshell, online games <b>does</b> help teenagers to become creative thinkers.	'Online games' is a plural subject therefore it takes a plural verb	In a nutshell, online games <b>do</b> help teenagers to become creative thinkers.

## STEP 2: After the Errors are rectified

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### Online Gaming Can Help Teenagers to Become Creative Thinkers

It has become not common for teenagers nowadays to not know about online games. Online games **have** been part of a teenager's life. The likes of Fortnite, PUBG and Mobile Legends are some famous online games played by teenagers nowadays. Online games **help** teenagers to become creative thinkers. I agree with the statement and I have some points to prove it.

My first point is teenagers who play online games can solve the problems creatively. Some teenagers do not like online games. This is because of the fun **they offer**. Some teenagers are interested in the challenge the games may provide. There are also some online games that require the players to solve some **challenges** in the games accordingly. This allows teenagers to

look at various situations in various perspectives. This can help them meet the challenger's requirement. With this, teenagers are able to provide various solutions for various problems that they met. This allows them to think of ways and solve the problems based on the knowledge gained through online gaming.

In addition, playing online games can expand a teenager's imagination. It is because online games are made to engage the players' mind to the game's mechanics. This allows teenagers to think widely. They can also think of numerous possibilities that can happen. This can affect teenagers' imagination and it will expand based on how much the brain can imagine. This allows **teenagers** to have a very active imagination. Besides, they can also have a clear imagination that can help them in solving any kind of problems.

On top of that, playing online games can help to expand a teenager's way of thinking by asking for opinions. These opinions can be from someone of a different background. Some online games are provided with a messaging feature. This feature allows players to communicate with other players. The communication system in an online game **is** often not limited by countries. This can allow teenagers to ask for opinions from various people, countries, ethnics and backgrounds. This can help them in expanding their ideas of the world and receiving many ideas. This can allow teenagers to learn a proper way of communicating with those from different countries so that they can **practise** it in real life.

In a nutshell, online games **do** help teenagers to become creative thinkers. This is due to their ability to look at many different perspectives, effective imaginations and opinions from a different party. While an online game does have its upsides, it does not give one the pleasure to sit in a room and stare at the screen all day. You have to do various kind of outdoor activities and participate in family activities. Playing too much online games will make you prone to become addicted. In fact, it can loosen your ties with friends and relatives.

### STEP 3: Using conjunctions to change the simple sentences to complex and compound structures

#### Online Gaming Can Help Teenagers to Become Creative Thinkers

<p>It has become not common for teenagers nowadays to not know about online games. Online games <b>have</b> been part of a teenager's life. The likes of Fortnite, PUBG and Mobile Legends are some famous online games played by teenagers nowadays. Online games <b>help</b> teenagers to become creative thinkers. I agree with the statement and I have some points to prove it.</p> <p>My first point is teenagers who play online games can solve the problems creatively. Some teenagers do not like online games <b>because</b> of the fun <b>they offer</b>. Some teenagers are interested in the challenge the games may provide. There are also some online games that require the players to solve some <b>challenges</b> in the games accordingly. This allows teenagers to look at various situations in various perspectives <b>so that</b> they can meet the challenger's requirement. With this, teenagers are able to provide various solutions for various problems that they met. This allows them to think of ways and solve the problems based on the knowledge gained through online gaming.</p> <p>In addition, playing online games can expand a teenager's imagination. It is because online games are made to engage the players' mind to the game's mechanics. This allows teenagers to think widely <b>and</b> think of numerous possibilities that can happen. This can affect teenagers' imagination <b>and</b> it will expand based on how much the brain can imagine. This allows <b>teenagers</b> to have a very active and clear imagination <b>that</b> can help them in solving any kind of problems.</p> <p>On top of that, playing online games can help to expand a teenager's way of thinking by asking for opinions from someone of a different background. Some online games are provided with a messaging feature that allows players to communicate with other players. The communication system in an online game <b>is</b> often not limited by countries. This can allow teenagers to ask for opinions from various people, countries, ethnics and backgrounds. This can help them in expanding their ideas of the world and receiving many ideas. This can allow teenagers to learn a proper way of communicating with those from different countries so that they can <b>practise</b> it in real life.</p> <p>In a nutshell, online games <b>do</b> help teenagers to become creative thinkers. This is due to their ability to look at many different perspectives, effective imaginations and opinions from a different party. While an online game does have its upsides, it does not give one the pleasure to sit in a room and stare at the screen all day. You have to do various kind of outdoor activities and participate in family activities. Playing too much online games will make you prone to become addicted <b>and</b> loosen your ties with friends and relatives.</p>	<p>Conjunction - <b>'because'</b> is used to join the sentences</p> <p>Conjunction - <b>'so that'</b> is used to join the sentences</p> <p>Conjunction - <b>'and'</b> is used to join the sentences.</p> <p>'These opinions can be' is eliminated to join the sentences. <b>'that'</b> is used to join the sentences</p> <p>Conjunction <b>'and'</b> is used to join the sentences</p>
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#### STEP 4: Avoiding word / phrase level repetition

It has become not common for teenagers nowadays to not know about online games. Online games **have** been part of a teenager's life. The likes of Fortnite, PUBG and Mobile Legends are some famous online games played by teenagers **today** (~~nowadays~~). Online games **help** teenagers to become creative thinkers. I agree with the statement and I have some points to prove it.

My first point is teenagers who play online games can solve the problems creatively. Some teenagers do not like online games because of the fun **they offer**. Others (~~Some teenagers~~) are interested in the challenge the games may provide. There are also some online games that require the players to solve some **challenges** in the games accordingly. This allows teenagers to look at various situations in **several** (~~various~~) perspectives so that they can meet the challenger's requirement. With this, teenagers are able to provide **different** (~~various~~) solutions for **the** (~~various~~) problems that they met. This **enables** (~~allows~~) them to think of ways and solve the problems based on the knowledge gained through online gaming.

In addition, playing online games can expand a teenager's imagination. It is because **these** (~~online~~) games are made to engage the players' mind to the game's mechanics. This allows teenagers to think widely and **consider** (~~think of~~) numerous possibilities that can happen. This can affect teenagers' imagination and it will expand based on how much the brain can imagine. This **supports** (~~allows~~) **teenagers** to have a very active and clear imagination that can help them in solving any kind of problems.

On top of that, playing online games can help to expand a teenager's way of thinking by asking for opinions from someone of a different background. Some online games are provided with a messaging feature that allows players to communicate with other players. The communication system in an online game **is** often not limited by countries. This can **let** (~~allow~~) teenagers to ask for opinions from various people, countries, ethnics and backgrounds. This (~~can~~) **helps** them in expanding their ideas of the world and receiving **new information** (~~many ideas~~). This can **ensure** (~~allow~~) teenagers to learn a proper way of communicating with those from different countries so that they can **practise** it in real life.

In a nutshell, online games **do** help teenagers to become creative thinkers. This is due to their ability to look at many different perspectives, effective imaginations and opinions from a different party. While an online game does have its upsides, it does not give one the pleasure to sit in a room and stare at the screen all day. You have to do various kind of outdoor activities and participate in family activities. Playing too much online games will make you prone to become addicted and loosen your ties with friends and relatives.

#### STEP 5: Changing style of writing

Original version	Revised version
It has become not common for teenagers nowadays to not know about online games. Online games <b>have</b> been part of a teenager's life. The likes of Fortnite, PUBG and Mobile Legends are some famous online games played by teenagers <b>today</b> ( <del>nowadays</del> ). Online games <b>help</b> teenagers to become creative thinkers. I agree with the statement and I have some points to prove it.	Why do parents say 'NO' to online games especially for teenagers? Can the teenagers imagine their life without Fortnite, PUBG and Mobil legends? Undeniably, it has become unusual for teenagers nowadays to not know about online games. Online games have been shown to be part of a teenager's life. I agree with the statement as these games are able to help teenagers to become creative thinkers in solving problems, expanding imaginations and widening critical knowledge.

<p>My first point is teenagers who play online games can solve the problems creatively. Some teenagers do not like online games because of the fun <b>they offer</b>. Others are interested in the challenge the games may provide. There are also some online games that require the players to solve some <b>challenges</b> in the games accordingly. This allows teenagers to look at various situations in <b>several</b> perspectives so that they can meet the challenger's requirement. With this, teenagers are able to provide <b>different</b> solutions for <b>the</b> problems that they met. This <b>enables</b> them to think of ways and solve the problems based on the knowledge gained through online gaming.</p>	<p>My first point is teenagers who play online games are capable of thinking creative ways of solving problems. Some teenagers are not into online games simply because of the fun they offer. Others are interested in the challenge the games may provide. There are also some online games that require the players to solve some challenges in the games accordingly. This allows teenagers to look at various situations in several perspectives so that they can meet the challenger's requirement. With this, teenagers are able to provide different solutions for the problems that they met. This enables them to think of ways and solve the problems based on the knowledge gained through online gaming. Therefore, it is crystal clear that online games can help teenagers to solve problems and indirectly makes them to be creative thinkers.</p>
<p>In addition, playing online games can expand a teenager's imagination. It is because <b>these (online)</b> games are made to engage the players' mind to the game's mechanics. This allows teenagers to think widely and <b>consider (think-of)</b> numerous possibilities that can happen. This can affect teenagers' imagination and it will expand based on how much the brain can imagine. This <b>supports (allows) teenagers</b> to have a very active and clear imagination that can help them in solving any kind of problems.</p>	<p>In addition, playing online games can expand a teenager's imagination. It is because <b>these</b> games are made to engage the players' mind to the game's mechanics. This allows teenagers to think widely and <b>consider</b> numerous possibilities that can occur. This can affect teenagers' imagination and it will expand based on how much the brain can imagine. This supports teenagers to have a very active and vivid imagination that can help them in solving any kind of problems.</p>



<p>On top of that, playing online games can help to expand a teenager's way of thinking by asking for opinions from someone of a different background. Some online games are provided with a messaging feature that allows players to communicate with other players. The communication system in an online game <b>is</b> often not limited by countries. This can <b>let (allow)</b> teenagers to ask for opinions from various people, countries, ethnics and backgrounds. This <b>(can) helps</b> them in expanding their ideas of the world and receiving <b>new information (many ideas)</b>. This can <b>ensure (allow)</b> teenagers to learn a proper way of communicating with those from different countries so that they can <b>practise</b> it in real life.</p>	<p>On top of that, playing online games can help expanding a teenager's way of thinking by asking for opinions from someone of a different background. Some online games are provided with a messaging feature that allows players to communicate with other players. The communication system in an online game is often not bordered by countries. This can let teenagers to ask for opinions from various people, countries, ethnics and backgrounds. This helps them in expanding their view of the world and receiving new information. This can ensure teenagers to learn a proper way of communicating with those from different countries so that they can practise it in real life. Thus, online games allow students seeking for opinions and this leads them to become creative thinkers.</p>
<p>In a nutshell, online games <b>do</b> help teenagers to become creative thinkers. This is due to their ability to look at many different perspectives, effective imaginations and opinions from a different party. While an online game does have its upsides, it does not give one the pleasure to sit in a room and stare at the screen all day. You have to do various kind of outdoor activities and participate in family <b>events (activities)</b>. Playing too much online games will make you prone to become addicted and loosen your ties with friends and relatives.</p>	<p>In a nutshell, online games do help teenagers to become creative thinkers. This is due to their ability to look at many different perspectives, effective imaginations and opinions from a different party. While an online game does have its upsides, it does not give one a privilege to sit in a room and stare at the screen all day. You have to do various kind of outdoor activities and participate in family events. Playing too much online games will make you prone to become addicted and severe your ties with friends and relatives.</p>

## PRACTICE 1

### ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING (ESSAY 1)

#### Instruction:

Read the following essay. It contains a few errors. You can insert good expressions, linkers and also substitute words to make the essay better. Then, rewrite it in the space below.

#### Question:

Living in the countryside is better than living in the city.

Do you agree? Give your reasons.

I totally disagree with the statement that living in the countryside is better than living in the city. Yes, it is indeed true that the countryside is surround by nature. You can breathe in the cold unpolluted air everyday. Your house is still safe even if you do not have any alarm or security lock. However, the huge problem in this era that is moving forward, it is hard for us to live in a countryside. Our life might be left behind if we do not catch up with technology. There are a few advantages that make me chose living in the city than living in the countryside.

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One of the reasons why I choose to live in the city over the countryside is because living in the city give you an absolute different culture. You will be living in a life which is modern and sophisticated. You will also find modern libraries, museums, theatres, parks and gardens. A city is a place where you can escape for an enjoyable moment with your beloved family or friends like going to the spa to have beauty treatments or massages or have some workouts in the gym. Other than that, you can also watch your favourite movie at a big screen cinema near you.

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Next, the word 'city' begins with the letter 'C' as in 'convenient' and 'cosmopolitan'. Travelling in a cosmopolitan city is always convenient as you do not have to own a car to move around. All you can do is to just hop on a public transportation which is always available and punctual and you will reach your destination at the right schedule. The fare for the buses or trains is also affordable and cheap. For that matter, you will not only save your time but also your money as well. If public transportation is not your cup of tea, you can choose to drive your car as the distance between places is short and the roads are usually safe and smooth.

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In the aspects of dining and shopping, you can always have your moist chocolate cake or chicken cheesy lasagne by not worrying where to get them. Hawker centres, stalls, food trucks or any eateries nearby are there for you to grab your favourite food. Even now, with the advancement of technology, your food can be sent right in front of your doorstep through companies like Foodpanda, GrabFood, Dahmakan or McDonald's deliveries. They also offer reasonable prices. For shopping, you can shop for your favourite clothes through online stores. Zalora, FashionValet, Shopee and Lazada provide this service to everyone. People in the city always lead a busy life, aren't they? With this new lifestyle, you do not have to worry much as your stomach is taken care of and you can be stylish at the same time.

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Last but not least, living in the city provides you with better education and job opportunities. There are many universities for you to choose from. As for those who are looking for jobs, you can easily find one in big cities like Kuala Lumpur and Johor Baharu. You can also take up part-time jobs which are a lot in a big city. The choice is in your hand.

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To sum it all up, I choose to live in the city over the countryside because of the facilities, convenience and living condition. We need to progress in everything that we do and that can be easily achieved in the city than in the countryside.

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## Notes for teachers:

### Paragraph 1:

1. Substitute the word 'totally' to 'strongly' in line 1.
2. The use of a passive verb in the word 'surrounded' in line 2.
3. The spelling of 'every day' as two words/an adverbial phrase in line 3.
4. Good choice of words for better impact in line 5.
5. Repetition (R) and sentence construction in line 6.

### Suggested answer

I **strongly** disagree with the statement that living in the countryside is better than living in the city. Yes, it is indeed true that the countryside is **surrounded** by nature. You can breathe in the cold unpolluted air **every day**. Your house is still safe even if you do not have any alarm or security lock. However, the huge problem in this era that is moving forward is, it is hard for us to live in a countryside. **We might not be advancing in life if we do not keep abreast** with technology. There are a few advantages that make me chose **to live in the city than the countryside**.

### Paragraph 2:

1. Omission ^ of the word 'Firstly' as to show a list of reasons that will be written in the essay.
2. Lines 1 and 2, 'reasons' and 'gives' - grammar
3. Line 3, Repetition (R) of the word 'modern'.
4. Line 6, the use of a hyphenated word 'big-screen' as an adjective.

### Suggested answer

**Firstly**, one of the **reasons** why I choose to live in the city over the countryside is because living in the city **gives** you an absolute different culture. You will be living (**omit 'in'**) a life which is modern and sophisticated. You will find **state-of-the-art** museums, theatres, parks and gardens. A city is a place where you can escape for an enjoyable moment with your beloved family or friends like going to the spa to have beauty treatments or massages or have some workouts in the gym. Other than that, you can also watch your favourite movie at a **big-screen** cinema near you.

### Paragraph 3:

1. Line 4, change the word 'schedule' to 'time'.
2. Line 4, the use of transitional words or phrase 'Besides' or 'In addition'.
3. Line 5, delete the word 'cheap' (R) as it has the same meaning as 'affordable'.
4. Line 6, introduce a contrasting point with 'On the other hand' or 'However'.

### Suggested answer

Next, the word 'city' begins with the letter 'C' as in 'convenient' and 'cosmopolitan'. Travelling in a cosmopolitan city is always convenient as you do not have to own a car to move around. All you can do is to just hop on a public transportation that is always available and punctual and you will reach your destination at the right **time. Besides/In addition**, the fare for the buses or trains is also **affordable**. For that matter, you will not only save your time but your money as well. **On the other hand / However**, if public transportation is not your cup of tea, you can choose to drive your car as the distance between places is short and the roads are usually safe and smooth.

### Paragraph 4:

1. Line 3, as not to repeat (R) the word 'technology' in paragraph 1, you can reconstruct the sentence accordingly.
2. Line 4, the idiom 'at your doorstep' can be used to substitute the phrase 'in front of your doorstep'.
3. Line 5, join the two sentences with the word 'which'.
4. Lines 5 and 6, try not to repeat the word 'shop' by substituting it with 'buy'. The phrase 'Apart from' to begin the sentence can justify the preference.
5. Line 8, substitute 'busy' with 'hectic' and 'lifestyle' with 'trend' for better choice of words.

### Suggested answer

In the aspects of dining and shopping, you can always have your moist chocolate cake or chicken cheesy lasagne by not worrying where to get them. Hawker centres, stalls, food trucks or any eateries nearby are there for you to grab your favourite food. Even now, **with apps that are installed in your phone**, your food can be sent right **at** your doorstep through companies like Foodpanda, GrabFood, Dahmakan or McDonald's deliveries **which** also offer reasonable prices. **Apart from food, buying your favourite clothes can also be done** through online stores. Zalora, FashionValet, Shopee and Lazada provide this service to everyone. People in the city always lead a hectic life, aren't they? With this new **trend**, you do not have to worry much as your stomach is taken care of and you can be stylish at the same time.

**Paragraph 5:**

1. Line 2, better choice of word, `numerous' than `many'.
2. Line 4, substitute the phrase `a lot' with `abundance' or `aplenty'.

***Suggested answer***

Last but not least, living in the city provides you with better education and job opportunities.

There are numerous universities for you to choose from. As for those who are looking for jobs, you can easily find one in big cities like Kuala Lumpur and Johor Baharu. You can also take up part-time jobs which are in abundance in a big city. The choice is in your hand.

**Paragraph 6**

1. Line 1, `choose' can be replaced by `prefer' for better argument.

***Suggested answer***

To sum it all up, I **prefer** to live in the city over the countryside because of the facilities, convenience and living condition. We need to progress in everything that we do and that can be easily achieved in the city than in the countryside.

**Instruction:**

Read this second essay on the same topic discussed earlier. Complete it by inserting the missing word or phrases from the choices given in the spaces below.

**Question:**

Living in the countryside is better than living in the city.

Do you agree? Give your reasons.

a. high end luxury items

b. transportation services

c. internet coverage

d. efficient way

e. hatred and division

f. change your perspective

g. delivered promptly

h. meets the eye

i. seek answers

j. basic necessities

k. a ride down

l. catered for everyone's needs

m. skills and intelligence

n. delicacies

o. good infrastructure

**ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING  
(ESSAY 2)**

I do not agree that living in the countryside is better than the city. Most people think the countryside is better than the city. But there is more than .....(1)  
The question is, in what way does living in the city better than the countryside? We shall discuss on this matter and hopefully it will be enough to .....  
(2) about the city.

First and foremost, the city is filled with facilities .....(3).  
For instance, the city has.....(4) We can have the access of these in the city. This can improve our lives so that we do not have to walk to get to somewhere else. The LRT or Light Rapid Transportation is an .....(5) of public transportation and it is also cost-effective. We just have to sit back and relax until we arrive at our destination. Furthermore, the percentage of LRT having a collision is approximately zero. We do not have to worry about accidents or crashes because the engineers have already programmed the routes so that no other LRT shuttle will pass the same track at the same time.

Next, the city also offers a wide range of .....(6). We can enjoy food from different nations without even leaving the country. This is because, the city



provides a variety of restaurants of different food choices. For example, if we crave for Japanese food, we could take.....(7) to the mall to savour it. In the countryside, there are not many restaurants available. However, in the city, we could enjoy whatever food we want. For your information, the city also has food delivery services. Why? It is because many people prefer food sent straight to their doors instead of personally dining in restaurants. This proves that the city is better than the countryside.

Shopping has become a hobby for some people. The city delivers a wide range of brands to choose from. From .....(8) such as Louis Vuitton and Prada to .....(9). We could nearly get everything we want in the city. Let me take an example, whenever we need new clothes, we could drive down to the nearest shopping centre or shop to get them. This makes purchasing things easier. Unlike the countryside, we could even make online orders from the Internet and have them .....(10). Hence, the city offers more than the countryside.

In this modern era, technology has changed us in many ways. The city provides better .....(11) than the countryside. With this, we could access all the information we need at our fingertips. We could just type our questions and all the answers will be displayed on the computer screen. Unlike the countryside, we do not have to go to a library to .....(12). Furthermore, driverless cars have also made their ways into our society. We can now accomplish many things that we could not normally do in a conventional car. Imagine, we can play board games to kill some time with the family during long trips. Therefore, the city is much more lively and advanced.

Last but not least, the city offers fitness facilities, schools, and most importantly, .....(13). Competition between workers in workplaces and students in schools is huge and somehow .....(14) have become the main weapon in this modern era. If we face some obstacles in our studies, we can attend tuition classes to help us overcome and improve our grades. Other than that, there are many gymnasiums in the city to feed those sports enthusiasts. I believe the countryside does not have many of these facilities. This way, in the city, we can also be strong and healthy.

In conclusion, the city proves to have more advantages than the countryside. The basic needs of living is already available for us but it is still our choice to make. To quote the famous English singer and songwriter, John Lennon from the group, Beatles, "Not one of us can rest, be happy, be at home, be at peace with ourselves, until we end .....(15)". I hope that people in the world would have peace and harmony and as in this discussion, the countryside will deliver the same advancement as in the city one day. My prayer is that at all of us can lead a better life regardless of where we live in.

## Answers for teachers:

I do not agree that living in the countryside is better than the city. Most people think the countryside is better than the city. But there is more than **meets the eye (1/h)**. The question is, in what way does living in the city better than the countryside? We shall discuss on this matter and hopefully it will be enough to **change your perspective (2/f)** about the city.

First and foremost, the city is filled with facilities **catered for everyone's needs (3/l)**. For instance, the city has **transportation services (4/b)**. We can have the access of these in the city. This can improve our lives so that we do not have to walk to get to somewhere else. The LRT or Light Rapid Transportation is an **efficient mode (5/d)** of public transportation and it is also cost-effective. We just have to sit back and relax until we arrive at our destination. Furthermore, the percentage of LRT having a collision is approximately zero. We do not have to worry about accidents or crashes because the engineers have already programmed the routes so that no other LRT shuttle will pass the same track at the same time.

Next, the city also offers a wide range of **delicacies (6/n)**. We can enjoy food from different nations without even leaving the country. This is because, the city provides a variety of restaurants of different food choices. For example, if we crave for Japanese food, we could take **a ride down (7/k)** to the mall to savour it. In the countryside, there are not many restaurants available. However, in the city, we could enjoy whatever food we want. For your information, the city also has food delivery services. Why? It is because many people prefer food sent straight to their doors instead of personally dining in restaurants. This proves that the city is better than the countryside.

Shopping has become a hobby for some people. The city delivers a wide range of brands to choose from. From **high-end luxury items (8/a)** such as Louis Vuitton and Prada to **basic necessities (9/j)**. We could nearly get everything we want in the city. Let me take an example, whenever we need new clothes, we could drive down to the nearest shopping centre or shop to get them. This makes purchasing things easier. Unlike the countryside, we could even make online orders from the Internet and have them **delivered promptly (10/g)**. Hence, the city offers more than the countryside.

In this modern era, technology has changed us in many ways. The city provides better **Internet coverage (11/c)** than the countryside. With this, we could access all the information we need at our fingertips. We could just type our questions and all the answers will be displayed on the computer screen. Unlike the countryside, we do not have to go to a library to **seek answers (12/i)**. Furthermore, driverless cars has also made its way into our society. We can now accomplish many things that we could not normally do in a conventional car. Imagine, we can play board games to kill some time with the family during long trips. Therefore, the city is much more lively and advanced.

Last but not least, the city offers fitness facilities, schools, and most importantly, **good infrastructure (13/o)**. Competition between workers in workplaces and students in schools is huge and somehow **skills and intelligence (14/m)** have become the main weapon in this modern era. If we face some obstacles in our studies, we can attend tuition classes to help us overcome and improve our grades. Other than that, there are many gymnasiums in the city to feed those sports enthusiasts. I believe the countryside does not have many of these facilities. This way, in the city, we can also be strong and healthy.

In conclusion, the city proves to have more advantages than the countryside. The basic needs of living is already available for us but it is still our choice to make. To quote the famous English singer and songwriter, John Lennon from the group, Beatles, "Not one of us can rest, be happy, be at home, be at peace with ourselves, until we end **hatred and division (15/e)**". I hope that people in the world would have peace and harmony and as in this discussion, the countryside will deliver the same advancement as in the city one day. My prayer is that at all of us can lead a better life regardless of where we live in.

### Practice 3

Complete the argumentative essay below with your own ideas.

**Teenagers should be given unlimited access to the internet. Do you agree?**

Alexander Graham Bell once expressed his worries over the advancement of technology by saying, "I am worried that one day, technology will make the people who are near to us to become farther", and his anticipations seem to become true now. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. The disadvantages of unlimited access of the internet among teenagers are hazardous.

I strongly believe that unlimited access of the internet among teenagers will affect their mental health. \_\_\_\_\_

My stance of objection is so clear upon this matter simply because the teenagers are still immature to evaluate what's good or bad for their eyes to see from the internet. \_\_\_\_\_

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Some people said that teenagers should be given freedom to roam freely in the sea of the internet due to the fact that they need sufficient exposure of information and knowledge. However, I have to disagree to this matter due to the fact that exposure to the unlimited access to the internet does not guarantee the time spent by the teenagers is focused on seeking for beneficial information. Instead, they tend to spend their precious time on\_\_\_\_\_

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In conclusion, to allow teenagers to have full access to the internet subscription is a big NO-NO decision. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Some sample argumentative essay questions in the SPM:**

**2007**

'Teenagers today are only interested in entertainment.' Do you agree?

**2009**

School children should not have long holidays. Do you agree?

**2012**

Should parents give children more freedom? Discuss.

**2014**

There is a lack of freedom given to teenagers today. Do you agree?

**2015**

Social networking has caused a lot of problems. How far do you agree?

**2016**

Some people believe that all students in Malaysia should learn at least three languages. What do you think?

**2017**

The Malaysian tradition of having open houses is important and should be practised more. Do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.

**2018**

Young people should be trusted to make their own decisions. How far do you agree with this opinion? Explain why.

**2019**

"Modern inventions have made our lives much too complicated. Things used to be simpler in the past."

How far do you agree? Explain why.

Which do you think is more important, money or health?

Compare the two and decide if one is more important than the other.

Give your reasons.



## FACTUAL WRITING

Factual texts inform, instruct or persuade by giving facts and information. Factual writing explains a series of events in a chronological, unbiased way that allows readers to gain information that is not influenced by the personal opinions of the writer.

## **Factual Essay (Discursive)**

A factual essay is an essay that is based on facts- if you write one, you need facts to prove your point. You will need to do the research about particular topic and after that organise the information with good format and ideas.

A factual essay is one which deals with real subject matter. It includes facts and figures. A particular topic must be discussed in an objective manner with examples to support opinions. Here, it is advised to use present tense. Examples of factual topics can be:

- ◆ The importance of sports
- ◆ The importance of authors in a country
- ◆ What makes a good job?
- ◆ In what scenes are modern employees exploited?
- ◆ How does travel broaden the mind?

Successful factual essay must have concrete examples to justify ideas of the writer. These examples should not always be common outdated ones but recent and relevant ones to maintain attention of the readers. Factual essays are one-sided in perspective. Quotations can also be used to enhance quality of writing as it shows prior knowledge research work.

In this section, you will find two sample essays that could be the possible guide for you (teacher) and your pupils to work on, towards achieving good academic writing skills. The first one would be the potential 'C' band essay that would normally be written by the average-advanced pupils. The second one might be the potential 'A' or 'B' band essay that shows some improvements from the first essay. Both essays are of the same question, written in presumably two different ways.



Question:

Social networks provide great influence in living our lives, from individual level to commercial. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of social networks in general and what do you think the government should do to ensure a healthy practice of social networks.

1. The 'C' band essay

Please read the whole essay and remarks written. The remarks are some of the SPM marking descriptors specifically for 'C' band.

Essay	Remarks
<p>In 21<sup>st</sup> century, internet has become an important platform. Social network is one of the mediums used by many people. Almost everyone uses social networks in their daily lives. It provides great influence in living. From individual level to commercial. Social networking made many things felt easier. In this writing, you will find the advantages and disadvantages of social networking. At the final part, there is a suggestion on what the government could do in order to ensure a healthy practice of social networking.</p>	<p>Language is largely accurate throughout the essay</p>

<p>The first advantage of social media is we are able to connect with other people around the world. We can be connected through their culture and customs. Learning about other people's lives is beneficial. We can have better understanding of their world directly from them. When you are friends with people from other country, you can learn their language too. Learning a new language can truly connect us. Besides, we can teach our new friends our language. Although we are thousand miles apart, social networks will bridge that huge gap. The second advantage is easy and instant communication. That means, we can contact anyone easily using laptops or smartphone. Phone calls may not be enough these days. Social network offers video calls. Most of the applications only require strong internet connection and mostly are free. In addition, there are international companies using video calls to conduct meetings. Business can happen even when co-workers are thousand miles away.</p> <p>People can also setup their business via social media. There are many vendors advertise their product on social network. Through Facebook or Instagram. These sellers may not have a physical store. They run business from home. <b>What they need are good pictures and lots of followers.</b> There are many strategies to get followers. Some would buy followers. Another strategy is to produce a viral content. For example, funny videos. People might share this video. Slowly the owner of the account will get a lot of followers. Then, he/she can simply advertise their products to the new followers.</p> <p>One of the disadvantages of social network is cyber-bullying. This is dangerous to many teenagers. A person can bully another user online by, for example, criticizing the user's body weight. The bully will comment on the victim's picture by saying bad words about his/her body weight. <b>Then, there are possibilities of the bully's friends reading the comment, thus, add more rude words.</b> These comments will stay at the victim's pictures for 24 hours of the day. Maybe the entire week. This situation will make the victim feels bad about him/herself. In worst cases, the victim could possibly commit suicide due to the pressure. Thus, this is one of the most dangerous risks of being in social network.</p>	<p>Sentences may show some variety of structure and length but there is a tendency to use one type of structure, giving it a monotonous effect. Observe this paragraph. (Bold sentence may only be the one complex, the rest are simple)</p> <p>Mistakes may occur when more sophisticated structures are attempted</p> <p>Example of an error. Vocabulary is wide enough to convey intended meaning but may lack precision. (The underlined vocab showed the possible correct use)</p>
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Another disadvantage of social network is personal data breach. Hackers out there can use your personal data for many wrong doings. **(Possible connector here)** You must be careful when you are handling your personal information. For instance, say you are booking a hotel. **(Possible connector here)**, you snap a picture of your identification card together with the booking to be posted online. Few hours after you posted the image, hackers may already have the **accessibility** to your bank account. This is an example of a careless act by an individuals. Think about millions of data online that could be hacked. If you find anything weird happening to any of your personal account. Please contact the bank as soon as possible.

One suggestion on what the government can do is by organizing a campaign on how to be safe when you are online. This campaign can be called "Your Safety On Social Network". All schools should participate in this campaign in order to promote awareness regarding this matter. The campaign will educate students on the danger that are present online. **(Possible connector here)** Students should be able to differentiate different threats or bad contents that are available on social network. This nationwide campaign would prepare student to be a responsible social network user. It is important for all individuals to take appropriate actions in order to minimize disadvantages and maximize advantages. With cooperation from everybody, we can assure social network to be a safe place for all.

Observe the whole composition, it is written in paragraphs which may show some unity, although links may be absent or inappropriate .

## 2. The 'A' band essay

This essay might show some elevations done to inject maturity and sophistication in order to conform the SPM marking criteria for 'A' band. The descriptors can be found in the remark section.

Essay	Remarks
<p>First it was the discovery of fire, then the invention of the wheel. Later it was electricity. All this led to the invention of the most wonderful thing that is ever invented: the Internet. The fact that we are so fortunate to experience this is proven by the <b>alleviated extent</b> of economic, social, academia, health, entertainment, and so on and so forth. One of the closest thing that almost all of us can relate to is the presence and application of social networks, which have integrated into every single aspect of our lives. In this essay I would like to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of social networks, and what the government should do to ensure a healthy practice of social networks.</p>	<p>The language is entirely accurate apart from very occasional draft slips.</p> <p>Incorporation of words register related to the specific topic. This would show that the pupils are well-versed with the area discussed.</p>

<p>First and foremost, let us look at how social networks benefit businesses. Social media such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, etc. are the most <b>cost-efficient digital marketing</b> methods. They can be used to <b>syndicate</b> content and increase one's <b>business' visibility</b> through interactions (or what is <b>technically called 'engagements'</b>) with social media users. A brand can just create a social media profile and begin interacting with social media users, or using a 'sponsored' feature on Instagram or Facebook to get people to 'like' and 'share' or simply view the profile or post. Each post that is shared will be introduced to a new network of individuals, which can lead them to becoming potential customers. <b>The more people know about your business, the better; as according to <a href="http://www.bluefountainmedia.com">www.bluefountainmedia.com</a>, over 91% of marketers claimed that their social marketing efforts greatly increased their exposure, by only spending a few hours per week.</b> Thus, there is no doubt that by simply having a social media page, a brand is able to generate a wide audience. Product information can reach potential customers to an extend of hourly basis due to the nature of social network user practice. Companies are able to (advertise to millions of <b>eyeballs</b> at a lower cost as compared to mainstream advertising). <b>In 2017, Malaysia southern region SMEs (Small Medium Entrepreneurs) association reported that the conversion rate of potential buyers to customers increased predominantly in two years, when they elevated their social media marketing to 70 percent for those years. The figures manifested proven the robust impact social media could give to boom businesses.</b></p> <p>Secondly, social networks strengthen interpersonal relationships. <u>Social network services have become one of the most common way of communication and pretty much knowing anything and everything around the world these days, and they are growing very rapidly. The ease of sharing and retrieving information has helped thousands of people reconnect. Social media help people keep in touch instantly, there is no denying that fact. Gone are the days when sharing about, say, a holiday experience through a letter and having the recipients wait for days, weeks, or even months (international mails) to read about it. Now we can just upload a few photos, scribble out captions, press 'send' and <i>voila!</i> Everyone knows how you are having the time of your life on holidays while you are on holiday itself. There is definitely no need to wait, how quick, how easy. Besides removing the pain of waiting to share and receive information in communication, social networks also win the test of distance. Families who live far away from each other rejoice the existence of social media, especially the ones with a video call function.</u></p>	<p>Reference to show statistic. Ensuring the piece to be reliable.</p> <p>Topic related fact</p> <p>Strong data to support the reliability of the discussed area.</p> <p>Sentence structure is varied and sophisticated. Do observe the whole essay, the underlined sentences in this paragraphs are examples. Compared with the first essay example. This paragraph has only one simple sentence and the rest are varied.</p>
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<p>Now that there is no denying that social networks bring a million and one advantage, let's talk about the disadvantages. On a personal level, cyber-bullying has been one of the major threats in social networking practice. Unlike real-time verbal bully, any personal attack towards a person that is made online will remain for 24 hours, 7 days a week, possibly through the years. What happens in the Internet, stays in the Internet. Unless if it is erased either by the doer or social network administrator, the offense will gain <b>traction</b> and the effect can double up in no time. The <b>accumulated-by-time postings</b> directed towards the victim could result in trauma. <b>European Journal of Public Health, Volume 27,2017 reported cases of cyber-bullying prevalent among young teenagers and its connection with the course of depression, anxiety and self-harming behaviours.</b> Based on the study, it is <b>empirical</b> that social network posed an <b>imminent</b> threat specifically on the <b>deterioration</b> of mental health level among teenagers. Social networks make peer pressure ten times worse, seriously! School kids and teenagers feel more pressured than ever to <b>succumb</b> to what is looked at as "cool" which could then results in depression, anxiety, and personality disorders. Mental health has become one of the most important concerns.</p>	<p>Reference related</p>
<p>Other than that, let's look at the fact that social networks are a <b>big pool of resources</b> containing vast amount of data, accessible all around the globe. This would invite hackers to breach your personal sites for valuable data. <b>The Law of Malaysia, under the Personal data Protection Act 2010 (Act 709) imposes obligations on the data user to take steps to protect the personal data during its processing from any loss, misuse, modification, unauthorized or accidental access or disclosure, alteration or destruction.</b> Any of your personal data would require your consent for it to be used for any purpose. For instance, when booking a hotel, one might carelessly post his/her identification card number by posting a picture of it online. Without your permission, few hackers may have the access to your personal bank account few hours after you posted the information and that is only on personal level, think about the intentional unauthorised data breaches worldwide. Other than the issues on hackers and bank accounts, there is also an increasing worries on individual safety. One can easily (whether intentionally or unintentionally) disclose his/her location when uploading a 'selfie' or a photo of their food in a restaurant. This can pry evil eyes and increases the probability of crimes such as kidnapping, sexual harassments, and worse; raping and murder.</p>	<p>Reference on Malaysian Law</p>

<p>Everything has its pros and cons, so does social networks. Government has a power to ensure a healthy practice of social networks, especially to the young users who are still not that aware of the dangers of it. The government should be vastly and intensively promoting <b>cyber-wellness</b> among students at school. <b>Singapore Ministry of Education defines cyber-wellness as a positive well-being of internet users; it involves an understanding of online behavior and awareness on how to protect ourselves in cyberspace.</b> Education is the first step to ensure users practice a healthy and safe social networking behavior so all social network users can take appropriate precautions in order to minimize the various disadvantages but at the same time maximize the benefits. Next step would be the implementation of law regarding social networks usage to prevent online crimes and also to monitor cyberbullying. Service providers should work hand in hand in assuring that social networks are a safe haven, and not an addicting hell.</p>	<p>Global reference on the related topic.</p> <p>Other descriptors on observing the whole essay:</p> <p>Vocabulary is wide and is used with precision. The random bold words are potential merit for this essay.</p> <p>Punctuation is accurate across the full range of vocabulary used.</p> <p>Paragraphs are well-planned, have unity and are linked.</p> <p>The topic is addressed with consistent relevance</p> <p>The interest of the reader is aroused and sustained throughout the writing.</p>
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**Point to note:**

Pupils are expected to produce this kind of essay possibly in an hour of the allocated time. It might seem a little far-fetched initially. However, there are candidates who managed to produce this level of essay within the time constraint presumably with good preparation before the exam. Pupils who are well-exposed with wide range of vocabularies, sophisticated structures and references related to academic writing may have the command to create a piece of writing with ease and minimum errors. The direction of factual writing may be inclined towards materials such as, News Straits Times, The Telegraphs, certain Journals, The Times and many other academic/factual writings. These sources serve a bountiful amount of references to develop pupils' writing competence.





## NARRATIVE WRITING

Narrative writing is a popular genre for students and teachers as it provides the writer with an opportunity to share their imagination, creativity, skill and understanding of nearly all elements of writing. On occasion we refer to a narrative piece as 'creative writing' or story writing. The purpose of a narrative is simple, to tell the audience a story. It can be written to motivate, educate or most commonly entertain. Narratives can be both fact or fiction. The challenge in writing a good narrative is to captivate the audience and keep them engaged as the story is told.

## "CHUNK OUT & IN" (AN APPROACH TO LEARN NARRATIVE WRITING)

### OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. The Chunk Approach
3. Chunks Out (of the source)
4. Chunks In (the essays)
5. Conclusion

### INTRODUCTION

"Chunk Out & In" is an approach to learn writing. Pupils are expected to produce either a novel-like essay or an academic writing in order to score 'A' band in their 1119/1 paper. Average pupils with a good command in their writing have high possibilities to produce decent essays with low incidence of errors. However, maturity and sophistication levels of the produced essays might not conform the requirements to score band 'A' and 'B'. Their essays could either be monotonous or ambitious, which normally would suit the descriptions of 'C' band. Pupils who are on "C" band are considered as advanced pupils and this technique might only suit them best rather than the intermediate group. Personally, I have tried this with "E" and "U(i)" pupils. Unfortunately, not much improvement happened. The Chunk approach could be too ambitious for them. This approach focuses entirely on narrative writing (possible to be applied in descriptive) rather than argumentative or factual writing.

### THE 'CHUNK' APPROACH

- A. In this approach, 'chunk' is defined as a collection of sentences possibly not as long as a paragraph and not as short as a sentence. It is more than one or two sentences but not a complete paragraph. Chunk is a "citation" or extraction from any fiction novel. Example of a chunk:

*"She stared out the window at the **pale lemon evening sun**, sliding into the clear blue sea. On the beach, the last few swimmers were coming out of the water. **An intrepid band** was building a fire, getting a barbeque ready. The **sun didn't set till well after ten for this far north in August**"*

- B. The process of chunks extraction from any novel is called **Chunk Out**. The chunk above would be incorporated in the pupils' essays in order to boost sophistication and maturity level. Some of the elements that we would want pupils to work with are:

- a. Sophistication of sentence structures; compound and complex sentences.
- b. Descriptive language ; *"pale lemon evening sun"*
- c. Elevated vocabulary ; *"an intrepid band"*
- d. Foreign context exposure; *sun didn't set till well after ten for this far north in August"*

C. The example of a **Chunk In** process,

Say the narrative question is this:

*Write a story about the life of an orphan who lived in a challenging condition in order to survive. Describe her daily hardships and explain how she felt most of the time.*

**Step 1:** Now assuming that the chunk selected (the one above) might be appropriate for the mid part of the story, we will try to fit the chunk in the particular section of the pupil's essay. Example of a possible 'C' band excerpt from a pupil as followed:

*...Aminah woke up to the sound of her manager yelling at her. She dozed off while working again. Quickly, she finished her job folding guest towels and walked out of the laundry room. As she walked towards her room that was used to be a store. **She looked at the beach from the hotel lobby. It was really beautiful. A lot of people were doing their activities at the beach. Some were swimming. Others were simply chilling with family members.** It was getting late. Her shift had ended few minutes ago. She needed shower and clean clothes. She must rest for school tomorrow...*

**Step 2:** Then, replace the bold part with the chunk:

*...Aminah woke up to the sound of her manager yelling at her. She dozed off while working again. Quickly, she finished her job folding guest towels and walked out of the laundry room. As she walked towards her room that was used to be a store. **She stared out the window at the pale lemon evening sun, sliding into the clear blue sea. On the beach, the last few swimmers were coming out of the water. An intrepid band was building a fire, getting a barbeque ready. The sun didn't set till well after ten for this far north in August.** It was getting late. Her shift had ended few minutes ago. She needed shower and clean clothes. She must rest for school tomorrow...*

**Step 3:** Make necessary alteration (if needed). This part is usually neglected by me at the initial stage (1-2 months of learning) of the task completion process because I expect mistakes done by pupils. They need to make mistakes in order to learn better.

- a. For the selected chunk, as observed, it has a foreign context; sunset at 10pm. The character chosen might not be suitable, unless if you decide Aminah was a character in a foreign context for the whole essay (Eg: beach resort in France). Then you can either change the character's name to Julliette and write the whole essay with a French setting (a bit advanced) or retain the name and change the chunk a bit, like this:

*...Aminah woke up to the sound of her manager yelling at her. She dozed off while working again. Quickly, she finished her job folding guest towels and walked out of the laundry room. As she walked towards her room that was used to be a store. **She stared out the window at the pale lemon evening sun, sliding into the clear blue sea. On the beach, the last few swimmers were coming out of the water. An intrepid band was building a fire, getting a barbeque ready. The sun didn't set till well after 7pm in August.** It was getting late. Her shift had ended few minutes ago. She needed shower and clean clothes. She must rest for school tomorrow*

D. The framework proposed for this approach is as outlined:

1. **Pupils received the narrative questions.**
2. **Pupils write the plot/storyline.**
3. **Chunks Out** – Pupils extract chunks from novels that might be appropriate for their storyline.
4. **Chunks In** – Pupils write the essay by integrating chunks collected.

## CHUNKS OUT

Extraction of chunks would be attempted by pupils either by the teacher's facilitation in the library or by homework completion. The instruction/reminders on chunk out process:

- a. Chunks would mainly be description of a certain situation/ context/ entity/ location/ description of a specific set of action (descriptive language)
- b. Avoid selecting possible chunks that consist too many actions/movement by the characters. This would make it hard for the chunks to be integrated/ fit in any storyline created by pupils.
- c. Not recommended for chunks to be too long (5-6 lines and above)
- d. If the pupils selected 'chunk' that only has one sentence. Do not disregard this entirely. If the 'chunk' presents good descriptive language and is considerably long, do accept for collection.
- e. Expect mistakes to be committed by pupils and teacher should read through the chunks. Do remove any chunks that might not be suitable.

These are the examples of chunks collected from pupils:

No .	Chunks	Theme/Context/Entity/ Location/ Description of a specific set of action
1	The meadow was small, perfectly round and filled with wild flowers; violet yellow and soft white. Somewhere nearby, I could hear the bubbling music of a stream. The sun was directly overhead, filling the circle with a haze of buttery sunshine.	Nature
2	At the center of the forest was a small swamp, bubbly and sulfury, warmed by an underground, restlessly sleeping volcano and covered with a slick of slime whose colour ranged from poison green to lightning blue to blood red, depending on the time of year.	Nature
3	Everything was green; the trees, their trunks covered with moss, their branches hanging with a canopy of it, the ground covered with ferns. Even the air filtered down greenly through the leaves.	Nature
4	The rain kept falling on earth. Though it was heavy, it formed puddles here and there. Only the newly built road was free of puddles. The road was made of hard stones and tarred over. Rain water was not caught there but flowed to either side.	Rain
5	The cloudless day was gone and the sky was suddenly replaced with dark grey clouds. A rumble was heard in the distance and before long, torrential rain fell. Rain drops fell heavily on the ground, pelting against windows and bouncing off rooftops. The wind was howling and the trees were swaying so hard that they looked like they were about to topple at any moment.	Rain & strong winds
6	The abandoned house was old and uncared for. The wood felt rough and weathered under my touch. As well as a seasoned metal lock, there was still a brass doorknob tarnished with age, and underneath it the old keyhole, the worn edges giving it the appearance of a toothless old mouth.	Old/abandoned house

7	The house was timeless, graceful and probably a hundred years old. It was painted a soft, faded white. Three stories tall, rectangular and well-proportioned. The windows and doors were either part of the original structure or a perfect restoration.	Well-preserved house
8	He was very tall and slim, and had a darkish-grey complexion, not a sign of red in it anywhere; he was clean-shaved every morning, all over his thin face, and he had the thinnest kind of lips, and the thinnest kind of eyes, sunk so deep they seemed lurking out of caverns at you, as you may say.	Man
9	He was tall for his age, already carrying a large belly, and with close-cropped hair and eyes sunk into the flesh of his chubby face like buttons on an overstuffed sofa cushion.	Man
10	There was a brisk wind coming off the waves, cool and briny. Pelicans floated on the swells, white seagulls and alone eagle wheeled above them. They cloud still circled the sky, threatening to invade at any moment, but for now the sun shone bravely in its halo of blue sky.	Beach/Seaside
11	I found a very stable-looking rock on the fringe of one of the largest pools and sat there cautiously, spellbound by the natural aquarium below me. The bouquets of brilliant anemones undulated ceaselessly in the invisible current, twisted shells scurried about the edges, obscuring the crabs within them, starfish stuck motionless to the rocks and each other, while one small black eel moved through the bright green weed, waiting for the sea to return.	Seaside/ rock pool
12	The streets below were quiet. Only a few locals scurried through the darkness, eager to get indoors. Traffic was at a minimum. Road lights flickered with a depressing pace. It was desolate.	Night & Urban area

13	Blue-sky Saturday afternoon. The air was so still and hot and the sun was so blinding that a person could melt if she's not careful. I didn't know how those vegetable stood it, especially the ones along the fence line that burned under the sun all day long. They must felt like they were on the death rows of garden.	Afternoon & Garden
14	The sun was starting to dip to the west, a bright blaring ball tilting toward the sea and leaving collage of peach and purple streaks across the sky. It really was pretty and for a second I forced myself to admire it.	Sunset
15	Saturday morning came and all the summer world was bright and fresh, and brimming with life. There was a song in her heart, and her young heart issued music at the lips. There was cheer in her face and a spring in every step. Through her window, the locust trees were in bloom and the fragrance of the blossoms filed the air.	Morning & Happiness
16	Fluffy white clouds floated across the sky. The sun peeked out from behind them, sending down just the right amount of sunlight on the breezy day. It was exhilarating to feel the breeze against my face.	Sunny & breezy
17	Something told me that there was no product in science or nature that could make my hair looked that shiny, nothing Sephora had to offer that could turn my eyes that bright. That being said, I got the feeling it's not really her looks that did it, or her hair, or her makeup, because if you took all that away, there would still be something about her, some kind of magnetism.	Attractive woman
18	She was short and the skin on her face shook when she laughed and most of her teeth were metal stubs screwed into her gums like a pirate and she smoked so heavily that her voice was deep like a man's. Sometimes, she lit another one while one was still making spirals of smoke in her ashtray.	Chain-smoker (woman)
19	Her long black hair was curly; it reached almost to her waist. Her face, as she glanced over at them and smiled, was as beautiful as always and as pale.	Woman



20	She had the same pale, beautiful features as the rest of them. Something about her heart-shaped face, her billows of soft, caramel –coloured hair, reminded me of the ingénues of the silent-movie era. She was small, slender, yet less angular, more rounded than the others.	Woman
21	The massive guilt inflamed her chest, her soul was dying with agonizing pain. She wept and wept until there was nothing left. Her face was set in mask of stone-cold anger as she rose slowly to her feet, her trembling hands tightened into fists and she threw them at the ceiling as she screamed at the top of her lungs, the raw, primeval sound echoed in the office.	Anger and guilt (Description of a specific action)
22	As if the morning was not gloomy enough, the white light was struggling to illuminate the house with black entities swarming most of the rooms. Unfamiliar faces exhibited mournful expressions, tears visible streaming down their cheeks.	Funeral
23	Black hair, clean and brushed and shiny, draped over her shoulder and framed her pale face. Her red lips parted into a huge smile, lighting up her features, making her dark brownish eyes glow with joy.	Woman
24	Thomas was a man of steel, strict but kind. He had often been cursed by his workers as a man who would take no slack. Tall and lanky, he possessed a languid grace that bespoke both power and agility, he was a formidable man who should never be underestimated.	Man
25	Her mother's face was lined, criss- crossed with age, her shingled hair white. The look of tender love on her face as she gazed at her daughter would melt the hardest heart.	Mother
26	I watched in horror as the huge orange flames engulfed the house. It was the 9pm news and the reporter at the scene was reporting on a bungalow that had gone up in flames. Someone had accidentally ignited a pile of newspapers and the fire had spread wildly. As I watched the the firefighters rush to douse the fire, I could not help but recall the fire at the coffee shop near my house a year ago.	Flashback

Chunk Out activity participated by an advanced class consists of 25 pupils can produced quite a collection. Say you ask one pupil to find 10 chunks. The class can have presumably (if all pupils completed the task) 250 chunks after a session. However, these chunks might not all be appropriate. You (teacher) can either choose to read all 250 chunks to determine which would be suitable (quite a bit of work but if you like to read, this is fun) or let the pupils choose whichever they believe are suitable and incorporate the chunks in their essay. Then you will read the essay to determine the suitability. The percentage of chunks that might be suitable (out of the pupils' findings), would differ according to the language competence of your pupils. SMK Senai advanced classes managed to produce 20-30 percent suitable chunks out of the collected

## CHUNKS IN

The Chunk In process would require students to incorporate the collected chunks with the plot created. The process has been explained in the above section. In this section you will find the examples of full essays that will show the possible progress that might happen if a pupil managed to really apply this approach in his/her writing. Since this approach focuses on advanced students, so we assume the pupils are currently at Band 'C'. Then, hopefully they managed to progress to Band 'A'.

Question:

Write a story about the journey of a young teenager who faced life challenges towards becoming a successful person. Explain how he/she addressed the challenges and also how he/she felt most of the time.

End your essay with:

"Life would favour those who persevere. Never give up living"

1. Band 'C' Narrative Essay. The expected level of pupils' production before Chunk Approach is introduced.

Essay	Remarks
<p>Jolie was a sixteen years old secondary school student. She was from Johor Bahru, Johor. She came from a middle-working class family. She believed her family focused too much on academic. It was like a stereotypical Asian family. Her mother was short but still beautiful. Her father was tall and strict. However, Jolie knew that her father loved her and her mother so much. His father's workers always listened to him. They knew that he was serious on doing his job.</p> <p>One evening, Jolie and her parents were watching television in her living room. Suddenly, Mrs Thomas asked about Jolie's recent examination result. She wanted explanation on why Jolie could not score better. Jolie did not say a thing. She ignored her mother and kept watching the television. Jolie's father, Mr Thomas looked at Jolie. He did not like unanswered questions and asked Jolie to respond. Jolie knew she must respond or else, things would get even worst. She responded with the usual answer. Her mother was not satisfied and scolded her. Jolie was grounded. Her mother also asked her to do revision every day. Jolie simply agreed to everything by nodding. She knew there was nothing else she could have done.</p> <p>Days passed and she was not grounded anymore. It was Saturday. Excited to be with her friends, she quickly made her bed and cleaned herself. She was walking towards the kitchen table when her father turned around and asked her plans for the day. <b>She told him that she was playing badminton with her friends, thus, might be going window-shopping with them later on.</b> Her father asked her to come home as early as possible as he would like to spend some time with her and her mother. She just nodded and finished her breakfast as quickly as possible and handed her dishes to the maid. She picked up her sports equipment and walked to the door. Unfortunately, she was home late that evening. Her phone was on silent-mode. She feared her parents would scold her. However nothing happened when she arrived home.</p>	<p>Language is largely accurate throughout the essay</p> <p>Sentences may show some variety of structure and length but there is a tendency to use one type of structure, giving it a monotonous effect. Observe this paragraph.</p> <p>Mistakes may occur when more sophisticated structures are attempted</p>

<p>The next day, she was studying as usual at school when a boy came looking for her in class. He told Jolie that the vice principal wanted to meet her. Jolie felt weird. She was wondering why the vice principal would want to meet her. As she walked, she tried to recall if there was anything she might have done. When she walked in the office, she felt <b>trembling</b>. The vice principal told her the message. The last thing she would want to listen. Her father had passed away. She was so shocked and cried her heart out. The vice principal and other teachers tried to calm her down.</p> <p>The funeral went smoothly. Jolie's father was laid to rest. Her father's death was the biggest challenge she had ever experienced. She felt like everything was against her.<b>(Possible connector here)</b> Her father's death made her realize that life was a precious thing given by God. She believed she could not give up just yet. As time goes by, she healed from her pain. There was no more crying alone at night. She studied hard. When she sat for SPM examination, she gave the best she could. Her hard work paid off when she managed to become the best student in school for SPM.</p> <p>Twenty years had passed and Jolie had become a successful doctor. She was working at one of the government hospitals. She was not a young teenager anymore. Her duty was to serve the people. Mrs Thomas has been living with her ever since. She was really proud of her. Any mother would be thankful to have a daughter like Jolie. It was really tough to live without a father at a young age but Jolie made it. She was happy with her life and would keep on fighting until the last breath. . Life would favour those who persevere. Never give up living</p>	<p>Example of an error. Vocabulary is wide enough to convey intended meaning but may lack precision.</p> <p>Observe the whole composition, it is written in paragraphs which may show some unity, although links may be absent or inappropriate.</p>
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2. Some chunks are incorporated in order to inject descriptive language and possibly elevate the level of vocabulary. This writing process should be done in class throughout the year. When the pupils have completed the essay. General errors can be addressed by the teacher through marking or peer-coaching could be applied. Teacher should encourage pupils to:
  - a. Collect their own personal chunks and do not wait for teacher's instruction to set the task.
  - b. Complete writing (Chunk In) as frequent as possible for maximum crafting experience (input and output process)

Essay	Remarks
<p><b>Black hair, clean and brushed and shiny, draped over her shoulder and framed her pale face. Her red lips parted into a huge smile, lighting up her features, making her dark brownish eyes glow with joy. It was Jolie.</b> She was from Johor Bahru, Johor. She came from a middle-working class family. She believed her family focused too much on academic. It was like a stereotypical Asian family. Her mother was short but still beautiful.</p> <p><b>Thomas was a man of steel, strict but kind. He had often been cursed by his workers as a man who would take no slack. Tall and lanky, he possessed a languid grace that bespoke both power and agility, he was a formidable man who should never be underestimated.</b></p> <p><b>The house was timeless, graceful and probably a hundred years old. It was painted a soft, faded white. Three stories tall, rectangular and well-proportioned. The windows and doors were either part of the original structure or a perfect restoration.</b> Jolie and her parents were watching television in her living room. Suddenly, Mrs Thomas asked about Jolie's recent examination result. She wanted explanation on why Jolie could not score better. Jolie did not say a thing. She ignored her mother and kept watching the television. Jolie's father, Mr Thomas looked at Jolie. He did not like unanswered questions and asked Jolie to respond. Jolie knew she must respond or else, things would get even worst. She responded with the usual answer. Her mother was not satisfied and scolded her. Jolie was grounded. Her mother also asked her to do revision every day. Jolie simply agreed to everything by nodding. She knew there was nothing else she could have done.</p>	<p>More detailed description about Jolie to start the writing.</p> <p>Sophisticated description on Jolie's father.</p> <p>House description.</p>

Saturday morning came and all the summer world was bright and fresh, and brimming with life. There was a song in her heart, and her young heart issued music at the lips. There was cheer in her face and a spring in every step. Through her window, the locust trees were in bloom and the fragrance of the blossoms filed the air. Excited to be with her friends, she quickly made her bed and cleaned herself. She was walking towards the kitchen table when her father turned around and asked her plans for the day. She told him that she was playing badminton with her friends and might be going window-shopping with them later on. Her father asked her to come home as early as possible as he would like to spend some time with her and her mother. She just nodded and finished her breakfast as quickly as possible and handed her dishes to the maid. She picked up her sports equipment and walked to the door. Unfortunately, she was home late that evening. Her phone was on silent-mode. She feared her parents would scold her. However nothing happened when she arrived home.

Description on Jolie's good feeling.

The next day, she was studying as usual at school when a boy came looking for her in class. He told Jolie that the vice principal wanted to meet her. Jolie felt weird. She was wondering why the vice principal would want to meet her. As she walked, she tried to recall if there was anything she might have done. When she walked in the office, she felt really nervous. The vice principal told her the message. The last thing she would want to listen. Her father had passed away. **The massive guilt inflamed her chest, her soul was dying with agonizing pain. She wept and wept until there was nothing left. Her face was set in mask of stone-cold anger as she rose slowly to her feet, her trembling hands tightened into fists and she threw them at the ceiling as she screamed at the top of her lungs, the raw, primeval sound echoed in the office.**

Elevated description (compare with previous) of action made by Jolie.

<p><b>As if the morning was not gloomy enough, the white light was struggling to illuminate the house with black entities swarming most of the rooms. Unfamiliar faces exhibited mournful expressions, tears visible streaming down their cheeks.</b> Jolie's father was laid to rest. Her father's death was the biggest challenge she had ever experienced. She felt like everything was against her. However, her father's death made her realize that life was a precious thing given by God. She believed she could not give up just yet. As time goes by, she healed from her pain. There was no more crying alone at night. She studied hard. When she sat for SPM examination, she gave the best she could. Her hard work paid off when she managed to become the best student in school for SPM.</p>	<p>Description on funeral</p>
<p>Twenty years had passed and Jolie had become a successful doctor. She was working at one of the government hospitals. She was not a young teenager anymore. Her duty was to serve the people. <b>Her mother's face was lined, criss- crossed with age, her shingled hair white. The look of tender love on her face as she gazed at her daughter would melt the hardest heart.</b> She was really proud of her. Any mother would be thankful to have a daughter like Jolie. It was really tough to live without a father at a young age but Jolie made it. She was happy with her life and would keep on fighting until the last breath. . Life would favour those who persevere. Never give up living</p>	<p>Mother's description</p>

3. After presumably 5 months minimum to 1 year of intense practices. The possible outcome might be like the one below. There is a possibility that you (teacher) may not be able to distinguish the differences between chunks and original production of the students. If your pupil managed to achieve this level, that means he/she has acquired the competence, leaning towards the level of a commercial novel writing (chunks). This essay might conform the requirements of Band 'A' descriptors.

Essay	Remarks
<p><b>Black hair, clean, brushed and shiny, draped over her shoulder and framed her pale face. Her red lips parted into a huge smile, lighting up her features, making her dark brownish eyes glow with joy.</b> It was Jolie. A sixteen years old secondary school student who originated from the southern region of Johor. She came from a well to do family that sets a little too much store to academic achievement. Her mother was short and plump but still hold <b>vestiges of great beauty</b> that would often turn a man's head around. Her father, <b>Thomas, was a man of steel, strict but kind. He had often been cursed by his workers as a man who would take no slack. Tall and lanky, he possessed a languid grace that bespoke both power and agility, he was a formidable man who should never be underestimated.</b></p> <p><b>The house was timeless, graceful and probably a hundred years old. It was painted a soft, faded white. Three stories tall, rectangular and well-proportioned. The windows and doors were either part of the original structure or a perfect restoration.</b> It was in the living room that all three people were resting in when Mrs Thomas <b>broached</b> the topic of Jolie's recent test results. "Jolie, why did you not achieve high marks this time around?". Jolie as usual turned temporarily deaf. Her mother would never let her have her moment's peace if she got anything less than perfect at school. Jolie's father however did not like unanswered questions. "Answer your mother Jolie." An <b>exasperated</b> Jolie merely gave her usual excuses that had often helped her escape the <b>piercing glare</b> and unusual anger that could <b>emanate</b> from her mother frequently. It was not her lucky day however, she was grounded for the day and was ordered to do an hour's revision every day. Jolie dared not utter a word of protest when her father was still there so she could do nothing but meekly nod her head.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The language is entirely accurate apart from very occasional draft slips.</li> <li>• Sentence structure is varied and sophisticated</li> <li>• Vocabulary is wide and is used with precision</li> <li>• Punctuation is accurate across the full range of vocabulary used.</li> <li>• Paragraphs are well-planned, have unity and are linked.</li> </ul>



Saturday morning came and all the summer world was bright and fresh, and brimming with life. There was a song in her heart, and her young heart issued music at the lips. There was cheer in her face and a spring in every step. Through her window, the locust trees were in bloom and the fragrance of the blossoms filed the air. Excited of the prospect of spending the day with her friends, she quickly made her bed and cleaned herself. She was walking towards the kitchen table when her father turned around and asked her plans for the day. She told him that she was playing badminton with her friends and might be going window-shopping with them later on. Her father asked her to come home as early as possible as he would like to spend some time with her and her mother. She just nodded and finished her breakfast as quickly as possible and handed her dishes to the maid. Somehow, she was annoyed with her father's request, she believed her father did not have any right to restraint her movement anymore. She had done her time at home and conformed to every requirement. Joyous mood might not be at its peak anymore. After a quick dissatisfied glare, she picked up her sports equipment and sauntered quickly towards the door. Rage aside, without her intention, she was not home early as required that evening. Jolie lost track of time and her phone was on silent-mode. As she stepped in the house, she braced either for the **high-pitched projections** coming from Mrs Thomas or low-tone painful words from her father, due to the thirteen miscalls. Yet, it was nothing. Mr and Mrs Thomas acted normal as if nothing happened. The **peculiar atmosphere** made Jolie dashed towards her room, dared not looking at her parents.

- The topic is addressed with consistent relevance
- The interest of the reader is aroused and sustained throughout the writing.
- Read the bold parts for elevated vocabulary and chunks.

<p>The next day, she was studying as usual at school when a boy came looking for her in class. He <b>grimaced</b> slightly as he said that she was in store for a shock and bade her to find the vice principal. This of course, came as nothing short of a puzzling problem that left her stuttering nonsense. What in the world had she done to be called to the vice-principal office? She always followed rules to the last word and had never been <b>reprimanded</b> by her teachers. Perhaps she had said something unknowingly to someone. It seemed unlikely but she braced herself for the worst as she trotted towards the vice principal office. She was not surprised therefore, when she saw her looking <b>grim and foreboding</b>. The vice principal's message however left her gasping for breath. Her father had passed away. The news left her feeling as if she were falling into a bottomless abyss filled with monsters. <b>The massive guilt inflamed her chest, her soul was dying with agonizing pain. She wept and wept until there was nothing left. Her face was set in mask of stone-cold anger as she rose slowly to her feet, her trembling hands tightened into fists and she threw them at the ceiling as she screamed at the top of her lungs, the raw, primeval sound echoed in the office.</b></p>	<p>Description on funeral</p>
<p>As if the morning was not gloomy enough, the white light was struggling to illuminate the house with black entities swarming most of the rooms. Unfamiliar faces exhibited mournful expressions, tears visibly streaming down their cheeks. Jolie could hardly recognize even one soul, she felt like an outsider at her own house. So many people showed affection towards her late father, she knew she had the final opportunity for that yesterday. She simply missed it, putting her life before the one she should have appreciated even more. His death was a blow that she doubted she would ever recover from but it also made her realize how precious life was. Life was <b>magical and destructive</b>. It rewarded you and it punished you. She dealt with the heavy blow but she recovered. Time at least was a friend. The nights she spent crying alone soon became a thing of the past as she embraced her life with a <b>newfound vigor and optimism</b>. She had a life to live and she would live it to the fullest. She studied hard and played even harder. Her SPM came and went with her standing, with perfect result.</p>	<p>Mother's description</p>

It has been twenty years since all of that. Jolie was standing in a doctor's coat with her hands in her pockets and a stethoscope around her neck. She had aged but time had done nothing but enhance her beauty. **Her mother's face was lined, criss- crossed with age, her shingled hair white. The look of tender love on her face as she gazed at her daughter would melt the hardest heart.** Jolie at least was happy, not as happy as she had been before her father's death but happy all the same. The flame in her heart had not died down and it will not until the end of her days. Life would favour those who persevere. Never give up living

## CONCLUSION

Teacher plays a huge role to facilitate and motivate pupils to complete all tasks required for this approach. Frequency of practice on different narrative questions throughout the year should be determined by the teacher. Pupils are recommended to complete possibly 1 essay on each month. So, it's a full cycle practice every month (if possible). However, to achieve its maximum impact, it is believed that teacher should ask pupils to practice this personally. They should not rely on the teacher's instruction solely. Teacher should also expect mistakes to be committed by pupils because some of the possible challenges that pupils will face are:

- a. Very unfamiliar vocabulary and sentence structure, result in chunks being incorporated wrongly in the pupils' essay.
- b. Most chunks would probably be in Western or European context (eg: four seasons), pupils might not be aware with this and simply use chunks in their localized essay.
- c. There are possibilities pupils would be highly demotivated due to the unfamiliarity of chunks.

I believe that pupils need to have some experience with the end product that they are expected to produce. For narrative writing, novels could be the target that pupils are supposed to aim. Producing output that are leaning towards novel material would require certain practice with the authentic material. The manner of this approach may resemble the way students in college/university write assignment/thesis for their module. They would make lots of citations, some would go to the ratio as much as 80 percent coming from references and 20 percent of their words to liquidize the literature review. Eventually, the students would gain the skill to write with correct style of academic writing. Hopefully, it would go vice versa with narrative writing and novels.

Other samples of student's work on narrative writing using 'Chunk Out & In' technique.

Question:

Write a story in which you had to keep a friend's secret. In your story, give details of the secret and explain why it is important to keep that secret.

Essay	Remarks
<p>"Lara Jeans Covey?"</p> <p>I was enjoying the <i>Chocolate Frogs</i> that I just bought from Honeydukes when I heard someone called my name. I turned my head and was surprised to see a staff of Universal Studios Japan handed me my phone. I stood dumbfounded. After I came to my senses, I thanked the staff and gave her my biggest and most radiant smile. It turned out that I left my phone at the <i>Flight of the Hippogriff</i>. <b>Adrenaline surged through my veins after riding that wild yet exciting roller-coaster</b>, I believed that was the reason why I left my phone unintentionally there. My brother's tips of travelling proved efficient that time. He asked me to set a picture of me and my full name as my lock screen. At that time, while enjoying the unique taste of those <i>Chocolate Frogs</i>, I solemnly swore that I would buy my brother a new wallet as his birthday present.</p> <p>There was a smattering of people in Universal Studios Japan on that day. Some were walking through the <i>Hogwarts Castle</i>, some were taking memorable photos of them and their beloved ones and others were like me - enjoying the tasty sweets while capturing the magnificent view of <i>The Wizarding World of Harry Potter</i> in my head. There were two kids with their parents just went out from the <i>Ollivanders Shop</i>, a small dusty shop where you could purchase wands. <b>As I watched them playing with their new wands joyfully, I could not help but recall my friend's secret that I vowed to keep for my entire life.</b></p>	<p>A narrative written creatively based on the writer's experience with the movie, 'Harry Potter'.</p> <p>Flashback technique</p>

<p>My name is Lara Jeans Covey but I am more popularly known as L.J. I got this nickname because my classmates often mistook a new transfer student as me. Well, we shared the same first name after all. Her name was Lara Potter. We called her L.P. Lara Potter was an intelligent yet down to earth student. She was always brimming with energy. She exuded confidence and easily lit up the room with her warmth and humour. Like icing on the cake, she was unbearably beautiful. <b>Her black hair, clean, brushed and shiny, draped over her shoulder and framed her pale face. Her red lips parted into a huge smile, lighting up her features, making her dark brownish eyes glow with joy.</b> Days in and days out, we became best friends without me knowing when and how it started.</p> <p>It was a beautiful day with clear skies. <b>There was not a cloud to sully the brilliant blue sky - so blue that the eyes were almost blinded by the clarity. The sun hung up in the sky like a sentry watching over all of earth, pouring its sweltering rays down mercilessly.</b> We just finished our Chemistry class when Lara Potter suddenly grabbed my hand and shushed me even before I tried to speak. She brought me to our school rooftop. When I looked at her, asking for an explanation, I lowered down my gaze quickly. Her eyes had that indescribable excitement and were full of unexplainable secrets. I did not know why but panic rose in my throat. My heart as hammering with anxiety. She looked very different at that time.</p> <p>"I am feeling a covalent bond between us. Thank you for sharing electrons with me", she said. Wait, what? Did she just gave a chemistry pick-up line to me? A silly grin spread across my face and soon, it became a choking laughter. Her face turned gloomy and I saw gleaming tears running down her cheeks. Quickly, I pulled her into my arms. I apologised to her if I had hurt her feelings in any ways. Then, she told me that she had a secret, a huge secret regarding her identity. She trusted me as her best friend and wanted to tell me a secret. Somehow, I felt appreciated.</p>	<p>Description of the character</p> <p>Description of the weather</p>
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<p>The whole spill-the-tea session gave me a jolt of excitement. I pondered all sorts of possible secrets that I she would tell me. When she finally told me her secret, I burst out laughing. She told me that she was the daughter of Harry Potter and Ginny Weasley. Could you actually believe that? That was absurd! I meant, it was true that Harry Potter and Ginny Weasley got married to each other and they had children together, but that was in the movie!</p> <p>“Look at my surname, you Muggle! It is Potter.” She snapped. Out of the blue, she casted the ‘Avadra Kedavra’ spell onto a table not far from us. I dashed towards the table and what I saw next was totally unexpected as terror flashed across my face. A cockroach had just died on the table. <b>I was stuck and enveloped with fear, unexplained fear. My stomach was tied in a knot.</b> So, after all this time... I had befriended a witch!</p> <p>After a ten seconds giggle, she smiled at me. She flashed her pearly teeth that could light up an entire room. I did not know how to react. This was a huge secret that I must protect at all cost. Then she showed me another spell. She even showed me the <i>Morauder’s Map</i>. My face was flushed in excitement. I sat on the floor, trying to summarize all the things that happened that day. So, Harry Potter was real, <i>Morauder’s Map</i> existed and I had befriended Harry Potter’s daughter. I looked at Lara Potter. “I know it is hard for you, it is even harder for me to explain this to you. But I want to be honest with you. Please do not be afraid of me, I do not cast spell on my own best friend.” she beseeched. I smiled at her to assure her that we would still be friends after I knew her secret.</p>	<p>The reveal of the secret.</p>
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<p>Truth be told, she was actually suffering a mental illness. Two days before she told me the secret, I went to her home because she asked me to watch <i>Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire</i> together. Her mother secretly told me that everything she was going to tell me was her fantasy. Five years ago, their house was engulfed by flames and at that very time, she was watching <i>Hairy Potter and the Goblet of Fire</i> with her little brother who died in the flames. Every year, on the same date, she would tell people the same thing she told me. That was the reason why she was transferred to my school. Her ex-classmates mocked her and she could not take it anymore.</p> <p>It was true after all the moment she casted the 'Avadra Kedavra' spell, she tapped the cockroach until it met its death. The Marauder's Map she had shown to me was actually a free gift from an online shop selling Harry Potter's merchandise. I knew it from the very start. I acted like I did not because I wanted to help her. I had made a promise to myself that I will keep this secret until the end. I did not want other people making fun of her. I had been through the same situation when I was in elementary school. She was always ready to lend me her helping hands and in return I would do the same for her. I brought her to a well-known pshycologist to seek help and I even made her promise to me that she will never tell that secret of hers to anyone anymore.</p> <p>Lara Potter threw a packet of <i>Bertie's Bott All-Flavour</i> right at my face. It made me came reallity. She was much better now." Thank you the moon to my stars, the Wi-Fi to my smartphone. I love you to the moon and back".</p>	<p>Plot twist: The truth about the secret.</p> <p>The reason why the writer kept the secret.</p>
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Question:

Write a story about someone who had a narrow escape. Describe how it happened and what has that person learned from the experience.

Begin your story with, "Let me out of here..."

Essay	Remarks
<p>"Let me out of here at once. I am begging you." Those two hefty six-foot men were expecting her to say that line. Little did they know, she had zero intention to beg for her life from them. Song Hye Kyo was a well-known surgeon in Korea. <b>She was not only famous for her skills in the surgery room but also had a charming pixie like face and was always brimming with vivacity. However, all of those were gone. She looked pale and her mouth felt as dry as sawdust. She had a gaunt and almost skeletal appearance.</b> She sat on her chair with both of her hands tied at the back. When one of the man called her name, she gave them a menacing look with her pair of sunken and expressionless eyes. <b>Looking at those firearms dealers' faces, she could not help but recall the moment they were disguised in police uniforms to take her here, a place nowhere to be found on the map.</b></p> <p><b>It was a moonless and breezy night in Uruk, a war land. Millions of twinkling jewels could be seen in the dark sky. Soon, the moon made its appearance, adding to the beauty of the backdrop of stars.</b> The medical team from Korea sat on a bench near the barracks while staring at the queen of the night. They were talking about an emergency surgery on President Mubarak, the president of Saudi Arabia that afternoon. With no doubt, it was an intense surgery. Minutes later, Doctor Song joined them. She just finished spending her time with her fiance-to-be, Captain Song Joong Ki. He was the captain of a special force team which was in charge to protect the medical team's safety. Their love story had been the talk of town among the medical team. They first met in Korea, when Captain Song Joong Ki went to their hospital to get his wound treated. As if their life was entangled with each other, they met again in Uruk.</p>	<p>A narrative written creatively based on the writer's experience with the Korean drama, 'Descendants of the Sun'.</p> <p>Flashback technique</p>

<p><b>Soon, the sky darkened and it threatened to rain but the weather held on. A peal of thunder boomed in the distance.</b> Doctor Song and the medical team dashed into the dining room since it was the nearest and safest place. In the nick of time, a police car came for Doctor Song Hye Kyo. The policemen claimed that Doctor Song needed to give her statement regarding the operation on President Mubarak without his consent. At first, the medical team refused to let her go since the whole situation seemed fishy. Instead of thanking them for saving his life, he wanted to question Doctor Song for her quick judgement? That was plain absurd. After several minutes of quarrelling, Doctor Song agreed to go with them to stop any further unnecessary arguments.</p> <p>It was 3.00 a.m. and they had not received any news from doctor Song. They told everything to Captain Song from A to Z. He tried to call her many times but it was to no avail. Ten minutes later, he received a call from an unknown number. Out of the blue, his face was convulsed with rage. He was furious.</p> <p>A pail of water was splashed onto Doctor Song's face. A man with an evil face appeared in front of her. He was the real representation of a crook and absolutely a total scumbag. "Where is your boyfriend, doctor? Time is almost up. I just need a helicopter and an escape way, but Captain Song is nowhere to be found. Whatever it is, let's get you dressed up first." He held his head up while bellowing those words. Agus, he used to be Captain Song's comrade but he was blinded by money. Then, he asked his men to equip Doctor Song with a 'special dress'. <b>It was a vest attached with explosives!</b> Doctor Song stayed rooted to the chair, unable to move as she was paralysed with fear. All sorts of terrible thoughts came up to torment her. It seemed like her hope had turned into dust.</p>	<p>The danger</p>
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<p>At that moment she could hear a distant sound of footsteps. Soon, she saw her knight in shining armour, wearing all black from head to toe. Her heart swelled in relief. She felt as though dark clouds had been lifted off her shoulders. The sound of the gun shot pierced into the air. She wanted to take off the vest, however a comrade of Captain Song Joong Ki stopped her. She knew him as Captain Song once told her that this man in front of her was an expert when it comes to bombs. "Captain, there is something wrong with this bomb. I believe it will explode the moment Agus clicks a button on the controller. I can solve this issue but the wires are quite tricky. Buy me some time, I will find ways to save her, by hook or by crook." <b>The moment she heard this, her heart palpitated wildly. She tried to calm herself down but it became harder when she heard someone's screaming not far from she was. Could it be Captain Song's voice? What had happened to him? In the blink of an eye, a hand grabbed her by her shoulders. A gun was pointed at her head.</b></p> <p>In front of her, she could see Song Joong Ki pointing his gun right at Agus' face. His right hand was bleeding profusely but she could not see any signs of pain on his face. It was true after all, he was a man who was good at his job. Captain Song said something to Doctor Song in their mother tongue. Her face went white at first, but she tried to calm herself down . A few seconds later, captain Song shot his gun right at her shoulder. The switch was there. Then, without hesitation, he shot Agus and all of his men. It was so intense that Doctor Song closed her eyes all the way.</p> <p>"You are safe now," Captain Song whispered that to her ear. Doctor Song embraced him as tight as she could. She shed tears of joy. Everyone was overwhelmed with relief. One thing she learnt from this experience was, she would not believe any strangers in the future. She will be more cautious from that day onwards.</p>	<p>Facing death</p> <p>What the persona learnt from the experience.</p>
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PAPER 2:

GRAPHIC STIMULI &  
SHORT TEXTS

**PAPER 2 SECTION A (GRAPHIC STIMULI & SHORT TEXTS) (8 marks) (Questions 1–8)**

**Types of text**

1. Advertisement
2. Poster
3. Diagram
4. Graphics
5. Graph/Table/Chart
6. Cartoon strip
7. Extract/ Short Text
9. Conversation
10. Report
11. Online websites/chats
12. Notice

**Types of question**

1. Meaning of Vocabulary
2. Meaning of Expression / Proverb
2. Comprehension (Inference / Implied)

**MEANING OF VOCABULARY**

2013

Sharks are highly evolved and intelligent animals. Their position as the top predator of the sea means that, should they become extinct, there will be severe **consequences** for the rest of the marine system.

Which of the following words is the closest in meaning to consequences?

- A. issues
- B. effects
- C. concerns
- D. problems

2014

**PENANG:** A charity concert by a well-known local singer, Aril Adam, **drew** a large crowd to City Stadium last night. It was estimated that some 10,000 fans turned up for the event. In the report above, the word **drew** can best be replaced with

Which of the following words is the closest in meaning to drew?

- A. dragged
- B. inspired
- C. attracted
- D. persuaded

**MEANING OF EXPRESSION / PROVERB**

2016

There is an overwhelming sense of serenity about the private estates of The Peak, a hilltop enclave comprising ultra-luxury semi-detached homes and bungalows. Up here, the air you breathe comes freshly minted from the lush, hilly terrain. The soothing sounds of water, birdsong and breeze in the streets are constant – like coming home to a tropical, miles from civilization. Yet, Kuala Lumpur with its bright lights and buzz, so different from the peace of this highland paradise, is a mere **stone's throw away**.

The phrase **stone's throw away** shows that

- A. the residential area is near the city
- B. the houses are close to a quiet area
- C. the neighbourhood is within a secluded zone
- D. the estates are not far from the surrounding hills

### COMPREHENSION (INFERENCE / IMPLIED)

2012

Your company's magazine has been featuring many articles on ways to save our earth. But every month without fail, I receive lots of contest forms, catalogues and promotional leaflets packed together with the magazine. Apart from the magazine itself, everything else goes into the rubbish bin.

From the letter, we know that the writer wants the company to be

- A. environmental friendly
- B. cost effective
- C. systematic
- D. cautious

2018

**KAMPUNG MELATI:** Dahlan bin Ahmad could not believe his eyes when he turned around upon hearing a loud crashing noise just seconds after crossing Pandan Bridge here. The 30-year-old wooden bridge that spanned the Melaka-Johor border had disappeared, swept away by the fast-flowing river at about 4.30pm on Friday. "I was with my wife on my motorcycle returning from a friend's house. When we were on the bridge, it felt steady. Moments later, it all happened. We were shocked to see it had fallen into the river," said Dahlan.

From the newspaper article, we know that

- A. Dahlan and his wife saw the incident happen
- B. flooding caused the bridge to collapse
- C. the bridge was known to be unsafe
- D. the couple had a narrow escape

### PRACTICE

Rub beeswax or candle over your shoes. Do this until each shoe is covered. Then, take a hairdryer, put it on the highest setting and warm the wax up.

1. The above method is probably
  - A. changing the colour of your shoe
  - B. repairing shoe with holes
  - C. waterproofing your shoes
  - D. drying wet shoes

#### Yaya

Hey Yaya!

Hi Rayqa! This is a surprise. What are you doing?

Messaging the most gorgeous girl, what else?

Aww...

Anyway, she wasn't online, so I'm messaging you now.

Huh!

2. Based on the chart, which of the reasons below probably caused the change in Tasha's emotion?
- A. She did not realize that the girl Rayqal was talking about was her.
  - B. She was flattered that Rayqal called her the most gorgeous girl.
  - C. That it dawned on her that she was the most gorgeous girl
  - D. That the gorgeous girl Rayqal mentioned wasn't her

**Walking away from negative experiences**

We tend to pay more attention and dwell on negative experiences rather than on positive ones. This, of course isn't healthy. Although negative experiences are part and parcel of daily life, you can choose how you react to them. Tell yourself that you are your own boss and no one can make you inferior. When someone does something to upset you, control your response. Getting back at the person only makes things worse. Step away from the negative source. The negative energy won't do wonders for you. Then, change your thoughts and feelings. Change anger to something more positive.

3. Based on the text, choose the correct steps of handling a negative experience
- A. Control your response – Think positive thoughts – Step away from the negative source
  - B. Step away from negative source – Think positive thoughts – Control your response
  - C. Think of positive thoughts – Step away from the negative source – Control your response
  - D. Control your response – Step away from the negative source – Think positive thoughts

The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Winston Churchill

4. From the quote above, we can conclude that
- A. pessimists and optimists are alike in character
  - B. a pessimist grabs every opportunity to better himself
  - C. a pessimist person is one who sees the worst in everything
  - D. a pessimist is a person who believes that everything is possible

You have been on your feet the whole day. A refreshing and stimulating treat for sore feet is to fill a basin with cold water and another with water as hot as you can comfortably stand. First, put your feet in cold water. After about 5 minutes, switch to the hot water. Repeat. This 'hydromassage' alternately dilates and constricts blood vessels in your feet, boosting circulation.

5. What is the benefit of 'hydromassage' to your feet?
- A. It doesn't cost a cent
  - B. It dilates the blood vessels
  - C. You get to alternate soaking your feet in
  - D. It helps to boost blood circulation in your feet

Dear Editor,

For most of us, awareness of garbage crisis stops as soon as it is out of sight. We do not even wonder where the garbage goes. However, do you know what mountains of waste can do to us? Someday the effects can cause hazardous pollution which is uncontrollable. So, what are we waiting for? I hope all of you out there will not hesitate to do something now!

Adam

6. The writer is trying to tell us that pollution caused by garbage is
- A. unhealthy
  - B. beneficial
  - C. alarming
  - D. risky

### TIGER'S CRY

Within seconds, you would have done the greatest favour in life! Donate RM20 and save wild tigers around the world as they are desperate for help. They could become extinct in less than 20 years. The loss of habitat due to human population and poaching has driven the tigers to the brink of extinction.

Just click to participate:

Sign up to save the tigers

DONATE

[www.tigerscry.com.my](http://www.tigerscry.com.my)

7. Which of the following about this web page is **true**?

- A. People need to give help to the tigers
- B. Tigers are already extinct in 20 years' time
- C. Anybody can help the tigers by clicking online
- D. The growth of human population has caused the loss of habitat

Teacher: Adam, I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of your parents

Adam: Thank you, teacher. It's hard to accept that they are gone. I am grateful that my uncle

and his family have taken me in but I miss my parents terribly. I am so down in the dumps that I don't seem to be able to keep up with my studies. I think I have a bleak future.

Teacher: Don't worry. Just remember, time heals all wounds.

8. Adam's teacher assures him

- A. not to worry about the future
- B. to take this incident as a challenge
- C. that eventually he will get over his grief
- D. nothing bad will happen to him in the future

The screen should be straight in front of you at a distance allowing you to focus easily – for most people, this is about an arm's length. The top of the screen should be at or slightly below eye level so that you don't have to look down and strain your neck muscles.

To avoid eye strain, adjust the brightness and contrast so that the image is sharp and you read individual letters easily. The characters on the screen should not flicker or move. Keep your screen – even fingermarks can obstruct your view.

9. The following statements describe the correct way to use the computer **except**

- A. ensuring that the screen is dim
- B. placing your computer at arm's length
- C. keeping the screen level with your eyes
- D. maintaining the cleanliness of the screen

Though Shahrul was leading the race, he had started celebrating even before the finish line, and in the process lost his lead. He had counted his chickens before they hatched.

10. Based on the graphic above, which of the statements below matches the meaning of the proverb?

- A. You should count your blessings and always be thankful
- B. You should be patient and wait for the right time to come
- C. You should not count on something that has not yet happened
- D. You should believe that something is certainly going the way they should be



It is never too early to teach children manners. At around 18 months, kids begin to grasp that there are certain accepted social graces. As parents we should set the stage being polite and helping children to think about other people's feelings. Children pick up good manners and habits from their parents who are their role models. Even two-year-olds can learn to say 'please' and 'thank you'. Children need manners to be accepted in today's world. Good manners convey a sense of respect and consideration for other people.

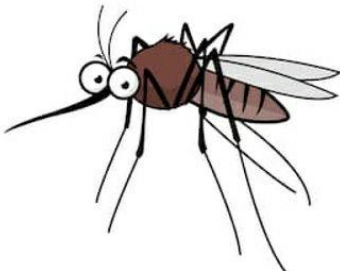
11. From the extract, we can conclude that

- A. children can acquire manners even when they are babies
- B. it is parents' responsibility to teach their children good manners
- C. good manners means being able to only say 'please' and 'thank you'
- D. children have to be well mannered if they want to be successful in future

Sardines are rich in both vitamin D and omega-3 fatty acids. Both of these nutrients are known to overcome one's minor depressive disorder. Low vitamin D levels have been linked to depression around the globe. Some studies have linked its deficiency to other mental health problems such as personality disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. Therefore, eating food rich in vitamin D can make people happier.

12. What is the main idea of the above extract?

- A. Depression is a global problem
- B. Sardines have high nutritional values
- C. Eating sardines can overcome depression
- D. Lack of vitamin D can cause personality disorder

Avoid Dengue Fever		
What is Dengue Fever?	What are the Symptoms?	What Can You Do to Prevent Dengue?
Dengue fever is a disease caused by a family of viruses that are transmitted by mosquitoes	<p>They include severe joint and muscle pain, swollen lymph nodes, headache, fever, exhaustion and rash. The presence of fever, rash and headache.</p> <p>Dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) is a specific syndrome that tends to affect children under 10 years of age. It causes abdominal pain, haemorrhage (bleeding), and circulatory collapse (shock).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Avoid mosquito bites</li> <li>➤ Reduce mosquito habitats</li> </ul> 
TAKE ACTION TODAY!		

13. The purpose of the poster is to

- A. explain that Malaysia is facing dengue outbreak
- B. suggest the right treatment to the high-risk people
- C. advise the public to take action to reduce the symptoms
- D. encourage people to take the initiative in decreasing dengue risks

#### DELETE MY ACCOUNT

Your account has been deactivated from the site and will be permanently deleted within 14 days. If you log into your account within the next 14 days, you will have the option to cancel your request.

14. From their message, we know that the user
- A. has to close the account within 14 days
  - B. is not allowed to deactivate the account
  - C. may cancel the deactivation within the time given
  - D. is unable to use the site after the request is cancelled

Jane: Oh, the test was so hard, Maria ...

Is the first question "True" or "False"?

Maria: "True"

Jane: How do you know?

Maria: Because I did my homework and studied for the test...

Jane: (Silent)...Wow!

15. From the dialogue above, we can conclude that
- A. the test was difficult
  - B. last minute study helped
  - C. Jane did not work hard enough
  - D. Maria is unsure of her own answer

Answer

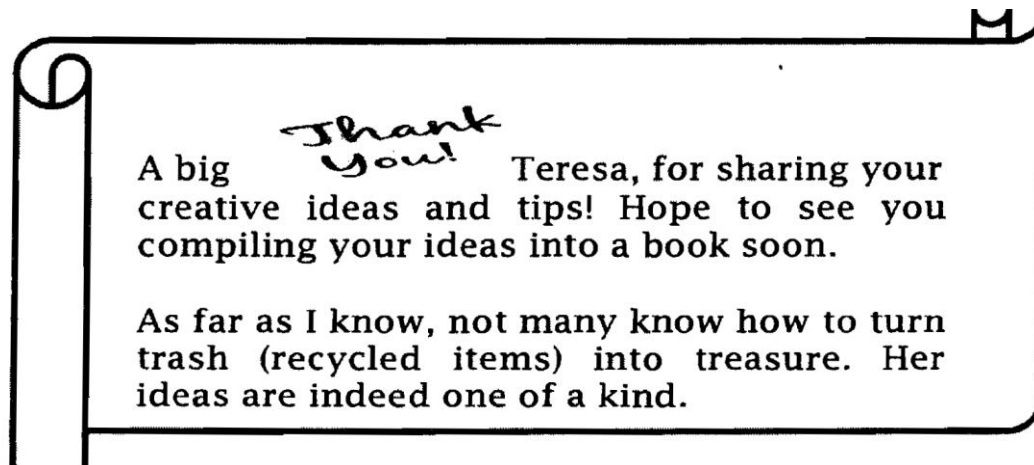
- 1. C
- 2. D
- 3. D
- 4. C
- 5. D
- 6. C
- 7. D
- 8. C
- 9. A
- 10. C
- 11. B
- 12. C
- 13. D
- 14. C
- 15. C

## Notices & Notes

### **Be Considerate, Give Way. You Can Make A Difference.**

We shower visitors with good manners, yet display a different side the moment we get behind the wheel. Practise good manners on our roads because it can mean the difference between life and death.

- 1 The notice above is a
- A plea to be courteous while driving
  - B warning of accidents on the road
  - C reminder to check your vehicles
  - D suggestion for safer roads



- 2 From the note, we can conclude that Teresa
- A compiles idea in a book
  - B is a famous book writer
  - C owns a lot of treasure
  - D has an innovative mind

ANGSANA College is organising an English Literature workshop for Form Five students on May 28 and 29 from 8.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at its Kajang campus. The workshop will cover poems, short stories and novel taught in Form 5. The session is limited to 80 participants. For more details, contact Pn. Hanita at 03-23631288.

- 3 From the notice above, we know that the workshop is
- A held for two whole days
  - B aimed at English literature
  - C organised for fourth formers
  - D conducted by Pn. Hanita

**WANTED  
FULL TIME WAITER**

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- **Malaysian citizen**
- **Male**
- **Above 21**
- **SPM or equivalent**
- **Speaks Malay & English fluently**

- 4 According to the notice, an interested applicant must be a
- A** university student
  - B** city resident
  - C** specialist
  - D** bilingual

**YOUR NOD OF APPROVAL AND YOUR SMILE  
DRIVE US TO DO BETTER**

Planet Express Sdn. Bhd.

- 5 Planet Express Sdn. Bhd. emphasises on its customers'
- A** reaction
  - B** contribution
  - C** satisfaction
  - D** recommendation

**LITTLE COTTAGE**

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**

**Get your beautiful roses here!**  
**For enquiries and early bookings:**  
**707-6472711**

- 6 You may call Little Cottage to
- A** surprise the florist.
  - B** give beautiful roses.
  - C** order flowers as a gift.
  - D** enquire about Mother's Day.

Ratbots exist to enable the military to go into places inaccessible to conventional machines

- 7 The caption above shows that ratbots are used to
- A help the military to safeguard secrets.
  - B replace the machines in the military camps.
  - C hinder the military entry into inaccessible places.
  - D help the military access places where machines cannot enter.

### **Be safe...**

Make sure you are never alone with someone who has been drinking or taking drugs. You don't know when he will turn violent.

- 8 From the notice above, we know that we should
- A keep away from drug and alcohol abusers.
  - B not be alone with strangers and violent people.
  - C avoid going out with drug addicts and alcoholics.
  - D keep away from drugs and alcohol to avoid violence.

### **Messages**

#### **MEMO**

**To: Miss Cecilia**

**From: Mr. Wilson**

**Message:**

**I'm out with a client. When the trainees from EED arrive, please apologise for my absence. Welcome them and brief them on their schedule. Please arrange a suitable time for me to meet them. Thank you.**

**Wilson**

- 1 Pick out the *incorrect* statement regarding the message above.
- A Mr. Wilson left a memo for Miss Cecilia
  - B Mr. Wilson wants to meet the trainees later
  - C Miss Cecilia is required to brief the trainees
  - D Mr. Wilson is able to meet the trainees when they arrive

Dear Puan Aina,

I wish to apologise because I have not completed the assignment you had given last week. I am currently coping with some difficult issues at home and, as a result, I am having difficulty concentrating on my school work. My family is facing some personal problems and I am very worried about them. I was reluctant to say this in front of the class as I did not want to give a lame excuse for my unfinished work. Please give me another opportunity to prove myself. I promise to work harder in future. Thank you.

- 2 From the note, Sally
- A is appealing for another chance.
  - B wishes to be given a different assignment.
  - C usually does not complete her assignments on time.
  - D is concerned about what her classmates think about her.

To: Hisyam

I am sorry I cannot come to your house to do assignment together. I have a headache and I need a rest. Please let me know if there is something I can do. And please give my apology to others as I cannot meet them today. Thanks a lot.

Azrul

- 3 In the message, Azrul
- A asks Hisyam to do the assignment.
  - B tells Hisyam that he is sick.
  - C needs Hisyam to meet his friends.
  - D wants to apologise to his friends in person.

**Dear Aunty Lily,  
I received a lovely surprise in the post yesterday. Thank  
you very much. It's perfect. You know me so well.**

**Michelle**

- 4 Why does Michelle tell Aunty Lily "You know me so well"?
- A Aunty Lily knows exactly what Michelle likes.
  - B Aunty Lily knows how to surprise Michelle.
  - C Aunty Lily knows Michelle's dress size.
  - D Aunty Lily knows Michelle's secret.

**Dear Amy,**

At my 11-year-old son's birthday party, his best friend (and next-door neighbour) gave him a board game. After the party, we discovered that the game had some missing pieces and did not work. I figured that money was tight and that his mom probably bought it from a jumble sale. Fine - except the very next day, his friend came over riding a brand new bicycle. Do I mention the defective gift to my neighbour, and risk embarrassing her, or let it go?

**Upset Mom**

- 5 From the letter above, we know that the writer was upset because
- A she could not afford to buy her son a bicycle
  - B her neighbour had given her son a faulty gift
  - C her neighbour had a financial problem
  - D she had embarrassed her neighbour

Questions 6 and 7 are based on the following message.

<b>From :</b>	<b>hannah@hotmail.com</b>
<b>Sent:</b>	<b>1 March 2019</b>
<b>To :</b>	<b>richard@gmail.com</b>
<b>Subject :</b>	<b>Literature classes</b>
<p>Hi Richie,</p> <p>Do you know that Mrs Hansen is conducting extra Literature classes to prepare us for the upcoming exam? I think it's really thoughtful of her to do so.</p> <p>I know you think literature is <i>not your cup of tea</i> and has probably given up hope on the subject. Don't throw in the towel, yet, my friend. There's still time to catch up. I need the classes as much as you do. So, see you at Mrs Hansen's class.</p> <p>Hannah</p>	

- 6 We know from the email that
- A Mrs Hansen is energetic.
  - B Hannah is weak at Literature.
  - C Hannah is an encouraging friend.
  - D Richie is not attending the extra classes.
- 7 What does Hannah mean when she says '*not your cup of tea*'?
- A She did not want Richie to be lazy.
  - B She refused to let Richie skip classes.
  - C She wanted Richie to give up literature.
  - D She felt literature is difficult for Rich

Dear Editor,

I have noticed some students loitering near a certain supermarket when they should be in school. This has been going on for a few months and I realised that the school authorities are not bothered and obviously no action has been taken. The boys are loud and badly behaved. I hope the school authorities will look into this matter.

Concerned Citizen

- 8 Concerned Citizen has written this letter because he
- A wants the students to leave the supermarket
  - B thinks the boys should be taught to behave in a public place
  - C wants the school authorities to be aware of what some of the students are up to
  - D thinks that the boys do not realise that they are breaking the school rules and being a public nuisance

Dear Editor,

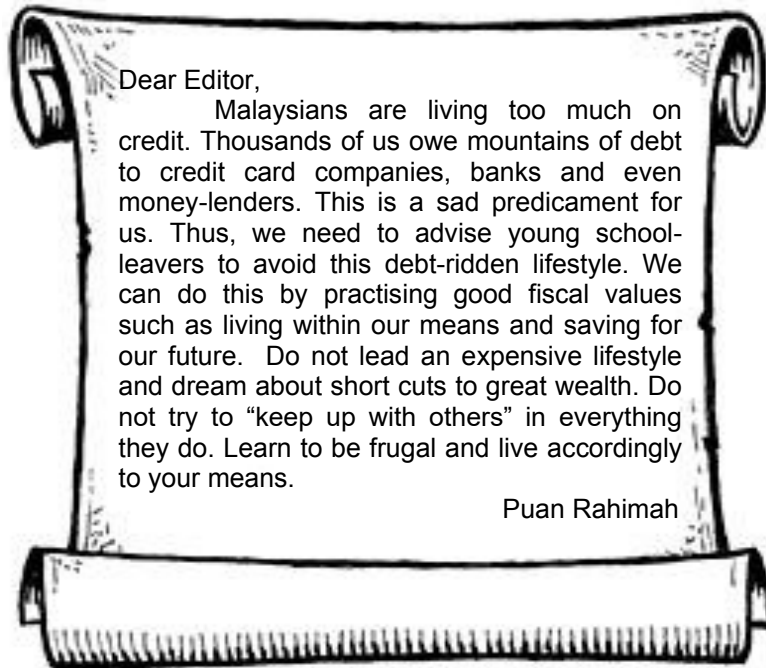
Out of sight, out of mind! That is what we think of our garbage. Do you know what mountains of waste can do to us? So, what are we waiting for? Let us practise the 3R – reduce, reuse, recycle. I hope all of you out there will not hesitate to act now!

*Aiman*



9 How does the writer feel?

- A Irritated
- B Worried
- C Annoyed
- D Frustrated



Dear Editor,

Malaysians are living too much on credit. Thousands of us owe mountains of debt to credit card companies, banks and even money-lenders. This is a sad predicament for us. Thus, we need to advise young school-leavers to avoid this debt-ridden lifestyle. We can do this by practising good fiscal values such as living within our means and saving for our future. Do not lead an expensive lifestyle and dream about short cuts to great wealth. Do not try to “keep up with others” in everything they do. Learn to be frugal and live accordingly to your means.

Puan Rahimah

10 The writer’s advice to the young school-leavers is intended to ensure

- A facial health
- B fiscal health
- C physical fitness
- D environmental care



There will be temporary road closure near Jalan Raja Endut/ Jalan Abdul Ghaffar traffic lights intersection between 11 and 13 December due to construction works. The diversion exercise will be carried out from 11.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

- 11 The above announcement is important so that
- A motorists may travel after 11.30 p.m.
  - B road users will not be inconvenienced.
  - C road users will be informed of the project.
  - D motorists can avoid the construction workers.

Dear Lily,

I planned to go for Sharon's birthday party at Benny's Corner tomorrow. However, I have to attend an important meeting at the office. I would like to apologise as I won't be able to make it for the party. I will pass Sharon's gift to you this evening after work. Wish her happy birthday on my behalf and tell her that I will be meeting her on Thursday.

Regards, Carol

- 12 From the message, we know that Carol
- A is sorry for not being able to attend Sharon's birthday party.
  - B will meet Lily's sister to pass the gift after the meeting.
  - C will have her birthday party after the meeting.
  - D has bought a gift for Lily's sister.

Dear Miss Dorothy,

I am Cecilia's mother who is in your Form 5 class. Unfortunately, I need to report to you that she has been experiencing bullying again this year. She first mentioned the incident to me four weeks ago, when she said two students in her class tore her bag during the school's Sports Day at the stadium in town. At that time, I took a photograph of the damage and hoped that would be the end of it. In previous year, the same girls and a few others cornered my daughter and used abusive words.

Yesterday, she came home with a large bruise on her forehead. The girls pushed her from behind and she fell, bumping her head on the floor. This happened at the corridor of the school. She refused to go to school today, and I didn't force her. These incidents are far beyond normal childish behaviour, and I am very worried. I hope the school will take prompt action.

Yours sincerely,  
Annie Robert

- 13 From the letter above, what happened to Cecilia the day before at school?
- A She was stopped by the two girls and scolded with indecent words.
  - B She was injured on the forehead after being pushed from behind.
  - C She bullied the two girls by tearing their bags.
  - D She acted childishly by not attending school.

## **Advertisements**

### **Dine and Win**

**Rm10,000**

**For further information, visit us at [www.facebook.com/palaceplaza](http://www.facebook.com/palaceplaza)**

- 1 What is the main purpose of the advertisement?
- A To announce the address of the website
  - B To inform the public about the competition
  - C To encourage diners to enter the competition
  - D To urge the winners to claim their prize money

### **ARTS FESTIVAL**

The IAR University is organising an Arts Festival in conjunction with its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event will feature local and international talents. At the same time, it will also create a platform to meet people. Highlights of the event include an art installation, sketch mob and an art exhibition. The event is from 9am to 4pm at the IAR campus in Bukit Jalil.

For details, visit [www.iar.edu.my](http://www.iar.edu.my)

- 2 Which of these statements about the Arts Festival is true?
- A It excludes foreign artists.
  - B It is being held for the 25<sup>th</sup> time.
  - C It will promote the sale of exhibited art items.
  - D It will help people to connect easily with others.

### **Millennium Drama Academy**

**Established in 2000**

26, Taman Botanic Jaya, Petaling Jaya

An academy for children aged 3 to 16

Helps boost confidence and self-esteem of children.

Children learn to speak well and be able to bring out their hidden talents and potential.

Caters to different personalities.

So come on over and witness your child's personality changing.

**Free Trial Lessons:** First week before registration

- 3 From the advertisement above, we know that
- A parents need to call the academy for further information
  - B this academy guarantees that children will learn to act confidently after attending this course
  - C this academy is geared to developing self-confidence and self-esteem through drama
  - D free trial lessons will be conducted only after registration is confirmed

***hear.com* in Malaysia**

**Studies prove that untreated hearing loss can cause stress and isolation, increasing the chances of dementia by 50%. Many people wait until their hearing loss is too severe before getting hearing aids. *hear.com*, the largest online hearing aid retailer in the world, is there to make sure that every person who needs it has access to the right solution for their hearing loss within budget.**

- 4 From the advertisement, what could make *hear.com* a popular choice?
- A It is the largest online hearing aid retailer in the world.
  - B It offers an affordable solution to hearing loss.
  - C It can decrease the chances of dementia.
  - D It can prevent stress and isolation.

**YOU COULD WALK AWAY WITH THIS GUARANTEED GIFT!  
FOR SITO BANK CARDHOLDERS**

-----

Spend a minimum of RM5000 from

- 4 August – 9 September 2019 or
- 10 September – 3 October 2019

to receive a Conan G051050F Camera

Limited to first 500 customers who fulfil all conditions

To participate, simply send an SMS to 33333 from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 in this format:  
GIFT<space> 10-digit (your membership number)

- 5 In order to get a free gift, you have to
- A send an SMS to 33333
  - B shop before July 30<sup>th</sup>
  - C be among the first 500 customers
  - D spend less than RM5000

Do you know that listening to thunderstorm sounds, relaxing pouring rain and lightning video help you to sleep? Allowing this calming storm sounds nature video to create a soothing ambience for relaxation in your home. Let this sounds video wash over you and help you fall into a deep satisfying slumber.

- 6 What could you make out from the above advertisement?
- A This information is highly recommended for a weather forecaster.
  - B This is a good therapy for those suffering from insomnia.
  - C It is a soothing effect for those who are depressed.
  - D Everyone needs to listen to this sounds video.

**Shoestring Travel gives you tips on how to have the best holiday of your life without having to pay the world. This travelogue entertains and educates viewers on having a great time while travelling on a shoestring budget.**

- 7 The travel programme above is about
- A paying less for more
  - B various tourists' bargains
  - C having the holiday of your life
  - D educating the viewers on travelling

**COMEBACK CONCERT!**

**Delcom®.**

## **MAGENTA 5 LIVE CONCERT IN KLANG**

**Get 30% off your concert ticket when you purchase any  
NTC phone from Delcom®.**

**Terms and conditions apply**

- 8 According to the advertisement above, you can
- A click to watch more of the live concert in Klang.
  - B purchase any NTC phone from Delcom®. at 30% off.
  - C watch Magenta 5's first concert appearance at 30% off.
  - D buy a cheaper ticket by purchasing a new NTC phone.

Would you use essential oils that make you smell like a pretzel? It may sound wacky, but multiple fast food brands have been edging their way into the beauty game recently. Global Pretzel franchise Auntie Annie's is also hopping on the beauty bandwagon, with the launch "House of A Heavenly Scent Essential Pretzel Oils".

- 9 The essential oils from Auntie Annie's franchise
- A smells like the food product.
  - B can also be used to fry the pretzels.
  - C is popular because of its unique name.
  - D is waiting to be introduced to the market.

### Nu-Rock Body Spray

Stay fresh all day naturally, even with rigorous exercises. Nu-Rock – natural deodorant body spray, infused with vanilla and pure scents from flowers.

- **ALL-NATURAL FORMULA** – Nu-Rock deodorant is made from natural mineral salts that form an invisible layer on the skin.
- **CRUELTY FREE** – We assure you that no animal testing is used in any phase of product development.
- **A GREEN PRODUCT** – Free from aluminium and paraben. Good for body, good for Earth.

- 10 From the advertisement above, we know that Nu-Rock body spray
- A has animal-derived ingredients.
  - B is safe for the environment.
  - C has artificial substances.
  - D is fragrance-free.

### 100-word Story Writing Competition

This is a chance for you to win RM1000 and see your work published by Mass Magazine. Now all you need to do is write a fantastic work of fiction in just 100 words. Stories should be original, unpublished and exactly 100 words long– meaning 99 words will be disqualified, hyphenated words count as one. Email entries to [masseditor@massmagazine.com](mailto:masseditor@massmagazine.com) or post to Mass Magazine Malaysia, Editorial Department, PO Box 333, Malaysia 24300. Deadline: December 31 2018.

- 11 The advertisement says that the story must
- A be at least 100 words.
  - B be your own and unissued.
  - C only be submitted in December.
  - D only be posted to the Editorial Department.



12 Choose the **correct** statement about the product above.

- A** It can be put on top of the fabric.
- B** It can be used to soothe the irritated skin.
- C** The consumers will feel cold after using it.
- D** The brand suggests that the product contains alcohol.

**Are you interested in taking part in a marathon?**

Here is some advice for you as you train for it.

A personal training schedule is necessary. Don't start off with heavy exercise. Go the full distance only after having had a day of rest.

13 Which of the following best shows the sequence in preparing for a marathon?

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
Light training	Personal time-table	Personal time-table	Light training
Personal time-table	Light training	Light training	Personal time-table
Full distance	Full distance	Rest day	Rest day
Rest day	Rest day	Full distance	Full distance

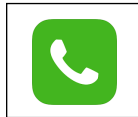
An Evening with EvRF Melaka

Entertainment – Lucky Draw – High Tea  
Saturday / 3pm – 7pm / 20 May 2018  
Melur Club Banquet Hall  
Jalan Bukit Indah, Taman Bukit Mewah,  
72500 Melaka



[www.evrf.org.my](http://www.evrf.org.my)

EvRF Melaka



Mr. Steven Soh 012 33445566  
Mr. Paul Yong 013 45456767

14 Which of these statements about the advertisement is true?

- A Dinner is served at the function.
- B The event is held during the weekend.
- C One can join the event via social media.
- D The organisers are Mr. Steven Soh and Mr. Paul Yong.

BOOK EXHIBITION

Attractive discounts on all books

Over 15 publishers to display their books

Hurry! Hurry! Avoid the crowd. Get the bargains.

Other highlights:

- ✓ Poetry recital
- ✓ Story-telling competition
- ✓ Cartoon-drawing demonstration
- ✓ Colouring contest

Date : 14 -18 June

Time : 10 a.m. to 9.p.m.

Place : Great Convention Centre,  
Petaling Jaya

**LET'S READ TOGETHER**

**Sponsored by:**

**Perpustakaan Petaling Jaya**

15 From the advertisement above, we can infer that

- A large crowd are expected to show up.
- B the book exhibition will be held over 4 days.
- C children will take part in the poetry recital competition.
- D the visitors will read together at the convention centre.

Magic Hotel, Kuala Lumpur offers attractive room rates from RM 150 nett.  
Meeting packages available from RM 30 nett. Easily accessible to Bukit Bintang  
and KLCC. Walking distance to Maharajalela monorail station.

Contact 03-2264888, fax 03-2263777, email us at [magichotel@gmail.com.my](mailto:magichotel@gmail.com.my)  
or visit [www.magichotel.com](http://www.magichotel.com)



- 16 From the advertisement above, we can say that magic hotel ...
- A offers tours to Bukit Bintang and KLCC.
  - B offers attractive rooms for only RM 30 nett.
  - C caters meeting packages at one third of the room rates.
  - D provides transport to the nearest monorail station.

Just register at our booth  
Special discounts!!  
You may win a trip to Gold Coast, Australia  
(early birds get door gift)  
Comfy Home-style Exhibition  
At Sukaria Mall  
9.00 a.m. -10.00 p.m. on weekdays

- 17 From the advertisement, we can conclude that
- A visitors can register anytime daily.
  - B only those who are early will win a trip overseas.
  - C everyone who visits the booth will get a door gift.
  - D all visitors are entitled to special discounts after registration.

#### December School Holidays Workshops

Dr. Rose will be conducting "COOL TO BE ME" workshops which focus on social learning. Our programmes equip children with the skills needed to interact and manage challenges and pressures of everyday life. We believe self-awareness will grow resulting in their ability to consider their own emotions. Through storytelling and interactive activities, they will be guided to learn self and mutual respect and confidence.

The workshops are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8.00 a.m to 12.00 p.m, for first three consecutive weeks. Stationery and equipment will be provided. Breakfast will be served.

For more information contact Debra at 04-98765432.

- 18 From the advertisement above, parents would prefer to send their children to learn the following, **except**
- A mastering storytelling skills.
  - B learning communication skills.
  - C managing stress in daily lives.
  - D learning to respect people around.

#### Quotes and Sayings

**Ask not what your country can do for you;**

**Ask what you can do for your country.**

***A John F. Kennedy***



- 1 The quote above reflects the value of
- A patriotism
  - B honesty
  - C determination
  - D kindness

I embrace my experiences with grace and gratitude

- 2 The word 'embrace' in the excerpt can best be replaced with
- A hug
  - B hold
  - C collect
  - D accept

“HEALTH IS REAL WEALTH, NOT PIECES OF GOLD AND SILVER”

- 3 The quote by Gandhi means
- A a healthy person can enjoy gold and silver
  - B people who are rich have better wealth
  - C being healthy is the best wealth to own
  - D own wealth is owning gold and silver

**TO NOT SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES**

- 4 The expression above means a person who does not
- A understand the reason for doing an action.
  - B believe in separating the main points from the specific details.
  - C want to do a specific project because of the problem of too many details.
  - D see the significant main points because of paying too much attention to details.

***Success is falling nine times and getting up ten.***

**Jon Bon Jovi**

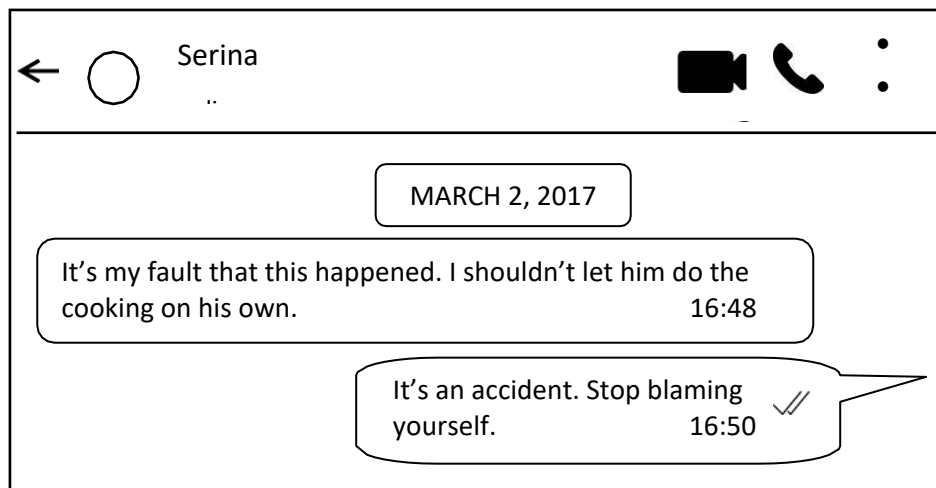
- 5 The quote above reflects the value of
- A patriotism
  - B compassion
  - C determination
  - D sincerity



My kitchen floor was sticky and I had to do something about it. So finally I went out and bought some slippers.

6 From the extract above, we know that the person is

- A lazy
- B slow
- C creative
- D proactive



7 From the extract, Serina feels

- A relieved.
- B regretful.
- C reassured.
- D reconciled.

## **MOVIE REVIEW**

### **Pitch Perfect 2 (Musical Comedy)**



The *Pitch Perfect* sequel sees the Barden Bellas taking their acapella group to the international stage. After entering a worldwide competition, the Bellas face brand new challenges when they discover that no American singing group has ever come out of the competition on top. Jam-packed with **catchy** tunes and hilarious one-liners delivered by Rebel Wilson as Fat Amy, *Pitch Perfect 2* promises to live up to the success of its predecessor.

- 8 Based on the movie review above, the word **catchy** can best be replaced with
- A interesting.
  - B appealing.
  - C attractive.
  - D haunting.

"If you really want to do something, you'll find a way.  
If you don't, you'll find an excuse."

*Jim Rohn,  
Motivational Speaker*

- 9 From the quote above, we can conclude that
- A unmotivated people always make excuses.
  - B doing something successfully requires a way.
  - C finding an excuse to do something will lead to success.
  - D motivated people always have one way to do something.



- 10 The main purpose of the notice is to encourage people to be
- A thrifty.
  - B miserly.
  - C spendthrift.
  - D extravagant.

**The Sky is the limit!**  
**Always keep your spirits up!**  
**I'm on top of the world!**  
**You can't keep a good man down!**

- 11 We can conclude that the person who utters these words is
- A a strategist.
  - B an optimist.
  - C a philosopher.
  - D an educationalist.

### **Texts and Extracts**

KUALA LUMPUR: A dentist had a narrow escape when a micro piler fell on his Honda City while he was driving past an MRT station that was under construction along Jalan Ipoh.

Dr. Ling said he alighted from his vehicle and confronted the construction site manager and the safety manager. He told them that although he pulled the brakes, the machinery hit his vehicle causing it to come to a stop. Fortunately, both of them took responsibility for the mishap.

Adapted from The STAR newspaper

1. We can conclude that
- A Dr. Ling was denied compensation for the damage.
  - B the road near Jalan Ipoh was under massive construction.
  - C the managers quickly ran out of the station after the accident.
  - D Dr. Ling Was lucky to get away from a very dangerous situation.

The Scots have a long rich heritage associated with Hogmanay. Hogmanay is the Scottish word for the last day of the year. The most widespread national custom is the practice of 'first-footing', which starts immediately after midnight. It is also traditional to sing Robert Burns' *Auld Lang Syne* immediately after midnight.

2. Which title **best** summarises the text?
- A *Auld Lang Syne*
  - B Ending the Year
  - C Hogmanay: 1 January
  - D The Scottish New Year

Save water by watering plants with a watering can instead of sprinklers. If possible, use rainwater. Water the plants in the morning or late in the evening when there is less evaporation.



- 3 The aim of the campaign above is to
- A conserve water.
  - B reduce water bill.
  - C prevent water pollution.
  - D improve quality of water.

#### A Good Reason to Start Walking

Brisk walking can help you to increase the natural chemicals in your body. This can help to reduce pain and make you happy. Researchers have shown that those who walk regularly seldom experience feelings of anxiety. Moreover, the fitter you are, the stronger your bones will be. This is because walking can help minimise calcium loss. There is a bonus too, in walking — it reduces appetite.

- 4 From the article, we know that walking can strengthen the bones because it
- A prevents health problems.
  - B reduces body chemicals.
  - C improves body fitness.
  - D reduces calcium loss.

I wish to complain about the attitude of some bus drivers who are excessively rude to the extent of calling their passengers names like 'stupid'. Last week, I took a bus to Kepong. After paying the fare, I made a little mistake by trying to pull the ticket before it was printed. I apologised to the driver upon realising my mistake. To my horror, he yelled at me, saying that I was stupid and should have waited for the ticket to print.

Intimidated

- 5 Why was 'Intimidated' yelled at by the bus driver?
- A for pulling the ticket before it was printed.
  - B for pulling the ticket from the river.
  - C for not apologizing for his mistake.
  - D for getting up the bus slowly.

Thieves broke into a fish farm at Tebuk Pancor in Bukit Merah, Semanggol and made off with arowana fish worth RM1.5 million. The theft was discovered by a worker who arrived for work at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday. He believed that the theft was committed by more than two people who arrived in a vehicle on Friday night. Police suspect someone on the inside may have helped the thieves.

- 6 According to the article above, the thieves
- A have been arrested.
  - B were caught by a fish farm worker.
  - C stole arowana fish worth RM1.5 million.
  - D arrived in a vehicle on Saturday morning.

### KEY LESSONS

**STEVEN SPIELBERG** Instead of reading, Spielberg preferred running around with a camera and shooting homemade films of his train set. He would show his friends the results for a small fee. That is how Steven Spielberg began his film career, which skyrocketed when he directed *Jaws* and raked in an incredible US\$470 million at the box office.

**JAN KOUM** Jan Koum, the founder of WhatsApp, was born in a small village near Kiev in Ukraine. Coming from poverty, Koum's family moved to California, where Koum started learning about computers during his spare time. By the time he was 18, he had developed impressive skills, and in 1997, he was hired by Yahoo as an infrastructure engineer.

**SAM WALTON** Sam Walton, Walmart's founder, had almost nothing to his name when he started his first general store back in 1945. He relied on a small loan from his father-in-law to fund that initial purchase, and it became a success. The first official Walmart was opened in 1962, and by 1976, Walmart was worth more than US\$176 million.

- 7 According to the text, an important lesson we can learn from the people above is
- A dream of the future
  - B invest in your abilities
  - C borrow money if necessary
  - D start small in whatever you are doing

Malaria is a curable infection caused by a parasite which is transmitted only by the *Anopheles* mosquito from person to person.

The malaria parasite or *Plasmodium* is first injected into the bloodstream of a healthy person by an infected mosquito. It enters the liver cells where it multiplies before re-entering the bloodstream. It then enters the red blood cells burst open.

Clinical symptoms of malaria include high fever followed by chills. There is also anaemia, low blood sugar and acute kidney failure in very serious cases.

- 8 All the following are true of malaria **except**
- A malaria is caused by the Aedes mosquito.
  - B the malaria parasite first multiplies in the liver cells.
  - C high fevers and chills are clinical symptoms of malaria
  - D anaemia and acute kidney failure occur only in severe cases.

Our youths are growing violent. Why is this happening?

“Like many are saying, back then, the worst kids would do was just throw stones at each other but now they would steal, burn and kill, causing massive or maximum harm to others,” says expert criminologist, Dr. Kumaraj.

The high level of aggression among Malaysian youths is a result of the aggressive attitude of the adults in society. “We are willing to hurt others over small matters, like road bullying,” he continues.

One reason is that Malaysians generally have little value of life, which can be seen in our low standards of safety and the murder cases in the country.

Dr. Kumaraj believes this is happening because children and teens lack positive adult role models either at home or at school.

- 9 Which title **best** summarises the above text?
- A Malaysian Youths: Are They Being Neglected?
  - B Malaysian Youths: Are They Becoming Rebellious?
  - C Malaysian Youths: Are They the Reflection of Society?
  - D Malaysian Youths: Are They the Victims of Aggression?

Days passed by, I did not do anything else but concentrate on my studies. Examination was just around the corner and I had no other wish apart from wanting to pass with flying colours. My parents always reminded me to work hard and prove to everybody that a son of an ordinary clerk could also succeed in life and deserve some respect. I engaged myself in group discussion, had consultations with my Physics and Chemistry teachers, the two subjects that I was weak at. After months of *blood, sweat and tears*, I achieved my ultimate goal – 10As in the exam.

- 10 From the extract above, *blood, sweat and tears* refers to the writer's
- A plan to get recognition.
  - B journey to realise his dream.
  - C effort to achieve success.
  - D motivation to reach his goal.

Smoking is the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death. It is a prime factor in heart disease, stroke and chronic lung disease. It can cause cancer of the lungs, larynx, oesophagus, mouth, and bladder, and contributes to cancer of the cervix, pancreas and kidneys.

Source: Facts Sheet About Smoking

- 11 The **main** message of the extract above is that
- A many serious diseases affecting us originate from smoking.
  - B smoking can prevent causes of diseases and premature death.
  - C smoking causes heart disease, stroke and chronic lung cancer.
  - D many serious diseases affecting us can be avoided if we do not smoke.

Culinary expert Patsie Cheong has over 40 years of experience in the industry and has authored over 30 cookbooks, including *Sauce and Taste* which won a 2015 Gourmand World Cookbook Award (Best Single Subject Cookbook, Malaysia). Cheong regularly receives invitations to conduct cooking demos in Australia and Europe and conducts cooking courses. To date, she has trained over 2000 students from all over the world.

- 12 From the extract above, we can infer that Patsie Cheong
- A is a well-known chef and author.
  - B loves to cook in Australia and Europe.
  - C conducts cooking demos all over the world.
  - D has written many award-winning cookbooks.

Do you laugh often? You may wonder what laughter has to do with health but when it was said that laughter is the best medicine, the experts of long ago knew what they were talking about! Those who laugh often might not be healthier really but they certainly have a better attitude to problems and therefore have a better time than those who worry and are grumpy.

- 13 The **main** point of the extract above is
- A experts of long ago knew what they were talking about.
  - B a light attitude to life helps people to enjoy a better life.
  - C all those who laugh definitely have a better health.
  - D people who worry have a better time.

Our lifestyle, health, self-development, relationship with loved ones and close friends need to be *in symphony* with one another. So we should focus and cultivate all these aspects to ensure a happy life.



- 14 From the extract above, the phrase **in symphony** can be replaced with
- A in line
  - B compatible
  - C disharmonious
  - D musically inclined

YANGCHONG, Sun – Police near this southern Chinese city rescued a boy after his father chained him to his bed for 48 days for stealing, a news report said. The Yangchong Evening Edition said Li Zhiqing, father of the 6 year-old Li Ee War, bought a 70cm chain and collared his son to the bed. He was being punished for making his father lose face by stealing at his kindergarten. The father has been charged in court for child abuse.

- 15 According to the extract, the boy was chained by his
- A leg
  - B hand
  - C body
  - D neck



#### PONDER BEFORE YOU LEND MONEY!

If they do not have much money coming in and are already struggling to pay their bills, another loan might not be what they need. If others have lent them money and struggled to get it back, you may want to be more cautious. You could end up losing your money and your friends as they are unable to pay.

- 16 A lesson that we can learn from the above text is that lending money is
- A a normal practice.
  - B like taking a loan.
  - C to be done thoughtfully.
  - D considered a good virtue.

**MONDAY:** Badminton icon, Morgan Frest, is about to make his first appearance in the Jakarta Open and will be seeking to revenge against one particular player – China's Lo Dhing.

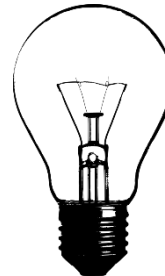
The Olympic champion was easily beaten by Dhing in the semi-finals of the Tournament of Champions in England last month.

Although Morgan Frest bounced back to win the Denmark Open this month, he is looking to get even with Lo Dhing, a player he has lost twice in 20 meetings.



- 17 From the newspaper extract above, we know that Morgan Frest
- A beat his rival at the Denmark Open.
  - B lost the last time he played in Jakarta.
  - C won against Lo Dhing in the Olympics.
  - D was defeated in his most recent tournament.

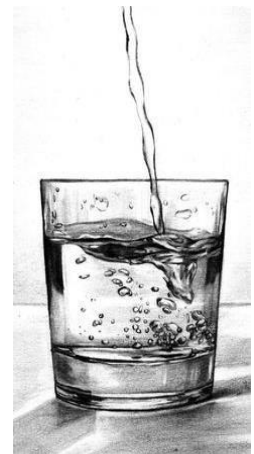
Earth Hour is an international event that asks household and businesses to turn off their lights and non-essential electrical appliances for one hour on the evening of 29 March from 8.00 p.m. until 9.00 p.m. local time. This is to promote energy conservation and thus lower carbon emissions.



- 18 Earth Hour is promoted to
- A turn off electrical appliances.
  - B darken the atmosphere.
  - C stop all businesses.
  - D conserve energy.

### WATER! WATER! WATER!

Drink water before each snack or meal. Drink water throughout the day. Try the following, which will help to curb snacking and over-eating. Before you put anything in your mouth, stop and FIRST have 8 to 16 ounces of water. Wait 15 minutes. Then eat. You might still be hungry, and you might still want to eat, but chances are, you'll eat less.



- 19 You can avoid snacking and over-eating by
- A drinking water for 15 minutes.
  - B drinking water while eating your food.
  - C drinking 16 ounces of water just before meals.
  - D drinking some water 15 minutes before eating.

### Smile for Bone Health

Enjoying life may pay off in an unexpected way. Finnish researchers collected data from more than 2000 women and followed up after ten years. Women aged 60 to 70 who found life less satisfying experienced 52% more bone weakening in their later years than those who found life more satisfying; the results were independent of lifestyle, diseases, physical activities, and other health factors. Experts say promoting good spirits in the elderly is just as important as promoting a healthy lifestyle.

- 20 The extract says that
- A life is meant to be experienced.
  - B aging women face more bone weakening than men.
  - C appreciating life will benefit people as they age.
  - D smiling more is good for bones.

*LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE*

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other a silent treatment. After a week of silence, the man realised he would need his wife to wake him at 5 a.m. for an early morning business flight.

Not wanting to be the first to break the silence, he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5 a.m.."

The next morning the man woke up, only to discover that it was 8 a.m. and he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife had not woken him when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed.

It said: "It's 5 a.m.. Wake up".

- 21 From the text above, we know that the
- A couple missed the morning flight.
  - B husband was planning to break the silence.
  - C couple were having trouble with their home.
  - D wife did not wake her husband up.

**HARUMANIS - The Pride of Perlis**

Harumanis is very popular that it is even pre-booked online, way before it ripens. Literally means 'aromatic and sweet', it can only be grown on the soils of certain parts of Perlis. It is known for its rich, sweet flavour and succulent flesh. Its season starts in early April and ends in early June. It is eagerly awaited not only by Malaysians, but also people from other countries like Japan and Thailand too. It is rich in antioxidant and vitamins. Moreover, it is also said to have fibres that help the digestive system.

- 22 The text says that harumanis is
- A the fruit for the wealthy.
  - B the sweetest of all fruits.
  - C grown on the soils of Perlis.
  - D pleasantly fragrant and juicy.

**Social Networking Sites: 5 Rules**

1. It is wrong to post photos of people without their permission.
2. It isn't a good idea to give your personal information to people you don't know.
3. It's better to write polite comments on other people's profiles.
4. It isn't a good idea to believe everything people write about themselves.
5. It's very important to remember that online friends aren't the same as real friends.

*Adapted: Pulse 2 Textbook, 2017*

- 23 Which of the following statements is **true**?
- A It is wise to stay away from social networking sites.
  - B You can befriend someone you have met instantly.
  - C Sharing posts should be done discreetly.
  - D Avoid writing comments about others.

**KL Tower Towerthon**

*May 13, KL Tower, Kuala Lumpur*

Sports enthusiasts are *on the ball* for the annual staircase run that has gained much popularity over the past few years. Participants must complete an 800-metre run uphill before conquering 2,058 steps and reaching the top level at 283 metres. It is a race that puts endurance and stamina to the test.

This year, the run has been split into several categories: Individual, Junior, Junior Foreigner and Foreigner. Those that finish the race would be entitled to a finisher medal and an e-certificate. Sign up before the 6<sup>th</sup> of May to participate in the run.

*Adapted from Fireflyz In-Flight Magazine*

- 24 The phrase *on the ball* shows that
- A the run is a popular event around the country.
  - B the event requires the participants to carry the balls.
  - C the contestants cannot wait to take part in the event.
  - D the organisers have prepared the prizes at the end of the race.

Questions 25 and 26 are based on the following extract.

Ten-year-old Ruby's goals are to win her school science fair and beat her nemesis, Dominic Robinson. She has gotten second place for the last two years and that streak ends now.

The only trouble is that Ruby has no ideas.

When her grandfather's beloved basset hound passes away, Ruby thinks of the perfect thing that will cheer him up and win her first prize - an innovative, state-of-the-art, not-to-be-duplicated Ruby Goldberg invention!

*Adapted: Ruby Goldberg's Bright Idea by Humphrey, A.  
2014*

- 25 From the extract, Ruby's character can be described as
- A careful.
  - B energetic.
  - C passionate.
  - D determined.
- 26 Ruby wants to cheer her grandfather with her invention probably because
- A she has a crush on her friend.
  - B her grandfather has lost his beloved pet.
  - C she wants to win the school science fair.
  - D her grandfather wants Ruby to create something.

Words are the most of what we have to solve just about everything. The new social media is the most powerful medium for words ever invented. It means you can possess an opinion that can reach around the world without the media or the government putting a spin to it. Your opinion coupled with countless others can stop wars and destroy tyrants. Use it and if you choose the right words, inequity and hardship, even poverty can be solved forever. You are a person with a point of view that counts so use it! Find the right words and change the world.

- 27 According to the text above, words can help you
- A go anywhere in the world.
  - B invent powerful social media.
  - C spread beliefs to make the world better.
  - D influence the media and the government.

The Chinatown in Kuala Lumpur continues to draw local and foreign tourists. Its colourful and unique blend of Chinese, Malay and Indian cultures sets it apart from other Chinatowns in the world. What keeps people flooding in through its winding and crowded streets is definitely the bargains.

**28** From the extract above, the Chinatown in Kuala Lumpur keeps attracting tourists because of its

- A** unique people
- B** winding streets

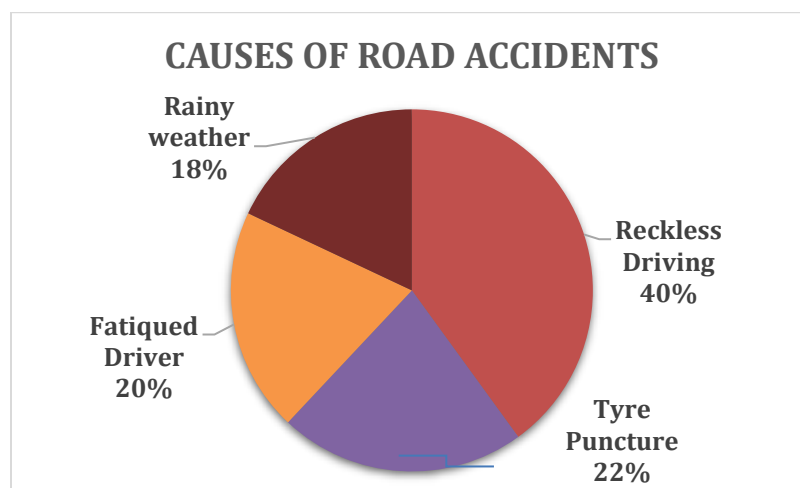
- C** cultural blends
- D** good bargains

Back in 2006, the villagers of Cateura, a small village in Paraguay, South America were horrified by their living conditions. Their village sat atop a landfill – a dumping ground for the wastes from nearby cities.

The villagers decided to work together on a recycling project. Led by Favio Chavez, who had once run an orchestra in his nearby village, Carapeguá, they helped create the Recycled Orchestra, where kids play instruments made from recycled garbage. Cellos are made from oil cans and wood. Violins are made from whatever material is around, including recycled forks.

**29** Which of the following would be the best title for the above news story?

- A** What a Life!
- B** Rubbish, Rubbish, Everywhere!
- C** The Landfill Which Transformed a South American Village
- D** The Villagers Who Helped Children Make Music Out of Trash



- 30 What can we conclude from the above statistics about road accidents in 2017?
- A The least accident was caused by bad driving.
  - B Most road accidents happened in wet weather.
  - C Nearly half of the road accidents were caused by faulty tyres.
  - D More accidents were caused by reckless driving than tired drivers.

ETS	Departs KL Sentral	Arrives Padang Besar	Operating Days	Rate RM
EG 9020	0.705	12.35	All	80
EP 9006	0.800	13.15	Fri/Sat/Sun	107
EG 9512	09.44	15.10	All	80
EP 9008	10.42	15.58	All	107
EG 9024	13.15	18.45	All	80
EG 9514	17.17	22.50	All	80
EG 9520	23.55	05.00	All	80

- 31 The timetable shows that
- A all services operate daily.
  - B there are two different types of ETS services.
  - C the duration of time to reach the destination is the same.
  - D the service operates from early morning until midnight.

Questions 32 and 33 are based on the extract below

**“Don’t tell me when my time is up.”**

World No.1 shuttler Lee Chong Wei is ready to do it his way! Speaking after his fourth All-England triumph, Chong Wei has one clear message to his critics; “No one needs to tell me when my time is up.... I’ll know when it’s time to stop.” He even suggested that he’s up for another shot at the **elusive** Olympic gold medal. The three-time Olympic silver medallist declared: “I was determined to prove a point to some people at the All-England. I won. I’m still world No.1. And I may even push myself until the Tokyo Olympics in 2020...” *There’s still fire in that old belly*, after all.

- 32 The phrase ***There’s still fire in that old belly*** implies that Lee Chong Wei
- A is angry with his critics.
  - B has a strong desire to win.
  - C knows when it is time to stop.
  - D will not compete in the Tokyo Olympics.
- 33 The word ***elusive*** can best be replaced with
- A difficult to win
  - B highly inviting
  - C really attractive
  - D incredibly desirable

Questions 34 and 35 are based on the given extract below.

Good evening and Happy Malaysia Day to all beloved citizens of Malaysia.

With God's grace, we are able to celebrate the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Malaysia as citizens of an independent, democratic, peaceful and harmonious nation.

The tale of Malaysia's journey is indeed colourful. From a low income agricultural nation, we have now successfully *emerged* as a moderately high income, modern industrial nation. Although the success attained is monumental and very significant, it is not a reason for us to cease our effort to become comfortable.

*Excerpt of Prime Minister's National Day Speech*

34 The Prime Minister is asking Malaysians to

- A remember the nation's history.
- B preserve the country's independence.
- C be satisfied with the nation's success.
- D take responsibility for the country's future.

35 The word *emerged* can best be replaced with

- A developed.
- B supported.
- C obtained.
- D formed.

#### Hear No Evil

It was a typically noisy dinner at my parents' home and dad was having trouble following the multiple conversations. He kept jumping in with off-topic comments and asking for things to be repeated. I finally told him he needed to get a hearing aid.

Looking at me as if I were crazy, he said, "What would I do with a hand grenade?"

Adapted from Reader's Digest, June 2016

36 From the joke above, we can conclude that

- A the writer's father is hard of hearing.
- B the writer's father loves to joke with his family.
- C the writer faces a lot of distractions during dinner.
- D The writer wants to get a hand grenade for his father.



## BOOK REVIEW

I Love You My Dear

By Jasmine Flower

In this wonderful novel, *IRIZA*, a rich, educated and adventurous young woman discovers the meaning of true love for her family, nation and her future husband. She ventures the rural life of village folks in the remote area of Cambodia. Everything starts with a misunderstanding then followed by a series of funny confrontations. A relationship is built on sincerity and honesty leads to happiness. However, life is no sugar candy mountain. She has to deal with a man of strong principle, teaching her values of heritage and custom. She learns the beauty of strong perseverance, patience and sacrifice, something she seems to overlook and take for granted.

**37** From the review, we can conclude the man teaches Iriza to be

- A** bold.
- B** active.
- C** resilient.
- D** traditional.

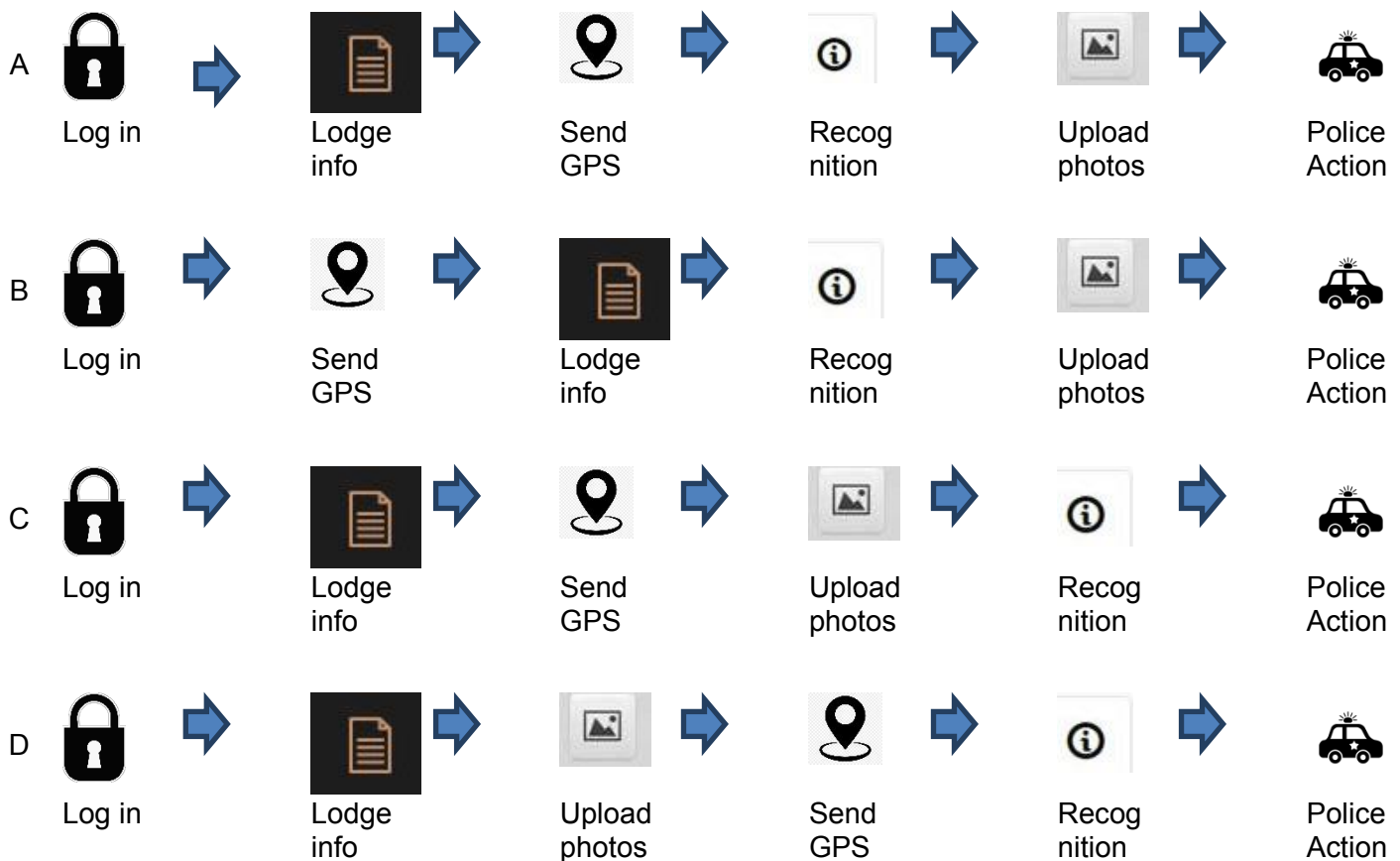
Volunteer Smartphones Patrol (VSP) is a new app that can be used by public to send real-time photos or videos of criminal acts, accidents and natural disasters to police. If you would like to become the “Smart Partnership” of this system, you must register as a member. If you witness an accident, you can make a complaint and share the location of the scene later. Besides, you may send photos or videos via your smartphone. The police will take action after receiving your information.

Adapted from The Star

**38** What is the intention of implementing the Volunteer Smartphone Patrol system in our country?

- A** Police do not have enough man power.
- B** Improve monitoring of criminal activities, accidents and natural disasters.
- C** Educate the public to use the smartphone.
- D** Alert the public of anything needing their attention.

39 Which diagram shows the correct application of the Volunteer Smartphone Patrol?



### Making a Dinner Reservation

**Caller 1:** Good evening, Nacco's Grill. How may I help you?

**Caller 2:** Hello, I'd like to make a dinner reservation for Friday.

**Caller 1:** Certainly, I'd be happy to help you with that. How many people are there in your party?

**Caller 2:** There'll be four people.

**Caller 1:** And what time would you like to make the reservation?

**Caller 2:** Let's say around 7 o'clock.

**Caller 1:** I'm afraid we don't have anything available then. We could seat you at 6 o'clock or 8 o'clock.

**Caller 2:** Oh, okay. Let's make the reservation for 8 o'clock.

**Caller 1:** Fine, 8 o'clock on Friday evening for four people. May I have your name?

**Caller 2:** Yes, it's Anderson.

**Caller 1:** Thank you. Great. I've a table for four for the Anderson's party at 8 o'clock on Friday evening. But you got to be here half an hour earlier.

**Caller 2:** Sure, I'll be in time. Thank you very much.

**Caller 1:** You're welcome. We'll see you on Friday.

**Caller 2:** Yes, see you then. Goodbye.

**Caller 1:** Goodbye.

**40** Based on the telephone conversation, the Anderson's family should be at the restaurant by

- A** 8.00 p.m.
- B** 6.00 p.m.
- C** 7.30 p.m.
- D** 7.00 p.m.

Tigers are precious commodity today, as their very delicate population continues to diminish as a result of habitat loss, poaching and other human-related factors. While tigers are generally found throughout the Southeast Asia and China, India remains the most prolific home of these magnificent animals and boasts the highest population numbers thereof.

In India, one of the main tiger protection initiatives is called Project Tiger which started in 1973. The main aim of Project Tiger is to aid and facilitate the breeding of tigers within a safe environment. As a result, the population of Bengal Tigers had increased from about 1 200 in 1973 to an impressive 3 500 in 2003. Although poaching remains a huge threat till now, and thousands of Bengal Tigers have been killed, the conservation and protection efforts have increased the number of tigers in thirty years through their tigers' breeding innovation.

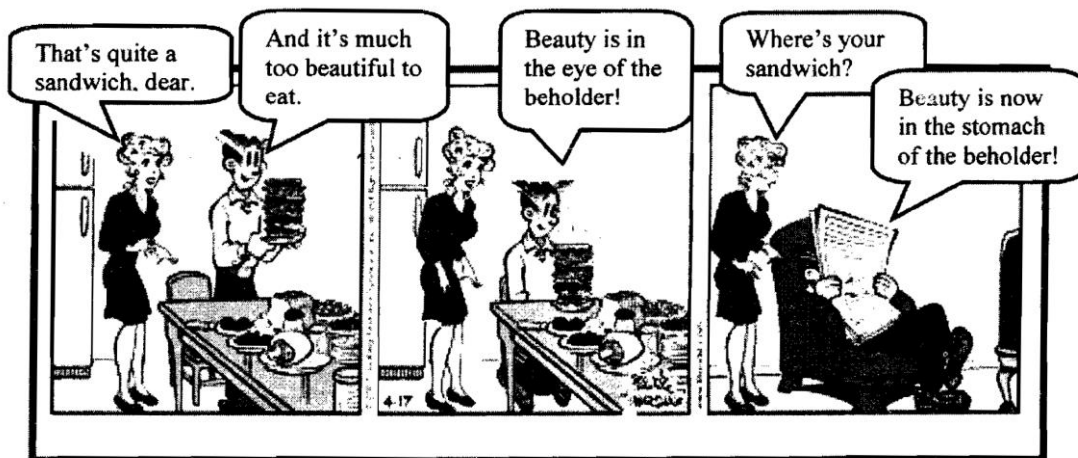
**41** According to the magazine extract, we can know that the

- A** Southeast Asia and China have more tiger population compared to India.
- B** Project Tiger is formed to increase the tiger's population in India.
- C** Project Tiger is mainly functioning to save the environment.
- D** Bengal Tigers are safe from poaching threats.

## Comic Strips



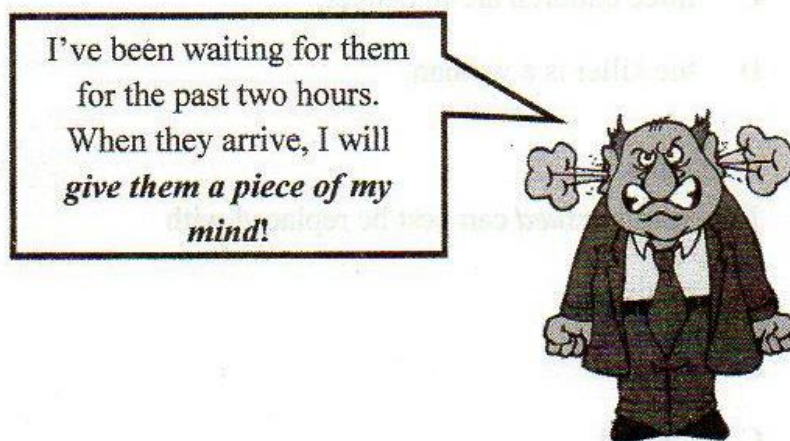
- 1 The woman in the picture above is feeling angry because her students are
- A silly                      B naughty                      C happy                      D funny



- 2 From the cartoon strip, we know that the sandwich has been
- A left on the table  
B thrown into the dustbin  
C eaten by the man  
D kept safely by the woman



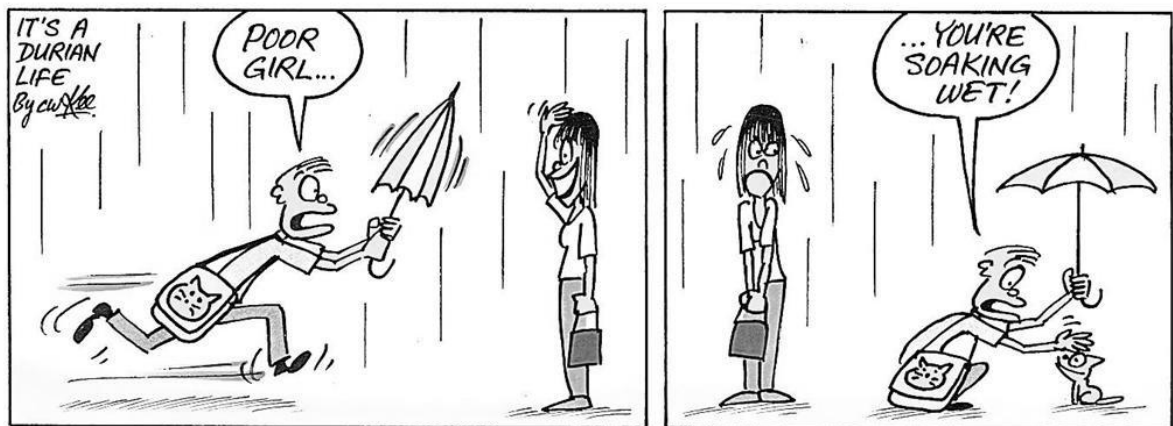
- 3 From the cartoon strip, we can conclude that the
- A son was rude to his father.
  - B father was unsympathetic.
  - C father wished his son to be a top scorer.
  - D son did not perform well in his examination.



- 4 From the comic strip, the man wants to \_\_\_\_\_ his employees.
- A punish
  - B guide
  - C advise
  - D scold

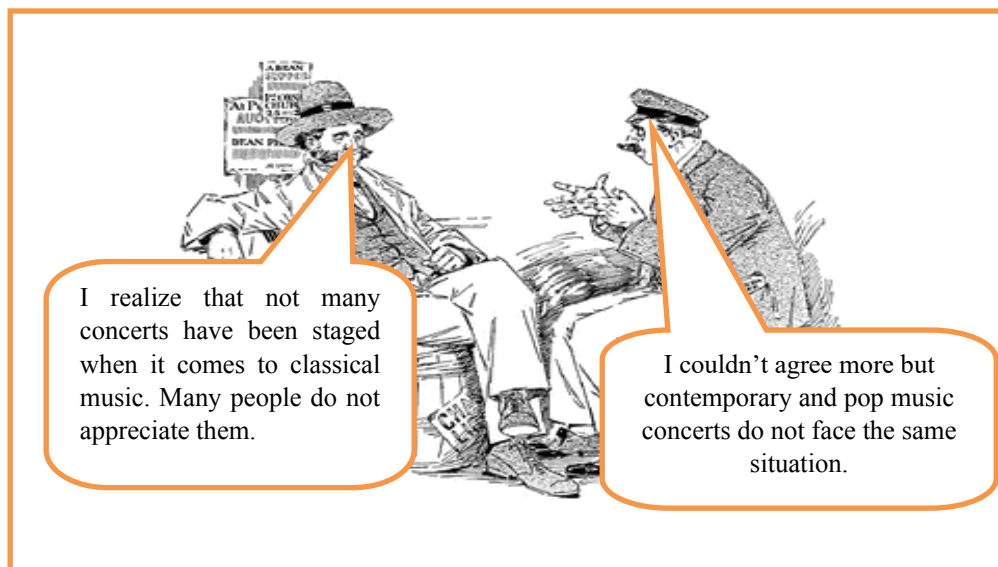


- 5 In this situation, we can say that John's friend is  
 A kind    B mean    C polite    D curious



Adapted from <https://www.star2.com>

- 6 From the comic strip, we know that  
 A the man is worried about the cat's safety.  
 B the woman is annoyed because it is raining.  
 C the man is concerned about the woman's condition.  
 D the woman is touched at the man's gesture towards the cat.



- 7 From the dialogue above, we know that the contemporary and pop concerts are
- A costly
  - B unique
  - C favoured
  - D informative

**PAPER 2 SECTION A (TEXT COMPLETION) (7 marks) (Questions 9 – 15)**

**Types of question**

1. Grammar
2. Vocabulary

EXAMPLES OF GRAMMAR PARTS	YEAR	QUESTION
<b>TENSE</b>	2018	It still _____ proudly on top of my bookshelf. (stand/stood/stands/standing)
<b>VERB</b>	2015	But now you can get these templates on a website. There _____ thousands to choose from. (is/are/was/were)
<b>PARTICIPLE</b>	2018	Factors that have _____ to the increased popularity of medical travel include the cost of treatment and improvements in technology of healthcare. (led/lead/leads/leading)
<b>ARTICLE</b>	2007	He was what doctors call _____ 'elective mute'. (a/an/the)
	2006	A woman came out of her house. Then he said to _____ woman. (a/an/the)
<b>PASSIVE VERB</b>	2009	In Malaysia and Indonesia, local herbs are _____ raw. (eat/ate/eaten/eating)
	2010	We are _____ with natural beauty – pristine beaches, refreshing greenery and an abundance of flora and fauna. (bless/blesses/blessed/blessing)
	2017	The list of phobias is growing every day and is now _____ online at <a href="http://www.phobialist.com">www.phobialist.com</a> (find/finds/found/finding)
<b>PREPOSITION</b>	2014	The world also needs to focus on its sources _____ renewable energy. (in/on/of/at)
	2016	With a few simple adjustments, what you consume daily can contribute _____ your overall well-being. (for/on/ in/to)
<b>CONNECTOR</b>	2018	We are new in this industry. _____, we are beginning to attract visitors in search of quality healthcare by low prices. (Besides/Although/However/Moreover)



<b>PRONOUN</b>	2011	"I'm Haikal's teacher. Didn't you know he'd invited _____ to his party?" (me/her/him/ them)
<b>GERUND</b>	2005	When Love started _____ (walk/walks/walked/walking) into the house, the other two men also got up and followed him.
<b>ADVERB</b>	2018	With international standards of service and equipment, Malaysia is _____ (hastily/ briskly/quickly/abruptly) becoming a preferred destination for foreign visitors.
<b>MODAL VERB</b>	2012	She immediately knew she had found something she _____ (could/must/may/will) share with her young family.
<b>INFINITIVE TO</b>	2014	Governments will have to _____ (holding/holds/hold/held) talks and together act quickly to save the environment.
<b>WH QUESTION</b>	2015	_____ (How/What/When/Where) do these templates originate from?
<b>VOCABULARY</b>	2017	The _____ for Donna's extreme condition is electro-phobia, or the morbid fear of electricity. (idea/term/mark/concept)
	2018	Malaysia faces major competition from other countries in the region that _____ (help/praise/promote/approve) themselves as destinations for medical tourism.

## GRAMMAR

2018

Popular **known** as 'medical tourism' today, the first recorded instance of people travelling for such purposes dates back thousands of years to the time when pilgrims travelled from all over the Mediterranean to Epidauria in Greece to find cures.

- A. know
- B. known
- C. knows
- D. knowing

2018

Factors that have **led** to the increased popularity of medical travel include the cost of treatment, long waiting times for certain procedures, and improvements in both technology and standards of healthcare.

- A. led
- B. lead
- C. leads
- D. leading

2017

If she gets **near** a light switch or a thunderstorm, the 43-year-old writer becomes so terrified that she can think of nothing but fleeing.

- A. towards
- B. past
- C. near
- D. with

2016

Eat when hungry and stop when you are **fulfilled** but not comfortable full.

- A. satisfied
- B. fulfilled
- C. assured
- D. pleased



## **PRACTICE 1**

1. Grandma kept herself busy \_\_\_\_\_ religious books, watching television or helping my Mum peel garlic and onions.  
A. read  
B. reads  
C. reading  
D. readings
1. Deepavali, or also known as Diwali, is a festival of lights \_\_\_\_\_ by those of Hindu faith.  
A. celebrate  
B. celebrates  
C. celebrated  
D. celebrating
2. \_\_\_\_\_ birth to Selena at 16, her mom Mandy recalls living 'paycheck-to-paycheck'.  
A. Gave  
B. Give  
C. Given  
D. Giving
3. In China, the policy was \_\_\_\_\_ to control the rapid population growth problem that contributed many negative impacts.  
A. establish  
B. established  
C. establishing  
D. establishment
4. A bait is \_\_\_\_\_ from the cross-joint by a string.  
A. suspend  
B. suspends  
C. suspended  
D. suspending
5. \_\_\_\_\_ waiting in the mud is all but simple because it is actually an invitation for the mosquitoes to attack.  
A. However  
B. Moreover  
C. Consequently  
D. Nevertheless
6. Everyone was really friendly and \_\_\_\_\_ at the Setia Club.  
A. encourage  
B. encourages  
C. encouraged  
D. encouraging

<b>VOCABULARY</b>
-------------------

## **PRACTICE 2**

1. Lisa ran inside and \_\_\_\_\_ to her mum to call for the ambulance.  
A. cried  
B. yelled  
C. howled  
D. answered

2. Suddenly, she quickly put both her hands under the wheel hub where her dad had removed the tyre and pulled up with all her \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. force  
B. power  
C. energy  
D. strength
3. The paramedics began to \_\_\_\_\_ chest compressions.  
A. achieve  
B. present  
C. perform  
D. complete
4. He started helping with events, manning the office, playing outdoor games and helping the children \_\_\_\_\_ computer skills.  
A. get  
B. have  
C. gain  
D. acquire
5. Fresh foods and vegetables, \_\_\_\_\_ those which are high in beta carotene and vitamin C stimulate immune defences.  
A. surely  
B. definitely  
C. particularly  
D. importantly
6. Some of toxic items are \_\_\_\_\_ but some can be replaced with less toxic items.  
A. useful  
B. necessary  
C. important  
D. significant
7. You should not \_\_\_\_\_ passwords, names of family members and credit card numbers.  
A. give  
B. show  
C. reveal  
D. identify
8. So, if you find yourself in a \_\_\_\_\_ that makes you uncomfortable, you can exit without having to explain.  
A. talk  
B. dialogue  
C. discussion  
D. conversation
9. He must also keep brushing the \_\_\_\_\_ area of his body because the mosquitoes sting by the thousands.  
A. opened  
B. sheltered  
C. unhidden  
D. exposed

#### PRACTICE 1 Answers

1. D
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. C
7. D

#### PRACTICE 2 Answers

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. D
5. C
6. B
7. C
8. D
9. D

## **Rational Cloze**

### **Practice 1**

**Questions 1 – 7** are based on the following passage. Choose the best answer to fill in each blank.

I can still remember my father vividly. He built the house on Langely Lake for my mother, in the town she (1) up in. It was a hundred miles from the glassy skyscrapers my father built in the city (2) the Upper East Side.

The house on Langely Lake looked unlike any of the other houses in town, with their greying vinyl siding and slouching car porch. No, the house on Langely Lake wasn't a house at all. It was a three-storey fortress, built of stones, with a thick fence and (3) hedges all the way around.

When I was a little girl, we spent our summers in that fortress. I remember slumber parties in a tent on the back lawn and afternoons spent sunning on the raft just off shore. I remember tall glasses of (4) lemonade sweating on the patio and the sundresses my mother wore and her wide brimmed hats.

Once I thought my father had built that house to keep everyone else out, (5) then my uncle Thomas found the photographs. They were in a shoebox, hidden under a loose floorboard in my parents' bedroom. They were (6) that summer, 2008, a few weeks before my mother disappeared. I saw the photographs and I realised I had been wrong about (7).

My father hadn't built the house on Langely Lake to keep everyone else out. He'd built it to keep us in.

*Adapted from "All These Beautiful Strangers, Elizabeth Klehfoth"*

- 1     A grew  
      B grows  
      C grown  
      D growing

- 2     A in  
      B on  
      C at  
      D out

- 3     A inevitable  
      B impenetrable  
      C unbearable  
      D undeniable

- 4     A ice  
      B icy  
      C iced  
      D icing

- 5     A so  
      B if  
      C and  
      D but

- 6     A taken  
      B taking  
      C take  
      D took

- 7     A everything  
      B everyone  
      C anything  
      D anyone

## **Practice 2**

**Questions 1 – 7** are based on the following passage. Choose the best answer to fill in each blank.

The Sherpas in Nepal live at a higher altitude than any other people in the world. Their home is in the Everest region of the Himalaya mountains. The Sherpas are skilled mountaineers and (1) the first to climb *Sagarmatha*, which is the highest mountain in the world.

In summer, farmers take their cattle, called yaks, to graze at heights of around 5000m. The (2) snow reveals lush grass here. In winter, the farmers and their yaks retreat, as the snow (3) to lower altitudes. Their main crop is potatoes as rice (4) poorly at high altitude.

Tourists visit the region in spring and autumn. The trekking paths are closed the rest of the year. (5) summer, monsoon rains flood the paths and in winter, snow makes them impassable.

Despite the many tourists and their more modern lifestyles, the Sherpas (6) a great sense of identity and tradition. They are hospitable and loyal people in one of the wildest and most inhospitable places on earth. Hopefully, the Sherpas continue the simplicity in life (7) Nepal has become a tourist attraction.

- 1     **A** Is  
      **B** Are  
      **C** Was  
      **D** were

- 2     **A** melting  
      **B** melted  
      **C** melt  
      **D** melts

- 3     **A** advance  
      **B** advances  
      **C** advanced  
      **D** advancing

- 4     **A** grow  
      **B** grown  
      **C** grows  
      **D** grew

- 5     **A** in  
      **B** at  
      **C** on  
      **D** with

- 6     **A** follow  
      **B** retain  
      **C** save  
      **D** support

- 7     **A** even though  
      **B** ever since  
      **C** thus  
      **D** finally

### Practice 3

Questions 9 – 15 are based on the following passage.

Seattle photographer, Jennifer Loomis, decided she was ready to adopt a child. As she (9) through blurry photos of children in the Northwest Adoption Exchange (NWAE) website one night, she struggled to feel a connection. “I couldn’t get a sense of (10) the children were.” Jennifer says.

She emailed the organisation that night, (11) to photograph the children. With 18 years of experience as a documentary and portrait photographer, she believed she (12) use her skills to bring out each child’s personality. After the NWAE gratefully accepted her offer, she (13) a photo shoot with five boys and two girls, aged nine to 17. To entertain the children, she brought her dog and a trampoline, along with a make-up artist. Local businesses donated balloons and food. “I wanted to see the children smile and laugh,” she says. One of the prospective adoptive parents visited to website and were (14) drawn to one child, Deon. They said that it was Deon’s sparkling happy eyes that encouraged them to pursue an adoption.

NWAE won’t disclose how many children have been adopted (15) date, but a spokesperson says the photos have been an ‘invaluable tool’ in matching the children with families.

As for Jennifer, she did not adopt a child. In July 2014, she gave birth to a son. Meanwhile, she will continue photographing foster children. “Their lives depend on it,” she says. She is still using her photography talents to help foster children find homes.

(Adapted from *Reader’s Digest*, March 2015)

- 9    A    peered  
      B    flipped  
      C    peeped  
      D    scrolled

- 10   A    who  
      B    which  
      C    whom  
      D    whose

- 11   A    volunteer  
      B    volunteers  
      C    volunteered  
      D    volunteering

- 12   A    must  
      B    could  
      C    might  
      D    would

- 13   A    set up  
      B    set forth  
      C    set aside  
      D    set down

- 14   A    slightly  
      B    gradually  
      C    reluctantly  
      D    immediately

- 15   A    of  
      B    to  
      C    with  
      D    behind

#### **Practice 4**

Questions 9-15 are based on the following passage. Choose the best answer to fill in each blank.

The drover had gone droving (moving cattle to the market), leaving his wife and children alone in their house in the Australian outback. One of the children (9) a snake and calls for the mother. The bush-woman reaches for her stick and rushes to her children, (10) the snake hides in a hole between the wall and floor. As the snake disappeared into the hole, the woman puts the children to sleep and stays awake with her dog, Alligator waiting (11) the reptile to come out.

By morning, she runs out of candles and gets up to get (12) wood to keep the fire burning. She seizes a stick, pulls it out and the whole woodpile collapses, injuring her, and she begins to cry. She (13) an aboriginal man to stack it for her and assumed it was actually full of wood. She takes out a handkerchief to wipe away her tears, but she pokes her eyes instead as the handkerchief is full of holes. This (14) situation makes her laugh.

Suddenly, the snake comes out of a large crack in the partition slabs. The dog starts to chase the snake and (15) kills it. The woman lifts the reptile on the point of her stick and throws it into the fire. Tommy, the eldest boy, wakes up and notices the tears in the eyes of his mother. He promises never to leave her alone.

- 9      A discover  
       B discovers  
       C discovered  
       D discovering

- 10     A so  
       B by  
       C but  
       D and

- 11     A as  
       B for  
       C since  
       D because

- 12     A many  
       B much  
       C more  
       D plenty

- 13     A paid  
       B paying  
       C has paid  
       D had paid

- 14     A strange  
       B ridiculous  
       C impossible  
       D complicated

- 15     A eventually  
       B purposely  
       C initially  
       D lastly

## Practice 5

Questions 9 to 15 are based on the following passage. Choose the **best** answer to fill in each blank.

Electricity can be frightening, magnificent, awesome, helpful and powerful but we wouldn't be able to live without it. It powers our phones, computers, hot water systems, light switches, stoves, heaters and air-conditioners.

There is a great difference (9) life in the past and life in this modern age. Back then, there (10) no electricity. People fetched water from wells. Gas cookers or microwave ovens did not (11) in those days. People used firewood instead. It was not an easy task to light firewood. By the time the fire was burning (12), one's face would be black and smeared with soot.

Nowadays, at the (13) of a switch, electricity lights up homes at night. At the turn of a tap, water flows out like magic. Gas cookers and microwave ovens make cooking a joy. You can (14) on your reading while washing your clothes. The washing machine does all the work-wash, rinse and dry. In other words, we now (15) more time to do several things at a time. Life couldn't be better.

*Adapted from "Discover English by Zuriah Azmi"*

- 9      A into  
       B through  
       C between  
       D from
- 10     A is  
       B are  
       C was  
       D were
- 11     A exist  
       B exists  
       C existed  
       D existing
- 12     A merrily  
       B currently  
       C suddenly  
       D reluctantly

- 13     A dab  
       B flick  
       C touch  
       D stroke
- 14     A catch out  
       B catch on  
       C catch up  
       D catch in
- 15     A had  
       B has  
       C have  
       D having



## **ANSWER KEY**

### **Notes & Notices**

1. A
2. D
3. B
4. D
5. C
6. C
7. D
8. A

### **Messages**

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. B
6. C
7. C
8. C
9. B
10. B
11. B
12. A
13. B

### **Texts & Extracts**

1. D
2. D
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. C
7. D
8. A
9. C
10. C
11. D
12. A
13. B
14. B
15. D
16. C

### **Advertisements**

1. C
2. D
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. B
8. D
9. A
10. B
11. B
12. B
13. C
14. D
15. A
16. C
17. D
18. A

### **Quotes & Sayings**

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. D
5. C
6. A
7. B
8. D
9. A
10. A
11. B

17. A
18. D
19. D
20. C
21. D
22. C
23. C
24. C
25. D
26. B
27. C
28. C
29. C
30. D
31. D
32. B
33. A
34. D

- 35. A
- 36. A
- 37. C
- 38. B
- 39. A

- 40. C
- 41. B

### Comic Strips

- 1. B
- 2. C
- 3. D
- 4. D
- 5. B
- 6. A
- 7. 6

### Text Completion

#### Practice 1

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. B
- 4. C
- 5. D
- 6. A
- 7. A

#### Practice 2

- 1. D
- 2. B
- 3. B
- 4. C
- 5. A
- 6. B
- 7. A

#### Practice 3

- 9. B
- 10. A
- 11. D
- 12. B
- 13. A
- 14. D
- 15. B

#### Practice 4

- 9. B
- 10. C
- 11. B
- 12. C
- 13. C
- 14. B
- 15. A

#### Practice 5

- 9. C
- 10. D
- 11. A
- 12. A
- 13. B
- 14. C
- 15. C



PAPER 2:

NOVEL  
'CAPTAIN NOBODY'

## Captain Nobody

Prepared by:  
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When Newt Newman' s football-star brother, Chris, is knocked into a coma during the biggest game of the season, Newt' s two best friends keep Newt' s mind off the accident by helping him create the ultimate Halloween costume: Captain Nobody. Newt feels strong and confident in his new getup, so he keeps wearing it after Halloween is over. Soon Newt assumes the role of a hero in a string of exploits that include foiling a robbery and saving a plane-load of passengers. But will Captain Nobody be able to save the one person he cares about most?

## CAPTAIN NOBODY - IMPORTANT EVENTS

The SPM novel question usually asks on a specific aspect of the novel like character, moral lesson or theme. To answer the question, you are required to give relevant points and ideas and relate it **with close reference to the text**. This means you have to cite **examples and evidence of particular events and incidents** to support your points. Hence, it is very important to know a few significant events in detail to be able to explain and elaborate better.

Below are a few important events from the story which can help you to explain elements of character, theme, lesson, etc. Complete the column with suitable points based on your analysis and discussion with friends. The first one has been done for you.

<b>1. NEWT PREPARED BREAKFAST FOR THE FAMILY</b>	
<p>In the morning, Newt's parents were always very busy. They had to answer phone calls from the clients. Chris was not up yet. So, Newt helped his family to prepare breakfast. He prepared scrambled eggs and sausages. He also made coffee.</p> <p>Newt started making breakfast since last year when his mother accidentally poured milk into a bowl of raw turkey. His mother was always busy, careless and forgetful. So Newt decided to take over making breakfast.</p> <p>Unfortunately, his parents did not eat the breakfast that he has prepared and this made Newt feel disappointed and unappreciated.</p>	
<b>CHARACTER / CHARACTERISTICS</b>	Newt – kind, responsible, matured, independent Parents – busy, lack of responsibility, neglect
<b>MORAL VALUES / LESSON</b>	Be a good child, always help your parents, take responsibility, learn how to survive, challenges as a teenager
<b>THEME</b>	Kindness, being responsible, family relationship
<b>ADAGE / PROVERBS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Home is where the love is</li><li>• Charity begins at home</li><li>• Blood is thicker than water</li></ul>

## 2. NEWT CLIMBED THE GARBAGE DUMP

Using the walkie-talkie, Cecil called up Newt. He wanted Newt to come and help him with something. When Newt arrived, Cecil took him to the dumpster. He pointed to the bass drum on top of the garbage pile.

Newt knew that Cecil really wanted the drum. Cecil loved music and had a dream of becoming a professional drummer. He was always tapping his hands and fingers and “rat-tat-tat” to a certain beat. That drum would be his first drum kit. It would make his dream come true.

However, Newt was not confident to climb the garbage dump. He had acrophobia – he was afraid of heights. He tried to give excuses so that Cecil would change his mind about having the drum. Instead, Cecil said that “Captain Nobody was fearless” and blew new courage into him by convincing him that it was the right job for Captain Nobody. With fresh motivation, he suddenly found his guts to start climbing and finally made it to the top. In the end, he managed to hand over the drum to Cecil who was waiting below with his red wagon. It was good teamwork.

<b>CHARACTER / CHARACTERISTICS</b>	
<b>MORAL VALUES / LESSON</b>	
<b>THEME</b>	
<b>ADAGE / PROVERBS</b>	

### 3. NEWT CHASED THE FERRET ON THE HIGHWAY

Daryl and Colby from Fillmore High School came to visit Newt's school. They brought along the ferret, mascot of their Football team. The visit was to show appreciation for the people who had supported their team and cheer up everyone during the sad time of Chris's coma. The students of Appleton Elementary had the chance to spend the day with the ferret and one lucky student will be chosen to bring back the ferret home for one night.

Incidentally, Newt was chosen to bring Ferocious the Ferret home. He was not really happy but he had to accept it. So he carried the cage and walked home accompanied by Cecil and JJ. On the way, he was stopped by Ricky Ratner and his friends. Ricky blamed Newt for not warning the others against disturbing his cousin, Reggie Ratner. He blamed Newt for all the attacks and pranks that were hurled at Reggie. While doing this, they also harassed the Ferret in the cage.

Suddenly, the cage blew open and the Ferret was out. It shot off as the three friends chased after it to a dead end street. Just as they thought they had it cornered, it quickly ran down an embankment and through a wall of trees..and out through a highway!

Newt was determined to get the Ferret back. He ran across the highway, frantically waving his arms and screaming for the traffic to stop. He weaved across the cars, trucks and vans – back and forth, running after the ferret. As more and more cars hit the brakes, finally all the four lanes were clear as all came to a stop.

That was when a small plane suddenly appeared and made an emergency landing on the clear road. Everyone was shocked including the ferret, which finally stopped at Newt's feet.

<b>CHARACTER / CHARACTERISTICS</b>	
<b>MORAL VALUES / LESSON</b>	
<b>THEME</b>	
<b>ADAGE / PROVERBS</b>	

#### 4. NEWT CLIMBED THE WATER TOWER

News had spread across town that Reggie Ratner was on the Appleton water tower, trying to commit suicide. Newt, JJ and Cecil rushed to the scene on their bicycles. They rode around the mob of people, went through the back way, and parked the bicycles near some bushes. There was nobody there.

Cecil helped to distract a police officer nearby while JJ helped to give Newt a boost up to the rung of ladders going up the tower. The ladder was rusty and old. A few of the rungs were broken. Newt had to pluck his courage and move up slowly. On his way up, his mask fell.

When he reached the tower, he said "hi!" to Reggie and introduced himself. Reggie did not know that Chris had a brother. They started talking and Newt revealed that he knew Reggie was not the one who had hit Chris into a comma. It was Darryl Peeps, his brother's teammate. Reggie was glad that somebody finally knew the truth.

Newt suddenly noticed that Reggie had cans of spray paint in his pocket and realized that he was not there to jump and kill himself but to do graffiti on the water tank. Then, there was an announcement from the police below persuading Reggie to come down safely. However, Reggie's foot had been stuck in a hole.

Newt suggested that Reggie untie his shoes and pull out his foot slowly from the hole. But Reggie couldn't do it himself as the knots were tight and his fingers were too plump. So Newt helped him to untie and pull out his feet. Then, they had to go down slowly through the ladder – one by one.

Newt nervously went first and he slowly gained confidence. However, while still pacing his steps, the ladder suddenly moved and Reggie's buttock appeared above his head. Reggie was too scared to wait. The ladder couldn't hold their weight and began shaking. The rung where Reggie was putting his foot began to break and finally Newt lost control and fell.

Newt landed safely on the rubber mattress, but followed by Reggie's big and heavy body. Newt broke his ankle and two ribs.

<b>CHARACTER / CHARACTERISTICS</b>	
<b>MORAL VALUES / LESSON</b>	
<b>THEME</b>	
<b>ADAGE / PROVERBS</b>	

#### IN ORDER TO GIVE A GOOD ANSWER, YOU MUST:

- 1- UNDERSTAND WHAT THE QUESTION WANTS (GIVE CORRECT RESPONSE)
- 2- GIVE RELEVANT REASONS / POINTS TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER
- 3- ELABORATE / DEVELOP REASONS / POINTS



#### 4- GIVE TEXTUAL EVIDENCE

##### WHAT DOES THE QUESTION WANT?

*Scribble your points in the space below each question and discuss with your teacher*

Write about **a character** that you admire. Give **reasons** for your choice with close reference to the text.

Write about **an important lesson** that you learned from the novel that you have studied. **Give reasons** for your choice with close reference to your text.

What is **the most significant event** in the novel that you have learnt? **Give reasons** for your answer with close reference to the text.

Describe **a scene** that makes you either **happy or sad**. **Give reasons** why the scene makes you feel happy or sad with close reference to the text.

**"Blood is thicker than water"**. With close reference to the text, **how far is this true** of the novel you have read?

## **CHECKLIST :**

Answering a novel question is not just about how many evidence, events or reasons you can list down. It is about choosing the suitable event(s) to support your argument, linking the event(s) to the question to prove your point and tying them up together in a convincing conclusion.

So, when answering any novel question, you need to consider these:

### **RELEVANCE :**

- ✓ Are you answering the question?
- ✓ How many parts of the question are there?
- ✓ Have you addressed all parts?
- ✓ Can you pinpoint these parts in your answer?

### **TEXTUAL EVIDENCE:**

- ✓ Have you chosen suitable evidence?
- ✓ Does your evidence help to highlight your argument?
- ✓ Is your evidence detailed?
- ✓ Have you provided enough?
- ✓ Have you checked with the suitable WH questions?

### **ORGANIZATION OF IDEAS:**

- ✓ Is your idea organized and well-structured, or is it all over the place?
- ✓ Have you made a plausible conclusion to sum up the idea?

## 1- HOW TO PLAN THE ANSWER?

Based on the novel that you have read,

- describe an interesting character
- explain why you find him / her interesting.

[15 marks]

### SAMPLE ANSWER (1)

**(INTRO + ANSWER)** The novel that I studied is Captain Nobody by Dean Pitchford. Based on this novel, **an interesting character is Newt**. In my opinion, this character is interesting **because of a few reasons.** (you may also include a brief background of the story)

<b>REASON 1 : a good son</b>  Firstly, Newt is a good son.	<b>EVIDENCE FROM TEXT + ELABORATION</b>  This is shown when...  This shows that... <b>TIE UP WITH THE QUESTION</b>
<b>REASON 2 : Creative</b>  Next, Newt is really creative.	<b>EVIDENCE FROM TEXT + ELABORATION</b>  This is proven when...  This proves that... <b>TIE UP WITH THE QUESTION</b>
<b>REASON 3 : loyal friend</b>  Finally, Newt is a loyal friend.	<b>EVIDENCE FROM TEXT + ELABORATION</b>  This is evident when...  This shows that... <b>TIE UP WITH THE QUESTION</b>
<b>POINT 4 (if needed)</b>	(EVIDENCE FROM TEXT)

**CLOSURE** Based on the reasons above, I think that Newt has many positive values that we can follow. That is why he is an interesting character.

**TIE UP WITH THE QUESTION IN A CONCLUSIVE WAY**

**\*Use Sequence Connectors / Linkers**

*Firstly, First of all, First and foremost # Secondly, Thirdly, Then, Next, Besides that, Other than that, Apart from that, On top of that, Furthermore, Moreover, In addition # Finally, Lastly, Last but not least*

**\*Useful Phrases to tie up the evidence to the question**

*This is shown/proven/evident when... @ This shows/proves/is evident that...*

## **SAMPLE ANSWER (2)**

**(INTRO + ANSWER + REASON)** The novel that I studied is Captain Nobody by Dean Pitchford. Based on this novel, **an interesting character is Newt**. In my opinion, this character is interesting **because he is responsible**. In this novel, we can see that Newt is responsible in many examples. (you may also include a brief background of the story in the intro)

<b>EXAMPLE 1 :</b>  The first example is when Newt prepared breakfast for his family	<b>EVIDENCE FROM TEXT + ELABORATION</b>  <b>TIE UP WITH THE QUESTION</b>
<b>EXAMPLE 2 :</b>  The next example is Newt helped Mr. Clay to get home	<b>EVIDENCE FROM TEXT + ELABORATION</b>  <b>TIE UP WITH THE QUESTION</b>
<b>EXAMPLE 3 :</b>  Last but not least, he risked his life on the highway to catch the ferret that escaped from the cage.	<b>EVIDENCE FROM TEXT + ELABORATION</b>  <b>TIE UP WITH THE QUESTION</b>

**CLOSURE** Based on the examples above, we can see that **Newt is a very responsible person**. He has shown a good example that we can follow. That is why I think he is an interesting character.

**TIE UP WITH THE QUESTION IN A CONCLUSIVE WAY**

## **COMMON ERRORS @ WEAKNESSES**

1. Mere **narration**: just giving the summary / synopsis / extract of the novel; NOT ANSWERING the question.
2. Mere **listing** : no development of point, no elaboration
3. Events/evidence given not tied up to the question
4. Lack organization, points scattered here and there

## 2- WHAT TENSE TO USE?

PAST or PRESENT TENSE?

Describe **a scene** that makes you either **happy or sad**. **Give reasons** why the scene makes you feel happy or sad with close reference to the text.

### SAMPLE ANSWER(IN THE PRESENT TENSE)

The novel that I studied is Captain Nobody by Dean Pitchford. In this novel, there are many scenes that make me either happy or sad. Here, I would like to share a scene that makes me happy.

The scene that makes me happy is when Newt helps his best friend Cecil to get a bass drum at the dumpster. Cecil is one of his two bosom friends, apart from JJ. He is really fond of becoming a drummer. His passion for music is also evident when he chooses to dress like Mozart with piano motive on his dress for his Halloween costume. Cecil will also rat-tat-tat at anything with his drumsticks or even using his bare fingers. The fact that his family could not afford to buy a drum does not stop him from keeping his dream of owning one even though it is taken from the dumpster. As a true friend, Newt feels obliged to help Cecil get the drum although at first he is a bit reluctant due to his fear of heights. With the help of his superhero costume and words of support from Cecil, he plucks his courage and climbs to the top of the garbage pile. With great determination, he finally manages to retrieve the dream drum for his beloved buddy. I am happy with this scene as it reminds me of some good moral values.

Firstly, I am happy to know that a true friend still exists in this world. I learn in school that a friend in need is a friend indeed. This scene has really proven that adage. Being a person who is acrophobic must have put Newt in a difficult situation. However, he has learnt to conquer his fear for the sake of a friend. He could choose to just ignore Cecil's plea but instead he has chosen to become a bigger hearted person and take the risk.

Next, being clever and cunning, Cecil on the other hand has played his part well by giving Newt the support he needs to realize the Captain Nobody superhero character. Just as Newt is about to back down on the task, he convinces Newt that "Captain Nobody is not afraid of anything!!". Hence, this scene has successfully transformed Newt to assume the superhero character of his alter ego, Captain Nobody. From here forth, Captain Nobody continues his adventure in several thrilling and unexpected twists of events.

In short, I am really happy to know that in this scene, Newt has made the right decision that ultimately benefits his personal development not to mention his friendship with Cecil.

***\*You can also write in THE PAST TENSE by changing the form of the verbs.***

***Would you like to try?***

## CONTENT MARKS

### Question :

Based on the novel that you have studied, write about a value that is important to **one** of the characters in the story.

Give reasons why it is so, with close reference to the text. (Spm 2017)

### Content of answer :

- Character - **Newt**
- value – **bravery** (important to Newt)
- A few reasons - **why bravery is important to Newt**

Mark Range	Comment	Sample answer (bravery as a value important to Newt)
9-10	Detailed and well-developed textual evidence	<p><b>Through the value of bravery, Newt managed to save Reggie Ratner</b> even though Newt was afraid of heights. <b>Newt had also helped clear up the false accusations against Reggie Ratner</b> who was innocent and did not do the Big Tackle. This is shown when the town was told that Reggie Ratner wanted to kill himself at the water tower because of the accusation. Newt, wanting to tell the truth to Reggie, quietly went to the tower to inform him. When he reached the ladder, he could see a few of the rungs were broken. Bravely, he climbed up. He could feel the wind slamming him against the ladder. Newt, through the value of bravery continued climbing to the top and had a gentlemen talk to clear the truth with Reggie. Reggie was not expecting it as in the first place he was at the top of the tower to vandalise the water tank but his left foot was stuck through a hole in the shingles. Newt reached into the hole to untie the shoelaces and succeeded. Hence, Reggie managed to remove his foot from the shoe and was free.</p> <p>We can see that <b>bravery was important to Newt as it helped him overcome his fear of heights</b> and this has enabled him to save Reggie Ratner. Bravery was important to Newt as he was no longer wearing the Captain Nobody mask when he climbed up the tower. Believing that he, and not Captain Nobody was able to help Reggie Ratner, he bravely climbed up the tower even though he was afraid of high places. <b>Bravery was able to help him find his true self</b> and this is why bravery is important to Newt.</p>

7-8	Textual evidence with some development	<p><b>Through the value of bravery, Newt managed to save Reggie Ratner</b> even though Newt was afraid of heights. Newt, wanting to tell the truth to Reggie, quietly went to the tower to inform him. He bravely climbed up the ladder. Reggie was not expecting this as in the first place he was at the top of the tower to vandalise the water tank but his foot was stuck in a hole. Newt helped to untie the shoelaces and succeeded. So Reggie managed to remove his foot from the shoe and was free.</p> <p>We can see that <b>bravery was important to Newt as it helped him overcome his fear of heights</b> and this has enabled him to save Reggie Ratner. Believing that he, and not Captain Nobody was able to help Reggie Ratner, he bravely climbed up the tower even though he was afraid of high places. This is why bravery is important to Newt.</p>
5-6	Some textual evidence with little development	<p><b>Through the value of bravery, Newt managed to save Reggie Ratner</b> even though Newt was afraid of heights. Newt had helped clear up the false accusations against Reggie Ratner. He quietly went to the tower to save Reggie but Reggie's foot was stuck. He helped to free Reggie.</p> <p>We can see that <b>bravery was important to Newt as it helped him overcome his fear of heights</b> to climb the tower to save Reggie Ratner. He bravely climbed up the tower even though he was afraid of high places. This is why bravery is important to Newt.</p>
3-4	Little textual evidence	<p><b>Through the value of bravery, Newt managed to save Reggie Ratner.</b> Newt was afraid of heights but he climbed up the tower to save Reggie Ratner. Reggie was stuck and Newt helped to free Reggie.</p> <p><b>Bravery was important to Newt as it helped him to save Reggie Ratner.</b></p>



## MORE EXAMPLES OF EVENTS :

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>EVENT 1</u></b></p> <p>Newt helped his parents to prepare breakfast. He prepared scrambled eggs and sausages. He also made coffee. He did that to help his busy parents especially his mother. He started to make breakfast since the incident when his mother poured milk into a bowl raw turkey. His mother was always busy and forgetful. Unfortunately his parents did not eat their breakfast and Newt felt angry and unappreciated.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>EVENT 2</u></b></p> <p>Newt was ousted from his seat in the stadium. He went out and went to a spot near the fence. From that spot he could see the Big Tackle incident clearly. He saw that it was Daryl Peeps who had crashed onto his brother and caused him to fall into coma. His brother was taken to the hospital but his parents did not allow him to come along and asked him to go back home with his neighbor.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>EVENT 3</u></b></p> <p><b>Newt needed a new costume for Halloween and he had promised to his friends that they would wear something new. He wanted to become a superhero. His friends Cecil and JJ helped him to create a costume from his brother's clothes. When the costume was finished they named the new character Captain Nobody. This new identity gave him courage and confidence.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>EVENT 4</u></b></p> <p>J.J called Newt urgently to ask Captain Nobody to go and see Mr. Sullivan. JJ demanded him to talk to Mr. Sullivan to correct the spelling errors at his jewellery store. Unfortunately, there was a robbery going on at the store at that time. His presence at the store had given Mr. Sullivan a chance to shrill the ring and that noise chased the robber away.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>EVENT 5</u></b></p> <p>Newt climbed a garbage pile to get a drum for his friend, Cecil. While Newt was stepping down from the garbage pile, his leg was grabbed by an old scrawny hand. The hand belonged to Mr. Clay. Mr. Clay was lost and slept under boxes at the dumping site. Newt knew Mr. Clay who was a former locksmith of his mother. Newt decided to take the senile Mr. Clay home. He left Mr. Clay at his house door and Mrs. Clay opened the door gratefully.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>EVENT 6</u></b></p> <p>Newt helped Cecil to get a bass drum from the top of garbage pile. Cecil wanted to become a professional drummer. Even though Newt was afraid of height like Cecil, he struggled to conquer his fear. He got the courage because he wore Captain Nobody's costume. Therefore he assumed the role of a superhero. Moreover he was also a helpful person.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>EVENT 7</u></b></p> <p>Newt was given an honour to keep Ferocious the ferret for one night. On his way home, Ricky Ratner bullied him by releasing the mascot free from its cage. Newt chased the ferret until they arrived at a four lane freeway. The ferret ran into the busy highway. Newt had no choice but to dash into the highway too to catch it. The traffic stopped immediately and formed empty lanes. At the same time a faulty engine plane found a place for it to land safely on the highway.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>EVENT 8</u></b></p> <p>When Newt got the news that Reggie Ratner was going to jump from Appleton water tower, he rushed to the tower with JJ. He climbed to persuade Reggie because he felt responsible as he was the only witness who knew that Reggie was not responsible for his brother's coma. Reggie was not there to commit suicide. He was there to paint "Go Merrimac" on the water tank. Newt helped Reggie to free his stuck foot in the broken wooden floor. Unfortunately while descending the ladder both of them fell down, with Reggie crashed onto Newt's body.</p>

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## **Guidelines:**

### **Step 1**

**Read** the question carefully, preferably for a few times and make sure you really understand what is required. **Underline** or **highlight** the **key elements** of the question. Usually, there will be **at least two** important elements.

Element 1: **an incident**

Element 2: **brings a change**

Element 3: **a character**

Element 4: **reasons why the change is important to the character**

### **Step 2**

Pay close attention to the **key elements** underlined or highlighted. These elements are the important points that you have to address in order to **give a relevant response**. **Follow** the **instruction** closely (e.g. if you are asked to describe an incident, DO NOT include more than one incident). Start **planning what to write** for each element (drafting).

**An incident:**

- **Captain Nobody/ Newton Newman helps Cecil retrieve the big bass drum**

**Brings a change:**

- **Manages to overcome his acrophobia**

**A character:**

- **Captain Nobody/ Newton Newman**

**Reasons** why the change is important to the character:

- **Captain Nobody manages to gain confidence and becomes a braver person**
- **Captain Nobody continues helping the others in Appleton and later becomes everyone's hero.**

(must include **at least two reasons**)

### **Step 3**

**Elaborate** and **build on** the **main ideas** you have written for each element in Step 2. **Include** as many **details** from the novel as possible, so that your textual evidence will be detailed and well elaborated. **Discussions** made must be **in-depth** to strengthen your arguments.

#### Step 4

While writing, make sure you **write in paragraphs**, preferably 4 to 5 paragraphs including introduction and conclusion. Make sure your response **flows coherently** from one paragraph to another.

#### Step 5

After writing, read through your response again and **check** if there are any grammatical errors, spelling mistakes or incoherence in relation to sentence structures and word choice.

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#### **Sample 1: A Satisfactory Response**

With close reference to the text, describe **an incident** that brings **a change** in **a character**. Give **reasons** why **the change is important to the character**.

The novel that I have studied is “Captain Nobody” written by Dean Pitchford. The main character is Newton Newman, also known as Captain Nobody. An incident that brings a change in Newton Newman is the scene where Newt helps Cecil retrieve a big bass drum from the top of the Dumpster.

One afternoon, Cecil calls Newt using his walkie-talkie and asks Newt to meet him near the Dumpsters. After Newt arrives, Cecil asks for Newt’s help to retrieve a big bass drum from the top of the Dumpster. At first, Newt is reluctant to do so as he has acrophobia. However, after Cecil says that it is Captain Nobody’s job to get the drum, Newt agrees to help. Slowly and carefully, he climbs up the Dumpster. When he stands up at the top of the Dumpster, he starts to become panic. Nevertheless, Newt manages to calm himself down and successfully gets the big bass drum, before passing it to Cecil who is waiting down there. Cecil is very happy as he finally fulfils his dream of owning a drum.

This incident brings a change in Newton Newman, which is, he manages to overcome his acrophobia after the incident. He is not afraid of heights unlike before. This change is indeed important to Newton Newman as when he starts to overcome his acrophobia, he manages to gain confidence too and later becomes a braver person. Besides, Newt also continues helping the others in Appleton and finally, he becomes everyone’s hero. That is why overcoming his acrophobia is important to Newt.

In conclusion, an incident that brings a change in Newton Newman is when Newt helps Cecil retrieve the big bass drum from the top of the Dumpster. Newt manages to overcome his acrophobia and this change is very important to Newt.

**Comments:** Description of the incident lacks specific details like what is written in the novel. Discussion on why the change is important to Newt also lacks depth and only consists of mere statements without further elaboration.

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#### **Sample 2: A Good Response**

With close reference to the text, describe **an incident** that brings **a change** in **a character**. Give **reasons** why **the change is important to the character**.

The novel that I have studied is “Captain Nobody” written by Dean Pitchford. The main character in the novel is Newton Newman, also known as Captain Nobody as his alter ego. An incident that brings a change in Newton Newman is the scene where Newt helps Cecil retrieve a big bass drum from the top of the Dumpster.

In the afternoon, when Newt is on his way home from school, Cecil calls Newt using his walkie-talkie and asks Newt to meet him near the Dumpsters at the corner of Warren and Kander Streets. Initially, Newt thinks that Cecil is only joking but later decides to still go and

meet his best friend anyway. After Newt arrives at the destination, Cecil asks for Newt's help to retrieve a big bass drum from the top of the Dumpster. Cecil wishes to own the drum but he is too afraid to get it on his own. Therefore, he summons Newt to help him. At first, Newt is reluctant to do so as he has acrophobia, which is the fear of heights. However, after Cecil convinces him by saying that this job of getting the drum is meant for the fearless Captain Nobody, Newt agrees to help Cecil. Slowly and carefully, he climbs up the Dumpster by stepping on the rungs sticking out the side of the big steel box.

When Newt reaches the top of the Dumpster, he stands up. Once he realises how high he is, he drops to his hands and knees, panting furiously. He starts to become panic. Nevertheless, after thinking about his best friend's wish and his job as Captain Nobody, Newt whispers to himself, "I am not 'supposed to be' anybody. I am Captain Nobody". With that, he manages to calm himself down and crawls over piles of crumpled boxes and garbage bags. Newt successfully grips the battered rim of the drum, lets it slide over the side and eases the big bass drum down into Cecil's waiting hands. Cecil, who has been waiting down there, then lowers the drum into his red wagon. Cecil feels very happy as he finally manages to fulfil his dream of owning a drum.

This incident brings a change in Newton Newman, which is, he manages to overcome his acrophobia after the incident. Before helping Cecil get the big bass drum, Newt is just a timid 10-year-old boy and does not have much confidence. However, after climbing up the Dumpster, Newt is not afraid of heights unlike before. This change is indeed important to Newton Newman as when he starts to overcome his acrophobia, he manages to gain confidence too and later becomes a braver person. This can be seen when Newt mentions that he feels pretty pumped up from his first 'adventure' of helping Cecil retrieve the big bass drum and he is keen to experience more 'adventures'. Besides, the change of being able to overcome his fear also serves as a kick-start for Newt to continue helping the others in Appleton, such as helping JJ inform the Sullivan couple about the spelling and grammar mistakes on the signs and saving Reggie Ratner at the Appleton Water Tower. All these make Newt everyone's hero in Appleton. From a boy who is often neglected and ignored by others, Newt has finally become a famous individual. In this situation, overcoming his acrophobia is indeed important to Newt.

In conclusion, an incident that brings a change in Newton Newman is when Newt helps Cecil retrieve the big bass drum from the top of the Dumpster. The change is that Newt manages to overcome his acrophobia and this is very important to Newt, as he manages to gain confidence, becomes a braver person and eventually turns out to be a hero in town.

**Comments:** Detailed description with close reference to the novel, supported by thorough discussion about why the change is important to the character.

33. The following are the novels studied in the literature component in English Language.

Captain Nobody – Dean Pitchford

Dear Mr. Kilmer – Anne Schraff

Sing to the Dawn – Mingfong Ho

Choose any one of the novels above and answer the question below.

With close reference to the text, write about an important decision made by one of the main characters. Explain how that decision changed his/her life.

Element 3

Element 1

Element 2



## Sample Answers

### A Satisfactory Answer

Based on the novel that I have studied; Captain Nobody by Dean Pitchford, the main character that I have chosen to focus on in this answer is Newton Newman (Newt) who had made several important decisions throughout the course of this story.

One of the most important decisions that Newt made was when he decided to save Reggie Ratner at the Appleton Water Tower. When he saw the news on TV – Newt immediately went to the Appleton Water Tower with his friends, JJ and Cecil. He wore his Captain Nobody costume with his mask. He climbed the water tower to save Reggie Ratner. At the same time, Cecil helped Newt by distracting the police officers on-site. He started beating his drum and ran away from the water tower to get the attention of everyone near the water tower. Then, JJ helped Newt to climb the ladder of the water tower

Once he reached the top of the ladder, he explained to Reggie that he saw everything during the big game – that it was Darryl Peeps who knocked Chris out. Subsequently, both of them later climb down the old rusty ladder; causing both of them to fall.

Newt's decision of climbing the water tower to save Reggie Ratner has changed Newt's life. Before this incident, Newt saved so many people by wearing his Captain Nobody costume with his mask. However, no one is aware that 'the hero' was Newt. This has changed Newt – from an invisible person to a popular person.

Content – 7

Language – 3

The evidence from the text is **sufficient**, but **very superficial** – no evidence of analysis.

- The second aspect of the question is addressed; but lack of depth
- No evidence of personal response

## A Good Answer

Addressing  
Element 2

Based on the novel that I have studied; Captain Nobody by Dean Pitchford, the main character that I have chosen to focus on in this answer is Newton Newman (Newt) who had made several important decisions throughout the course of this story.

Addressing  
Element 1

One of the most important decisions that Newt made was when he decided to save Reggie Ratner at the Appleton Water Tower. When he saw the news on TV – Mary Myron reported that Reggie Ratner is on the roof of Appleton Water Tower and has been depressed as students and fans of Fillmore High have repeatedly harassed him and his family, accusing him of knocking Chris into unconsciousness, he immediately rushed to the Appleton Water Tower with his friends, JJ and Cecil. He wore his Captain Nobody costume with his mask. He decided to overcome his fear of heights and climbed the water tower to save Reggie Ratner. At the same time, Cecil helped Newt by distracting the police officers on-site. He started beating his drum and ran away from the water tower to get the attention of everyone near the water tower. Then, JJ helped Newt to climb the ladder of the water tower as the first step was quite a distance from the ground.

Commentary: Element 2 is explored with **strong and detailed evidence** from the novel. The **significance of the event** is also discussed to strengthen the argument.

Once he reached the top of the ladder, he explained to Reggie that he saw everything during the big game – that it was Darryl Peeps (Chris' teammate) who knocked Chris out. Newt later found out that Reggie is only there to spray 'Go Merrimac' on the tower. Subsequently, both of them later climb down the ladder; whilst Newt's mask fell off in the process. As the ladder cannot take their combined weight, Reggie's foot snapped a rung and a broken piece of rung hit Newt's forehead, causing him to lose balance and fall.

Newt's decision of climbing the water tower to save Reggie Ratner has caused his life to be completely transformed. Before this incident, Newt had saved so many people by wearing his Captain Nobody costume with his mask. Still, since all of his rescuing efforts are done with his mask on, no one is aware that 'the hero' as a matter of fact – was Newt all along. This has transformed Newt – from an invisible wallflower to a celebrated local star. In fact, this circumstance is the biggest irony in the story. In the beginning of the novel, Chris Newman was the star quarterback whom everyone cheers for – even a newspaper article failed to report the existence of Newt as Chris' younger brother. However, after the aforementioned event in the novel, Newt has gained popularity; if not more – than Chris Newman. There is even an incident right at the end of the novel; whereby an outside of town little old lady told Newt that she did not have any knowledge of Newt having an older brother.

Commentary: Element 3 is argued by **focusing on how** the chosen decision changed the character's life.

Moreover, this Appleton Tower event also marks Newt's bravery as at an all-time high. Throughout the novel, the readers have been fed with how reluctant Newt is to participate in any of his decision-making and rescuing acts as he is known as a scaredy-cat. On the contrary, in the Appleton Water Tower event, we can see that there is not even a single sign of hesitation on Newton's part. Every action of Newton in this event is completely decisive and well thought out. This courage of conviction is paid off when Fillmore High School's victory parade is joined by Merrimac High School. Consequently, Newt's unnerving bravery in the Appleton Water Tower incident resulted in friendship between the rival schools. Not only this incident ultimately took Newton out of his cowardice ways; it also changes the history of Fillmore and Merrimac High School.

In conclusion, I learned that it will only take a small leap of faith for someone to identify with their true identity or even achieve something really major in their lives. The only thing that

matters is – if that someone is brave enough to make his move and change his/her life into something better.

Content – 10

Language – 5

Some pointers for teachers:

- Encourage students to write evidence/account from the novel in great detail.
- Encourage a multi-level analysis of the detailed account from the novel – based on the needs of the question.
- Encourage a neat tying-up technique in response to the questions.

