



SUBJECT: **English**
DATE: 4th September 2023
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

Answer **ALL** sections. You are advised to spend about 1 hour on each task.

SECTION A: WRITING

(Total: 30 marks)

Choose ONE title and write 450 (+/- 10%) words.

1. Describe the atmosphere during a specific family reunion during which an uncle decides to reveal an old family secret.
2. Narrate what happens when the widow Anne Wright decides to investigate a letter she receives from her husband who has been dead for ten years.
3. While admitting that social media does contribute to freedom of speech, the fact that individuals can publicly express whatever they want may have negative implications. Discuss.
4. In 2022, WHO reported that almost one in three children in Europe have a high body-mass index and it urged governments to take action to fight obesity. Write an essay focussing on the main contributing factors to the problem and what actions may be taken to address the problem.
5. You have recently returned from a two-weeks' stay at a luxury resort. The experience was generally positive; however, there were a number of unexpected disappointments that marred what should have been a perfect holiday. Write an email to the holiday resort management acknowledging the positives, but mainly complaining about the negatives.

Sender's details:

Use the fictional name: Tyler Collins

Recipient's details:

Use this email address: bellavista23@gmail.com

6. Most public spaces seem to cater for the needs of children and adults. To its credit, the Local Council has decided to create a space specifically designed for teens and young adults in the community. Now that the project is taking shape, it is clear there are some good ideas, but also a number of shortcomings. The local council decided to revisit the plans for the project and asked your group Pathfinders to share its ideas.

Write an assessment report acknowledging what seems right, explaining what will not work and making recommendations to improve the evident shortcomings.

SECTION B: READING AND LANGUAGE AWARENESS**(Total: 30 marks)****Read the following passage and answer the questions given below.****The Gravitational Pull of Supervising Kids All the Time**

Two Christmases ago, Anna Rollins, a writer went on a stroll with her then 5-year-old son. Always itching to do things himself, the boy announced that he wanted to walk alone. When Rollins refused, he countered with a compromise: he would walk on one side of the row of houses, she would walk on the other, and they would meet at the far end. The distance was short, in a neighbourhood with no through-traffic, so she relented. 'This is a good start to independence,' Rollins thought to herself as she walked.

But when she arrived at the meeting spot, her son was not there. She ran around to his side of the block and found it empty. Finally, she spotted him with an elderly couple across the road. 'Is this your little boy?' the woman asked as Rollins hurried over. 'He was out by himself.' Rollins tried to explain - the boy's request, the plan, independence - to little avail. 'Merry Christmas,' the woman said icily. To Rollins, it sounded more like *You are welcome that I rescued your child from your negligent parenting.*

Compared with children of generations past, modern American kids tend to live under a high degree of surveillance. That is not to say they have no autonomy. If anything, children today have more say over what they eat and wear than kids have had through much of history - just very few opportunities for some degree of risk and personal responsibility away from adults.

Many parents have legitimate reasons to worry about their kids wandering. Still, getting out from under close adult supervision is important for child development. Mariana Brussoni, a developmental psychologist told me that when adults are not hovering, children are forced to solve problems and resolve disputes on their own - which can sharpen executive functioning and social-emotional learning, and bolster confidence and resilience.

Independence can also be important for mental health. Separation anxiety, a fear of heights, nervousness about the unknown - those are normal parts of development that serve an evolutionary purpose in keeping kids safe. They do not dissipate on their own, though; they are gradually allayed through experiences that draw kids further from parental oversight: spending an afternoon at a friend's house, climbing a tree, walking to the bus stop by themselves. Learning to cope with the strong emotions that often attend these exploits is valuable. Some psychologists trace the ongoing decline in American children's mental well-being directly to the constraints on their freedom.

30 And yet, the vigilant style of American parenting has become not only a norm, but an
expectation that can be difficult to defy. In reporting this story, I heard from parents who said
that other adults had threatened to call Child Protective Services when they did not hold their 3-
year-old's hand as they crossed the street, warned them that their 5- and 7-year-old kids had
35 drifted a little too far from them at a playground, or scolded them for letting their teenage kids
walk to school on their own. This social discomfort with childhood independence has become a
barrier to it.

When speaking about not giving their children more freedom, parents mention three main
concerns: cars, kidnapping, and what other people will think or do in response. That creates a
vicious cycle – now that helicopter parenting has become the standard, how does anyone stop?

40 The decline in children's independence has complex roots. In the mid-to-late 20th century,
rising economic inequality undermined parents' confidence in their children's future
prosperity, spurring an intensive approach to parenting - first among wealthier families,
but eventually across classes - in which kids spend more time in structured activities such as
45 violin lessons and hockey practice and less time playing freely. Urbanization and car dominance
have made it harder for kids to safely get around on their own, and left fewer opportunities for
neighbours to get to know one another, weakening parents' trust in strangers. The rise
of smaller, two-earner families means fewer parents are at home to keep an eye out as kids roam
the neighbourhood, and fewer older siblings are watching over younger ones. And growing access
50 to frequently fearmongering media has heightened perceptions of the risks that children face in
public life.

The resulting encroachment of childhood freedom has had a snowball effect. As kids do less
on their own, many of us have come to think of them as less capable of managing on their own.
And with each generation, it becomes harder to imagine that kids can do the sort of things they
might have a century ago, because fewer and fewer parents have any memory of having done
55 those things themselves. That has resulted in a pervasive belief that children require constant
supervision.

Given that so many children are now being accompanied, plenty of adults - parent or not -
just are not used to seeing young kids on their own anymore; when they encounter a lone child,
they often assume, like the elderly couple who pulled Rollins's son aside, that something has gone
60 wrong.

But laws defining neglect in the U.S. are typically broad and vague. Many reports of neglect
involve children who have been left without direct supervision for *any* length of time. Parents
have been reported, investigated, and even charged for letting their kids play outside their
apartment, walk the dog, or run laps around their block, or for leaving their kid in the car for a
65 few minutes with the windows rolled down on a cool day.

The helicopter-parenting norm is exacerbated, too, by a common uncertainty about the role
we should play in the life of a child we do not personally know. Even capable kids are still learning.
For them to participate in society without being supervised requires some buy-in from everyone
else, not only in the form of tolerance for childlike behaviour, but also in a readiness to help or
70 direct a child if need be. Tim Gill, an advocate for children's play and the author of *No Fear:
Growing Up in a Risk Averse Society*, suspects that many of us are not accustomed to this sort of
social contract, given how absent children are from much of public life. 'We are in danger of giving
up the notion that it takes a village to raise a child,' Gill told me. Bystanders, and especially men,
are often wary of interacting with children they do not know, lest they be suspected of ill
75 intentions. Parents do not trust strangers, and strangers know it.

(Adapted from: www.theatlantic.com)

Please turn the page.

Answer all the questions.

With the exception of Question 1, use your own words at all times. Write accurately and with clarity.

1. Read the sentence below and attempt the **FOUR** tasks (a, b, c, and d). Write each of your answers on a separate line.

'Compared with children of generations past, modern American kids tend to live under a high degree of surveillance.' (lines 13-14).

- a) Rewrite the sentence replacing the main subject of the sentence with a pronoun.
 - b) Write **ALL** the abstract nouns in the sentence.
 - c) Write **ALL** the adjectives in the sentence.
 - d) Write the subordinate clause in the sentence. (4)
2. In the opening paragraph, the phrase 'he countered with a compromise' (line 3) refers to a three-stage exchange between the parent and the child. Explain what happens in this circumstance. (2)
3. The word 'yet' (line 30) functions as a conjunction. What are the **TWO** main arguments it links in the text? (3)
4. The image graphically represents key ideas found in the text. Using your own words, write **THREE** separate sentences to show how the image synthesises these ideas. (3)
5. Text structure refers to the way writers organise information in a text (for example, problem-solution structure). How would you describe the organisational structure of this passage? (3)
6. Explain what the author is referring to with the phrase 'vicious cycle' (line 39). (2)
7. In a single sentence and using your own words as much as possible, give the **FOUR** main reasons provided by the author in paragraph 8 which, she claims, lead to a 'decline in children's independence' (line 40). (3)
8. Limiting your answer to paragraphs 9 to 12 (lines 51-75) of the text, summarise in a single paragraph of between 80 and 100 words the negative effects that limiting children's independence has had. Write the number of words at the end of your summary. (10)

SECTION C: LITERARY AWARENESS**(Total: 30 marks)****Choose only ONE question. The response must amount to a total of 500 words (+/- 10%).****EITHER**

1. The decisions taken by characters are an important driving force in narrative fiction. With reference to either 'Mother's Help' or 'The Rough Crossing' write about the importance of the choices made by one of the characters in the short story. (30)

OR

2. Dark figures of men lounged against the rails. In the glow of their pipes a nose shone out, or the peak of a cap, or a pair of surprised-looking eyebrows. Fenella glanced up. High in the air, a little figure, his hands thrust in his short jacket pockets, stood staring out to sea. The ship rocked ever so little, and she thought the stars rocked too. And now a pale steward in a linen coat, holding a tray high in the palm of his hand, stepped out of a lighted doorway and skimmed past them. They went through that doorway. Carefully over the high brass-bound step on to the rubber mat and then down such a terribly steep flight of stairs that grandma had to put both feet on each step, and Fenella clutched the clammy brass rail and forgot all about the swan-necked umbrella.

At the bottom grandma stopped; Fenella was rather afraid she was going to pray again. But no, it was only to get out the cabin tickets. They were in the saloon. It was glaring bright and stifling; the air smelled of paint and burnt chop-bones and indiarubber. Fenella wished her grandma would go on, but the old woman was not to be hurried. An immense basket of ham sandwiches caught her eye. She went up to them and touched the top one delicately with her finger.

"How much are the sandwiches?" she asked.

"Tuppence!" bawled a rude steward, slamming down a knife and fork.

Grandma could hardly believe it.

"Twopence each?" she asked.

"That's right," said the steward, and he winked at his companion.

Grandma made a small, astonished face. Then she whispered primly to Fenella. "What wickedness!" And they sailed out at the further door and along a passage that had cabins on either side. Such a very nice stewardess came to meet them. She was dressed all in blue, and her collar and cuffs were fastened with large brass buttons. She seemed to know grandma well.

"Well, Mrs. Crane," said she, unlocking their washstand. "We've got you back again. It's not often you give yourself a cabin."

"No," said grandma. "But this time my dear son's thoughtfulness—"

"I hope—" began the stewardess. Then she turned round and took a long, mournful look at grandma's blackness and at Fenella's black coat and skirt, black blouse, and hat with a crape rose.

Grandma nodded. "It was God's will," said she.

The stewardess shut her lips and, taking a deep breath, she seemed to expand.

- a. Limiting your answer to the given passage, write about Katherine Mansfield's effective use of descriptive language in this part of the short story. (13)
- b. Katherine Mansfield writes 'The Voyage' from the perspective of Fenella. Explain how the author's decision to opt for a young girl's point of view helps the reader understand characters' feelings and actions. (17)