



SUBJECT: **English Language**  
PAPER NUMBER: I – Part 1 – Conversation  
TIME: Approx. 10 minutes

**SESSION 1**

**EXAMINER'S PAPER**

**Instructions to examiners**

Adopt the procedure as indicated below:

- Ask questions 1, 2, and 3 to **ALL** candidates.
- Ask **FOUR** questions of your choice from questions 4 to 10.
- Engage in conversation with candidates long enough (about 5 minutes) to enable you to make an accurate and fair assessment of their speaking skills.
- Do **not** rephrase questions or improvise.
- Ensure that the Candidate's Paper remains in the examination room.
- Refer closely to the rating scale relating to the candidate's handling of English to enable you to arrive at a fair assessment of their ability to use spoken English.
- Mark absent candidates as "abs".

**SESSION 1: TEENAGERS' PREFERENCES**

Greet the candidate and hand out the Candidate's Paper.

Tell the candidate: **Take a look at the pictures.**

Proceed with prompts 1, 2, and 3. (In 3, candidates can talk about any career, not just the ones mentioned in the visual prompt.)

1. What can you see in the first picture?
2. Look at the second picture and talk about the careers that teenagers prefer.
3. What career would you like to take up and why?

Tell the candidate: **Now let's talk further about the careers that teenagers prefer.**

Proceed to ask any **FOUR** of these questions:

4. Is it better to work indoors or outdoors? Why?/Why not?
5. Would you choose a career where you have to work at the weekend? Why?/Why not?
6. Do you think that a good salary is important when choosing a career? Why?/Why not?
7. Should young people be encouraged to take up a vocational career? Why is that?
8. What is your opinion on working abroad?
9. How important is it for teenagers to attend a careers fair?
10. Do people nowadays give more importance to their career than to their free time? Why is that?

**(Total: 10 marks)**

**CONVERSATION – ROLE-PLAY****1A****Instructions to Examiners**

- Use a normal speaking voice when interacting with the candidate and try to make your exchanges sound as natural as possible.
- You may repeat the prompt to the candidate but do **not** improvise.
- Refer closely to the marking guidelines relating to the candidate's handling of English to arrive at a fair assessment of their ability to use spoken English.

Read out to the candidate:

**You are Nicky and you help with a local rescue team. You were in the news because you saved the life of a young hiker who was injured while trekking on the cliffs. You meet your friend to talk about it.**

**In this situation, you are Nicky and the examiner is your friend.**

**Examiner:** Hey, Nicky! I've just watched the news. Your rescue was the main item! I'm so proud of you. How do you feel?

**Candidate:** **(1)** Greet your friend and express your feelings about being in the news.

**Examiner:** What happened? How was the hiker injured?

**Candidate:** **(2)** Relate what happened to the young hiker, including his injuries. Describe the exact spot where the rescue took place.

**Examiner:** Oh my goodness! How did you manage?

**Candidate:** **(3)** Describe in detail what you did to provide assistance.

**Examiner:** That's incredible! Did he need to go to hospital?

**Candidate:** **(4)** Reply in the affirmative and explain how the hiker was taken to hospital.

**Examiner:** Wow! It seems that the hiker's family would like to give you a reward for being so prompt in saving him. Will you accept it?

**Candidate:** **(5)** Reply in the negative. Give a reason why you will not be accepting the reward.

**Examiner:** Well said! I'm glad everything turned out okay.

**Candidate:** **(6)** Reply accordingly.

**(Total: 10 marks)**

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU COLLECT THE CANDIDATE'S PAPER  
AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION**

**CONVERSATION – ROLE-PLAY****1B****Instructions to Examiners**

- Use a normal speaking voice when interacting with the candidate and try to make your exchanges sound as natural as possible.
- You may repeat the prompt to the candidate but do **not** improvise.
- Refer closely to the marking guidelines relating to the candidate's handling of English to arrive at a fair assessment of their ability to use spoken English.

Read out to the candidate:

**You are Sam and you help with an animal welfare organisation. You were in the news because you rescued a puppy from a fire in an animal shelter. You meet your friend to talk about it.**

**In this situation, you are Sam and the examiner is your friend.**

**Examiner:** Hey, Sam! I've just seen you on TV. Your rescue was the main item! I'm so proud of you. How do you feel?

**Candidate:** **(1)** Greet your friend and express your feelings about being on TV.

**Examiner:** What happened? How did you notice the puppy?

**Candidate:** **(2)** Relate how you found the puppy. Describe the fire in the animal shelter, giving details of the damage.

**Examiner:** Oh my goodness! How did you manage to save it?

**Candidate:** **(3)** Describe in detail what you did to provide assistance.

**Examiner:** That's incredible! You did call the vet, didn't you?

**Candidate:** **(4)** Agree and explain how the puppy was taken care of by the vet.

**Examiner:** Wow! Are you going to post an update about the puppy on social media?

**Candidate:** **(5)** Reply in the affirmative. Talk about what you plan to do to get the puppy adopted.

**Examiner:** Well said! I'm glad everything turned out okay.

**Candidate:** **(6)** Reply accordingly.

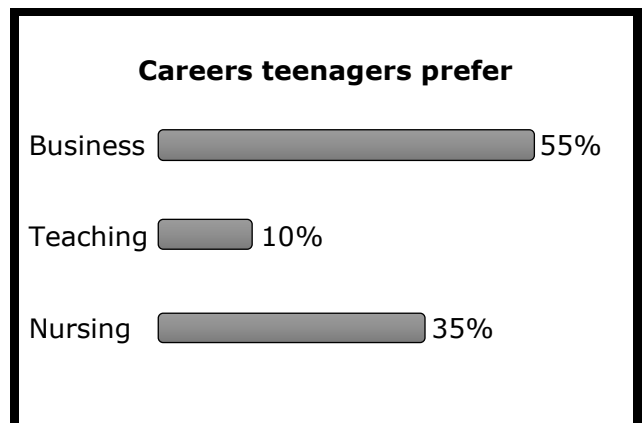
**(Total: 10 marks)**

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU COLLECT THE CANDIDATE'S PAPER  
AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION**

**CONVERSATION – VISUAL PROMPT**

**1A**

**TEENAGERS' PREFERENCES**

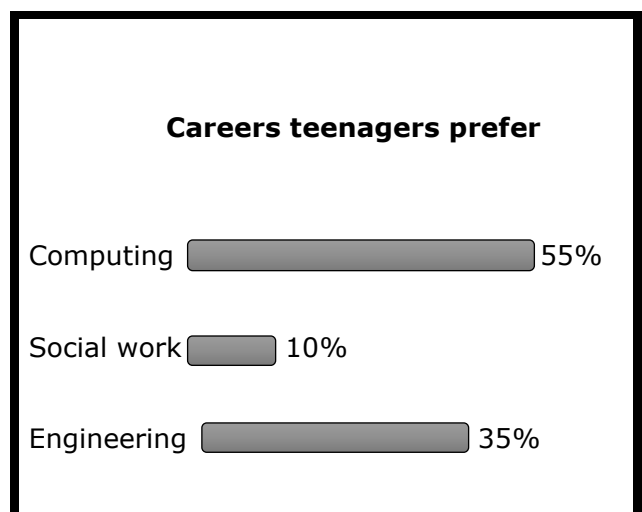


**(Total: 10 marks)**

**CONVERSATION – VISUAL PROMPT**

**1B**

**TEENAGERS' PREFERENCES**



(Source: <https://www.diversityscience.org>)  
(Source: <https://youthforce-job-fair>)

**(Total: 10 marks)**



SUBJECT: **English Language**  
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**SESSION 1A**

**CANDIDATE'S PAPER**

**CONVERSATION – ROLE-PLAY**

Read the situation and continue the conversation by following all the SIX prompts in the order given to you.

**You are Nicky and you help with a local rescue team. You were in the news because you saved the life of a young hiker who was injured while trekking on the cliffs. You meet your friend to talk about it.**

**In this situation, you are Nicky and the examiner is your friend.**

**Examiner:**

**Candidate:** (1) Greet your friend and express your feelings about being in the news.

**Examiner:**

**Candidate:** (2) Relate what happened to the young hiker, including his injuries. Describe the exact spot where the rescue took place.

**Examiner:**

**Candidate:** (3) Describe in detail what you did to provide assistance.

**Examiner:**

**Candidate:** (4) Reply in the affirmative and explain how the hiker was taken to hospital.

**Examiner:**

**Candidate:** (5) Reply in the negative. Give a reason why you will not be accepting the reward.

**Examiner:**

**Candidate:** (6) Reply accordingly.

**Examiner:**

**(Total: 10 marks)**

**PLEASE HAND BACK THE SHEET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION**

**CONVERSATION – VISUAL PROMPT**

**TEENAGERS' PREFERENCES**

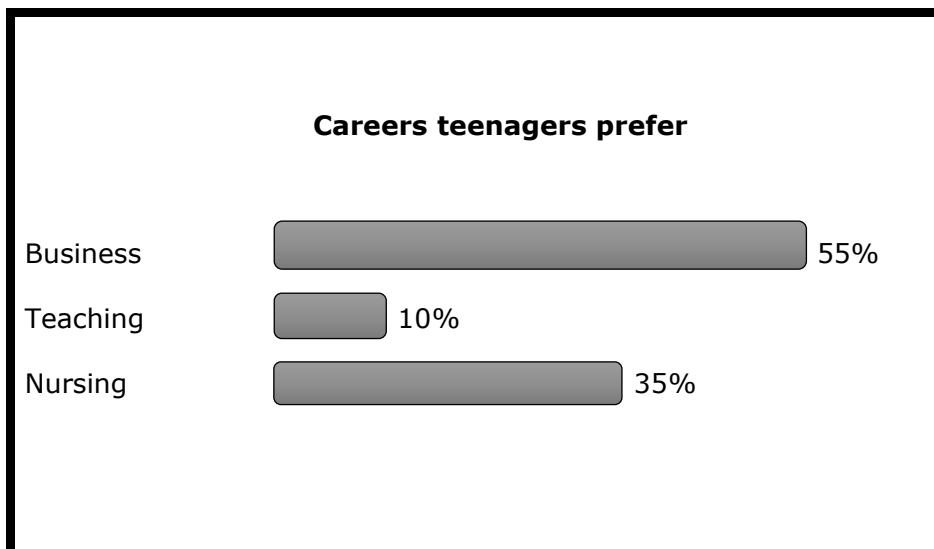
**1A**

Picture 1



(Source: <https://www.diversityscience.org>)

Picture 2



**(Total: 10 marks)**



SUBJECT: **English Language**  
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TIME: Approx. 10 minutes

**SESSION 1B**

**CANDIDATE'S PAPER**

**CONVERSATION – ROLE-PLAY**

Read the situation and continue the conversation by following all the SIX prompts in the order given to you.

**You are Sam and you help with an animal welfare organisation. You were in the news because you rescued a puppy from a fire in an animal shelter. You meet your friend to talk about it.**

**In this situation, you are Sam and the examiner is your friend.**

**Examiner:**

**Candidate:** (1) Greet your friend and express your feelings about being on TV.

**Examiner:**

**Candidate:** (2) Relate how you found the puppy. Describe the fire in the animal shelter, giving details of the damage.

**Examiner:**

**Candidate:** (3) Describe in detail what you did to provide assistance.

**Examiner:**

**Candidate:** (4) Agree and explain how the puppy was taken care of by the vet.

**Examiner:**

**Candidate:** (5) Reply in the affirmative. Talk about what you plan to do to get the puppy adopted.

**Examiner:**

**Candidate:** (6) Reply accordingly.

**Examiner:**

**(Total: 10 marks)**

**PLEASE HAND BACK THE SHEET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION**

**CONVERSATION – VISUAL PROMPT**

**TEENAGERS' PREFERENCES**

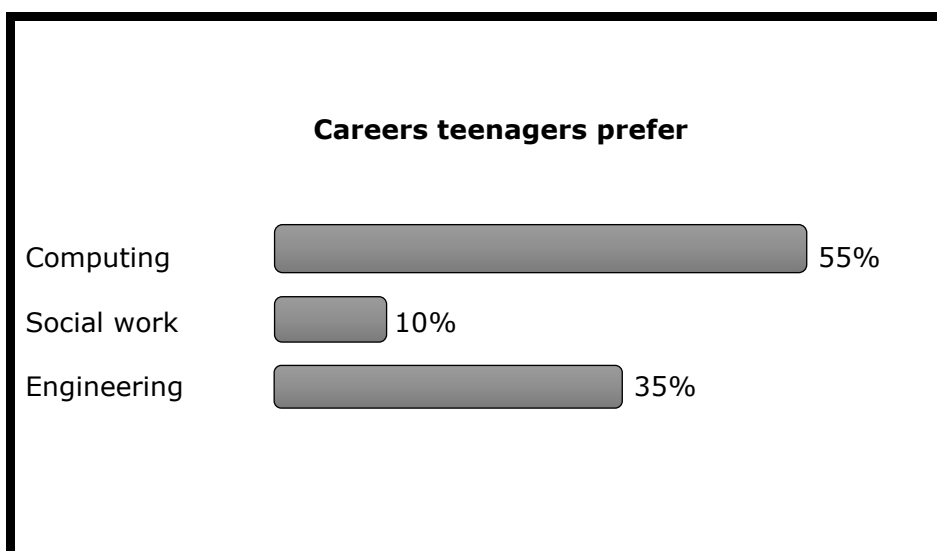
**1B**

Picture 1



(Source: <https://youthforce-job-fair>)

Picture 2



**(Total: 10 marks)**





SUBJECT: **English Language**  
 PAPER NUMBER: I – Part 1 – a) Listening Comprehension  
 DATE: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024  
 TIME: Approx. 30 minutes

**SESSION 1**

**EXAMINER'S PAPER**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO EXAMINERS**

**Preparation before the session:**

- Familiarise yourself with the texts before reading them aloud and take note of the punctuation in order to make the texts sound as natural as possible.

**Procedure during the session:**

- Tell the candidates:  
You are going to listen to **TWO** passages and answer questions on both of them on the sheet provided.  
You may answer the questions at any time during the session.  
First, you have **THREE** minutes to read the questions on Text A.  
Give the candidates three minutes to read the questions on Text A.  
Read Text A.
- Tell the candidates:  
You have **THREE** minutes to continue working on the questions.  
Give the candidates three minutes to continue working on the questions.  
Read Text A for the second and last time.
- Tell the candidates:  
You have **THREE** minutes to complete your answers.  
Give the candidates three minutes to complete their answers.
- Tell the candidates:  
The **THREE** minutes are up. Kindly turn the page.  
You now have **THREE** minutes to read the questions on Text B.  
Give the candidates three minutes to read the questions on Text B.  
Read Text B.
- Tell the candidates:  
You have **THREE** minutes to continue working on the questions.  
Give the candidates three minutes to continue working on the questions.  
Read Text B for the second and last time.
- Tell the candidates:  
You have **THREE** minutes to complete your answers.  
Give the candidates three minutes to complete their answers.

The examiner reads out the following:

**Text A**

**You are going to listen to a podcast called Time Warp Chronicles.**

Hey there! Welcome to another episode of "Time Warp Chronicles". Today, we're going to embark on a journey through the skies and explore the fascinating history of kite flying.

Kite flying isn't just a breezy pastime; it's a practice that dates back over two thousand years. Our journey begins in ancient China, where the first kites took to the skies. Legend has it that around 200 BCE, a Chinese philosopher and military strategist named Mozi used kites for measuring distances, a crucial tool for mapping and strategic planning.

Fast forward a few centuries, and kites started to spread beyond China. They reached Korea, Japan, and India, each culture putting its unique spin on these flying wonders. Kites became instruments of art, science, and even communication. Can you imagine sending messages through the sky using just a kite? It's like ancient texting.

As we move through time, kites also found their way to the Western world. In the 13th century, explorer Marco Polo witnessed these mystical flying objects during his journeys to the East. Soon enough, kites became a source of fascination and experimentation for inventors and scientists in Europe.

The 18th century saw kites taking flight for more than just fun. Benjamin Franklin, a famous American scientist, used a kite to conduct experiments with electricity, leading to groundbreaking discoveries.

In the 20th century, kites became a symbol of freedom and resistance. In World War II, pilots used kites to hone their skills in the art of aerial combat. Years later, communities around the world celebrated kite festivals, turning the sky into a vibrant canvas of colours and shapes.

Today, kite flying is a global phenomenon. From high-tech stunt kites to traditional designs, enthusiasts continue to push the boundaries of what these humble contraptions can do. And there you have it, the incredible history of kite flying. Next time you launch a kite into the sky, remember that. Keep looking up!

*(Adapted from: <https://www.pollockstoymuseum.co.uk/post/the-history-of-flying-a-kite>)*

**(Total: 15 marks)**

The examiner reads out the following:

**Text B**

**You're going to listen to a Factory Manager explaining to a group of people touring the factory, how fresh orange juice is made.**

Welcome to our factory. According to research carried out last year in 2023, the global orange juice industry is worth 33 billion dollars. The biggest producers are Brazil and Mexico, with Brazil leading in orange juice production.

Harvesting starts in groves in early November. A picker manually plucks the fruit from the trees before they are orange. The fruit's size and condition are indications of maturity and flavour.

The picker examines the oranges. Anything with tears or punctures may also be damaged on the inside, but superficial flaws on the skin won't affect the quality of the juice. The oranges are then brought to the processing facility in our factory and into a wash station.

The machine on your right is a sprayer. It rains soapy water onto the oranges as spiralling nylon brushes scrub and clean them. After the wash, another sprayer rinses them off. The oranges then transition to a roller conveyor that takes them under drying fans.

On your left, you can see the oranges exiting the dryer. An inspector checks them for any damage. The oranges travel across more revolving brushes with gentle bristles which remove any residual dirt.

Finally, the oranges fall off the conveyor line into a bin. As you can see, the juicing process is about to start. On your left, a worker is giving the oranges one last precautionary inspection before the whole oranges are fed one at a time to the extractor which then punches the fruit and metal teeth peel away the skin. It squeezes out the juice while simultaneously filtering the seeds and the membrane between the flesh of the orange and the skin. The juice flows into a large container where a screen filters the pulp to the desired consistency.

The juice is bottled in plastic bottles. Instead of being pasteurised, the fresh juice is chilled immediately. The unpasteurised juice won't have an extended shelf-life, but the trade-off is an unaltered flavour and colour. Refrigeration will preserve the juice for a few days. After all, freshly-squeezed orange juice is a drink that's best served cold.

Thank you for taking part in this tour of our factory. Now kindly follow me for a complimentary glass of orange juice.

*(Adapted from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvWrLXwJz>)*

**(Total: 15 marks)**



SUBJECT: **English Language**  
 PAPER NUMBER: I – Part 1 – a) Listening Comprehension  
 DATE: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024  
 TIME: Approx. 30 minutes

**SESSION 1**

**CANDIDATE'S PAPER**

Total

**TEXT A: THE HISTORY OF KITE FLYING**

1. Match the items in Column A with the correct ones in Column B. The first one has been done for you. **(Total: 8 marks)**

	<b>A</b>		<b>B</b>
a.	<b>exploring the history of kite flying is compared to this</b>		in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century
b.	name of the country where kites were first flown		Japan
c.	when a Chinese philosopher used kites to measure distance	<b>a</b>	<b>a journey through the skies</b>
d.	name of a country where kites spread to		ancient China
e.	when kites found their way to the Western World		nowadays
f.	when Benjamin Franklin experimented with kites		in World War II
g.	when kites became a symbol of freedom		in the 13 <sup>th</sup> century
h.	when pilots used kites to practise aerial fighting		in 200 BCE
i.	when kite flying became a global phenomenon		in the 18 <sup>th</sup> century

2. Are the following statements **TRUE** or **FALSE**? Circle the correct answer and give evidence from what you have listened to for each of your answers. **(Total: 7 marks)**

- a. The origin of kite flying as a pastime is very old.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. In ancient times kites were used not just for communication.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Marco Polo learnt about kite flying by reading about it.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Benjamin Franklin's interest in kites helped him make some revolutionary discoveries.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. Kite festivals are widely celebrated in Asian countries only.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. Kite flying is compared to a painting in the sky.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.
- g. The podcast host ends this week's episode by inviting listeners to join other kite enthusiasts in buying a kite.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.

**TEXT B: ORANGE JUICE – HOW IT’S MADE**

1. Fill in the missing information. The first one has been done for you. **(Total: 6 marks)**

a.	<b>who leads the factory tour</b>	<b>a factory manager</b>	
b.	when research was carried out		
c.	worth of global orange juice industry		
d.	biggest producers of orange juice		
e.	leader in orange juice production		
f.	where oranges are harvested		
g.	when oranges are harvested		

2. Put the following in the correct order according to what you have listened to. The first one has been done for you. **(Total: 7 marks)**

a.	Juice is squeezed and seeds are filtered.	
b.	Juice is chilled.	
<b>c.</b>	<b>Whole oranges are fed into the extractor, one at a time.</b>	<b>1</b>
d.	Pulp is filtered to the correct thickness.	
e.	Skin is peeled away.	
f.	Juice is bottled into plastic bottles.	
g.	The extractor punches the fruit.	
h.	Juice flows into a large container.	

3. Underline the correct answer according to what you have listened to. **(Total: 2 marks)**

- a. If the skin of the orange is slightly damaged, the quality of the juice
  - i. remains the same.
  - ii. becomes better.
  - iii. becomes worse.
  
- b. Immediate chilling will
  - i. preserve the orange juice for a long time.
  - ii. preserve the orange juice for a short time.
  - iii. not preserve the orange juice.



SUBJECT: **English Language**  
 PAPER NUMBER: I – Part 1 – a) Listening Comprehension  
 DATE: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024  
 TIME: Approx. 30 minutes

**SESSION 2**

**EXAMINER'S PAPER**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO EXAMINERS**

**Preparation before the session:**

- Familiarise yourself with the texts before reading them aloud and take note of the punctuation in order to make the texts sound as natural as possible.

**Procedure during the session:**

- Tell the candidates:  
 You are going to listen to **TWO** passages and answer questions on both of them on the sheet provided.  
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 First, you have **THREE** minutes to read the questions on Text A.  
 Give the candidates three minutes to read the questions on Text A.  
 Read Text A.
- Tell the candidates:  
 You have **THREE** minutes to continue working on the questions.  
 Give the candidates three minutes to continue working on the questions.  
 Read Text A for the second and last time.
- Tell the candidates:  
 You have **THREE** minutes to complete your answers.  
 Give the candidates three minutes to complete their answers.
- Tell the candidates:  
 The **THREE** minutes are up. Kindly turn the page.  
 You now have three minutes to read the questions on Text B.  
 Give the candidates three minutes to read the questions on Text B.  
 Read Text B.
- Tell the candidates:  
 You have **THREE** minutes to continue working on the questions.  
 Give the candidates three minutes to continue working on the questions.  
 Read Text B for the second and last time.
- Tell the candidates:  
 You have **THREE** minutes to complete your answers.  
 Give the candidates three minutes to complete their answers.

The examiner reads out the following:

**Text A**

**You are going to listen to a podcast called Mind Benders Unleashed.**

Welcome to another episode of "Mind Benders Unleashed". Today, we're diving into the fascinating world of jigsaw puzzles. So, grab your favourite puzzle and get ready for a journey through time that's sure to piece together the history of this beloved pastime.

Jigsaw puzzles have a history as rich and intricate as the puzzles themselves. Our journey begins in 18<sup>th</sup> century England, where mapmaker John Spilsbury created the first known jigsaw puzzle. Can you believe it? A map cut into small pieces for educational purposes, paving the way for the puzzles we know and love today.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, puzzles became wildly popular parlour games, enjoyed by people of all ages. They were handcrafted wooden wonders, showcasing intricate designs and scenes that captured imaginations. The name "jigsaw" came to be associated with the puzzles because jigsaws became the tools of choice for cutting shapes. The term "jigsaw puzzle" was first used in 1906.

Between 1929 and 1939, during the Great Depression, jigsaw puzzles became an affordable form of entertainment and a way for families to spend quality time together. In fact, they took a front-row seat in family living rooms. The 1950s saw the rise of the die-cut puzzle, introducing whimsical shapes and challenging edge pieces.

Nowadays, in the digital age, jigsaw puzzles have found a new home on our screens. Now, you can solve puzzles without worrying about losing a piece under the sofa. Technology has brought us everything from virtual puzzles to apps that let you create your puzzles from personal photos.

Currently, jigsaw puzzles are experiencing a revival among teenagers. With a wide variety of themes, complexities, and even 3D options, there's a puzzle for everyone. It's not just about finding the right fit; it's about the joy of unravelling a mystery.

And there you have it, the mesmerizing history of jigsaw puzzles. Whenever you're deep into a puzzle, remember that you're part of a tradition that spans centuries. Thanks for joining us on "Mind Benders Unleashed". Until we meet next time, keep puzzling and stay curious!

*(Adapted from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jigsaw\\_puzzle#](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jigsaw_puzzle#))*

**(Total: 15 marks)**

The examiner reads out the following:

**Text B**

**You're going to listen to a Factory Manager explaining to a group of people touring the factory, how ketchup is made.**

Welcome to our factory. According to research carried out in 2023, income generated by the ketchup industry amounted to 36 billion dollars. You might think that ketchup is an American staple condiment. However, it's also very popular in restaurants around the world.

Tomato paste, not surprisingly, is the base ingredient. On its arrival at our manufacturing plant in huge bins, a quality control technician scoops a sample for testing. This is to make sure that the thickness is just right. Workers, then, slide the bin under a powerful pump which begins moving the tomato paste to a large holding tank transferring nearly 140 kilos of this ketchup base in less than 10 minutes.

To your left is an intricate system of piping which transfers a specific amount of tomato paste from the holding tank into a cooking kettle. As the paste cooks, a mixer continuously revolves to keep it from sticking to the sides and to blend in onion powder and salt. Nectar is next added as a sugar replacement. The last ingredient is white vinegar.

In front of you, on the packaging line, bottles stand upright as they make their way to the falling machine. The finished ketchup, meanwhile, is passing through an elaborate system of cooling pipes on route to the filter. And let the bottling begin!

Every batch of ketchup is tested to ensure the correct consistency in every bottle. That machine on your right, called the capper, places a plastic cap on each bottle. A decorative neck band made of plastic film is slipped over the cap. Then a quick blast of hot steam shrinks the band to a tight fit. Next, two adhesive labels are pressed on, one on the front of the bottle and one on the back. Then it's off to the packing and shipping area.

A sealed bottle of ketchup stays fresh for at least a year because the vinegar in it acts as a natural preservative.

Thank you for taking part in this tour of our factory. Now kindly follow me for a complimentary plate of chips with which you can sample our product before proceeding to our outlet where you can buy a bottle of ketchup at a reduced price.

*(Adapted from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfX9Q871P2Q>)*

**(Total: 15 marks)**





SUBJECT: **English Language**  
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 DATE: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024  
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**SESSION 2**

**CANDIDATE'S PAPER**

Total

**TEXT A: THE HISTORY OF JIGSAW PUZZLES**

1. Match the items in Column A with the correct ones in Column B. The first one has been done for you. **(Total: 8 marks)**

	<b>A</b>		<b>B</b>
a.	<b>a pastime with a complex history</b>		during the 1950s
b.	when jigsaw puzzles were invented		in living rooms
c.	where jigsaw puzzles were invented	<b>a</b>	<b>doing jigsaw puzzles</b>
d.	when jigsaw puzzles gained great popularity		between 1929 and 1939
e.	when the game was first called "jigsaw puzzle"		in the 18 <sup>th</sup> century
f.	when families could afford jigsaw puzzles		in the digital age
g.	place where families enjoyed doing jigsaw puzzles		England
h.	when die-cut puzzles became popular		in 1906
i.	when jigsaw puzzles started being played on screen		in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century

2. Are the following statements **TRUE** or **FALSE**? Circle the correct answer and give evidence from what you have listened to for each of your answers. **(Total: 7 marks)**

- a. Originally, jigsaw puzzles were invented as a means of entertainment.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. From their very beginning, jigsaw puzzles interested and excited people.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. It is now possible to invent your own jigsaw puzzles.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Teenagers have become interested in jigsaw puzzles.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. It is hard to find different puzzle topics to interest everyone.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. There's more to doing jigsaw puzzles than finding the right pieces.  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.
- g. This is the last episode of the podcast "Mindbenders Unleashed".  
**(True/False)** because \_\_\_\_\_.

**TEXT B: KETCHUP – HOW IT’S MADE**

1. Fill in the missing information. The first one has been done for you. **(Total: 6 marks)**

a.	who leads the factory tour	a factory manager
b.	when research was carried out	
c.	income from tomato ketchup industry	
d.	base ingredient of ketchup	
e.	where workers slide the bin	
f.	what is used instead of sugar	
g.	last ingredient to be added	

2. Put the following in the correct order according to what you have listened to. The first one has been done for you. **(Total: 7 marks)**

a.	Ketchup passes through cooling pipes.	
b.	Neck band is shrunk by steam.	
c.	Plastic caps are put on each bottle.	
<b>d.</b>	<b>Bottles stand upright.</b>	<b>1</b>
e.	Bottles off to be packed and shipped.	
f.	Labels are stuck to front and back of bottles.	
g.	Caps are covered by a plastic neck band.	
h.	Correct thickness of ketchup is checked.	

3. Underline the correct answer according to what you have listened to. **(Total: 2 marks)**

a. At the end of the tour, people receive a complimentary plate of chips at the

- i. shop.
- ii. factory.
- iii. restaurant.

b. A sealed bottle of ketchup keeps fresh

- i. since the mixture is heated.
- ii. thanks to one of the ingredients it contains.
- iii. because of an artificial preservative.



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MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE  
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL  
2024 MAIN SESSION**

SUBJECT:	<b>English Language</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
PAPER NUMBER:	I – Part 2	
DATE:	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.	

### LANGUAGE USE

**1. Fill in each blank with ONE suitable preposition. The first one has been done for you.**

(a) **At** approximately 2pm (b) \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013, Diana Nyad staggered out of the water (c) \_\_\_\_\_ the beach in Key West, Florida, about 53 hours after she had first stepped (d) \_\_\_\_\_ the sea (e) \_\_\_\_\_ Cuba. She fell at least twice. Her hands were wrinkled and her legs were barely able to support her (f) \_\_\_\_\_ the 170 kilometres she had swum across shark-infested waters. 'Nyad', which arrived on Netflix recently, and is directed (g) \_\_\_\_\_ Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai, picks up on the swimmer's 60th birthday. After a few years away (h) \_\_\_\_\_ the sport, Nyad decided to prove that she could make the Florida crossing (i) \_\_\_\_\_ the help of a shark cage. It took her five attempts to become the first person ever to do so (j) \_\_\_\_\_ 60. Nyad had been trying to achieve the feat (k) \_\_\_\_\_ she was 28 and although it wasn't recognised by the Guinness Book of Records, it was a great satisfaction.

**(Total: 5 marks)**

***Please turn the page.***

**2. Complete the following dialogue with a suitable question tag. The first one has been done for you.**

**Max:** You're not carrying that box home all alone, (a) are you?

**Tina:** Well, I'm perfectly capable, (b) \_\_\_\_\_

**Max:** Sure you are, but it'd be a silly thing to do, (c) \_\_\_\_\_

**Tina:** I'll go and see if I can get help. Wait here with my box, (d) \_\_\_\_\_

**Max:** Okay. Call me if you need to. You've got your phone, (e) \_\_\_\_\_

**Tina:** Oh dear! I left it behind but there's little I can do now, (f) \_\_\_\_\_

**(Total: 5 marks)**

**3. Rewrite the following dialogue in reported speech in the space provided. Make use of the verbs in the box below only ONCE. TWO are extra. The first one has been done for you.**

<b>suggest</b> <b>deny</b> <b>reply</b> <b>ask</b> <b>promise</b> <del><b>greet</b></del> <b>warn</b> <b>encourage</b> <b>accuse</b>
--

Jack: Hi, Sarah!

Sarah: Why was the door closed this morning?

Jack: No idea!

Sarah: I'm sure it was you who closed it yesterday, Jack, and I'm furious at the moment.

Jack: I didn't close the door.

Sarah: Don't let anyone close it again.

Jack: Don't worry, I'll remind the others now.

(a) **Jack greeted Sarah.**

(b) Sarah \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

(c) Jack \_\_\_\_\_.

(d) Sarah \_\_\_\_\_  
and said \_\_\_\_\_.

(e) Jack \_\_\_\_\_.

(f) Sarah \_\_\_\_\_.

(g) Jack \_\_\_\_\_.

**(Total: 5 marks)**

---

**4. Underline the correct word in the brackets. The first one has been done for you.**

Spa attraction keeps Ann Crowley's feet on the (a) (street, **ground**, rise, move)

Ann Crowley wanted to study beauty therapy but her father, a university professor, felt she should (b) (reach, pass, take, get) a degree. He had (c) (a lack, an absence, a deficiency, a deficit) of appreciation of why she wanted to work in the beauty industry but eventually they agreed that if she (d) (tried, went, did, studied) well enough in an arts' degree first, he'd help her to go to Dublin and enroll in beauty therapy. That's what she did and a year's training at the Conroy beauty school in Dublin (e) (landed, discovered, held, created) her a job on a cruise ship. After working for the beauty brand Elemis, she moved to the well-known Estee Lauder where her work not only involved supplying products but also helping spas get up and (f) (operational, working, starting, running). However, this involved enormous amounts of travel, so she left to set up a spa consultancy because being a holistic therapist at (g) (hand, heart, home, rest), she loved designing treatments and products. Adare Manor was her first client and she went on to work at the Merrion Hotel in Dublin where it wasn't long before international clients came (h) (calling, knocking, asking, applying).

By 2020, despite the urge to travel less, she was working with clients as far away as India on a regular basis. Then the Covid pandemic hit and the (i) (base, seat, bottom, core) fell out of her business. To counter this, she took up aromatherapy and started blending essential oils at her kitchen table which were designed to (j) (aid, promote, encourage, cooperate) sleep and relieve anxiety. She developed a brand intended to help people relax or slow a (k) (hurrying, galloping, scurrying, racing) mind.

**(Total: 5 marks)**

***Please turn the page.***

---

**5. Complete the following passage by forming ONE word from the words in brackets. The first one has been done for you.**

Why is a mullet hairstyle called a mullet?

Although the Oxford English Dictionary credits the Beastie Boys' 1994 song 'Mullet Head' for the (a) popularisation (**popular**) of the word, the mullet existed well before that. In his book 'Mullet Madness', Alan Henderson writes that (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (**prehistory**) people may have figured out that having their hair cut shorter at the front and longer at the back meant they could keep it out of their eyes but still keep their necks toasty. What's more, ancient Greek texts make reference to men with mullet-style hairstyles while (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (**depict**) of Greek gods dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century suggest that the hairstyle existed even then. In certain indigenous populations in the United States of America, long hair (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (**symbol**) power and a connection with the divine. The version of the mullet we see today, however, dates back to the 70s when the mullet was a sign of (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (**rebel**) and it spurred reactions from those whose hair was styled more (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (**conservative**). Today, the mullet's return can be seen as a happy accident. In lockdown, men would scissor away at their hair, crafting eccentric hairstyles out of sheer (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (**bore**), and sharing pictures of the (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (**result**) haircut to their group chats. About this comeback, Sam Perkins, owner of the salon Hair by Sam, says that cutting a mullet is difficult and requires special training. She adds that the (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (**supreme**) of the traditional 'short, back and sides' haircut is on its way out. 'The mullet trend allows men to be more (j) \_\_\_\_\_ (**express**) as they become more (k) \_\_\_\_\_ (**dare**) with their hair,' says Sam.

**(Total: 5 marks)**

---

**6. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. The first one has been done for you.**

Venice gondola capsizes after tourists refuse (a) **to sit (sit)** down and stop taking selfies.

A group of tourists fell into a murky, cold canal in Venice, Italy, when the gondola they were in capsized after they failed (b) \_\_\_\_\_ **(heed)** an order to stop taking selfies. The gondolier, who (c) \_\_\_\_\_ **(attempt)** a tricky manoeuvre as he navigated the vessel under a bridge, ended up in the water before (d) \_\_\_\_\_ **(scramble)** to rescue his passengers. According to a police report, the group of tourists swam to the canal bank and then (e) \_\_\_\_\_ **(seek)** refuge at La Fenice theatre nearby. The incident (f) \_\_\_\_\_ **(capture)** on video and since it was posted last week, it (g) \_\_\_\_\_ **(watch)** over 4 million times. Viewers had little sympathy for the tourists and one user commented, 'If they (h) \_\_\_\_\_ **(not/ignore)** the rules, they (i) \_\_\_\_\_ **(not/cause)** the gondola to capsize.'

This is not the first time that selfie-taking (j) \_\_\_\_\_ **(make)** the news in Italy. In 2022, a tourist sustained minor injuries after falling into the crater of Mount Vesuvius as he tried to retrieve his phone, which (k) \_\_\_\_\_ **(slip)** out of his hand while taking a selfie.

**(Total: 10 marks)**

***Please turn the page.***

---

**7. Fill in each blank with ONE suitable word. The first one has been done for you.**

We're (a) **all** aware of how good walking is for toning your muscles and boosting your heart health but there's (b) \_\_\_\_\_ intangible that walking does to help your mood and mental health, (c) \_\_\_\_\_. How does it work? As you'll know if you're (d) \_\_\_\_\_ going outside with a niggling question in your mind, there's nothing that eases a frazzled mind (e) \_\_\_\_\_ like putting one foot in front of the other. We have a fundamental need to walk at least forty minutes a day, if (f) \_\_\_\_\_. Professional therapist Jon Hoban made walking part of his own daily routine years (g) \_\_\_\_\_. He now helps people decompress simply through walking. He recommends an hour of walking throughout (h) \_\_\_\_\_ day, ideally a minimum of two 30-minute walks, to get one's brain working at (i) \_\_\_\_\_ best. This amount of time helps reduce your cortisol levels and calm down your adrenal glands. Too (j) \_\_\_\_\_ of this stress hormone, cortisol, can cause increased anxiety. So put a note in your diary to go for a walk and release stress, resolve problems and set your creative mind (k) \_\_\_\_\_.

**(Total: 5 marks)**



**8. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb from Box A and a word from Box B. ONE in each box is extra. The first one has been done for you.**

<b>A</b>	<b>give</b>	<b>open</b>	<b>fall</b>	<b>pop</b>	<del><b>blow</b></del>	<b>take</b>	<b>line</b>	<b>get</b>	<b>calm</b>	<b>hurry</b>	<b>camp</b>	<b>keep</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>back</b>	<b>for</b>	<b>up</b>	<b>away</b>	<b>down</b>	<b>up</b>	<b>on</b>	<b>out</b>	<b>up</b>	<b>in</b>	<del><b>away</b></del>

(a) Parisians **blown away** by Creamy Doughnuts

France, the country famous for its own delicious pastries (b) \_\_\_\_\_ the well-known American doughnut chain, Creamy Doughnuts. Last week, a large group of people (c) \_\_\_\_\_ all night and then (d) \_\_\_\_\_ outside the doughnut chain’s first outlet in Paris. The shop (e) \_\_\_\_\_ a box of 12 doughnuts to the first ten people in the queue.

Alex Laville, director of the doughnut company said, ‘By the time the outlet opened, there were some 400 people waiting to (f) \_\_\_\_\_ and when I shut the door at around 10 pm, people were tapping furiously on the glass wanting me to (g) \_\_\_\_\_ again. So, I went out with a tray of doughnuts to (h) \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ and they started running towards me from all directions. That’s when I decided to (i) \_\_\_\_\_ and get another tray!’ A new customer who (j) \_\_\_\_\_ for a cinnamon doughnut and a whipped cream coffee the following day, commented that the doughnut (k) \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_ to a trip to America and although it brought back fond memories, she wouldn’t be getting one every day.

**(Total: 5 marks)**

***Please turn the page.***

**9. Use the word given to complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one.**

**Do NOT change the word given.**

**Use between THREE and FIVE words, including the word given.**

**The first one has been done for you.**

- (a) Scott Johnson was surprised when his 11-year-old son started running to raise money for charity.

**taken**

Scott Johnson **was taken aback** when his son started running to raise money for charity.

- (b) His son started running last month.

**since**

It \_\_\_\_\_ his son started running.

- (c) His son has inspired many people to run and that says a lot about him.

**volumes**

His son has inspired many people to run and that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (d) Scott is a runner himself, so his son was keen to imitate his father.

**footsteps**

Scott is a runner himself, so his son was keen to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (e) Scott's son has already raised 700 Euro and has decided on his next challenge.

**sights**

Scott's son has already raised 700 Euro and has \_\_\_\_\_

his next challenge.

- (f) Scott said, 'It's impossible for me to be prouder of my son.'

**couldn't**

Scott said, 'I \_\_\_\_\_ of my son.'

**(Total: 5 marks)**



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MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE  
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL  
2024 MAIN SESSION**

SUBJECT:	<b>English Language</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
PAPER NUMBER:	IIA – Question 1	
DATE:	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.	

### WRITING TASK

**Write between 320 and 350 words on ONE of the tasks below.**

**You are advised to:**

- **pay attention to layout, paragraphing, vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation;**
- **keep your writing to the number of words indicated. You will be penalised if you write less than 320 or more than 350 words.**

1. Write a short story to be published on the school website entitled 'Untraceable'.
2. Young people nowadays are being influenced by the wrong role models. Write an article to be published in the school magazine in which you express your opinion on this.
3. As a member of the Student Council, you would like to suggest a day's visit to your school by a well-known local sportsperson. Write a proposal report to Ann Walls, the Head of School, in which you include information about the Council's plans for this visit.

**(Total: 40 marks)**









SUBJECT:	<b>English Language</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
PAPER NUMBER:	IIA – Question 2	
DATE:	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.	

## READING COMPREHENSION AND SUMMARY

### Passage 1

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

The holiday apartment in Alicante, Spain, has been a fixture of Lori Zaino's family since her grandparents purchased **it** in the 1970s. She and her husband have spent their summer holidays there almost every year for the last 16 years. Year after year has delivered everything they wanted from a Mediterranean summer holiday: sun, sand and plenty of beach time.

- 5 In 2023, a heatwave scorched southern Europe during their mid-July holiday, with temperatures of 46 and 47 degrees Celsius in cities including Madrid, Seville and Rome. In Alicante, temperatures hit 39 degrees Celsius, though the humidity made it feel hotter, Lori says.

10 Living in Madrid for 16 years, the Zainos are used to heat. "But this summer was like nothing I've ever experienced," Lori says. "You can't sleep at night. Middy, it's unbearable – you can't be outside. So, until 16:00 or 17:00, you can't leave the house."

Climate events like Spain's July heatwave have multiple causes. Yet, research regularly finds that due to the human burning of fossil fuels, they are many times more likely, and more intense. But they haven't been the only consequence of human-induced carbon emissions in the Mediterranean this summer.

- 15 In July 2023, wildfires in Greece burned more than 54,000 hectares, almost five times more than the annual average. Through August, other wildfires ripped across parts of Spain, Portugal and the Italian islands of Sardinia and Sicily. Other worrying signs seemed to be everywhere in Europe. There was drought in Portugal, thousands of jellyfish on French Riviera beaches, and even a rise in mosquito-borne infections.

- 20 While the changing climate will affect various regions differently, scientists are in agreement about southern Europe. In the next five years, **it** will continue to see more heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, coastal floods and stronger windstorms, as well as periods of more intense rainfall.

25 Against such a backdrop, there is another loss that might seem far less important – but is a poignant reminder of how climate change is reshaping both **our** everyday and economic realities: the effect on the Mediterranean summer holiday.

Tourists have flocked to the Mediterranean for summer holidays for centuries. In ancient Roman times, those with means headed to the Bay of Naples, or to Greek islands. Even today, the idea of lolling around on a sun-soaked coast attracts millions of tourists to countries like Greece, Spain and Italy each summer. But **that** could be changing.

- 30 A recent report by the European Travel Commission (ETC) found that Mediterranean countries remained the most popular destination for Europeans in 2023. However, in comparison to 2022, the number of European tourists interested in going to Mediterranean countries has dropped by ten per cent. Many travellers, meanwhile, are shifting their holiday dates and more are opting for the "shoulder season" of October and November as opposed to 2022.

35 Part of this could be down to consumers tightening their belts, and instability as tourism continues to recover from the Covid pandemic. Furthermore, the report shows that both research and anecdote point to the idea that some tourists may also be changing the dates of their Mediterranean holidays because of climate change.

40 "Conditions in the summer in the Mediterranean are predicted to become worse," says Bart Amlang, who researches climate change and tourism impacts. He adds, "Almost every industry will need to adapt and the tourism industry is no different."

45 He adds that strategies should include more planning with climate change in mind, such as the construction of new hotels with features like better insulation and air conditioning rather than leaving it to be retrofitted in ten years' time. He also says that a decrease in rainfall in the Mediterranean may cause water shortages and southern European countries promoting tourism should modify their policies on water consumption and production.

50 Another likely change includes Mediterranean destinations focusing their marketing more on the milder "shoulder seasons" of spring or autumn. In this respect, he points out that if school schedules become more flexible in the future, families will be able to travel more outside the summer months.

In Spain, Lori Zaino sees how these changes could help. Her in-laws recently went back to Alicante in early October. She says, "It was stunning: 32 degrees Celsius, sunny, the weather you're supposed to have in summer".

(Adapted from: <https://www.bbc.com>)

In question 1, underline the most appropriate statement.

- 1. For the last 16 years Lori Zaino and her husband have (1)
  - a. always spent their summer holidays in Alicante.
  - b. often spent their summer holidays in Alicante.
  - c. on occasion spent their summer holidays in Alicante.
  - d. seldom spent their summer holidays in Alicante.

- 2. Explain what the writer means by the phrase: 'a heatwave scorched southern Europe' (1.5). (1)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Why was the Zainos' 2023 summer holiday unlike their previous ones? Answer in your own words. (1)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4. Write a phrase of **FOUR** words that shows that the frequency of heatwaves is expected to increase. (1)

\_\_\_\_\_



5. In the summer of 2023, heatwaves were one of the consequences of carbon emissions in the Mediterranean. Mention **FOUR** other consequences experienced in 2023. (2)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

6. In your own words, what does the phrase 'Against such a backdrop' (l.23) refer to? (2)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Write **ONE** word from the passage that shows that people have always gone on holiday to the Mediterranean in large numbers. (1)

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Explain the meaning of (1)

- a. with means (l.27) \_\_\_\_\_
- b. lolling around (l.28) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Are the following sentences True OR False? Circle the correct answer and give a reason for your answer. (4)

a. The ETC report shows that in 2023, more European tourists considered the Mediterranean as a travel destination than in 2022.

(True/False) because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. The ETC report shows that in comparison to 2022, in 2023 more travellers chose to travel during the peak season.

(True/False) because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. The ETC report suggests that financial pressures may have contributed to changes in travel patterns.

(True/False) because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***This question continues on next page.***

d. The ETC report includes personal accounts of individual tourists.

(True/False) because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. In a paragraph of not more than 55 words, summarise how according to Bart Amlang, tourism in the Mediterranean can adapt to the reality of climate change. (7)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. What do the following refer to? (2)

a. it (line 2) \_\_\_\_\_

b. it (line 21) \_\_\_\_\_

c. our (line 24) \_\_\_\_\_

d. that (line 29) \_\_\_\_\_

12. At the end of the passage, why does the writer refer to the October holiday of Lori Zaino's in-laws? (1)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Underline the most appropriate answer.  
The writer's main aim is to show that tourism in the Mediterranean has (1)

a. to adjust to climate change.

b. recovered since the Covid pandemic.

c. hardly been affected by climate change.

d. remained popular despite climate change.

**(Total: 25 marks)**

Total passage 1
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**PASSAGE 2**

The Camargue is a vast strange land of swampy marshes along the mouth of the river Rhone on France's Mediterranean coast. Its two biggest attractions are hardy white horses and their marshland environment.

5 On my first morning in Saintes-Maries, a small coastal town in the heart of the Camargue, I immediately decided I needed to experience both up close — and, as luck would have it, there was a riding school just across the road that could take me.

10 "Don't worry," said my instructor, Marine Tont. "He's a very calm horse. His name is Espanyol." He's a handsome beast, with the Camargue breed's characteristic small frame, white coat and thick mane. "He's white but until they are six years old, they are all black or brown," she added with a smile. We then set off, with Marine leading on her own horse.

The landscape was surreal: boggy marsh followed by beach, with alternating ribbons of mud, water and sand stretching to the horizon. A strange type of plant life carpeted the spongy earth beneath our stirrups, not quite terrestrial nor marine, plump succulent stalks and their colourful flowers encrusted with crystals of salt. I could recognise sea lavender and sea lilac.

15 Each sandbank was dotted with splashes of hot-pink — flamingos are another of the Camargue's charismatic animals. We stopped to watch them for a while. I was struck by their poise and grace on one leg, perfectly balanced even while their heads scanned underwater like searchlights, filtering the water for feasts of algae.

20 "There are 60,000 flamingos here in the Camargue," Marine said. "Some of them migrate in the winter, but many choose to stay." I don't blame them. With the vastness of the sky, the stillness of the air, the landscape one huge watery canvas in which everything is mirrored in impressionistic brush strokes, its beauty is surely not lost on anyone.

25 On the way back to town, we passed a strange, thatched cottage — squat, long and whitewashed, it resembled a loaf of bread topped with a pilgrim hat. "The traditional cottage of the 'gardian'," Marine explained. "That's what we call cattle herders here in the Camargue. Our version of the cowboy."

30 The chance to experience 'gardian' culture on an agrotourism farm is a highlight of the Camargue countryside. Intrigued, I quickly rented a car and left Saintes-Maries behind, driving north past the large saltwater lagoon through glistening wetlands, heading for Mas Saint Germain, a Camargue horse and bull farm.

As I got out of the car, mosquitoes swarmed around my head in whining clouds. I was greeted by Laure Vadon, whose family have run the farm for over 300 years. Laure looks after the farm's 40 Camargue horses and also oversees the farm's agrotourism operation.

35 "People come to stay for a while, to ride a horse, brush it, build a relationship with it," she says. "It's harder and harder to access the natural world; people relish it."

Laure took me into a huge stone barn, with swallows flitting between the rafters. She introduced me to some of her horses, which live a semi-feral life, largely fending for themselves in the swamps and feeding on reeds and coarse grasses.

40 "If humans disappeared, they could survive without us," Laure said; only in times of extreme scarcity will she intervene to feed or water them. The horses play a crucial role in the herding of Camargue cattle. "The bulls won't let us near them if we're not on horseback," Laure said. "The three of us become one entity."

45

The bulls were grazing in a field nearby. "They're a very ancient breed," Laure said. They were not unlike Camargue's horses, similarly small but jet black, and with thick, long horns that curve like sickles to sharp points.

As we wandered over to observe them more closely, I thought that they were certainly primeval looking, and I got a sense that at every turn the Camargue feels like nowhere else, a world apart between the Rhône and the Mediterranean Sea.

(Adapted from: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com>)

1. Underline the most appropriate answer. (1)

The Camargue is a

- a. town on the Mediterranean shoreline.
- b. prominent river in the South of France.
- c. large area of wetland in France.
- d. small area at the mouth of the river Rhone.

2. Write a word from the passage that shows that Saintes-Maries is near the sea. (1)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Mention **FOUR** characteristics of the Camargue horse. (2)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does the phrase 'stretching to the horizon' (l.12) suggest about the landscape? (1)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. In your own words, explain why the writer thought that the plant life was 'strange' (l.12). (2)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Underline the correct answer: (1)

The sight of the flamingos

- a. startled the writer.
- b. impressed the writer.
- c. left the writer indifferent.
- d. upset the writer.

7. Explain why the writer says, 'I don't blame them' (l.20). (1)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Why does Marine say that the 'gardian' is the Camargue version of the cowboy (l.24/26)? (1)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Mention **TWO** things that the phrase 'in whining clouds' (l.31) shows about the mosquitoes. (2)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

10. Give **TWO** reasons why Laure Vadon thinks that visitors to her farm enjoy interacting with the horses. (2)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

11. In what way do the Camargue horses lead 'a semi-feral life' (l.37)? (2)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. According to Laure Vadon, why are horses important when the 'gardians' herd cattle? (1)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the passage: (3)

a. encrusted (l.14) \_\_\_\_\_

b. charismatic (l.16) \_\_\_\_\_

c. scanned (l.17) \_\_\_\_\_

d. flitting (l.36) \_\_\_\_\_

e. scarcity (l.40) \_\_\_\_\_

f. primeval (l.46) \_\_\_\_\_

14. According to the writer, what similarity do the bulls and horses of the Camargue share? (1)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

15. When looking at the bulls, the writer says that the Camargue feels like 'a world apart.' From the whole passage, copy **TWO** phrases of not more than four words each that show the Camargue is different. (2)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

16. a. Did the writer have a well laid out plan when visiting the Camargue? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Support your answer with **TWO** pieces of evidence from the whole passage. (2)

i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

**(Total: 25 marks)**

Total passage 2
-----------------

**WRITING TASK**

You are Alex Zammit, a school council representative. Your school has received an enquiry from a school in Britain asking about the best time of the year to organise a school trip to the Maltese islands. In between 60 to 80 words, write an email to John Smith, the head of the school in Britain, in which you suggest the best time to visit and give a reason. **You will be penalised if you write less than 60 and more than 80 words.**

From:	alexzammit@email.com
To:	schooladmin@email.com
Subject:	School Trip to the Maltese Islands

Dear Mr Smith,

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

Alex Zammit

**(Total: 10 marks)**

Writing
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MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE  
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL  
2024 MAIN SESSION**

SUBJECT:	<b>English Language</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB – Question 1	
DATE:	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.	

### WRITING TASK

**Write between 180 and 200 words on ONE of the tasks below.**

**You are advised to:**

- **pay attention to layout, paragraphing, vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation;**
- **keep your writing to the number of words indicated. You will be penalised if you write less than 180 or more than 200 words.**

1. Write a story to be published on the school website entitled 'The Roommate'.
2. 'Homework is a necessary evil'. Write an article to be published on the school website in which you express your opinion on this.
3. You are Kim Taylor, the student representative at your school and you have just been informed that the school hall is unavailable for the rest of the year. Write an email to Ms Sandy Simpson, the Head of School, recommending a new place for your school-leaving celebration to be held and explaining why it would be suitable.

From:	kimtaylor@smail.com
To:	headofschool@smail.com
Subject:	School-leaving celebration

**(Total: 40 marks)**











SUBJECT:	<b>English Language</b>
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB – Question 2
DATE:	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.

<b>TOTAL</b>
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## READING COMPREHENSION AND SUMMARY

### Passage 1

Read the following passage carefully and answer ALL the questions that follow.

Minutes after I crossed from England into Wales, my GPS announced a turn down a quiet lane in the village of Hawarden, and my heart began to race. What awaited **me** was Gladstone's Library, founded by former United Kingdom prime minister William Gladstone in 1889 and designed so that lovers of learning couldn't just consult **his** collection of 20,000 books, but sleep alongside them.

Gladstone's Library is the United Kingdom's only residential library. Boasting 26 bedrooms just steps from the books, it is an ideal setting for anyone who has ever dreamed of spending a cosy holiday reading, writing or focussing in silence.

I entered the imposing stone building and was given a cheery "Good luck!" from Mary at the registration desk before seeking out my room. I headed up, then walked down a short flight of stairs, in and out of swinging doors leading to the library's now 150,000-book-strong collection.

All but two accessible bedrooms are located upstairs. The ground floor of the edifice is home to the major attraction: the reading rooms, where it is said more than 300 books have been inspired, started, and finished by writers in the last decade. **It** is also where I found the wood-panelled dining room with views over the manicured garden, and a cosy study complete with a fireplace and leather chairs that readers like me love to flop into.

Locals take advantage of the space, too, and during my visit, I glimpsed A-Level students studying for **their** last exams. Yet, the true treasure of the library comes in spending the night, where **one** disconnects from the distractions of life and devotes oneself, even for a day or two, to the pursuit of knowledge.

I began the following day with breakfast at 08:00. Pre-pandemic, everyone dined at one long table. These days, there is a choice between sharing and solitude, which some seek out to greater degrees than others. At 09:00, the reading rooms opened, and I followed the mix of day visitors and overnight guests through the imposing wooden doors. According to Mary, guests make themselves at home **here** and often kick off their shoes in the winter to warm their feet on the heating pipes. At noon, people emerged for lunch at 'Food for Thought', the on-site restaurant. Some then went for a walk whilst others wandered down to the village where **they** had tea in the local tearoom or shopped at the farm shop.

After dinner, I absconded to my bedroom, its windows offering views over the gardens. There was no television, but I didn't mind. Each bedroom has a private bathroom, and mine had an almost sinfully deep bathtub. I sank in and read until it was time to sleep. The whistle of the Welsh wind was the only sound that crept into the otherwise silent space.

Before I left, Mary whispered, "Often people talk about **my** bit, the bit I look after, as the library. But the whole place – the grounds, the trees, the front gate... *that's* the library."

(adapted from: [bbc.com/travel](http://bbc.com/travel))

**QUESTIONS ON PASSAGE 1**

1. Underline the correct answer. (1)

The phrase 'my heart began to race' (line 2) indicates that the writer was

- a. experiencing anxiety as he approached the library.
- b. suffering from health problems.
- c. excited about the visit to the library.
- d. frustrated with the GPS directions.

2. Between lines 1 to 8, find a part-sentence of not more than twelve words that explains the meaning of 'residential library' (line 6). (1)

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3. Explain for whom the library is an 'ideal setting' (line 7). (1)

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4. Underline the correct answer. (1)

The phrase 'imposing stone building' (line 9) means a building that is

- a. difficult to access.
- b. very old and dilapidated.
- c. striking and grand.
- d. small and made of stone.

5. Give **ONE** reason why Mary tells the writer "Good luck!" at the registration desk (line 9). (1)

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6. In your own words, describe the layout of the ground floor. (2)

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7. What evidence is there that the library has been a source of inspiration for writers over the last ten years? (1)

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8. What **TWO** consecutive words indicate that the chairs in the study are comfortable? (1)

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9. In your own words, give **TWO** reasons why spending the night at the library is so special. (2)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

10. Explain the meaning of 'Locals take advantage of the space' (line 17). (1)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. In your own words, explain how the library's approach to dining differs between the pre-pandemic and current times. (2)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. a. Why do you think there is no television in the bedrooms? (1)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. How did the writer feel about this? (1)

\_\_\_\_\_

13. According to Mary, what does Gladstone's Library consist of? (1)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. What do the words listed below refer to in the passage? (4)

a. me (line 2)		e. one (line 18)		<input type="checkbox"/>
b. his (line 4)		f. here (line 25)		
c. It (line 14)		g. they (line 27)		
d. their (line 18)		h. my (line 33)		

15. What **THREE** things could visitors to Gladstone's Library do during their free time in the afternoon? (3)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

16. Underline the correct answer. (1)

The purpose of the passage is to

- a. narrate the writer's own experience crossing the border between England and Wales.
- b. persuade A-level students to go to Gladstone's Library to study.
- c. describe the amenities and activities available at Gladstone's Library.
- d. inform readers about the scenic beauty of the gardens surrounding Gladstone's Library.

**(Total: 25 marks)**

Total passage 1
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**Passage 2**

**Read the following passage carefully and answer ALL the questions that follow.**

**A**

5 Killer whales are the largest members of the oceanic dolphin family. While the intelligent mammals, which hunt in large pods, are known for their orchestrated attacks on unsuspecting marine animals, they have never posed a threat to humans. However, since late July 2023, they have been intentionally attacking sailboats off the coasts of Spain and Portugal. This unusual hostility is puzzling scientists worldwide.

**B**

10 The strange behaviour first surfaced on the afternoon of July 29, 2023, when Victoria Morris noticed nine whales circling the 46-foot boat she was crewing near the shores of the Strait of Gibraltar. The 23-year-old biology graduate was initially delighted to see the friendly mammals, with whom she had numerous encounters while teaching sailing in New Zealand. However, that changed when they began attacking the boat's prow repeatedly for almost an hour. "The noise was terrifying. They then started ramming the stern and there was this horrible echo. I thought they could capsize the boat. And they made this deafening noise as they communicated, whistling to each other. It was so loud that we had to shout," she said. By the time the coast guard arrived to rescue them, the killer whales had left.

**C**

15 Morris and her crew were not the first to encounter the aggressive mammals. Six days earlier, Alfonso Gomez-Jordana Martin had a similar encounter with four killer whales that rammed into his boat for over 50 minutes. "The impact tipped the boat sideways."

**D**

20 Rocío Espada, a marine biologist at the University of Seville who has been working with killer whales for many years, says, "For killer whales to take out a piece of a fiberglass rudder is crazy. I've seen these animals grow from babies. I know their life stories and I've never seen or heard of attacks."

**E**

25 The killer whales' unusual behaviour has researchers scrambling to find answers. Some believe that the hostility could be a result of the overfishing of the bluefish tuna — the mammal's primary food source — which has left the area's small population of about 50 killer whales starving and unable to feed their calves. "I saw the killer whales look at boats carrying fish. I think they know that humans are somehow related to food shortages," says Ken Balcomb, senior scientist at the Centre for Whale Research in Washington. Others believe the sudden increase in boat traffic and fishing activities, after months of absence due to COVID-19 restrictions, could also be contributing to the agitation.

**F**

30 However, Rocio Espada thinks that the attacks are defensive measures the whales adopted to protect themselves against boat injuries. He came to this conclusion after looking at the footage of a few incidents and noticing that two of the young killer whales involved had serious injuries. "It's not revenge. They're just behaving in this way as a precautionary measure. Our interpretation is that they don't have the slightest intention of attacking people."

**G**

35 Hopefully, the experts will be able to find a way to restore the harmony between the animals and the humans as soon as possible.

*(adapted from: <https://www.dogonews.com>)*

**QUESTIONS ON PASSAGE 2**

1. Underline the title that best fits the passage: (1)
- a. Deadly predators in the Atlantic sea
  - b. Killer whales' intelligence explained
  - c. Killer whales: a constant threat to humans
  - d. The unpredictable behaviour of killer whales

2. Underline the correct answer. (1)
- 'Orchestrated' in line 2 means:
- a. organised
  - b. noisy
  - c. successful
  - d. awesome

3. Write **FOUR** facts about killer whales found between lines 1-5. (2)
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_

4. List the **THREE** stages of the killer whales' attack on the boat Victoria Morris was on and put them in the order in which they occur. (3)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

5. In your own words, explain how Victoria Morris's feelings changed from the moment she saw the whales to the moment of the attack. (2)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. In line 4, the hostility of the whales is described as 'unusual'. What evidence is there between lines 18-21 that confirms this? (1)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What word found between lines 22 and 26 suggests the urgency the scientists felt to find the cause of the killer whales' behaviour? (1)

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Are the following statements True OR False? Circle the correct answer and give a reason for each of your answers. (4)

a. Killer whales take marine animals by surprise when they attack.

(True/False) because \_\_\_\_\_

b. Victoria Morris was alone when the attack took place.

(True/False) because \_\_\_\_\_

c. Victoria Morris had seen killer whales before.

(True/False) because \_\_\_\_\_

d. There is recorded evidence of some of the killer whale attacks.

(True/False) because \_\_\_\_\_





**WRITING TASK**

The following post has appeared on the website of your local council. In between 50 and 60 words, write a comment under the post. You will be penalised if you write less than 50 or more than 60 words.

**REFURBISHMENT OF THE LOCAL LIBRARY TO START SOON**

Please suggest ways in which the library can be made more appealing to the residents of our locality.

**COMMENT:**

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**(Total: 10 marks)**

Writing
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