

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL

SEPTEMBER 2017 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Language	TOTAL
PAPER NUMBER:	I – Part 2	
DATE:	2 nd September 2017	
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.	

LANGUAGE USE

1. Fill in the blanks with the determiners below. Use each one ONLY ONCE. There are some extra ones. The first one has been done for you.

a	each	less	much	any	every	little	the	zero article	few	an	none	many
--------------	------	------	------	-----	-------	--------	-----	--------------	-----	----	------	------

You'll be pleased to hear that cakes, biscuits and desserts can be part of (0) a healthy and active lifestyle. In fact, (a) _____ people do not know that if we usually eat nutritious meals, we can allow ourselves (b) _____ occasional treat, as long as we do not consume too (c) _____ sugar and salt. A balanced diet is one that includes (d) _____ foods which have (e) _____ colour of the rainbow. You should also ensure that (f) _____ meal contains vegetables, carbohydrates and protein. Be careful not to consume calories with (g) _____ nutritional value. If you always keep (h) _____ eye on your diet, then on special occasions you can have (i) _____ treat you like. I have come across quite a (j) _____ nutritionists who agree with this.

(Total: 5 marks)

Please turn the page.

2. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate form of the words below. There are some which can be used more than once. The first one has been done for you.

lead	take	come	pay	have	get	do	make	keep
------	------	------	-----	------	-----	----	------	------

We should always (0) pay attention to what our bodies tell us. When we are stressed, we need to (a) _____ in mind that we have the power to (b) _____ control of our lives to change them for the better. A less hectic lifestyle will (c) _____ a huge difference to our wellbeing. When we feel too stressed, we need to (d) _____ to a decision to (e) _____ a good rest by (f) _____ a holiday or simply (g) _____ away from the normal routine. If we do not do this, we will end up (h) _____ the price later on. We need to (i) _____ ourselves a favour and try to (j) _____ less stressful lives.

(Total: 5 marks)

3. Copy the following sentences inserting all the necessary punctuation.

(a) childrens use of social media starts early so they all need to learn about the risks involved dont they

(b) this means teaching them about cyber crime including bullying and how their online activity can permanently harm their future prospects

(c) teenagers actions could unfortunately also influence an employers decision later in life says john borg

(Total: 5 marks)

Please turn the page.

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

(0) Strategically (**strategy**) situated on a cliff in Romania, Bran Castle, known as Dracula's Castle, draws nearly half a million visitors with a (a)_____ (**curious**) for vampire stories every year. It was built in the 14th century as a (b)_____ (**protect**) against the invading Turks, but its history includes being the (c)_____ (**occasion**) home of a real-life prince with a liking for (d)_____ (**horror**) murders. People can now enjoy one very (e)_____ (**terror**) night in this interesting castle, if they write a (f)_____ (**create**) story about what they would say to Count Dracula if they saw him in his castle. The organizers promise a (g)_____ (**converse**) with Count Dracula himself, played by the great-grandnephew of Bram Stoker, who wrote the (h)_____ (**fame**) *Dracula* novel. Following a hearty meal, guests will be left to sleep in (i)_____ (**luxury**) velvet-trimmed coffins within the (j)_____ (**seclude**) of the Count's crypt.

(Total: 5 marks)

5. Fill in the blanks with the adverb form of the words in brackets. The first one has been done for you.

In 1912 many people (0) sorrowfully (**sorrow**) lost their lives when the *Titanic* sank. Since then, the story of the *Titanic* has (a)_____ (**real**) been popular. It has (b)_____ (**frequent**) featured in films and documentaries. Now a company in China has (c)_____ (**enthusiastic**) started construction of a life-size replica of the *Titanic*. Visitors will (d)_____ (**final**) be provided with a simulation of the original ship's collision with an iceberg and subsequent sinking. The company behind it is sure that the replica will be (e)_____ (**full**) operational by late next year, which is a (f)_____ (**reason**) realistic timeframe. It added, (g)_____ (**boast**), that such a project had (h)_____ (**rare**) been undertaken before. Local people are (i)_____ (**heart**) welcoming the project as they believe that it will (j)_____ (**definite**) boost the tourist industry.

(Total: 5 marks)

Please turn the page.

6. Fill in the blanks in the following passage to complete the idioms. The first one has been done for you.

Michael Stausholm started a business with a partner, who painted a rosy (0) picture of the future of the business, and promised him that the plan would undoubtedly (a) _____ fruit. He had been feeling very (b) _____ in the dumps, but this (c) _____ his spirits up, especially since his partner had a strong track (d) _____. He decided to keep his chin (e) _____ and take his friend's advice on (f) _____. But his partner was too happy-go- (g) _____ and the business started off on the (h) _____ foot and soon fell (i) _____. However, just when he thought he was running out of (j) _____, he started a very successful pencil business and now exports to 60 countries!

(Total: 5 marks)

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

Apps are all the (0) rage nowadays, and for good reason. They can (a) _____ you out in just about every (b) _____ of your life, whether it's (c) _____ fit and healthy, organizing your schedule, (d) _____ with friends, or even learning a language. Just like any tool though, you need to know how to use it (e) _____ to really benefit from it. Educational apps are becoming increasingly (f) _____ as a supplement to traditional education. It is (g) _____ convenient to learn on a pocket-sized device that you already (h) _____ around with you at all (i) _____. The best apps also manage to get you hooked on learning. The way you use these apps will (j) _____ how successful you are.

(Total: 5 marks)

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

With so many of us (0) living (**live**) in overpopulated, busy places, it can be hard (a)_____ (**imagine**) that around the world today there are people inhabiting corners of the planet that are still untouched. Photographs of indigenous cultures by Jimmy Nelson (b)_____ (**go**) on display in London last September. Nelson (c)_____ (**capture**) remote and unique cultures around the world since the late Eighties. Before that he (d)_____ (**teach**) photography at his studio for ten years. Throughout his career, he (e)_____ (**catch**) on camera snapshots which (f)_____ (**enable**) us to understand the cultures and traditions of fragile communities. Nelson now (g)_____ (**hope**) that his photography (h)_____ (**help**) protect these cultures and communities before the harmony between man and nature (i)_____ (**disintegrate**). He (j)_____ (**travel**) and photographing part two of the exhibition even this present day.

(Total: 10 marks)

Please turn the page.

9. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one as in the example.

(0) Recently, a gorilla protected a toddler when he fell into her enclosure.

Recently, a toddler was protected by a gorilla when he fell into her enclosure_____.

(a) The internet allows us to see many examples of animals demonstrating compassion.

Thanks _____

_____.

(b) Is there such a thing as animal feelings?

Do _____

_____?

(c) “Studies show that many animals have feelings,” an expert claimed.

An expert _____

_____.

(d) Pet owners will not be surprised by this.

This _____

_____.

(e) If you want to experience how animals can have feelings, you need to get a pet.

You can't _____

_____.

(Total: 5 marks)

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL****SEPTEMBER 2017 SESSION**

SUBJECT:	English Language
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB – Question 1
DATE:	2 nd September 2017
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. You are taking part in a competition for young writers. Write a story that includes the following words:
airport a school girl an unattended bag panic
2. You are Kim Grech and you live at 8, Spring Street, Hamrun HMR01. Write a letter to your friend to tell her about a music festival that you attended recently.
3. Write an article with the title ‘TV screens should be banned from restaurants’ for the school website.

(Total: 40 marks)

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL

SEPTEMBER 2017 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Language	TOTAL
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB – Question 2	
DATE:	2 nd September 2017	
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.	

READING COMPREHENSION AND SUMMARY

Passage 1

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

A white-haired beggar sits outside a hut in Odisha, India, a wide smile spread across his face. His hands, deformed by leprosy, cradle the first photo of himself he has ever seen.

5 Swapna, a young mother in Kolkata, lives in a grass hut without electricity or running water. She has no photos of her wedding, but thanks to Hollywood film editor Bipasha Shom, she owns a portrait of herself and her five-month-old son.

These two are among hundreds of impoverished Indians that Shom has gifted with a photograph. “Many of these people are surviving on a dollar a day or less, and a photo is a luxury item,” she said. “**They** do not have the means to buy cameras, let alone afford to make prints.”

10 Born in Kolkata, but raised in America, Shom, 47, was in **her** teens when she first began giving away photographs while visiting relatives in India. “While photos were not high on the list of priorities, I felt that it was important for people to have a record of their lives. Imagine not having any photos of your wedding, your children, your parents.”

15 Last December, Shom returned again to Kolkata, this time with her two children. **They** spent four weeks giving away hundreds of photos in Kolkata and the coastal town of Puri. Shom photographed people of all ages, and also captured her subjects gazing in awe at **their** photos for the first time.

What made this trip unique was Shom’s use of instant photography. “We could have gotten a wireless printer and done it that way, but there is a magical element to instant photography that I love. That moment when people see their image develop on a blank piece of film is priceless.”

20 “It was incredible to see people’s reactions to the photos,” Shom said. “We’d approach people who looked pretty intimidating and then watch as their faces just melted into huge smiles as they watched the photos develop. Mothers would ask us to take group photos with their children. People would run into their homes and pull out their elderly grandparents so we could capture **their** only image.”

25 Shom particularly enjoyed photographing children with the help of her daughter and son. “**It** was really powerful for them,” she said. “We take so much for granted in America. We don’t realise how much we have and how luxurious our lives are.”

To keep the project going, Shom has founded a non-profit organisation, GivePhotos, which is raising money to buy cameras and film to ship to photographers in India and other interested countries.

30 While she has found the project rewarding, Shom admits she sometimes questions the value of giving photos to those who have so little. “We realise that giving a photo is not like building a school or a hospital or feeding the hungry, but I think a photo is something that feeds the soul,” she said. “It’s hard to know how these images will impact people’s lives but I think we’ve brought some small amount of happiness.”

Adapted from <http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20160825>

Questions on Passage 1

1. Underline the correct answer. The main purpose of the passage is to:
 - a. promote photography as a hobby
 - b. describe everyday life in an Indian village
 - c. encourage people to help the poor
 - d. inform people about the project founded by Shom(1)

2. **In your own words**, explain the effect of leprosy on the old man’s hands.
(1)

3. Between lines 1 and 5, find: a. **TWO** consecutive words and b. **ONE** single word which show the Indians’ appreciation of the photo.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____(2)

4. Between lines 1 and 12, find **TWO** part-sentences of **FOUR** words each, which show how the writer views a photo.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____ (2)

5. **In your own words**, explain what made Shom’s use of instant photography ‘priceless’ (line 18).

 _____ (2)

6. Between lines 6 and 22, find **single** words that match the following meanings as used in the passage.
 - a. money _____
 - b. brought up _____
 - c. caught _____
 - d. special _____
 - e. unbelievable _____
 - f. frightening _____ (3)

7. Give **ONE** reason why Shom enjoyed taking photographs with the help of her son and daughter.

(1)

8. Are the following statements **True** or **False**? Circle the correct answer and give a reason for each of your answers.

a. The Indians whom Shom photographed did not have a camera.

(True/False) because _____.

b. Shom has Indian roots.

(True/False) because _____.

c. In December Shom took photos of elderly people rather than of young ones.

(True/False) because _____.

d. Shom is not completely sure of the importance of the charity work she is doing.

(True/False) because _____ (4)

9. What do the following words refer to in the passage?

a. They (line 8) _____ b. her (line 9) _____

c. They (line 13) _____ d. their (line 15) _____

e. their (line 22) _____ f. It (line 23) _____

(3)

This section continues on the next page.

10. In a **paragraph** of **not less than 40 and not more than 50 words**, show how Shom made the Indians happy.

(7)

(Total: 26 marks)

Passage 1

Passage 2

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

My heart was still racing half an hour after arriving. Visiting Sinforosa Sancho and Juan Colomer – the last inhabitants of La Estrella, an abandoned mountain village in the wilderness of Aragon, Spain – is not for the faint of heart.

5 My taxi driver Pedro assured me that he knew the way perfectly. I should have known better. By the time we reached the village of Mosqueruela, some 15 kilometres from La Estrella, Pedro was lost and had to ask for directions.

The narrow dirt track got worse. There were steep drops right and left, rocks hit the bottom of the car and the GPS totally gave up. After a last steep drop on our right, I spotted a huddle of houses, some with their roofs caved in. A dome covered with bright ceramic tiles sparkled in the sun.

10 “La Estrella,” Pedro announced proudly, as if he had known all along. With a sigh of relief, I got out of the car in search of the solitary couple.

I spotted a wrinkled, beaming face peeping over a crumbling wall. “Hello Sinforosa. I hope it’s not inconvenient and you can spare me a moment.”

Seconds later, her husband Juan appeared by her side. “Come on,” he said.

15 We made our way along the uneven path to benches in front of the only building in good repair. “This is where we live.” He brought out coffee, and immediately engaged in animated conversation with Pedro about agriculture, his grandparents’ village and sheep, while I turned to Sinforosa to hear their story.

20 “We were both born and raised in La Estrella,” she said. “At the time, this was a lively village: we had a school, two taverns, shops, a teacher, a priest, everything. We met at a dance in the tavern and got married in the sanctuary. But then things deteriorated. Nobody could make a living from farming anymore; there were no jobs and people just left. It started in the 1950s, and by the ‘80s we were the only ones left.”

25 We went inside their house, where some of the rooms were furnished with simple iron beds and mattresses. They have no TV, no telephone landline, no postman and, until very recently, no running water. Solar panels power their few lamps and a fridge. Laundry is still done the old fashioned way in a huge sink in the kitchen, and they cook in the fireplace. Entertainment is provided by a tiny transistor radio. They have just a single mobile phone – but there’s no reception unless they climb halfway up one of the surrounding mountains.

30 “For the pilgrims who can’t make it back the same day,” Juan grinned, making the international sign for drinking. He also proudly showed me two showers and toilets, a recent improvement that came with running water.

It was an uplifting experience to have met two content and fulfilled people who prefer their more than 30 years of near isolation without any luxuries to the trappings of modern life.

Adapted from <http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20160615>

Questions on Passage 2

1a. Underline the most appropriate title for this passage:

- i. A drive through la Estrella
- ii. A couple in love
- iii. A life in near isolation (1)

b. Give a reason for your answer.
 _____ (1)

2a. From the passage, find **TWO** part-sentences, of **not more than six words** each, that show that the writer found travelling to La Estrella quite scary.

- i. _____
- ii. _____ (1)

This question continues on the next page.

b. Between lines 4 and 9, find **THREE** reasons why the writer was scared whilst travelling to La Estrella.

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____ (3)

3. Why does the writer say ‘I should have known better’ (line 4)?

_____ (1)

4. Mention **SIX** facts about La Estrella that we learn from lines 1-9 of the passage.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____ (3)

5. What does the writer mean by ‘as if he had known all along’ (line 10)?

_____ (2)

6. Mention **FOUR** things that Juan did that show his hospitality.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____ (2)

7. Give **ONE** reason why La Estrella was abandoned by all the villagers.

_____ (1)

8. List **EIGHT** things Sinforosa and Juan have at home.

a. _____ b. _____
c. _____ d. _____
e. _____ f. _____
g. _____ h. _____ (4)

9. Why is Juan proud as he shows the writer the two showers and toilets?

_____ (1)

10. What does the writer mean by 'the trappings of modern life' (line 34)?

_____ (2)

11a. Write down **ONE** word from the text that shows that the writer appreciated the visit to La Estrella.

_____ (1)

b. What quality in Sinforosa and Juan does the writer appreciate? **Use your own words.**

_____ (1)

(Total: 24 marks)

