



**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION TWO (2011)**  
**PRIMARY SIX**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)**  
**BOOKLET A**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 23 August 2011

30 Questions  
(30 Marks)

Total Time for Booklets A and B: 1 hour 50 minutes

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Follow all instructions carefully.

Answer all questions.

This booklet consists of 9 printed pages excluding the cover page.

Study the following advertisement and then answer questions 1 to 5.

# Asia GEOGRAPHIC

A MONTHLY JOURNAL ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT IN ASIA

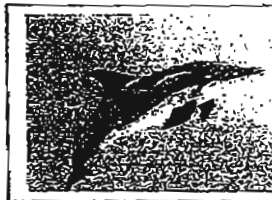


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Please allow 4- 6 weeks for processing of new subscriptions. A request can be made online if you would like to start with Issue no 1.

For each question from 1 to 5, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

1. The Asia GEOGRAPHIC publishes articles relating to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) the geography of Asia
  - (2) the ocean environment
  - (3) the environment in Asia
  - (4) countries all over the world
  
2. If Wayne, a subscriber, recommends Justin to subscribe to the magazine, Wayne will \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) be a member of Asia GEOGRAPHIC
  - (2) receive a free copy of Ocean Portrait
  - (3) be entitled to a 10% discount on the magazine
  - (4) be able to sign up at the Asia GEOGRAPHIC website
  
3. Which one of the following statements is **true**?
  - (1) Everyone who signs up will receive a free copy of Ocean Portrait.
  - (2) One must subscribe to Asia Geographic for a minimum of half a year.
  - (3) Cash payment can be made for new subscriptions within 4 to 6 weeks.
  - (4) If you subscribe to Asia Geographic, you will receive a 10% discount on the Ocean Environment Agency membership.
  
4. If you wish to receive the magazine starting from the first issue, you can make the request \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) by fax
  - (2) by post
  - (3) through the website
  - (4) at Tanglin Post Office
  
5. The **main** aim of the advertisement is to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) reward loyal subscribers
  - (2) boost the sales of a magazine
  - (3) promote awareness of our environment
  - (4) provide information about the different rates of subscription

For each question from 6 to 12, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (7 marks)

6. My brother and I \_\_\_\_\_ the Old Folks' home since the end of last year.

- (1) visit
- (2) visited
- (3) had been visiting
- (4) have been visiting

7. "Please come inside if it \_\_\_\_\_ to rain," Mrs. Loh told her children.

- (1) start
- (2) starts
- (3) starting
- (4) will start

8. The team \_\_\_\_\_ trying on their Jerseys now. They will be starting their training soon.

- (1) is
- (2) are
- (3) was
- (4) were

9. Last night, my mother cooked the fish that my brother \_\_\_\_\_ last weekend.

- (1) caught
- (2) has caught
- (3) had caught
- (4) have caught

10. The officer interrogated him for three hours \_\_\_\_\_ he confessed to the crime.

- (1) as
- (2) but
- (3) until
- (4) while

11. John, together with his sisters, \_\_\_\_\_ the library every weekend.

- (1) visit
- (2) visits
- (3) visiting
- (4) have visited

12. I saw a thief \_\_\_\_\_ a boy's wallet yesterday.

- (1) snatches
- (2) snatched
- (3) snatching
- (4) had snatched

For each question from 13 to 15, choose the correct punctuation to complete the passage. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (3 marks)

While my friend Emily was visiting her mother, they went for a walk and bumped into an old family acquaintance (13) Is this your daughter?" the woman asked. "Oh, I remember her when she was this tall. How old is she now?"

Without pausing, Emily's mother said, "Twenty-four." Emily, who was 35, nearly fainted on the spot.

After everyone had said their good-byes (14) Emily asked her mother why she had told such a lie.

"Well (15) she replied, "I've been lying about my age for so long, it suddenly dawned on me that I would have to start lying about yours too."

Source: <http://www.rdasia.com/Jokes>.

13. (1) [ , " ] comma and inverted commas  
(2) [ . " ] full stop and inverted commas  
(3) [ - " ] hyphen and inverted commas  
(4) [ ; " ] semi-colon and inverted commas
14. (1) [ : ] colon  
(2) [ , ] comma  
(3) [ . ] full stop  
(4) [ ; ] semi-colon
15. (1) [ , " ] comma and inverted commas  
(2) [ . " ] full stop and inverted commas  
(3) [ ? " ] question mark and inverted commas  
(4) [ ! " ] exclamation mark and inverted commas

For each question from 16 to 20, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

16. Tara's \_\_\_\_\_ gossip tarnished her best friend's good reputation.

- (1) uncouth
- (2) negative
- (3) ludicrous
- (4) malicious

17. Tracy's \_\_\_\_\_ spirit has helped her through the numerous failed business ventures during the last few years.

- (1) inflexible
- (2) irreverent
- (3) dominating
- (4) unconquerable

18. The mouse \_\_\_\_\_ upon seeing the cat.

- (1) leaped
- (2) strutted
- (3) lumbered
- (4) scampered

19. Although it is not evidently stated, this advertisement has the \_\_\_\_\_ message that if we buy the product, we will achieve success and happiness.

- (1) illicit
- (2) elicit
- (3) implicit
- (4) explicit

20. These illegal workers will be \_\_\_\_\_ to their home country by tomorrow.

- (1) exported
- (2) deported
- (3) expedited
- (4) transported

For each question from 21 to 25, choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined word. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

It was almost insanity to imagine myself in such a (21) precarious situation. Without any (22) prior training or warning, 12 000 feet above, I had to travel on a narrow path beside deep ravines and cliffs, in total darkness, in thin air, suffering from the biting cold and a splitting headache. I had to (23) entrust my life to a horse!

Well, at least I had the horse to bring me up these (24) meandering slopes. I could not imagine how I could have gotten back to the hotel without this (25) astounding horse.

Adapted from *Chaotic Thoughts from the Old Millennium*

21. (1) safe  
(2) stable  
(3) hesitant  
(4) dangerous
22. (1) following  
(2) preceding  
(3) successive  
(4) subsequent
23. (1) hand in  
(2) hand up  
(3) hand over  
(4) hand down
24. (1) steep  
(2) gentle  
(3) winding  
(4) stooping
25. (1) startling  
(2) remarkable  
(3) astonishing  
(4) condescending



Read the passage below and answer questions 26 to 30.

The thought of palms, coconuts and canoes set you dreaming of balmy tropical isles. The silhouette of a palm-tree itself is enough to conjure up a picture of golden sands and blue skies by the shore of some distant, sun-drenched, softly-lapping ocean.

There are palm trees in Europe and North America too but these have been introduced from their original tropical home. The only true European palm is the palm of St Peter that grows along the balmy, exotic shores of the Mediterranean.

Despite their many varieties, all palms generally show a characteristically tall trunk which is strong, slender and marked with 'steps' all the way up. These steps are really the marks left by the fallen leaves.

The old proverb 'he who plants the date palm, does not live to eat the fruit' refers to the slowness with which the date palm grows and bears fruit. The sweet, delicious flesh of the date is very wholesome and nourishing and can be kept for a long time. The fruits of the date palms are gathered in hanging clusters. Their flesh which is rich in vitamins makes them very nourishing. Date palms are widespread in North Africa, in the oases where there is water. They are able to bear tremendous heat but die when there is no moisture.

The coconut palm provides us with a fruit which is even more exotic than the date. The milky liquid that fills the nut and the sweet white pulp that we eat are parts of the seed which is protected on the outside by the tough shell. For the native, these fruits are an indispensable food and they are also used to make many things: some kinds of margarine, for instance, are often made from the oil which is extracted from the coconut pulp.

There are many other palms which provide oils, fibres, timber or flour. Among these, the palm *Phytelephas* yields vegetable ivory for the making of buttons and many other objects that are familiar to us.

From the fruit of the oil palm, cultivated in Africa, Sumatra and Malaysia, oil is obtained for food and industrial purposes such as making soap and candles. Sago and tapioca come from several palms, chiefly the Metroxylon sagu.

30

Adapted from *Basic Skills Test* by Peter Howard

For each question from 26 to 30, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

26. According to the passage, on an ideal tropical island, you will find \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) the sun, sand and the sea
- (2) silhouettes of coconut trees
- (3) ingredients made from palms
- (4) only palms, coconuts and canoes

27. Based on the information in the passage, the original home of the palm trees is/are \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) Europe
- (2) North Africa
- (3) the Mediterranean
- (4) the tropical islands

28. All palm trees have \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) tall, smooth and thick trunks
- (2) tall, strong and slender trunks
- (3) tall trunks with many falling leaves
- (4) tall, strong trunks with many dead leaves

29. Which statement about the date palms is true?

- (1) Date palms bear fruit quickly.
- (2) Date palms provide us with oil and fibres.
- (3) Date palms are found everywhere in North Africa.
- (4) Date palms are nourishing as they have delicious flesh.

30. The word 'oases' (line 17) refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) hot springs
- (2) deserts in North Africa
- (3) places in dry lands with water
- (4) places where date palms are grown



**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION TWO (2011)**  
**PRIMARY SIX**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)**  
**BOOKLET B**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: P \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 23 August 2011

50 Questions  
(65 Marks)

Total Time for Booklets A and B: 1 hour 50 minutes

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Follow all instructions carefully.

Answer all questions.

Write your answers in this booklet.

This booklet consists of 7 printed pages excluding the cover page.

There are 10 blanks, numbered 31 to 40, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted in order to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

**EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.**

(A) although	(D) but	(G) it	(K) over	(N) was
(B) and	(E) despite	(H) of	(L) through	(P) were
(C) as	(F) however	(J) off	(M) until	(Q) while

"What is it?" she asked.

She held open the heavy glass door as he pushed the bulky thing (31) \_\_\_\_\_. The words 'Sadowsky's Furniture Repair' were still painted in ornate black lettering. (32) \_\_\_\_\_ Sopeap's father, Tom, had said many times that he intended to replace (33) \_\_\_\_\_ with 'The Great Angkor Repair Centre', he never really got down to doing it.

It was not (34) \_\_\_\_\_ they had wrestled the bundle to the middle of the room. (35) \_\_\_\_\_ peeled the canvas sheet from it that Sopeap saw what an armchair was. "Arm," she said, touching one of the wooden armrests on it. "Armchair." (36) \_\_\_\_\_ course, it was a chair with arms.

Old (37) \_\_\_\_\_ sturdy, it had obviously been used for a long time. The leather was cracked and worn thin in places. The brass tacks holding the leather in place (38) \_\_\_\_\_ rusty and its wooden legs were chipped. (39) \_\_\_\_\_ the wooden structure of the chair itself was still solid.

"It belonged to my granddad," Tom said. "He would sit in it every night reading the newspaper, for as long (40) \_\_\_\_\_ I can remember. I really miss him now that he has passed on."

*Adapted from: Journeys by Minfong Ho*



Correct each word in **bold** for spelling and each underlined word for grammar. Write the correct word in the relevant box. (10 marks)

In school, Benson took the role of big brother to his friends.

41.

42.

He became wild and **ribelleous** in the years followed his father's arrest.

43.

His **difient** nature and a need to dominate others proved to be

44.

detrimental in the long run. He had learnt a lot from being in a gang but

45.

so he **beleafed**. In school, he tried to re-create the same kind of

46.

situations with his school friends just as he had **estableeshed** with his

47.

gang. Relationships in school was not about revising subjects together,

or helping one another to do well in examinations. To Benson, studying

48.

in school was an **oportunity** to exert his own authority on the world,

49.

where "blood" ties with "brothers" would be developed. Somewhere on

the way, he forgot or ignored what school was really there for. Not

50.

surprisingly, Benson does badly in his final year examinations.

Source: Adapted from "Broken Mirror" by Dawn Tan



Fill in the blanks with the most suitable answer. (15 marks)

Does spending time outdoors reduce the likelihood of a child getting myopia or short-sightedness? To zoom in on the answer, an outdoor activities programme was launched in June 2011. The new (51) \_\_\_\_\_ aims to study the effects of the outdoors on myopia in children.

The one-year project is funded by the National Medical Research Council and (52) \_\_\_\_\_ \$200,000. Some 450 (53) \_\_\_\_\_ aged six to ten will be selected from applicants for the project jointly run by the National University Health System (NUHS) (54) \_\_\_\_\_ the National Parks Board.

Half of these 450 children and their families will (55) \_\_\_\_\_ a different park each weekend for organised activities such as guided tours and games, starting (56) \_\_\_\_\_ May 21. The families can win prizes such as cash vouchers (57) \_\_\_\_\_ regular attendance. They are encouraged to turn up every weekend but it is not (58) \_\_\_\_\_. The other half of the group will not take part in the park (59) \_\_\_\_\_ to allow researchers to compare the two groups and study the effects of spending time (60) \_\_\_\_\_.

All the children and their siblings will be (61) \_\_\_\_\_ free eye checks, referrals to doctors if necessary, as well as subsidies for medical visits.

A NUHS professor, who is the programme's principal investigator, said the reason for the (62) \_\_\_\_\_ rate of myopia in Singapore is that children stay indoors and spend a considerable (63) \_\_\_\_\_ of time reading and writing.

Myopia (64) \_\_\_\_\_ when the lens in the eye cannot focus images on the retina. Singapore has one of the highest (65) \_\_\_\_\_ of myopia in the world, with a quarter of children being short-sighted by age seven and half of them by age ten.

If the outdoor programme is successful, it will be expanded to a larger trial of 2,000 children early next year.

Adapted from: <http://wildsingaporenews.blogspot.com/2011/04>



For each of the questions from 66 to 70, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s). (10 marks)

66. "You must train today if you want to take part in the Sheares Bridge run," Mother told me.

I was told by my mother \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

67. Steven was embarrassed. He forgot the lyrics while singing in the contest.

Much to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

68. The Bake Sale was held indoors. It was going to rain.

\_\_\_\_\_ lest  
\_\_\_\_\_

69. Both of them do not like to go out with Sam as he is rather domineering.

Neither \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

70. The police officer stayed awake two whole nights to maintain peace in the neighbourhood.

\_\_\_\_\_ being the priority,  
\_\_\_\_\_



Read the passage below and answer questions 71 to 80. (20 marks)

Ho Heng thought of his crippled son as he pedalled his trishaw. The child was a gifted artist but Ho Heng could not afford to buy him even a box of paints. He knew a box of paints would make his son very happy. Moreover, it would even help him to become a great painter. He had been eyeing a beautiful box in a particular shop.

When the five-foot way was at last deserted, he quickly pedalled down the lane and turned the trishaw into the shadows where he could easily jump on the saddle and vanish. He picked up the stone he had wrapped in a piece of faded blue cloth. **Now that the time had come**, he found that his hands were trembling and his body **had broken out in a sweat**.

The night was cool but his face was beaded with moisture and it ran down and dripped onto his soiled shirt. Numb and heavy with anxiety, he walked cautiously back along the lane and turned the corner into the five-foot way.

There was no one about. With the stone clenched in his right hand, he walked past the shoe shop, keeping close to the unlit windows of the street. Now, he could see the full view of the paint-box with lights shining down upon it. He gripped the stone. He drew it slowly backwards as if to expel the stone. But, it did not leave his hand.

His throat had constricted so that he felt like he was choking. **The arm would no longer obey his will**. He seemed to be paralysed. Suddenly, the shrill noise of a fire engine shattered the sleeping sidewalk into action. From doorways, heads appeared and voices called. **The sound filled their ears and was gone. With it went the helpless sobbing figure of the trishaw man, the stone still clutched in the nerveless fingers.**

He had failed. Something deep inside him had prevented him at the last moment. He kept his head bent as he pedalled miserably homewards. Suddenly a thought, swift as a sunbird, winged through his head. It was not failure! It was victory!

He had tried to be a thief but his **better judgment** had not allowed it. God had been watching over him. He felt calm now and at peace. **Whatever happened to the child, at least he could honour his father.**

*Adapted from: Guided English Book*



**ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.**

71. What was Ho Heng's occupation?

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72. Explain why Ho Heng wanted to get the box of paints for his son so badly.

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73. In lines 7-8 the phrase "Now that the time had come" suggests that Ho Heng was planning to do something. What was he planning to do?

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74. Explain in detail why Ho Heng had broken out in a sweat (lines 8-9) even though it was a cool night.

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75. How was the stone going to help Ho Heng carry out his plan?

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# Answer Ke

## EXAM PAPER 2011

**SCHOOL : CATHOLIC HIGH**  
**SUBJECT : PRIMARY 6 ENGLISH**

**TERM : PRELIMINARY**

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17
3	3	2	3	2	4	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	1	4	4

Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30	Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34
4	3	2	4	2	3	3	2	1	4	2	3	3	L	A	G	M

Q35	Q36	Q37	Q38	Q39	Q40
B	H	D	P	F	C

41)rebellious      42)following      43)defiant      44)or      45)believed

46)established      47)were      48)opportunity      49)along      50)did

51)programme      52)costs      53)children      54)and      55)visit

56)on      57)with      58)compulsory      59)activities      60)outdoors

61)given      62)increasing      63)amount      64)happens      65)rates

66)I was told by my mother that I had to train that day if I wanted to take part in the Sheares Bridge run.

67)Much to Steven's embarrassment, he forgot the lyrics while singing in the contest.

68)The Bake Sale was held indoors lest it rained.

69)Neither of them likes to go out with Sam as he is rather domineering.

70)Maintaining peace in the neighbourhood being the priority, the police officer stayed awake two whole nights.

71)He was a trishaw man.

72)He knew that a box of paints would make his son very happy and may help him become a great painter.

76. Which word in the passage has the same meaning as "throw out"?

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77. Explain clearly what the sentence in lines 17-18 "The arm would no longer obey his will" means.

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78. What does the word "it" (line 20) refer to?

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79. What was the "better judgement" mentioned in line 25?

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80. Explain in your own words what you understand by the sentence "Whatever happened to the child, at least he could honour his father." (Lines 26-27)

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**END OF PAPER**