



2026

COMBINED IS SCHOOLS PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

PRIMARY 6

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)

BOOKLET A

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Write your Index No. in the boxes at the top right-hand corner and in the brackets below.
2. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
3. Follow all instructions carefully.
4. Answer all questions.
5. Use a 2B pencil to shade your answers on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS).

Name : _____ ()

Class : PRIMARY 6 _____

Date : 17 AUGUST 2026

For each question from 1 to 10, choose the answer that best fits in the sentence. Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (10 marks)

1 "They've never been to the theatres in Singapore, _____?" Aunt Mona asked.

- (1) did they
- (2) have they
- (3) didn't they
- (4) haven't they

2 The detective was _____ the verge of giving up when he discovered the hidden clue in a dusty diary.

- (1) in
- (2) by
- (3) on
- (4) with

3 When the old man dropped his groceries, several kind strangers helped him _____ them up from the pavement.

- (1) pick
- (2) picks
- (3) picked
- (4) picking

4 By the time the school bell rang, all the students _____ their art projects and placed them on display.

- (1) finish
- (2) finished
- (3) had finished
- (4) have finished

5 _____ the noise from the construction work nearby, the children managed to concentrate on their lessons.

- (1) Owing to
- (2) In spite of
- (3) Contrary to
- (4) As a result of

(Go on to the next page)

Even though he practised for weeks before the school concert, Marcus still had _____ confidence when he walked onto the stage to perform his solo.

- (1) few
- (2) little
- (3) some
- (4) much

7 Emma giggled softly when she saw her grandfather alone in the garden, talking to _____ while watering the flowers.

- (1) her
- (2) him
- (3) herself
- (4) himself

8 Jenna could not stop _____ when she saw her little brother trying to pull his hand out of the cookie jar.

- (1) laugh
- (2) to laugh
- (3) laughing
- (4) having laughed

9 Among all the books in the library, this mystery novel is definitely _____ one I have ever read.

- (1) an exciting
- (2) a very exciting
- (3) the most exciting
- (4) the more exciting

10 "Where _____ the pair of glasses that I placed on the desk this morning?" wondered Mrs Lim.

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

(Go on to the next page)

For each question from 11 to 15, choose the answer that best fits in the sentence. Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

- 11 A fight _____ on the football field when two students started quarrelling over the football.
- (1) broke up
 - (2) broke off
 - (3) broke out
 - (4) broke down
- 12 After months of practice, Maria became _____ playing the piano and could perform complex pieces without making mistakes.
- (1) certified in
 - (2) inspired by
 - (3) proficient at
 - (4) familiar with
- 13 Sarah looked _____ at the tall diving board, worried about jumping into the deep water for the first time.
- (1) cynically
 - (2) quizzically
 - (3) reproachfully
 - (4) apprehensively
- 14 The firefighters worked hard on the _____ of the wildfire to stop it from spreading to nearby homes.
- (1) omission
 - (2) reduction
 - (3) restriction
 - (4) suppression
- 15 The storm began to _____ as the wind grew stronger and the rain became heavier throughout the afternoon.
- (1) intensify
 - (2) progress
 - (3) maximise
 - (4) accelerate

(Go on to the next page)

For each question from 16 to 20, choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined word(s).
 Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

The sports hall hummed with tension. The final minutes of the inter-school floorball championships ticked away. Wei Han faced a formidable defense from the opposing team, who
 (16)
 had remained undefeated all season. He had conscientiously practised his shots every afternoon
 (17)
 under the scorching sun at the school's floorball court. Despite his aching limbs, Wei Han's resilience kept him sprinting towards the goal.

(18)
 With seconds left, he noticed the goalkeeper leaning slightly to the left. He made a
 (19)
 shrewd move, pretending he was going for a high shot before sliding the ball into the opposite
 (20)
 corner. Wei Han felt elated as the whistle blew and his teammates swarmed around him in
 jubilant celebration. It was a victory that proved determination was the key to success.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-------------|
| 16 | (1) | fiery |
| | (2) | tough |
| | (3) | frightening |
| | (4) | tremendous |
| 17 | (1) | diligently |
| | (2) | precisely |
| | (3) | frantically |
| | (4) | haphazardly |
| 18 | (1) | stamina |
| | (2) | efficiency |
| | (3) | resistance |
| | (4) | persistence |
| 19 | (1) | spied |
| | (2) | detected |
| | (3) | glimpsed |
| | (4) | observed |
| 20 | (1) | striking |
| | (2) | pursuing |
| | (3) | executing |
| | (4) | launching |

(Go on to the next page)

Study the poster for a school bag (Text 1) and the extract taken from an online article (Text 2), answer questions 21 to 25.

Text 1

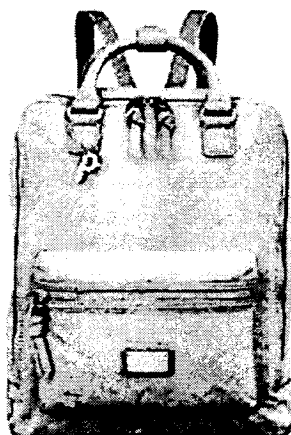
The text below shows an advertisement for a bag.

Peaks School Bag

Carry Everything in Style

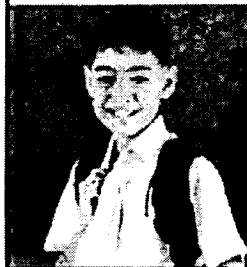
Say goodbye to boring school bags.
Fit your entire school day into one bag—
all your books, stationery, lunch boxes and more!
Get organised with a specific space for everything.
No more mess or things left behind!

Suitable for
students of
all ages!



Wide range of
colours to
choose from!

Designed with students in mind!



"I love my Peaks school bag! Everything I need for school fits comfortably into it. I can also find and take out any item I need easily!"

—Ansel, primary school student

(Go on to the next page)

The extract below is taken from an online article.

School bags are designed to be both roomy and trendy, which makes them appealing to students. Lately, more focus has been put on making school bags look good. For many students, their school bag is also a way to express their personality and personal style. Is that true for you, too?

While it may seem convenient to fit everything into one bag, have you considered the weight? Carrying too many items strains your back. This may cause short-term discomfort and lead to long-term posture problems. To cushion the effect, you should carry a school bag that fits comfortably on your back. Features such as wide straps and padded backs help distribute weight more evenly. By choosing a school bag wisely, you can reduce the pressure on your back.

Ultimately, health experts recommend packing only the items needed for the day to keep your school bag light. For example, store certain items in your school locker or keep some materials under your desk if your school allows it. By planning what you bring each day and leaving out unnecessary items, you can protect your back and still have everything you need.

(Go on to the next page)

For each question from 21 to 25, choose the best answer. Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

- 21 The purpose of the statement "Carry Everything in Style" in Text 1 is to _____.
- (1) emphasise the bag's storage capacity
 - (2) highlight that the bag is useful and trendy
 - (3) command students to care about how they look
 - (4) remind students about what they must bring to school
- 22 Ansel was quoted in Text 1 because _____.
- (1) he appears to be a good student
 - (2) all school bag users are around his age
 - (3) his review was short enough to fit into the poster
 - (4) what he said supports the claims made in the poster
- 23 Based on Text 1, which of the following statements are true about the Peaks school bag?
- A: The bag is small and light.
 - B: The bag comes in different colours.
 - C: The bag has multiple compartments.
 - D: The bag is only suitable for primary school students.
- (1) A and B
 - (2) B and C
 - (3) C and D
 - (4) A and D
- 24 What is the main message of Text 2?
- (1) Students should take measures to protect their backs.
 - (2) Students should choose school bags with more features.
 - (3) Students should express their personality and personal style.
 - (4) Students should use lockers or desks to store their belongings.
- 25 Text 1 and Text 2 express differing views on whether _____.
- (1) students can store certain items in school
 - (2) school bags should look appealing to students
 - (3) school bags can fit everything needed for school
 - (4) students should fit everything into their school bags

Please note that the passage for Comprehension questions 66 to 75 in Booklet B is on the next page. You may now go on to Booklet B.

(Go on to the next page)

There are 10 blanks, numbered 26 to 35, 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 to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

(A) a	(D) can	(G) if	(K) of	(N) was
(B) at	(E) has	(H) into	(L) the	(P) where
(C) on	(F) have	(J) is	(M) this	(Q) which

Every day, we enjoy fruits without realising how many quiet changes have taken place inside them. The mystery behind fruit ripening _____ still not fully understood by scientists and farmers. Most fruits are picked when they are still firm and green, as they bruise easily _____ left to ripen fully on the tree. The flesh of these fruits _____ been known to contain a gas called ethylene which acts as a signal to begin _____ ripening process. Ethylene spreads through the cells and reaches the parts _____ the seeds develop. As the level of ethylene rises, the fruit softens, turns sweeter and changes colour.

In storage rooms, workers _____ slow down the ripening process _____ keeping fruits cool and reducing the amount of ethylene in the air. Later, to speed up the ripening process, they may place unripe fruits into closed boxes with a few ripe bananas _____ have already released a lot of ethylene. Similarly, people sometimes put _____ unripe mango in a paper bag with a ripe banana because this simple trick speeds up the ripening process. Scientists are still studying the process of fruit ripening in the hope _____ using this knowledge to reduce food waste and to keep fruit fresh for a longer period.

The next time you watch a hard, green fruit slowly turn soft and sweet, you are witnessing this hidden ripening process at work.

Score:

Each of the underlined words contains either a spelling or grammatical error. Write the correct word in each of the boxes. (10 marks)

(36)

It was Jia Wei's first day back in school. He had already regretted volentiering or

(37)

the student council project. He and three classmates were tasked by planning an

(38)

exhibition on Singapore's enviromantle efforts. The principal had also made it clear that

(39)

(40)

... everyone are expecting something impressive. As Jia Wei skrold through old photographs

of the Singapore harbour, he noticed a photograph of a coastline that looked nothing like

(41)

the present one. The caption said it was taken before land reclamation had begin in the

area. He felt a sudden urge to find out what the town might lose if people only cared

(42)

(43)

about sprauling shopping malls and new MRT lines. Althought, his friends were far more

interested in designing beautiful posters instead of checking their facts. After a long

(44)

(45)

discussion, the group still had no clear konsept. Walking home, Jia Wei realised what easily

a city's memories could disappear beneath glass and concrete. The thought stayed with

him long after he reached home.

Score:

(Go on to the next page)

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

(15 marks,

Zubir Said was the composer who wrote "Majulah Singapura", the national anthem of Singapore. Born in 1907 in Sumatra, Zubir grew up in a poor household where money was always _____ enough but music was always present. _____ a teenager, he left home and sailed to Singapore. His _____ from childhood was to become a professional musician. The first _____ he had was playing the violin and piano in silent movie theatres, bringing the film to _____ with his music. The work was tiring and the pay was low, but these early experiences honed his skills and confidence as a composer.

In 1958, the City Council of Singapore invited him to _____ a special song for a civic celebration. He _____ the task readily. He walked along crowded streets and quiet kampungs, hoping _____ would inspire him to write the perfect song. He _____ the song to capture the aspirations of a young nation – its courage, unity and hope. After many revisions, he composed a clear and rousing _____ that ordinary people could remember and sing with pride. The song impressed the leaders, and it was later _____ as the national anthem of Singapore.

Although he _____ studied at prestigious music schools, Zubir kept improving his musical technique by listening carefully to other composers and reflecting on his own work. He believed that a national anthem _____ not only sound grand but also encourage citizens to serve their country and care for one another.

Today, students in school sing "Majulah Singapura" during assemblies and national _____ like the Primary 5 National Education (NE) Show so that they are _____ of the sacrifices and dreams that helped build Singapore. His story continues to spur young people to contribute in their own ways to the nation.

Score:

(Go on to the next page)

For each of the questions 61 to 65, 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)

- 61 None of the plates in the sink is clean.

All _____

- 62 The chef works very hard, but he cannot perfect the new recipe.

However _____

- 63 The ice cubes are placed in the container after you break them up.

It is only _____

- 64 Father reminded Lisa, "Do your homework before meeting your friends."

Lisa was reminded _____

- 65 Many were absent from swimming lessons during the rainy season.

There was high _____

Score:

(Go on to the next page)

Read the passage on page 10 of Booklet A and answer questions 66 to 75.

- 66 Pick out a four-word phrase from the first paragraph which tells us that Maya's grandfather cherished the vegetable garden. [1m]

☐

- 67 Give two reasons why Maya's mother was concerned for her when Maya asked to take care of the garden. [2m]

☐

- 68 Circle one word that best describes how Maya felt when she saw her grandfather's plants wilting. DO NOT CIRCLE MORE THAN ONE WORD. [1m]

frustrated

guilty

dismayed

anxious

☐

- 69 Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the story. [1m]

_____ Maya's grandfather fell ill and was hospitalised.

_____ Mrs Chen taught Maya how to take care of plants.

_____ Maya decided to take care of her grandfather's plants.

☐

Score:

(Go on to the next page)

- 70 Look at the table below. What do the words in the left column refer to in the passage? Write your answers in the column on the right. [2m]

Words from the passage	What the words refers to
a) it (line 27)	
b) her treatment (line 31)	

☐

- 71 Based on the information from lines 10-27, fill in the following table. Write in complete sentences. [4m]

What Maya did when she saw the lettuce leaves look droopy	How Sandle responded
a)	b)
What Mrs Chen taught Maya about watering plants	How Maya responded
c)	

☐

- 72 Explain clearly what Mrs Chen meant when she said that "Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither is a beautiful garden." (line 22) [2m]

☐

Score:

(Go on to the next page)

- 73 Based on lines 10-32, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so. [3m]

	True/False	Reason
a) Maya had no experience taking care of plants before looking after her grandfather's garden.		
b) Maya solved the aphid problem with help from Sandie and Mrs Chen.		
c) Mrs Chen was encouraging when she spoke to Maya.		

☐

- 74 Maya's grandfather told her that she had done "something wonderful" (line 35). What did Maya do that was wonderful? [2m]

☐

- 75 How had Mother's opinion of Maya changed by the end of the story? [2m]

☐

End of Paper

Refer to the passage below when you answer questions 66 to 75 in Booklet B.

Maya had always admired her grandfather's magnificent vegetable garden, which was truly the apple of his eye. It stretched across the entire back corner of their family property. Every morning at precisely six o'clock, she watched him tend to his prized tomatoes, crisp lettuce, and fragrant herbs with meticulous care, treating each plant with the gentle attention of a devoted parent nurturing his child. When her grandfather fell ill and had to stay in hospital for two weeks, Maya's heart sank as she saw her dear grandfather's plants beginning to wilt under the relentless scorching sun. 5

"Mum, can I take care of Grandpa's garden while he's away?" Maya asked earnestly, her voice trembling with emotion. Her mother gave her a concerned look. "Are you sure you want to do it? This would be a big responsibility, Maya. Plants need daily attention, you know? It'll be an uphill task for you."

The next morning, Maya woke up early and rushed eagerly to the garden with nervous excitement fluttering wildly in her stomach like trapped butterflies. Although she had watched her grandfather's practised movements countless times, doing it herself the first time felt like an arduous task. The metal watering can was heavier than expected, and she was not sure how much water each plant actually needed. After soaking the thirsty plants thoroughly, she noticed the lettuce leaves looked droopy despite her efforts, making her feel deeply worried. 10

Feeling extremely discouraged, Maya called her best friend, Sandie, for advice. "My grandmother grows vegetables too! Let me ask her for her opinion and I will call you back immediately. Sandie offered without hesitation. Within an hour, Sandie arrived breathlessly with her elderly grandmother, Mrs Chen, who began to examine the struggling garden with the sharp, keen eye of an experienced gardener. 15

"You're doing remarkably well, dear, but different plants need different amount of water," Mrs Chen explained patiently. "For example, the soil for lettuce should not be too wet," Mrs Chen said. "Gardening requires patience. Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither is a beautiful garden." 20

Over the next few days, Maya took Sandie's grandmother's advice to heart, taking special care not to overwater the plants, especially the lettuce. Sandie often joined her, and together, they removed stubborn weeds and dead leaves, making the demanding work considerably easier and much more enjoyable. Sandie discovered that the aromatic herbs grew noticeably faster after they talked to them, though Maya suspected it was just a coincidence. 25

When some destructive aphids suddenly attacked the vulnerable lettuce plants, Maya's heart raced frantically. However, she refused to give up. Instead, she researched effective natural remedies online and prepared a soap solution which she sprinkled onto the affected leaves. She felt immensely proud watching the tiny green invaders disappear completely after her treatment. The garden slowly transformed from wilting to thriving under her dedicated care, flourishing beautifully once again. 30

Two weeks later, Maya's grandfather returned home to find his garden more beautiful than ever, a truly wonderful sight after his hospital stay. Tears of joy streamed down his cheeks as he saw the healthy plants and Maya's detailed notebook filled with careful observations. "You've done something wonderful here," he said, pointing at the plot of land. 35

"Sandie helped me a lot, and Mrs Chen taught us so much," Maya replied modestly, her cheeks glowing with pride. "I never knew gardening required such dedication. It really taught me a lot."

Her grandfather smiled knowingly, his eyes sparkling with happiness. "The best gardens grow from love and commitment, not just water and sunshine. Would you like to be my gardening partner from now on?" Maya's face lit up with pure joy as she nodded enthusiastically. Her mother nodded and gave her a thumbs-up. 40

(Go on to Booklet B)



**CHIJ OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL
PRIMARY 6 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (2026)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ANSWER KEY**

BOOKLET A

Question	Answer
1	2
2	3
3	1
4	3
5	2
6	2
7	4
8	3
9	3
10	1
11	3
12	3
13	4
14	4
15	1
16	2
17	1

Question	Answer	BOOKLET B			
18	4	Question	Answer		
19	4	33	Q	49	job
20	3	34	B	50	life
21	2	35	K	51	write
22	4	36	volunteering	52	accepted
23	2	37	with	53	this
24	1	38	environmental	54	wanted
25	4	39	was	55	anthem
BOOKLET B		40	scrolled	56	adopted
Question	Answer	41	begun	57	never
26	J	42	sprawling	58	should
27	G	43	However	59	ceremonies
28	E	44	concept	60	reminded
29	L	45	how		
30	P	46	not		
31	D	47	as		
32	C	48	ambition		

61	All (of) the plates in the sink are dirty.
62	However hard he works, the chef cannot perfect the new recipe.
63	It is <u>only</u> after you break up the ice cubes / break the ice cubes up that they are placed in the container.
64	Lisa was reminded by Father/her father to do her homework before meeting her friends.
65	There was high absenteeism from swimming lessons during the rainy season.

Qn.	Answer	
66	apple of his eye	
67	Taking care of the garden was a big responsibility (1m), and it might be a difficult (/an uphill) task for Maya (1m).	
68	dismayed	
69	1, 3, 2	
70	Words from the passage	What the words refers to
	a) It (line 2)	the herbs/plants growing faster <u>after Sandie and Maya talked to them.</u>
	b) her treatment (line 31)	Maya sprinkling the soap solution (which she had prepared) onto the affected leaves.
71	What Maya did when she saw the lettuce leaves look droopy → How Sandie responded	
	a) Maya called her best friend Sandie <u>for advice.</u>	b) Sandie offered to ask her grandmother <u>and call Maya back.</u>
	What Mrs Chen taught Maya about watering plants → How Maya acted on the advice	
	c) Different plants need different amounts of water.	d) Maya took Sandie's grandmother's advice to heart, <u>taking special care not to overwater the plants, especially the lettuce.</u>

Qn.	Answer												
72	She meant that it takes <u>patience / and time [1m]</u> to grow a (beautiful) garden [1m].												
73	<table><tr><th></th><th>True/False</th><th>Reason</th></tr><tr><td>a) Maya had no previous experience taking care of plants before looking after her grandfather's garden.</td><td>True</td><td>Maya had watched her grandfather taking care of his garden countless times <u>but had never done it herself.</u></td></tr><tr><td>b) Maya solved the aphid problem with help from Sandie and Mrs Chen.</td><td>False</td><td>Maya solved the problem <u>herself/on her own/independently</u> (by looking for natural remedies online and preparing a soap solution for the treatment)</td></tr><tr><td>c) Mrs Chen was encouraging when she spoke to Maya.</td><td>True</td><td>She told Maya that she was <u>doing remarkably well.</u></td></tr></table>		True/False	Reason	a) Maya had no previous experience taking care of plants before looking after her grandfather's garden.	True	Maya had watched her grandfather taking care of his garden countless times <u>but had never done it herself.</u>	b) Maya solved the aphid problem with help from Sandie and Mrs Chen.	False	Maya solved the problem <u>herself/on her own/independently</u> (by looking for natural remedies online and preparing a soap solution for the treatment)	c) Mrs Chen was encouraging when she spoke to Maya.	True	She told Maya that she was <u>doing remarkably well.</u>
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c) Mrs Chen was encouraging when she spoke to Maya.	True	She told Maya that she was <u>doing remarkably well.</u>											
74	Maya had <u>been able to take care of her grandfather's garden</u> while he was in hospital [1m] , <u>keeping all the plants healthy and thriving/and made it more beautiful</u> [1m].												
75	At first, she <u>doubted/was skeptical</u> if Maya could take care of her grandfather's garden. [1m] At the end of the story, she was <u>convinced</u> that Maya <u>could take care of the garden/</u> that Maya was <u>responsible/capable/meticulous/committed</u> to gardening. [1m]												