

# 'O' LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Dengan  
kerjasama



Paper 2 Comprehension

1 hour 40 minutes

Additional materials: Answer Paper

## READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the Answer Paper. Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Write your name, index number and class in the spaces at the top of every foolscap paper.

Answer **all** questions.

Leave a space of **one** line between your answers to **each part** of a question, eg. between 1(a) and 1(b).

Leave a space of at least **three** lines after your completed answer to each **whole** question.

Write your answer on foolscap paper. At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

The insert contains the comprehension passages.

Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the paper.

Read the passage in the insert and then answer all the questions which follow below.

You are recommended to answer the questions in the order set.

Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the Paper.

NOTE: When a question asks you to answer in your own words, **YOU MUST NOT COPY THE WORDS IN THE PASSAGE IN YOUR ANSWER.**

From Paragraph 1:

- 1a) According to the writer, "the assumption is tragically false" (lines 1-2). **In your own words**, what is the 'assumption'? [1]
- b) What are the reasons given for the shortage in water supply? [2]

From Paragraph 3:

- 2a) What are "transnational corporations" (line 17)? [1]
- b) Why is their solution considered "radical" (line 18)? [1]

From Paragraph 4:

- 3) How do the impacts of water scarcity cause instability? [1]

From Paragraph 5:

- 4a) In your opinion, are transnational corporations doing a good job managing public water services? Why? [2]
- b) What phrase in this paragraph shows that the transnational corporations get support? [2]

From Paragraphs 6-7:

- 5a) What types of law does the writer propose to help protect water? [1]
- b) What do you think the writer means when he says "there is no technological 'fix'" (line 46)? **Use your own words.** [2]

From Paragraph 8:

- 6a) **In your own words**, what is the assumption that people often have of our water supply? [2]
- b) Why is this assumption wrong? [2]

From Paragraph 10:

- 7) What does the writer refer to in "water income" and "water capital"? [2]

From Paragraph 13:

- 8) Give one example of a very water-intensive activity mentioned in this paragraph. [1]

## From the whole passage:

- 9) For each of the following words or phrases, give **one** word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.
  1. advocating (line 17)
  2. an astonishing rate (line 61)
  3. invade (line 75)
  4. exacerbating (line 93)
  5. inexorably (line 125) [5]

## USE ONLY THE MATERIAL FROM LINES 9 TO 102 OF THE PASSAGE.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be more than **150** words (not counting the words given to help you to begin).

Begin your summary as follows:

The privatisation, commodification and mass diversion of water have caused ..... [25]

## GCE 'O' LEVEL

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE – Exam Format & Weightage

Paper	Description	Marks	Weightage	Duration of Papers
Paper 1 Composition	This paper consists of two sections. Candidates answer both sections 1 and 2.	Total : 60 marks	40%	1 hour 45 minutes
	Section 1 – Free Writing ✓ Five questions. ✓ Candidates choose one question. ✓ Words limit : 350-500 words	30		
	Section 2 – Situational Writing ✓ Candidates do not have a choice as there is only one question. ✓ Word limit : 250-350 words	30		
Paper 2 Comprehension	This paper may contain one long passage or two shorter passages of about 1200 words long.	Total : 50 marks	40%	1 hour 40 minutes
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	Comprehension Questions	20		
	Vocabulary Questions ✓ 5 questions	5		
	Summary Question ✓ Summary of about 150 words not including the introductory phrase. (Points = 15 + Language = 10)	25		
Paper 3 Oral Communication	This paper consists of three parts. All parts are compulsory. All the three parts are linked based on a common theme Part 1 – Reading Aloud Part 2 – Picture Discussion Part 3 – Conversation	Total : 40 marks	20%	1 hour 40 minutes
		12		
		12		
		16		

### Secondary Four Express and Five Normal Academic

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE - INSERT

1 hour 40 minutes

Paper 2 Comprehension

Additional materials: Answer Paper

## READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

The insert contains the comprehension passage.

Read the passage and then answer the questions which are printed in the Question Paper.

The article is about the global water crisis and the commodification of the world's water supply. The writer is the Vice President of the World Bank.

- 1 We'd like to believe there's an infinite supply of water on the planet. But the assumption is tragically false. Available freshwater amounts to less than one-half of 1 percent of all the water on earth. The rest is sea water, or is frozen in the polar ice. Fresh water is renewable only by rainfall, at the rate of 40,000 to 50,000 cubic kilometers per year. Due to intensive urbanization, deforestation, water diversion and industrial farming, the earth's surface is drying. If present trends persist, the water in all river basins on every continent could steadily be depleted. [5]
- 2 Global consumption of water is doubling every 20 years, more than twice the rate of human population growth. According to the United Nations, more than one billion people on earth already lack access to fresh drinking water. If current trends persist, by 2025 the demand for freshwater is expected to rise to 56 percent above the amount that is currently available. [15]
- 3 As the water crisis intensifies, governments around the world - under pressure from transnational corporations - are advocating a radical solution - the privatization, commodification and mass diversion of water. Proponents say that such a system is the only way to distribute water to the world's thirsty. However, experience shows that selling water on the open market does not address the needs of poor, thirsty people. On the contrary, privatized water is delivered to those who can pay for it, such as wealthy cities and individuals and water-intensive industries, such as agriculture and high-tech. [25]
- 4 The push to commodify water comes at a time when the social, political and economic impacts of water scarcity are rapidly becoming a destabilizing force, with water-related conflicts springing up around the globe. Much has been written about the potential for water wars in the Middle East, where water resources are severely limited. The late King Hussein of Jordan once said the only thing he would go to war with Israel over was water, because Israel controls Jordan's water supply. [30]
- 5 Meanwhile, the future of one of the earth's most vital resources is being determined by those who profit from its overuse and abuse. A handful of transnational corporations, backed by the World Bank, are aggressively taking over the management of public water services in developing countries, dramatically raising the price of water to the local residents and profiting from the Third World's desperate search for solutions to the water crisis. The corporate agenda is clear water should be treated like any other tradable good, with its use determined by market principles. [40]
- 6 Who owns water? Should anyone? Should it be privatized? What rights do transnational corporations have to buy water systems? Should it be treated as a commodity in the open market? What laws do we need to protect water? Who is the custodian for nature's lifeblood? [45]
- 7 Water is part of the earth's heritage and must be preserved in the public domain for all time and protected by strong local, national and international law. We must abandon the specious notion that we can carelessly abuse the world's precious water sources because, somehow, technology will come to the rescue. There is no technological "fix" for a planet depleted of water. [50]
- 8 It is commonly assumed that the world's water supply is huge and infinite. This assumption is false. In fact, of all the water on Earth, only 2.5 percent is freshwater, and available freshwater represents less than half of 1 percent of the world's total water stock. The rest is seawater, or inaccessible in ice caps, ground water and soil. This supply is finite. [55]

- 9 Most disturbingly, we are diverting, polluting and depleting that finite source of freshwater at an astonishing rate. Today, says the United Nations, 31 countries are facing water stress and scarcity and over one billion people lack adequate access to clean drinking water. [60]
- 10 Groundwater over-pumping and aquifer depletion are now serious problems in the world's most intensive agricultural areas. Twenty-one percent of irrigation in the U.S. is achieved by pumping ground water at rates that exceed the water's ability to recharge (and most water used for irrigation cannot be recycled). This means that instead of living on water income, we are irreversibly diminishing water capital. At some time in the near future, water bankruptcy will result. [70]
- 11 Sandra Postel of the Global Water Policy Project adds that, in addition to depleting supplies, groundwater mining causes salt water to invade freshwater aquifers, destroying them. In other cases, groundwater mining actually permanently reduces the earth's capacity to store water. Further, the global expansion in mining and manufacturing is increasing the threat of pollution to these underground water supplies. World Resources reports that as developing countries undergo rapid industrialization, heavy metals, acids and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are contaminating aquifers. [75]
- 12 At the same time, over-exploitation of the planet's major river systems is threatening another finite source of water. "The Nile in Egypt, the Ganges in South Asia, the Yellow River in China, and the Colorado River in America are among the major rivers that are so dammed, diverted, or overtapped that little or no freshwater reaches its final destination for significant stretches of time," writes Sandra Postel. In fact, the Colorado is so over-subscribed on its journey through seven U.S. states that there is virtually nothing left to go out to sea. [90]
- 13 As well as creating major environmental problems, overtapping of ground water and rivers is exacerbating another potential crisis - world food security. The annual rise in population means that more water is needed every year for intensive production (for humans and animals), a highly water-intensive activity. But, every year the world's burgeoning cities and industries are demanding more and more of the water earmarked for agriculture. Landfonia, for example, now projects a serious decline in irrigated lands just as its population is exploding. [95]
- 14 Around the world, the answer to the increase in water demand is to build more dams and divert more rivers. Water has long been manipulated. But we are now tampering with water systems on a scale that is totally unsustainable. In the northern hemisphere, we have harnessed and tamed three-quarters of the flow from the world's major rivers to power our cities. While advances in modern engineering have allowed governments to supply farms and natural world, these practices have done great damage to the natural world. [100]
- 15 In the U.S., only 2 percent of the country's rivers and streams remain free-flowing and undeveloped. Watersheds that are the most biologically diverse are the most degraded, putting species and wilderness at great risk. In the Great Lakes of North America, the world's largest freshwater system, the result has been a "catastrophic loss of biological diversity," according to Linton. Janet Abramowitz of the Worldwatch Institute adds that the Great Lakes have lost two-thirds of their once extensive wetlands and that less than 3 percent of the lakes' shorelines are suitable for swimming, drinking or supporting any aquatic life. [105]
- 16 There is simply no way to overstate the water crisis of the planet today. No piecemeal solution is going to prevent the collapse of whole societies and ecosystems. A radical rethinking of our values, priorities and political systems is urgent and still possible. There are forces at work in the world today that, unless challenged, would move the world almost inexorably into a water-scarce future. [120]

(Adapted from "The Wars of the Next Century will be about Water" by Ismail Serageldin)

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ANSWER SCHEME

- From Paragraph 1:  
1a) According to the writer, "the assumption is tragically false" (lines 1-2). **In your own words**, what is the 'assumption'? [1]  
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- From Paragraph 3:  
2a) What are "transnational corporations" (line 17)? [1]  
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3) How do the impacts of water scarcity cause instability? [1]
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4a) In your opinion, are transnational corporations doing a good job managing public water services? Why? [2]  
b) What phrase in this paragraph shows that the transnational corporations get support? [2]
- From Paragraphs 6-7:  
5a) What types of law does the writer propose to help protect water? [1]  
b) What do you think the writer means when he says "there is no technological 'fix'" (line 46)? **Use your own words.** [2]
- From Paragraph 8:  
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b) Why is this assumption wrong? [2]
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8) Give one example of a very water-intensive activity mentioned in this paragraph. [1]
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8) Give one example of a very water-intensive activity mentioned in this paragraph. [1]
- From the whole passage:  
9) For each of the following words or phrases, give **one** word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage. [5]
1. advocating (line 17)  
2. an astonishing rate (line 61)  
3. invade (line 75)  
4. exacerbating (line 93)  
5. inexorably (line 125)
- Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the effects privatization, commodification and mass diversion have on the water crisis. [25]
- The privatisation, commodification and mass diversion of water have caused .....

1 hour 40 minutes

Paper 2 Comprehension