

# PSLE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## EXAMINATION FORMAT

The examination consists of four papers comprising three written papers and one oral communication.

### Paper 1 (Situational & Continuous Writing):

Students will be required to write a short text based on a given situational context and a composition of at least 150 words on one of two given topics.

### Paper 2 (Language Use and Comprehension):

Students will be assessed on their ability to use language correctly and to comprehend graphic and textual information.

### Paper 3 (Listening Comprehension):

Students will be assessed on their ability to understand spoken English. This paper comprises 20 multiple-choice questions based on texts in the form of news items, announcements, advertisements, instructions, conversations, telephone conversations, speeches or stories.

### Paper 4 (Oral Communication):

i) Reading Aloud: Students are assessed on their ability to pronounce and articulate words clearly, as well as their ability to read fluently with appropriate expression and rhythm.

ii) Picture Discussion: Students are assessed on their ability to interpret the situation in a given picture using correct grammar and vocabulary.

iii) Conversation: The examiner will engage the student in a conversation on a given topic.

Paper	Component	Item type	Marks	Weightage	Duration
1	Situational Writing	OE	55	27.5%	1 hr 10 min
	Continuous Writing	OE			
2	Language Use & Comprehension	OE/MCQ	95	47.5%	1 hr 50 min
3	Listening Comprehension	MCQ	20	10%	About 35 min
4	Oral Communication	OE	30	15%	About 11 min
<b>Total</b>			<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>	

MCQ – Multiple-Choice Questions • OE – Open-ended items

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS

### Punctuation (3 marks)

For each question from 1 to 3, identify the underlined section (1, 2 or 3) which has a punctuation error. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

Mr Andrew, 36, filed a police report immediately on 20 August after he discovered that his maid had vanished [1] \$18,000 in cash and valuables from his home were also missing.

But it was too late. He was told that the maid had left Singapore two days earlier. Police said the 27-year-old had left the country, but if she returned, she would be apprehended to assist in investigations.

"I was told by the police that she left the country on Saturday [2] Mr Andrew said.

The bigger shock was to follow when he got his bank statement from OCBC a few days later.

He said, enraged, "My checking account was missing \$6,500 from a cheque that was encashed on Friday. I couldn't believe it - I have not used my personal cheque book for the past five years [3]"

- (1) [ ? ] question mark  
(2) [ , ] comma  
(3) [ . ] full stop  
(4) [ ! ] exclamation mark
- (1) [ , ] comma and inverted comma  
(2) [ , ] full stop and inverted comma  
(3) [ ? ] question mark and inverted comma  
(4) [ ! ] inverted comma and exclamation mark
- (1) [ ? ] question mark and inverted comma  
(2) [ , ] inverted comma and question mark  
(3) [ ! ] exclamation mark and inverted comma  
(4) [ , ] inverted comma and exclamation mark

### Rewrite sentence (10 marks)

For each of the questions 1 to 5, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentences must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence.

- Mr Gan is a millionaire. He is not contented. \_\_\_\_\_ despite \_\_\_\_\_
- Sally brings a raincoat for the excursion. It may rain. \_\_\_\_\_ lest \_\_\_\_\_
- Ali is diligent. He passed his PSLE with flying colours. \_\_\_\_\_ due to \_\_\_\_\_
- Ivan was careless. He left his wallet at home this morning. \_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_
- "The sun rises in the east and sets in the west," Mr Raja explained to his pupils. Mr Raja explained \_\_\_\_\_

### Comprehension (20 marks)

Read the passage below and answer questions 1 to 10.

Unlike most of my peers, I did not learn to ride a two-wheeler bicycle, without training wheels, at a very young age. Despite advice on how to go about achieving the ability, I was frustratingly unsuccessful. On one overnight stay with my friend Angie, however, I was finally able to ride without the assistance of an additional set. I acquired this life-changing ability by chance!

On the day of this important stay, the weather was cooperative for cycling. Even though I could not ride a two-wheeler, Angie was willing to go out with me and help me. If Angie was skeptical about going without training wheels on the bicycle I was using, then she definitely masked her skepticism well.

Soon we reached the place where my endeavours were to take place, a cemetery with smooth, flat surfaces where riding could take place. Angie set about teaching me how to ride a bicycle without training wheels. She would go behind me as I sat on the bicycle and would hold on. The bicycle moved forward and I was able to ride with her behind me! Angie struggled to keep me balanced and moving at the same time. What a faithful friend she was! There, my skill progressed and Angie began to let go. And soon, I was without her helping hand. Later, she would not warn me before letting go. Besides my ability, my confidence also increased. I think Angie's letting go without forewarning me was very important or even crucial for this.

Soon darkness fell and the expedition halted. Morning would come, however, and the work of balancing a bike could begin again. The next morning, I woke up. Was it still real? Could I still, however shakily, move forward on a bicycle without four wheels? I sat on the bicycle seat and to my relief, my new ability had not escaped me. A night's sleep had not taken this away from me.

With Angie's guidance and encouragement, my biking effort was soon not limited to just the cemetery. I used the street by Angie's house for my riding too. There was a hill, though, and that street was not the safest place for a biker of my **shaky calibre**. Nevertheless, when I showed Angie's mother my skill there, she was not comfortable with my riding on that street that morning; it did have a hill and traffic.

Soon, my time with Angie drew to a close. My mother gave me an incredulous look when I gushed how I was able to ride on my own. Her skepticism turned to pride as she beamed in delight upon seeing my ability to ride a bike with ease. The time spent around Angie's house had a great impact on me. Angie not only taught me how to ride a bicycle, but more importantly, she taught me how crucial persistence and patience were in reaping the fruits of my labour. As a gesture of motivation, my mother surprised me with a brand new bicycle two weeks later. I often went for long rides on it, without training wheels of course!

## ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN FULL SENTENCES

- What was the problem encountered by the author that was mentioned at the beginning of the passage?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Where did Angie take the author to teach her riding?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- What was Angie's intention of not alerting the author before letting go of her hands?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- What does 'this' in line 29 refer to?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- How did the author feel when she woke up the next morning?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- What did the author mean when she said that Angie's mother was 'not comfortable with my riding on that street'?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Explain the phrase 'shaky calibre' (line 34)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Which phrase in the last paragraph indicates that the author's mother found it difficult to believe when told that the author could ride a bicycle?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- What were the valuable lessons that the author learnt from her overnight stay with Angie?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Based on the passage, give two character traits to describe Angie.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1. Any of the answer below is acceptable. (1 mark)

2. The author could not ride a bicycle without training wheels. (2 marks)

3. The author could not ride a two-wheeler. (2 marks)

4. Any of the answer below is acceptable. (1 mark)

5. The author could not ride a bicycle with ease. (2 marks)

6. The author learnt the importance of persistence and patience in achieving one's goals. (2 marks)

7. The author learned the importance of persistence and patience in achieving one's goals. (2 marks)

8. Any of the answer below is acceptable. (1 mark)

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10. Any of the answer below is acceptable. (1 mark)

11. The author could not ride a bicycle without training wheels. (2 marks)

12. The author could not ride a two-wheeler. (2 marks)

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**ANSWERS & CLUES**

1. (1) [ , ] comma and inverted comma  
 (2) [ ! ] exclamation mark and inverted comma  
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3. Ali is diligent. He passed his PSLE with flying colours. \_\_\_\_\_ due to \_\_\_\_\_

4. Ivan was careless. He left his wallet at home this morning. \_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_

5. "The sun rises in the east and sets in the west," Mr Raja explained to his pupils. Mr Raja explained \_\_\_\_\_

1. Mr Gan is not contented despite being a millionaire. Rewrite sentence (10 marks)

2. The word 'enraged'.

3. (1) [ , ] comma and inverted comma  
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1. Capital letter 'A' for 'About' indicates that it starts a new sentence and thus the previous sentence has to end with a full stop.

2. Punctuation (3 marks)

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