

## 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 120 words based on a series of three pictures.

### 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):

- 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.
- Picture Discussion: Students are assessed on their ability to interpret the situation in a given picture using correct grammar and vocabulary.
- 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	40	26.7%	1 hr 10 min
	Continuous Writing	OE			
2	Language Use & Comprehension	OE/MCQ	60	40%	1 hr 20 min
3	Listening Comprehension	MCQ	20	13.3%	About 35 min
4	Oral Communication	OE	30	20%	About 11 min
<b>Total</b>			<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>	

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

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS

### Vocabulary (5 marks)

For each question from 1 to 5, four options are given. Choose the correct answer and write it in the brackets provided. (5 marks)

- Sarah mixed the \_\_\_\_\_ required to bake the chocolate cake for her mother's birthday. ( )
  - spices
  - recipe
  - utensils
  - ingredients
- Being a shy boy, Ali's face turned red with \_\_\_\_\_ when his form teacher praised him for his good deed in front of his classmates. ( )
  - anger
  - excitement
  - happiness
  - embarrassment
- Recounting what happened during the war, Mr Richard expressed his \_\_\_\_\_ to his best friend who saved him. ( )
  - apology
  - gratitude
  - dedication
  - consolation
- Mrs Calabrese started to \_\_\_\_\_ when she saw news of the bombings on television and was unable to contact her daughter. ( )
  - panic
  - pacify
  - apprehend
  - antagonise
- The musical which showcased Singapore's talents \_\_\_\_\_ the audience who clapped enthusiastically. ( )
  - enraged
  - impressed
  - devastated
  - irritated

### Editing for Grammar (10 marks)

Each of the underlined words contains a grammatical error. Write the correct word in each of the boxes.

Most schools ban handphones in the classroom. But at Bangkok's Sethsathien school, the students are encourage to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ take their handphones to class. SMS text messages has become a valuable teaching tool. That is because the students are deaf. Ms Ditchareon, a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ art teacher at the school, said that 80% of its high-school students, aged between 15 and 18, take their handphones to school. Outside the classroom, the handphones helped (3) \_\_\_\_\_ teachers and students to communicate.

Students send text messages to teachers to discuss homework, or to ask what they should take along for school activity. (5) \_\_\_\_\_

Adapted from The Straits Times

### Comprehension (10 marks)

Read the passages and answer questions 1 to 5 in complete sentences.

#### Passage 1

For five years she sat on-and got around-on a basketball. With the aid of a couple of brushes that doubled as low-level crutches, she would propel herself along the streets.

Qian Hongyan, eight, became disabled in a car accident when she was three. But in an inspired move, her parents came with the idea of the unconventional transporter. The girl who lives in Qijing City in China's south-western Yunnan Province, began going to school on her own.

Now Hongyan has been given the chance to walk again, after Chinese doctors fitted her with prosthetic legs. She has already taken her first tentative steps on her **limbs**, which doctors hope will transform her life. The family hopes it will allow her to lead as normal a life as possible.

Adapted from The New Paper

- How did Hongyan lose her legs?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What does the word **limbs** in the second paragraph refer to?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Passage 2

Fritz was right. The turtle, wounded by the harpoon that had lodged in its flesh, was pulling us directly out to the sea. As the boat moved faster and faster, my heart began beating wildly. I grasped the sides of the boat and prayed.

When I looked up, I saw to my relief that the turtle was heading straight towards our usual landing place. When we were almost there, the tide threw us up on a sandy bank near the shore and I stepped out of the boat to release the poor sea turtle.

of the article 'a' before the word 'school' tells you this.

**Comprehension (10 marks)**

- The phrase "ended its suffering with my hatchet" can infer that the writer killed the turtle. (2 marks)
 

the phrase "ended its suffering with my hatchet" we can infer that the writer killed the turtle.

*Note: Knowing that the creature was in pain, I mercifully ended its suffering with my hatchet. It is an INCORRECT answer as it is a complete sentence.*
- It refers to her prosthetic legs. (2 marks)
 

legs.

In addition, we are told that she was given a chance to walk again when doctors fitted her with prosthetic legs.
- The boat was moving fast. (2 marks)
 

Clue: The phrase "pulling us directly out to the sea" indicates that the writer was scared that the wounded turtle would be pulling the boat out to the open sea where danger might lurk. Thus, he was relieved when he saw the turtle heading towards his usual landing place. The word "usual" indicates that the writer was familiar with the landing place and this made him less worried.
- The turtle was heading straight towards his usual landing place. (2 marks)
 

Clue: The phrase "pulling us directly out to the sea" indicates that the writer was scared that the wounded turtle would be pulling the boat out to the open sea where danger might lurk. Thus, he was relieved when he saw the turtle heading towards his usual landing place. The word "usual" indicates that the writer was familiar with the landing place and this made him less worried.
- The phrase is "ended its suffering with my hatchet". (2 marks)
 

Clue: Often, death puts a stop to pain and as such, from the phrase "ended its suffering with my hatchet" we can infer that the writer killed the turtle.

**Modified Cloze (5 marks)**

- Climb / scale (1 mark)
 

Clue: The words 'Mount Everest' help us realize the answer and the phrase 'top of the 8,850m peak' highlights the fact that Teo Yen Kai had managed to climb the mountain.
- shocked / surprised / amazed (1 mark)
 

Clue: The word 'feat' indicates a task that is difficult to achieve and the fact that Teo Yen Kai was overweight and had to be in the TAF Club further reinforces that even his family members did not believe he could reach the peak of Mount Everest, thus the feeling of surprise and shock.
- do (1 mark)
 

Clue: The word 'daily exercises' must be accompanied with the act of 'doing' it.
- exercising (1 mark)
 

Clue: This is a follow up to the 'daily exercises' that Teo Yen Kai was made to do as mentioned in the previous sentence. The position of the blank in the sentence requires the noun form of the word 'exercise'.
- its (1 mark)
 

Clue: The answer requires the possessive pronoun for NUS which is a non-living thing, thus the word 'its'.

However, it suddenly plunged beneath the water and disappeared. Following the rope, I soon saw the turtle stretched across the white, sandy bottom. Knowing that the creature was in pain, I mercifully ended its suffering with my hatchet. We ploughed our way through the water and as we neared the shore, Elizabeth and the younger boys rushed to meet us.

Adapted from The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann Wyss

- What made the writer grasp the sides of the boat?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Why was the writer relieved?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Which **phrase** in the passage suggests that the writer had killed the turtle?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Modified Cloze (5 marks)

Read the passage and fill in the blank with a suitable word.

At age thirteen, Teo Yen Kai was a member of his school's Trim and Fit (TAF) Club. Eleven years later, he became the first Singaporean to \_\_\_\_\_ Mount Everest. He made it to the top of the 8,850m <sup>(1)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ on 2 June as part of a National University of Singapore team. His feat \_\_\_\_\_ even his family members. The daily exercises that he was made to \_\_\_\_\_ to lose weight were the spark that lit his passion for mountaineering. "It was the TAF programme which made \_\_\_\_\_ fun," Mr Teo said.

When NUS proposed sending a team to scale Mount Everest as part of \_\_\_\_\_ centennial celebrations, Mr Teo jumped at the chance. After rigorous testing, he was one of five applicants, much to his delight.

Adapted from The Straits Times

**ANSWERS & CLUES**

**Vocabulary (5 marks)**

- Ingredients: any of the parts in a mixture  
utensils: tool or container, usually used in a kitchen  
recipes: directions for preparing a dish  
spices: flavouring substance with a strong taste or smell  
Clue: 'required to bake the chocolate cake'
- embarrassment  
Clue: 'shy' - gets embarrassed easily  
gratitude: being thankful  
apology: saying sorry for having done a wrongful act  
Clue: best friend who saved him  
3. (2) gratitude  
Clue: 'shy' - gets embarrassed easily
- (1) panic  
Clue: saw news of the bombings on television and was unable to contact her daughter  
panic: sudden strong fear  
pacity: calm someone  
comprehend: understand  
antagonize: to annoy or irritate
- (2) impressed  
Clue: clapped enthusiastically  
enraged: to make someone angry  
impressed: cause or feel admiration  
devastated: feeling shocked and extremely sad  
irritated: annoyed

**Editing for Grammar (10 marks)**

- encouraged  
Clue: The sentence is in the passive form and thus has to be followed by a participle. Look at the examples below:  
The cake is eaten by Mary. (wrong)  
The cake is eaten by Mary. (right)  
Is the car drive by your mother? (wrong)  
Is the car driven by your mother? (right)
- have  
Clue: The verb that follows a plural noun, in this case, messages, has to be followed by a plural verb.
- an  
Clue: The article 'an' is required as the word 'art' begins with the 'a' sound. Look at the examples below:  
This is a cat.  
This is an elephant.  
June has an umbrella.
- help  
Clue: The entire passage is an information report and thus, the present tense is required.
- activities  
Clue: The plural noun is required as there are more than one school activities being referred to. The absence