

## Section A

### Text 1

Study the poster below and answer Questions 1-3.

**Vibrant Blood 2014**  
**Blood Donation, A Celebration**  
**Blood Donation Drive**

<http://bit.do/JGZC>

Scan QR code for sign up

From 12pm to 6pm  
**7th, 8th August**  
**@ City Square Mall B1 Fountain Square**

*\*Please bring along your NRIC or Student Pass or Work Permit for registration. For donors 16 or 17 years old, please bring a signed Bloodbank parental consent form. Please call Singapore Red Cross at 62200183 to check eligibility.*

**Organised by**

**Supported by**

**Sponsored by**


Singapore's First Eco-mall

Source: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/events/events/PublishingImages/Vibrant%20Blood%20Poster.jpg>

**Section A [5 marks]**

**Refer to the poster for Questions 1-3.**

1. How do the organisers of the event make it easy and convenient for donors to sign up for the event?

.....  
..... [1]

2. Why did the organiser list all the sponsors of the event in the poster?

.....  
..... [1]

3. Which three of the following features in the poster make the event look fun and exciting? (Tick 3 boxes only.)

the name of the event

the use of the phrase “Blood Donation, A Celebration”

by printing “Blood Donation Drive” in larger fonts

the mascot holding the Singapore flag

showcasing all the logos of the event’s sponsors

holding the event at City Square Mall


[3]

## Section B

### Text 2

*The text below is about a woman's hiking adventure with her husband in a beautiful wilderness area. Read it carefully and answer Questions 4-12.*

- 1 Cathy's love with the Chihuahuan Desert of western Texas began in the year 1996. She loved the silence and the night sky which was so dark and clear. The Big Bend, named for a sharp turn in the Rio Grande River, always held the constant surprise of being able to find small, brilliant blooms scattered along the desert floor. Cathy and her husband were married in 2001, on a trail in Big Bend National Park. 5
- 2 Twelve years later, they returned for a hike on the trails of the Fresno West Rim in neighbouring Big Bend Ranch State Park. The 8-kilometre round trip to the West Rim Overlook offered beautiful views of the Solitario 'flatirons' which are steeply inclined and inverted V-shaped rocks. They hiked past the overlook on the trail, which also passed an abandoned ranch. 10
- 3 When the couple began the descent into Fresno Canyon, the trail turned steep and rocky. Each step required them to plant their wooden hiking sticks in between the crevices created by the rocks. Both of them braced themselves lest anything untoward happened. They skidded and slid all the way down. 15
- 4 At the bottom of the canyon, they followed a four-wheel-drive track alongside the dry bed of Fresno Creek and eventually found the ranch. They stopped to have a drink and take a short break. 20
- 5 Cathy's husband was breathless and suggested to wait for a ride to bring them back up. He did not have the strength or energy to climb back up. But they decided to continue their treacherous hike.
- 6 It was 1.30 pm, the hottest part of the day. Both Cathy and her husband were exhausted and both had run out of water. It had taken them a long time to descend into the canyon. Going up would take longer and they might run out of daylight. 25
- 7 Over the next several hours, the sun beat down unmercifully. It seemed that they had been walking forever. The cairns – piles of stones used as trail markers – kept disappearing, obscured by vegetation. Backtracking and searching for the trail burned time and 30

energy. It also required them to forge their own paths through the cacti.

**8** They then reached a dead end. It was 8 pm. They had hiked for 14 kilometres and got nowhere. They started to shout for help and heard their own voices echoing off the canyon walls. The frigid air, completely contrasting with the scorching heat of the day, made them even more miserable. Cathy felt as though she could die any moment. 35

**9** Just as they were about to lose hope, a seven-seater SUV came along the trail. Cathy's husband yelled and waved frantically to get a ride back up. 40

**10** The driver, William Parker, who was with his family, pulled over and saw Cathy shivering and feral-looking. He immediately drove them to the Fresno Medical Centre. Cathy's husband held her hand and told her that everything was going to be fine and that the desert did not manage to claim them. 45

*Adapted from "Lost in the Big Bend" by Cathy Frye*

**Section B [20 marks]**

**Refer to Text 2 for Questions 4-12.**

4. Suggest a reason why Cathy loved the desert night sky for being “so dark and clear” (lines 2-3)?

.....

..... [1]

5. “When the couple began the descent into Fresno Canyon, the trail turned steep and rocky. Each step required them to plant their wooden hiking sticks in between the crevices created by the rocks. Both of them braced themselves lest anything untoward happened. They skidded and slid all the way down.” (lines 13-17)

Based on the above, identify the words or phrases in the given sentences which suggest:

the terrain was dangerous/not flat	
ready for something unexpected	
could not walk in a stable manner	

[3]

6. Based on paragraph 5, give two reasons why Cathy’s husband suggested they “wait for a ride to bring them back up” (lines 21-22)? **Answer in your own words.**

.....

..... [2]

7. In paragraph 6, the writer suggests that it would be dangerous for Cathy and her husband to continue their journey back. Explain the danger the author might be referring to when she uses the following phrases:

Phrase	Danger the author is implying
Going up would take longer	
they might run out of daylight	

[2]

8. Which three of the following phrases or sentences from paragraph 7 suggest that Cathy and her husband had a difficult time hiking back to the starting point? (Tick three boxes only.)

“over the next several hours”

“they had been walking forever”

“The cairns – piles of stones used as trail markers...”

“the sun beat down unmercifully”

“forge their own paths through the cacti”

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[3]

9. Based on paragraph 8, what was the atmosphere of the desert like at night?

.....

..... [1]

10. In paragraph 9, Cathy's husband "yelled and waved frantically" (line 26):

(a) Why did he do that? [1]

.....

(b) How do you think he felt at that time?

..... [1]

11. What did Cathy's husband mean when he told Cathy that "the desert did not manage to claim them" (lines 44-45)?

.....

..... [2]





## Section C

### Text 3

*The text below is about Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Read it carefully and answer Questions 15-19.*

- 1 Debate continues to rage over whether the Great Barrier Reef is slowly dying. It is the largest and most famous of all coral ecosystems. Last year, the world rang with shock as reports claiming that mass coral bleaching was devastating Australia's Great Barrier Reef.
- 2 David Wachenfeld, Director of Reef Recovery at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, believes that it is not dead but it is not fine. The Great Barrier Reef is under extreme threat as parts of it are severely damaged. More needs to be done collectively and globally to prevent its demise.
- 3 One easily overlooked difficulty is its sheer size. Many people find it difficult to understand something at that scale. The 'Reef' is actually made up of 2900 individual reefs in a particular area roughly the same size as our neighbouring country, Malaysia. Stretching 2,300 kilometres along eastern Australia, it collectively forms the world's largest living structure. These billions of tiny living corals are our planet's only fauna visible from Earth's orbit. People see it as a tourist attraction and are not aware that a cyclone or bleaching event can cause severe impact over the whole Barrier Reef.
- 4 A quarter of a century ago, it was even bigger. The total coral coverage has halved since the 1980s, according to the Australian Institute of Marine Science. Leading factors such as agricultural run-off degrading water quality and plagues of crown-of-thorns starfish which thrive on run-off and feed on the corals are the focus of recovery plans, and progress is being made.
- 5 Now, the Great Barrier Reef faces an existential crisis beyond the power of Australia to address alone. Wachenfeld announced to the media that global warming is the number one threat to the reef.
- 6 Mass coral bleaching has just hit the Barrier Reef for a second year in a row, which has never happened before. Bleaching occurs when heat-stressed corals expel the algae zooxanthellae that live inside them in a symbiotic relationship which gives them their colour. They

do this because zooxanthellae, when over-exposed to heat and light, produce oxygen in toxic amounts. However, without them, corals turn white and if water temperatures stay too high too long, they begin to die.

7 35

Zooxanthellae is needed to supply nutrients and recycle waste products. After they bleach, these stressed corals both slowly regain their zooxanthellae and colour as temperatures cool off, or else they die. Some corals bleach after only four weeks of a 1-degree Celsius rise, and start to die after eight weeks.

8 40

Coral reefs usually recover from occasional smaller-scale bleaching, but extreme coral bleaching events were unknown of as little as twenty years ago. The Great Barrier Reef has now had four major bleaching events in recent history: 1998, 2002, 2016 and 2017. Last year's was the worst yet, although it did not bleach ninety-three percent of the total coral, as was commonly assumed. This was a misreading of the finding that ninety-three percent of the nine hundred and eleven reefs inspected had at least some coral bleaching, from minor to extensive. Even so, the result included the highest ever recorded coral die-off.

45

*Adapted from "Battle for Survival" by David Levell*

**Section C [25 marks]**

**Refer to Text 3 for Questions 13-18.**

13. Read the text and match the paragraphs with the headings. Write the correct letter (A-G). The first one has been done for you. There is one other letter you will not need to use.

DO NOT USE ANY LETTER MORE THAN ONCE.

**Paragraph 1** ....E...

**Paragraph 2** .....

**Paragraph 3** .....

**Paragraph 4** .....

**Paragraph 5** .....

**Paragraph 8** .....

- A** The decreasing size of the Great Barrier Reef
- B** International aid required to combat the primary threat
- C** Misunderstanding leading to misinformation
- D** Major reasons for the death of corals
- E** Negative reaction to appalling accounts
- F** The impressiveness of a world wonder
- G** A dire situation requiring urgent intervention

[5]

14. From paragraph 2, why did David Wachenfeld say that the reef “is not dead but it is not fine”?

.....

..... [1]

15. "People see it as a tourist attraction and are not aware that a cyclone or bleaching event can cause severe impact over the whole Barrier Reef." (lines 16 – 18)

Based on the given sentence, how would you describe the public's attitude towards the Great Barrier Reef?

.....  
..... [1]

16. How is the presence of the algae zooxanthellae harmful for the corals?

.....  
..... [2]

17. Suggest a possible reason why "extreme coral bleaching events were unknown of as little as twenty years ago." (lines 41-42)

.....  
..... [1]

18. **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the problems faced by the Great Barrier Reef and the causes of these problems.

**Use only material from paragraphs 4-8 of Text 3.**

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words, not counting the words given to help you begin.

*The Great Barrier Reef has* .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

