

<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>
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**2018 CTP  
Sec 4 (EX) English Language  
Mock Examination**

<b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE</b>	<b>1128/02</b>
<b>Paper 2 Comprehension</b>	
<b>INSERT</b>	

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

This insert contains Text 1, Text 2 and Text 3

This document consists of 6 printed pages, including the cover page.

## Section A

### Text 1

Study the poster below and answer Questions 1–4 in the Question Booklet.

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## Section B

### Text 2

*The text below describes the night when Jake, together with his father and brother, waited by the death bed of his mother. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5–12 in the Question Booklet.*

- 1 The doctor's voice created a soft drone in the background, beneath the beeping of the machines. Everything was so bright, so white; it was hard to tell it was past midnight. The room was no different from a funeral parlour. Standing against the doorway, inconspicuous behind his brother, Jake heard the doctor apologising for the fluid around his mother's lungs. The steady beep drowned out the man's voice, filling Jake's head. 5  
Everything was suddenly invading their hearts so sharply – the rush of the curtain pulled around the bed, the monitors, the lights and their reflections off the polished floor. Jake covered his eyes and a moment later there was a hand on his hair – Nick's. He leaned slightly against his older brother, wishing everything back to safety, darkness and quietness. He saw his father staring silently into space and he could imagine the dark 10  
corner in his father's heart. Jake could feel that the soul in the room was virtually dead.
- 2 "We just have to wait," he heard his father murmur, his voice dead. The almost hushed pitch sawed Jake's heart further and no one heard him wail inside. In a way, he was fretful too. They had to wait in the hall while the doctors made her comfortable. Jake 15  
stepped around, toes on the lines between the floor tiles, trying to fight the anxiety crawling up the back of his neck. Not even his father and brother were fighting now. Both were deathly quiet, Nick watching as a nurse spread another blanket over the hospital bed, his father staring blankly at the wall. Jake's heart continued to pace like crazy.
- 3 Nick was the first to go in when the nurse stepped out, sombrely holding the door open 20  
for them. Jake did not want to go in. He did not want to have to face the machines and the noise and the acceptance, but when Nick looked at him he finally followed. The jarring click of the shutting door smacked the horrible reality down hard on his small shoulders. His once vibrant mother lay connected to monitors and machines, pale and drawn, almost lost beneath the white blankets. The beeping and the feeble jump of the heart monitor as good as counted away what was left to her life and his world; Jake 25  
wanted to kill the evil creature. He was certain it would defeat them.
- 4 How could they possibly go home to somewhere she would not be? How would he live 30  
somewhere filled with all her things, yet so obviously empty of her life? He was not used to this. He dared not imagine. He stared at that monitor, watching it jump, hearing it beep, and absolutely terrified of seeing it falter. The monitor spoke a strange language about his mother and his mother was a foreign mother.
- 5 Jake could not wrap his mind around the finality of everything, staring at that digital green 35  
line; he did not want to. Maybe if he did not take his eyes off the monitor that green line would never stop jumping. Distantly, he was aware of his father speaking softly to her. Although she was like one of those bomb things that could explode with a gentle pull of the pin, she was his universe. Suddenly, her movement caught Jake's eye, so slow and deliberate that he had to look at her. She had stretched out her thin hand, quietly asking Jake to come closer. It was warm. Nevertheless, he continued to be stiffened by the deathly truth.

6 He crossed to the bed, barely aware he was even walking. A moment later he found 40  
himself curling up on the edge of the small bed at her side, her hand on his head. There  
would be no one waking him with a kiss in the morning anymore. No one at the piano  
beside him, no one comforting him when he had a nightmare. No one telling him not to  
worry. He would not hear her sing in French, would not watch her paint, would not feel  
her fingers smooth his messy hair. He breathed in deeply, shaking. And he waited, 45  
perhaps with some glimpse of light in his heart.

Adapted from *She was Gone* by Gemma Jakes

## Section C

### Text 3

*The article highlights the history and significance of diamonds. Read it carefully and answer Questions 13–18 in the Question Paper Booklet.*

- 1 The ancient Greeks believed that diamonds were splinters of stars fallen to earth. Also claimed to be the tears of the gods by some historians, the earliest ones were found in India in 4th century BC, although the youngest of these deposits were formed 900 million years ago. A majority of these early stones were transported along the network of trade routes that connected India and China, commonly known as the Silk Road. At the time of their discovery, diamonds were valued because of their strength and brilliance. Diamonds were worn as adornments, used as cutting tools, served as a talisman to ward off evil, and were believed to provide protection in battles. In the Dark Ages, diamonds were also used as a medical aid and were thought to cure illness and heal wounds when ingested. 5
- 2 Until the 15th century only kings wore diamonds, as a symbol of strength, courage, and invincibility. Over the centuries, however, the diamond acquired its unique status as the ultimate gift of love. The very word 'diamond' comes from the Greek 'adamas' meaning unconquerable love, making them also firmly believe that the fire in the diamond reflected the constant flame of love. 10
- 3 The use of rings as a symbol of commitment dates back to ancient history, specifically to the betrothal (engagement) rings of the Romans. These early rings, often formed from twisted copper or braided hair, were worn on the third finger of the left hand. The placement of the ring was significant, as Romans believed that a vein in the third finger ran directly to the heart. For Romans, betrothal rings were given as a sign of affection or friendship, and did not always represent the rite of marriage. 15 20
- 4 The history of the engagement ring began in 1215, when Pope Innocent III, one of the most powerful popes of the Middle Ages, declared a waiting period between a betrothal and the marriage ceremony. The rings were used to signify the couple's commitment in the interim. It was around this same time that rings were introduced as a major component of the wedding ceremony, and it was mandated by the Roman government that all marriage ceremonies be held in a church and rings must be exchanged. In addition to serving as symbols of an intention to marry, these early rings also represented social rank; only the elite were permitted to wear ornate rings or rings with jewels. 25
- 5 The first recorded presentation of a diamond engagement ring was in 1477, when Archduke Maximilian of Austria proposed marriage to Mary of Burgundy. Although engagement rings were common at this time, diamonds were a rarity and were reserved for royalty and the upper elite class. Up until the late nineteenth century, diamonds were genuine rare stones. They were found only in a few river beds in India and the jungles in Brazil. The entire world production of gem diamonds amounted to only a few pounds a year. In 1870, however, there was a radical change to this situation, endangering the diamond investment by businessmen. Diamond mines were discovered near the Orange River in South Africa and suddenly, the market was flooded with diamonds. 30 35

- 6 In 1947, DeBeers commissioned the services of leading advertising agency N.W. Ayer, and the slogan “A diamond is forever” was coined due to its rarity, beauty, and strength. The premise of this large-scale marketing campaign was the suggestion that diamonds should be the only choice for engagement rings. The DeBeers advertising campaign was wildly successful, and was a contributing factor to today’s widespread embracing of the tradition of diamond engagement rings. 40

Adapted from *History of Diamonds* by Brilliance