ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1 hour 50 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Booklet.

Additional Material: Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, index number and name on the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black ink on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer all questions.
Write your answers in the spaces provided in the Question Booklet.
The insert contains the texts for all the sections.

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

Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the flyer (Text 1) of the insert for Questions 1-3.

1 Refer to the photograph used in the advertisement.
   i. What feeling will it evoke in the reader? [1]
   ii. Identify a feature that illustrates this effect. [1]

2 List down two features of the advertisement that would attract potential customers. [2]

3 Which feature gives the reader confidence to sign up for a package? [1]

Section B [13 marks]

Refer to Text 2 of the insert for Questions 4-9.

4 Paragraph 1 begins ‘Jou was snapped out of his reverie when the Fokker shook violently.
   Shaken, he grabbed onto whatever he could for dear life...’ Explain how the language used
   shows that the plane ride was frightening. Support your ideas with three details from the
   paragraph. [3]

5 Which word in paragraph 1 suggests the plane is a person? [1]

6 In paragraph 3, how is the word ‘melange’ effective in reflecting Jou’s feelings? [1]
Lines 14-18 in paragraph 3 reflect Jou’s feelings when he was in his hometown. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box to summarise the feelings described. There are some extra words in the box you do not need to use. [4]

**Jou’s feelings**

| tension | gloom | shock | anxiety | disbelief | guilt | sadness |

**Flow chart**

Lines 15-17 → …………………………….  
Down  
Lines 17-18 → …………………………….  
Down  
Line 18 → …………………………….  
Down  
Lines 18-19 → …………………………….  

Paragraph 4 ends ‘This was not the homecoming he had imagined.’ What does this imply? [2]

In paragraph 7, the writer uses the idiom ‘...as quiet as a grave.’ It illustrates the ominous mood at the centre. Give evidence to support this. [2]

**Section C [20 marks]**

Refer to the Text 3 of the insert for Questions 10-12.

10 i. What does the phrase ‘something is off somewhere’ (line 13) imply?  [1]

   ii. What does ‘it’ (line 3) refer to?  [1]

11 Sally and Harry gave these opinions after reading the article.

Harry

![It seems that the sole reason for plastic surgery is beauty.](image)

Sally

![No. There are other reasons too.](image)
i. How can Harry support his opinion with reference to the article? [1]

ii. Identify two reasons from the passage that Sally can use to support her statement. [2]

12 Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the reasons why the writer is against cosmetic surgery and when it is acceptable.

Use only information from paragraphs 7 to 10.

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 writer feels that … [15]
Text 1

Study the flyer below and answer Questions 1-3 in the Question Paper Booklet.

Budget Beach Getaways

★ 4D Cherating Retreat fr $390
   (*Inclusive of meals, tour and spa)

★ 3D Bali Indulgence fr $550
   (*Inclusive of flight, meals, day tour, spa)

★ 4D Phuket Paradise fr $420
   (*Inclusive of flight, breakfast, island tour)

See you at NATAS 2013

Visit our booth: B2

Sun Travels & Tours

The sun and surf specialist

Blk 23 Bedok Central #01-26 (460023)
T: 62448668
Email: stt@gmail.com

Terms & conditions apply.
All prices subject to taxes and surcharge where applicable.

Source: Essential English Aide Upper Secondary English Language Complete Exam Practice Papers ©D. Alkaff & Nora R.H.
Section B

Text 2

Read the text below carefully and answer Questions 4-9 in the Question Paper Booklet.

1 Jou was snapped out of his reverie when the Fokker shook violently. Shaken, he grabbed onto whatever he could for dear life as the pilot expertly manoeuvred the wheezing aircraft to a safe landing in a tiny clearing despite the strong winds.

2 Kimura Jou was finally back in the sleepy remote seaside town in the northern part of Japan where he was born just days after the tragedy struck. The last time his feet were planted firmly on this soil was fourteen years ago when he left his tiny hometown and weeping family members behind to pursue his dreams in a foreign land far away from home. He had promised his parents then that he would come home to them after he graduated but he never did. Even after his efforts to become a prominent doctor came to fruition, he had not once returned home. Something had always come up. He was too caught up with his new life and newfound freedom to worry about keeping his promise. The vault of opportunities abound in the foreign land was too alluring that he was blinded by it. As a result, he failed to remember what was important to him. Or who for that matter.

3 The instant he set foot in his hometown, he was overwhelmed by a mélange of emotions. Was he too late, he wondered. Would he still be able to find his family? Were they even still alive? The ride across the town to the survivor information centre was a sombre and sobering one. Though short, it felt like forever. He was a basket case and full of remorse. The driver he had managed to secure hardly uttered a word and had his eyes fixed on what was left of the roads, his expression surprisingly calm despite what had befallen the town.

4 Jou had seen numerous footages of the tragedy since it struck but nothing had prepared him for what he was to witness with his very own eyes. It was impossible to depict in words with any eloquence the scene before him. The devastation was simply heart-wrenching. The once charming town filled with quaint buildings and beautiful vibrant colours in spring and autumn was no more. Hardly a building was left intact. It felt surreal somehow. This was not the homecoming he had imagined.

5 Everywhere he looked, he could see groups of people and individuals digging through the rubble probably trying to find someone or something precious that belonged to them or anything that would remind them of their loved ones who had perished when the ground shook violently as the earth showed its wrath. He could also see indefatigable rescue workers and volunteers working relentlessly unearthing bodies...
from the thick debris. The heart-breaking sheer destruction was ubiquitous.

Suddenly the disquietude he felt broke into an irrepressible panic that filled him with a terrifying sense of guilt and despair. He knew he could not come apart at the seams so he held his tears which at that point were persistently threatening to flow. He knew if he could not get a grip on himself, if he released the floodgates, it would be impossible to stop. Somehow he succeeded.

At the makeshift survivor information centre, the atmosphere was solemn. Thousands of people like him, were there searching for loved ones. Some wept while most just looked distraught and lost. It seemed like no one could even feign a smile. Honestly, how could anyone do that? And, it was eerily quiet; as quiet as a grave.

From the devastation that he had witnessed since he arrived, it would be a miracle if any of his family members had survived the horrifying calamity. Jou scanned the area searching for familiar faces but he could see none. His heart sank. He willed his weak legs to move towards the staff at the centre for help. As he turned to move, a familiar figure amidst the sea of distraught faces caught his eyes. He did a double take. His heart nearly stopped beating. The person in question looked much older and frail but there was no mistaking her identity. At that instant, the tears that he had painstakingly contained throughout the entire journey just flowed like a river unleashed. His legs gave way beneath him and he crumpled to the gravelled ground on his knees and wept uncontrollably, his whole being shaken.

Source: Essential English Aide Upper Secondary English Language Complete Exam Practice Papers ©D. Alkaff & Nora R.H.

Text 3

Read the article below carefully and answer Questions 10-12 in the Question Paper Booklet.

1 In a society where we are constantly bombarded with images of the ‘ideal’ beauty through media, more and more people are turning to plastic surgery for that personal ‘fine-tuning’ as a means to make themselves beautiful. For many today, it has become an obsession that is not healthy.

2 Why this obsession with plastic surgery? The answer is simple – to look the best and to be the best. This fixation with beauty is nothing new. Women and men have always been obsessed with looking good for as long as human beings have existed. This obsession transcends gender, race, culture and age. And, there is absolutely nothing wrong with wanting to look good.

3 However, many go beyond mere tweaking. For many, the pursuit of beauty becomes
an insatiable obsession. When this obsession leads people to transform themselves into someone totally different and, when they knowingly and willingly risk their lives in their quest to attain their perceived idea of beauty, something is off somewhere.

First used in reconstructive surgeries to mainly correct congenital defects, the modern plastic surgery as we know today is capable of doing more than just corrective work. Advances in the medical area and technology have led to daring new innovations and the invention of superior techniques capable of accomplishing feats once deemed as impossible.

Today, one can enhance one’s appearance through non-invasive and invasive procedures like blepharoplasty for double eyelids, rhinoplasty for a more sculpted nose, cheek and jaw reduction and the list goes on. In fact, one not only can enhance one’s looks through these procedures, one can also be transformed into a totally different and new person altogether. Besides, there is no longer a stigma attached to cosmetic surgery.

These tweaks are very common today and almost everyone from famous celebrities to politicians and even the hoi polloi has blatantly flaunted their altered features in public. So what is the big deal? Why should there be a stigma attached to this personal ‘upgrading’?

The issue here is not about stigma but more so the underlying problems related to this modern obsession with cosmetic plastic surgery. What does this say about how we perceive ourselves? What does this say about the values the society at large holds? Is one’s appearance all that important that we should ignore the content of one’s character and his values? Shouldn’t human beings be judged on all these instead of just on appearance? There should be more to a person than just how he looks.

Cosmetic plastic surgery is an acceptable solution for reconstructive purposes to fix debilitating congenital defects or injuries sustained in accidents or wars. However, if used to ‘correct’ something that is perfectly fine to begin with, it is madness. And disturbing. Yes, disturbing. Besides, in their frenzy to be unique, many have ironically ended up looking as though they had come out from the same mould. So, where is our uniqueness then? What will differentiate one person from another? Aren’t our differences the ones that make us unique and stand out in the first place?

As mentioned earlier, in their quest to attain the perfect face and body, many consciously and willingly risk their lives while undergoing invasive procedures. Despite the advanced level of medical technology today, these invasive surgeries are still dangerous. The risks include botched jobs that are irreversible and even death. Besides, when will it be enough? When does one know when to stop?

The modern obsession with cosmetic plastic surgery is beyond narcissism. It is a manifestation of something much deeper. And, it should not be ignored.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ANSWER SCHEME

Paper 2 Comprehension 1 hour 50 minutes

Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the flyer (Text 1) of the insert for Questions 1-3.
1 Refer to the photograph used in the advertisement.
   i. What feeling will it evoke in the reader?
      It evokes a feeling of serenity/relaxation. [1]
   ii. Identify a feature that illustrates this effect.
      The calmness of the sea illustrates this effect. [1]

2 List down two features of the advertisement that would attract potential customers.
   • The main heading with the word ‘budget’.
   • The words used in the names of the packages like paradise, retreat and indulgence.
   • As the company is participating in the NATAS fair, they can expect good promotions. [2] (choose any 2)

3 Which feature gives the reader confidence to sign up for a package?
   ‘The sun and surf specialist’ – The company’s claim to specialize in beach holidays. [1]

Section B [13 marks]

Refer to Text 2 of the insert for Questions 4-9.

4 Paragraph 1 begins ‘Jou was snapped out of his reverie when the Fokker shook violently. Shaken, he grabbed onto whatever he could for dear life...’ Explain how the language used shows that the plane ride was frightening. Support your ideas with three details from the paragraph.
   • ‘shook violently’ describes the vigorous movement of the aircraft. [1]
   • ‘shaken’ shows the feeling of shock and fear. [1]
   • ‘grabbed onto whatever he could for dear life’ shows he was holding onto anything within his reach for safety. [1]

   Do not leave out the necessary details from the passage and you must explain in what way the words or phrases show that the plane ride was frightening.

5 Which word in paragraph 1 suggests the plane is a person?
   The word is ‘wheezing’. [1]
   Pick out only the relevant word using quotation marks to show how personification is used in this paragraph to describe an inanimate object as having a human trait.

6 In paragraph 3, how is the word ‘melange’ effective in reflecting Jou’s feelings?
It effectively describes the mixture of different feelings he was experiencing at that moment. [1]
You need to understand the meaning of the word ‘melange’ in the context of the passage and explain how the word is effective in showing the emotions felt by the character.

7 Lines 14-18 in paragraph 3 reflect Jou’s feelings when he was in his hometown. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box to summarise the feelings described. There are some extra words in the box you do not need to use.

Jou’s feelings

| tension | gloom | shock | anxiety | disbelief | guilt | sadness |

Flow chart

Lines 15-17 → anxiety

↓

Lines 17-18 → gloom

↓

Line 18 → tension

↓

Lines 18-19 → guilt

Focus on the clue in the question and highlight specific words or phrases in the paragraph that will help you to figure out the character’s feelings.

8 Paragraph 4 ends ‘This was not the homecoming he had imagined.’ What does this imply? It implies that he did have the intention of returning home [1] and he would have wanted a homecoming filled with joy and happiness [1].
This question tests your inferential skills. To answer this question, infer from the clues in the passage as well as use logical reasoning.

9 In paragraph 7, the writer uses the idiom ‘...as quiet as a grave.’ It illustrates the ominous mood at the centre. Give evidence to support this.
The solemn atmosphere and the weeping [1] at the centre reflect the fear that their loved ones might be dead [1].
Identify the evidence from the paragraph and show how they reflect the ominous mood.

Section C [20 marks]

Refer to the Text 3 of the insert for Questions 10-12.

10 i. What does the phrase ‘something is off somewhere’ (line 13) imply?
This phrase implies that something is abnormal. [1]

ii. What does ‘it’ (line 3) refer to?
‘It’ refers to people’s obsession with beauty. [1]  
To answer these questions, infer from the clues in the passage.

11 Sally and Harry gave these opinions after reading the article.

i. How can Harry support his opinion with reference to the article?  
The writer states that most people undergo surgery to look beautiful. [1]

ii. Identify two reasons from the passage that Sally can use to support her statement.  
The reasons are to correct birth defects [1] and injuries [1].

12 Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the reasons why the writer is against cosmetic surgery and when it is acceptable.

Use only information from paragraphs 7 to 10.

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 writer feels that … [15]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original points</th>
<th>Rephrased points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What does this say about how we perceive ourselves?</td>
<td>society lacks self-esteem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. What does this say about the values the society at large holds?</td>
<td>there is a decline in societal values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Is one’s appearance all that important that we should ignore the content of one’s character</td>
<td>should not place too much emphasis on looks/appearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. and his values?</td>
<td>but more on character and moral values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. many consciously and willingly risk their lives while undergoing invasive procedures</td>
<td>knowingly put their lives at risk from surgeries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Despite the advanced level of medical technology today, these invasive</td>
<td>which are still unsafe in spite of technological advances</td>
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<tr>
<td>surgeries are still dangerous.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. when will it be enough?</td>
<td>their pursuit is endless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. It is a manifestation of something much deeper.</td>
<td>There is a fundamental issue more serious than vanity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Cosmetic plastic surgery is an acceptable solution for reconstructive purposes to fix debilitating congenital defects</td>
<td>cosmetic surgery is all right if used to fix birth defects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. or injuries sustained in accidents or wars.</td>
<td>or wounds sustained in accidents or wars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tips on how to write in your own words for the summary question:**

1. **Substitute the word with a synonym**
   Ensure that the substituted word is an accurate substitute that has the exact same meaning as the original word. If you are unsure, do not change the word as it will change the original meaning of the word.
   E.g.: irate -> incensed/furious

2. **Change the form of the word**
   If you are unsure of the meaning of a word, you can change the form of that word say, from a noun to a verb or vice versa.
   E.g.: punishment -> punished

3. **Change the sentence structure**
   You can also change a cause-effect sentence to and effect-cause sentence and vice versa.
   E.g.: Amir was late for school this morning so he was punished -> Amir was punished because he was late for school this morning.

   You should also change the words and not lift from the passage even when you are changing the sentence structure. A better answer would be:
   Amir was disciplined as he was not punctual for school this morning.

4. **Use general terms**
   In order to be able to include all the necessary points, you must generalise.
   E.g.: my mother and father (4 words) -> my parents (2 words)
   the fork, knife and spoon (5 words) -> the cutlery (2 words) etc.