

Study the following advertisement and answer the questions that follow it.

The Heritage Museum

November - December 2014

Opening Attractions

Sat 1 November

Gifts for the first 100 visitors!
Shadow puppet performance by The Puppet Theatre
Peranakan Culture Booth
The screening of Asian Culture documentary
Free Face Painting at Children's Interactive corner



Sat 15 November

The screening of Asian Culture documentary
Singapore Chinese Orchestra Performance
Emily Hill - A Peranakan Play
Talk on *Archaeological Finds in Singapore*
"Treasure Hunt" for Young "Archaeologists"

Sat 6 December

The screening of Asian Culture documentary
Free Face Painting at Children's Interactive corner
Bhangra – Indian dance performance
Talk on *Archaeological Finds in Singapore*
Balloon Sculpture demonstration



Find & Snap (20 Dec at 8.30 am)

Find & Snap is a fast-paced treasure hunt using a digital camera. If you are between 12 and 18 years of age, form a team of 4 to qualify.

On the day of the hunt, you will be sent off with your camera and a set of clues. You have 6 hours to capture all your "treasures". At the end of the hunt, winners will be announced, followed by a prize presentation. All participants will receive goodie bags. Certificates of participation will be presented to the non-winners.

\$50 per team

Closing date for registration: Mon, 10 November 2014

Limited to 50 teams

(Go on to the next page)

Section A: Graphic Stimulus (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

For each question from 1 to 5, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). **Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS).**

1. The events are organised to _____.
 - (1) screen the Asian Culture documentary
 - (2) encourage more people to visit the Heritage Museum
 - (3) give out souvenirs to visitors to the Heritage Museum
 - (4) showcase the shadow puppet performance by the Puppet Theatre

2. Mr Gan's ten-year-old son loves hand-on activities. Mr Gan should take his son to the museum on _____.
 - (1) 1 November
 - (2) 15 November
 - (3) 6 December
 - (4) 20 December

3. To qualify for the *Find & Snap* contest, you must _____.
 - (1) pay a registration fee of \$40
 - (2) register before 10 December
 - (3) find three other teenagers to form a team
 - (4) take snapshots of the visitors at the museum

4. The "treasures" in the *Find & Snap* event refers to the _____.
 - (1) set of clues provided
 - (2) tips on good photography
 - (3) prizes and certificates awarded
 - (4) pictures and artifacts in the museum

5. Which one of the following statements is true of the Heritage Museum?
 - (1) It is a museum for teenagers.
 - (2) It has daily cultural performances.
 - (3) Its opening events end in December.
 - (4) It features only the Peranakan culture.

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Section B: Grammar (7 x 1 = 7 marks)

For each question from 6 to 12, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). **Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS).**

6. Only one of the new courses _____ exciting to me.

- (1) look
- (2) looks
- (3) is looking
- (4) are looking

7. _____ it is a public holiday tomorrow, my sister has to go to school.

- (1) As
- (2) But
- (3) Besides
- (4) Although

8. James and Jill would _____ visit the library _____ watch a movie at the theatre.

- (1) not ... yet
- (2) also ... but
- (3) rather ... than
- (4) only ... except

9. You seldom eat durians, _____ you?

- (1) do
- (2) did
- (3) don't
- (4) doesn't

10. Neither of the twins _____ participating in the Songwriting Competition next month.

- (1) is
- (2) are
- (3) was
- (4) were

(Go on to the next page)

11. The rich woman, a victim _____ war, was reduced to poverty.

- (1) in
- (2) of
- (3) from
- (4) upon

12. Mr Aziz swallowed a lump of white substance which he _____ for a sugar cube.

- (1) mistook
- (2) mistakes
- (3) has mistaken
- (4) had mistaken

(Go on to the next page)

Nora and I met during the holiday camp in secondary one. We were stargazing
(13) She was looking for Orion and I was lying on my back searching the night sky for the Little Dipper when she tripped over me and fell backwards.

“Oh sorry **(14)** Nora gasped. “I was trying to find the stars in Orion’s belt and...”

I took her hand and pointed with it to the sky. “Just over there **(15)**

She smiled and introduced me to the Little Dipper. That was right where it all began - a chance encounter with a fellow camper as curious as I was about the stars. Nora and I became instant friends, spending the remaining of the summer together, jumping rope and swimming in the lake.

Section C: Punctuation (3 x 1 = marks)

For each question from 13 to 15, choose the correct punctuation to complete the passage.
Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS).

13. (1) [,] comma
(2) [.] full-stop
(3) [,”] comma and inverted commas
(4) [.”] full-stop and inverted commas
14. (1) [,] comma
(2) [!] exclamation mark
(3) [.”] comma and inverted commas
(4) [!”] exclamation mark and inverted commas
15. (1) [,] comma
(2) [.] full-stop
(3) [,”] comma and inverted commas
(4) [.”] full-stop and inverted commas

(Go on to the next page)

Section D: Vocabulary (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

For each question from 16 to 20, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). **Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS).**

16. The organizing committee had invited an _____ singer and songwriter to present the award to this year's winner.
- (1) eminent
 - (2) essential
 - (3) infamous
 - (4) imminent
17. The accused criminal broke down when the judge _____ the sentence on the crime he had committed.
- (1) renounced
 - (2) announced
 - (3) denounced
 - (4) pronounced
18. The collapse of the bridge was due to the engineer's _____ in carrying out the necessary safety checks.
- (1) disregard
 - (2) aloofness
 - (3) negligence
 - (4) insensitivity
19. The shopkeeper ran after the customer who left the restaurant without _____ but to no avail.
- (1) toeing the bill
 - (2) footing the bill
 - (3) fingering the bill
 - (4) shouldering the bill
20. My cousin is a straightforward person. She always _____.
- (1) draws the line

- (2) slings mud at people
- (3) beats about the bush
- (4) calls a spade a spade

(Go on to the next page)

Section E: Vocabulary Cloze (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

For each question from 21 to 25, choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined words. **Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS).**

Mountains command attention. Towering over us, their peaks are often hidden in clouds, making them seem **(21) mysterious**. Mountains are believed to be a symbol of purity and eternity. Climbing a mountain is a challenging task. As the air becomes thinner nearer the top, climbers experience breathing **(22) problems**. Getting to the summit is the **(23) greatest** achievement for any climber as the **(24) view** of the land from the top is indeed magnificent.

Many believers regard mountains as sacred. The Japanese have great respect for Mount Fuji while in China, there are nine mountains which Buddhists worship and admire. These mountains **(25) inspire** people to climb and conquer them. Such journeys are a test of faith and perseverance.

- 21. (1) odd
(2) weird
(3) puzzling
(4) secretive
- 22. (1) hurdles
(2) setbacks
(3) obstacles
(4) difficulties
- 23. (1) peak
(2) most
(3) ultimate
(4) furthestmost
- 24. (1) sight
(2) scene
(3) scenario
(4) spectacle

25. (1) arouse
(2) provoke
(3) motivate
(4) instigate

(Go on to the next page)

Section F: Comprehension MCQ (5 x 1 = 5 marks)

Read the passage below and answer questions 26 to 30.

Boon Wai and Luk were Kong Seng's best pals. They were neighbours and also attended the same primary school. Coincidentally all three had no brothers to play with, only elder sisters to nag at them. It was the school holidays and the boys were bored. One afternoon, they were stretched out lazily on the floor of the fifth storey landing of their block when Ranjit came by. He was almost fourteen whilst the trio was only eleven. He was a notorious bully whom the boys disliked immensely. Standing at 1.6 metres, he was a head taller than Kong Seng, the timid one. "What's in that bag?" Ranjit roared. "None of your business," retorted Luk. "This block is my territory and everything that happens here is my business," Ranjit replied with an edge in his voice.

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With that, Ranjit swung his fist towards Luk's shoulder, catching the boy off-guard. The petite boy recovered quickly and threw a punch at Ranjit's lower abdomen. A free-for-all fight ensued. Even Kong Seng got involved. It was three against one.

However, the boys were no match for Ranjit. Kong Seng suffered the worst hit! A punch on his nose from Ranjit caused blood to drip continuously. The brawl ended just as quickly as it had started. Ranjit, realising the seriousness of the whole matter and becoming worried about the consequences, decided to head home. By then, Kong Seng's shirt had been blotted with blood. His friends were in shock as they had never ever seen so much blood. Kong Seng, who was equally shocked, stood dazed and was on the brink of collapse.

15
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Luk, upon regaining his composure, tore off to Kong Seng's flat to alert his mother. He brought her to the staircase landing where Kong Seng was. As soon as she saw him, she went into a tirade, reprimanding the boy for getting into mischief yet again. Pulling Kong Seng by the collar, she marched him home. The other two boys **made themselves scarce** at once. Back at home, Kong Seng was ordered to sit upright with his head bent backwards. It took some minutes before the bleeding stopped. But it took an entire afternoon for his mother to give him a piece of her mind. Kong Seng received his first nosebleed that day. But it was not to be his last. He would soon find out that his nose tended to bleed whenever he got into mischief with his buddies, Boon Wai and Luk.

25
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(Adapted from Reflections by Raymond Han)

(Go on to the next page)

For each question from 26 to 30, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). **Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS).**

26. The boys did not like Ranjit because he _____.
- (1) was impolite
 - (2) was tall and huge
 - (3) often threatened them
 - (4) often nagged at their sisters
27. Why were the boys at the staircase landing?
- (1) They wanted to escape their sisters.
 - (2) They wanted to wait for the block bully.
 - (3) They were there to while their time away.
 - (4) They wanted to discuss a holiday assignment.
28. How did the fight start?
- (1) Luk had blocked Ranjit's path.
 - (2) Ranjit had provoked the three boys.
 - (3) Kong Seng had often been bullied by Ranjit.
 - (4) Ranjit and the three boys were from different schools.
29. Luk and Boon Wai 'made themselves scarce' (line 26) because they _____.
- (1) wanted to return home to treat their injuries
 - (2) wanted to find Ranjit and avenge Kong Seng
 - (3) did not want to be punished for loitering around
 - (4) did not want to be scolded by Kong Seng's mother
30. Based on the passage, which one of the following statements is true?
- (1) Kong Seng had gotten into fights before this incident.
 - (2) Kong Seng had suffered from nosebleeds from young.
 - (3) Kong Seng was reluctant to join his friends in the fight.
 - (4) Kong Seng's mother took the whole afternoon to treat his injury.

End of Booklet A

(Go on to Booklet B)

Section G: Grammar Cloze (10 x 1 = 10 marks)

There are 10 blanks, numbered 31 to 40, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blanks. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted in order to avoid confusion during marking.

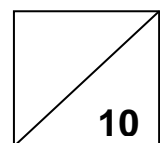
USE ANY WORD ONCE ONLY

(A) also	(D) its	(G) for	(K) their	(N) which
(B) is	(E) in	(H) too	(L) this	(P) where
(C) are	(F) to	(J) when	(M) these	(Q) though

The naked mole rat is not quite a good looker. But, never judge a book by its cover **(31)** _____ this humble rodent may just be the answer to cancer.

(32) _____ known as the sand puppy, these rodents are natives to the drier parts of the tropical grasslands of East Africa like southern Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. The naked mole rat spends most of its life underground, **(33)** _____ explains its bad eyesight. **(34)** _____ compensate for its near-blindness, it has a heightened sense of smell and hearing to help it move around **(35)** _____ dark underground tunnels.

Scientific studies have shown that the cells of a naked mole rat **(36)** _____ resistant to forming tumours and hence do not develop cancer. In addition, **(37)** _____ rats do not feel pain – a useful trait **(38)** _____ you live in areas of high acid concentration. **(39)** _____ bodies do not produce a chemical substance that is responsible for sending pain messages to the central nervous system. **(40)** _____ the naked mole rat, scientists hope to discover alternative forms of pain management. Eventually, even the cure for cancer.



Section H : Editing (10 x 1 = 10)

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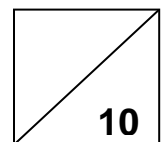
Correct each word in **bold** for spelling and each underlined word for grammar. Write the correct word in the relevant box.

Buildings and enclosures at the Wolong National Nature Reserve, the world's
(41)
largest and best-known panda **konzervasyen** area, were destroyed in the devastating
(42)
earthquake that hits Sichuan province in southwest China in May 2008. Although only one
(43)
panda, crushed under a collapsed wall, died in the disaster, many others were **injered** or
escaped.

After the quake, most of the more than sixty pandas including several cubs were
(44)
sent to the Bifengxia Panda Base. Another four, clearly **trawmataizd**, were taken to the
Chengdu Panda Base.

(45)
Chengdu Panda Base are one of China's most important breeding centres and its
(46) (47)
state-of-the-art **faseelitees** and specialists vets made it the best **dastinashen** for the
(48)
distressed bears, which needed round-the-clock attention. Housing away from the public,
(49)
they were, thankfully, at the road to recovery. After six months, the bears were sent to

Bifengxia Panda Base, which has more space. It is hoped that they will recuperate fully
(50)
there and **evanchuali** return to Wolong once it is rebuilt.



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Section I : Comprehension Cloze (15 x 1 = 15 marks)

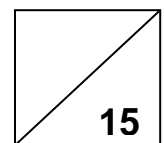
Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

We would like to think that the reason we do not feel a mosquito biting us is that Mother Nature is kind. If we were (51)_____ that the mosquito was in the process of (52)_____ its mouth into our flesh, we might panic, especially (53)_____ a simple mosquito bite actually takes a lot longer than we suspected.

Mosquitoes usually rest on all six legs on human (54)_____ for at least a minute or so (55)_____ starting to bite. Mosquitoes are so light and skilful at biting that most humans cannot (56)_____ them, even though the insect may be resting on their skin for three minutes or more.

When the mosquito decides to finally (57)_____ its move, she pokes her 'needles' into a nice, juicy capillary. She lubricates her mouth parts with saliva and proceeds to suck (58)_____ until her stomach is literally about to (59)_____, spilling its contents. She then quickly withdraws her 'needles' and flies off to deposit her eggs, assuring the world that the mosquito will not soon be on the endangered or (60)_____ species list.

Some sensitive people will feel a mosquito's bite (61)_____. The rest of us will only realise the itch long after the mosquito has (62)_____ away, not because of the bite or the loss of blood but due to the (63)_____ left behind. The mosquito's saliva acts not only as a lubricant in the biting process but also as an anaesthetic to the (64)_____. Moreover, the saliva also contains chemicals that trigger (65)_____ reactions in many people. The allergic reactions results in the little lumps and itchy sensations that make us wonder why mosquitoes exist in this world.



Section J: Synthesis / Transformation (5 x 2 = 10 marks)

For each of the questions 66 to 70, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentences(s).

66 Hank was disappointed. Hank did not get the good results that he had expected.

Much to _____
_____.

67 Sam asked Vicky if she had any money to lend her for recess.

Sam asked Vicky “ _____
_____?”

68 The assignment is challenging but we are determined to complete it.

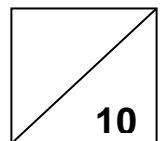
However _____
_____.

69 Kim remained silent. That was a sign of her guilt.

Kim’s _____
_____.

70 We did not believe what Fandi had done.

None of us _____
_____.



(Go on to the next page)

Section K: Comprehension Open-Ended (10 x 2 = 20 marks)

Read the passage below and answer questions 71 to 80.

The next four days were the most miserable of all my adventure. After scouting around all morning, I realised I was on the island I had glimpsed from the reef, cut off from the coast by half a mile of impassable, open water.

My hunger was terrible. I would have starved but I remembered that shellfish could be eaten. Wading out to the shoreline rocks, I dislodged a pocketful of limpets with a stone. Back on the beach I sucked them out of their shells, raw, salty and cold. The feel of them slipping down my throat was revolting but they eased the hunger.

5

By the third day, I was in a pitiful state. My clothes were starting to rot and fray, my hands were wrinkled and soft from the continual damp, my throat was sore and just the sight of another squidgy limpet was enough to make me vomit. As if that was not bad enough, I discovered that most of my gold coins had slipped through a hole in my jacket pocket. From my fortune of twenty gold coins, I now had only three remaining. I slapped my brow at the thought of this loss. But **there was worse to come.**

10

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During a rare burst of sunshine, I climbed to the top of the hill and stretched myself out, to try to dry my clothes and get some warmth for myself. All of a sudden, a fishing boat turned around the headland, so close I could see the two men at the sails and their flaming red hair.

I tore down the hill, shouting and pleading for them to rescue me. I could hear them laughing and mocking me in a language I thought must be Gaelic. The boat kept going, beyond the rocks and out to sea.

20

For twenty minutes I **hurled insults** after them. At first, I could not believe their wickedness to another human being, and then I wondered if they had heard my English tongue and decided I was not worth saving.

25

On the fourth day, I felt weak and sick but the sun was shining, so I hauled myself up the hill again, to try to warm my bones. As soon as I had scrambled up there, I spied a boat coming back from sea.

They sailed within fifty yards of the shore but came no further. I recognised it as the same boat, with the same two men, but now they were joined by a third, who was taller and wore more elegant clothes. I ran down the hill to call to them.

30

The tall man stood up in the bobbing boat and spoke at length. He kept pointing to the north of my island and shouted, "The tide comes in once a day!" With that, the fishermen put their sails up and waved goodbye to me, still roaring with laughter. I stood there puzzled for a minute. Then my mouth fell open and I started sprinting across the clumps of shrubs. When I reached the beach, I **fell**

35

down and kissed the sand.

My prison was a very small island that could be reached at low tide every 24 hours. During low tide, I could wade across to the other shore in water below my knee! If I had not wasted so much time pitying myself, I would not have had to spend more than a day on that island. It was no surprise the fishermen had laughed at me. I should be grateful to these men for coming back to check on me.

40

(Adapted from Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson)

ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

71 What do you think had happened to the writer?

72 How did the writer survive on the island?

73 Which four-word phrase in the passage tells us that the weather was bad most of the time?

74 Why did the writer go to the top of the hill?

75 “For twenty minutes I **hurled insults** after them.” (line 23) Why did the writer hurl insults at the fishermen?

(Go on to the next page)

76 According to the writer, why did the fishermen turn the boat away the first time they saw him?

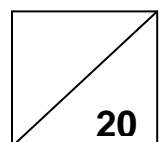
77 Explain fully the situation in the phrase “there was worse to come” (line 14-15).

78 In what way did the fishermen help the writer?

79 Explain clearly why the writer “fell down and kissed the sand” (line 36-37).

80 Why did the writer’s attitude towards the fishermen change in the end?

End of Paper



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE – PAPER 2
PRIMARY 6**

ANSWER KEY

BOOKLET A

<u>Section A:</u> Graphic Stimulus (5 marks)	<u>Section B:</u> Grammar (7 marks)	<u>Section C:</u> Punctuation (3 marks)	<u>Section D:</u> Vocabulary (5 marks)	<u>Section E:</u> Vocabulary Cloze (5 marks)	<u>Section F:</u> Compre MCQ (5 marks)
1. 2	6. 2	13. 2	16. 1	21. 4	26. 3
2. 2	7. 4	14. 4	17. 4	22. 4	27. 3
3. 3	8. 3	15. 4	18. 3	23. 3	28. 2
4. 4	9. 1		19. 2	24. 2	29. 4
5. 3	10. 1		20. 4	25. 3	30. 1
	11. 2				
	12. 4				

BOOKLET B

Section G: Grammar Cloze (10marks)	Section H: Editing (10marks)
31. (G) for	41. conservation
32. (A) Also	42. hit
33. (N) which	43. injured
34. (F) To	44. traumatized
35. (E) in	45. is
36. (C) are	46. facilities
37. (M) these	47. destination
38. (J) when	48. Housed
39. (K) Their	49. on
40. (Q) Through	50. eventually

Section I: Comprehension CLOZE (15 marks)		
No.	1 mark	0 mark
51.	aware	
52.	sinking	biting
53.	because	
54.	skin	body
55.	before	then
56.	feel	
57.	make	
58.	blood	
59.	burst / explode	
60.	extinct	
61.	immediately	
62.	flown / gone	
63.	saliva	
64.	bite	
65.	allegic	

Section J: Synthesis & Transformation (10 marks)	
66.	<p>Much to Hank’s disappointment, he did not get the good results that he had expected. (2m)</p> <p>Much to Hank’s disappointment, Hank did not get the good results that he had expected. (0m)</p> <p>Much to Hank disappointment, he did not get the good results that he had expected. (0m) <i>(omission of ‘s is critical for the transformation of the sentence.)</i></p> <p><i>Note: Award 0m if there is error in spelling of “disappointment” as it is critical for transforming the sentence.</i></p>
67.	<p>Sam asked Vicky, “Do you have any money to lend me for recess?” (2m)</p> <p>Sam asked Vicky, “Vicky, do you have any money to lend me for recess?” (2m)</p>

Section J: Synthesis & Transformation (10 marks)

68. However challenging the assignment is, we are determined to complete it. (2m)

69. Kim's silence was a sign of her guilt. (2m)
 Kim's silence was a sign that she was guilty. (2m)
 Kim's silence was a sign of her being guilty. (2m)

Note: Award 0m if there is error in spelling of "silence" as it is critical for transforming the sentence.

70. None of us believed what Fandi had done. (2m)
 None of us believed what Fandi did. (2m)

Section K: Comprehension OE (20 marks)

Essential Point(s)

71. The writer could have been shipwrecked. (2m)
 The writer could have met with an accident in the sea. (2m)

- shipwrecked
- met with a mishap in the sea

72. The writer survived on (raw) limpets. (2m)
 He ate (raw) limpets. (2m)
 He ate shellfish*. (1m)

- limpets
- *not specific

73. The phrase is "(a) rare burst of sunshine". (2m)

74. He was trying to get some sunshine and/or dry his clothes and/or warm himself / his bones (2m)

- Any two of the following :
- get some sunshine
 - dry his clothes
 - warm his bones/himself

75. He was angry / upset that the fishermen had ignored his cries for help. (2m)

- angry that the fishermen ignored him

Section K: Comprehension OE (20 marks)	Essential Point(s)
<p>76. He thought the fishermen <u>despised his English blood.</u> (2m)</p> <p>He thought the fishermen were <u>discriminating him because of his country.</u> (2m)</p> <p>He thought the fishermen were <u>discriminating him because he did not speak their language.</u> (2m)</p>	<p>From the writer's perspective,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they were against Englishmen • they do not like English people • the writer did not speak their language
<p>77. Not only did he <u>lose his money,</u> he also had to <u>endure the fishermen's ridicule.</u> (2m)</p> <p>Not only was he <u>shipwrecked</u> on the island, he also had to <u>endure the fishermen laughing at him.</u> (2m)</p> <p>Not only did he <u>eat raw limpets</u> to survive, he also had to <u>endure the fishermen's ridicule.</u> (2m)</p>	<p>Any <u>one</u> of the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lost his gold coins • shipwrecked • ate limpets daily <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endure the fishermen's ridicule
<p>78. They told him about the <u>tide (pattern)</u> (1m) and the <u>part of the island he should use</u> to wade to coast (1m).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tide • part of the island he should use
<p>79. He <u>finally found / discovered / the way to get out of the island.</u> (2m)</p> <p>He <u>realised how he could get off / leave the island.</u> (2m)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • find the way out of the island
<p>80. The writer <u>realised what the fishermen had done to get him out of the island.</u> (2m)</p> <p>The writer <u>realised that he had misunderstood the fishermen / them.</u> (2m)</p> <p>The writer <u>realised that the fishermen / they had tried to help him.</u> (2m)</p>	<p>Any <u>one</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • realised what they had done • realised that he had misunderstood the fishermen • realised that they had tried to help

How do I do well in comprehension?

This section aims to assess how well you have understood a given text. You should be able to comprehend a range of texts. You then need to answer a series of 10 open-ended questions based on the text read.

Here are some steps you can take to do well in this section:

1. Preview the questions before reading the text. This will give you a rough idea what to look out for in the text.
2. Skim through the text to get a general idea of the passage (1st Reading).
3. Think of the answers to the questions as you read the text again (2nd Reading). Look out for clues in the question stems that point you to the specific part of the text where you can find the answer.
4. Skip the questions that you are not sure of. Circle the question numbers and move on to the next question. Do not spend too much time on one question. Finish answering all those questions that you can answer first. Then go back to the difficult ones.
5. Use specific reading strategies to understand the text. Eg. Annotation, highlighting key words, making short notes & looking for contextual clues.
6. Be specific in answering each question.
7. Remember to answer in complete sentences. Do not begin your answer with “It was because...”
8. Finally, check your tenses, spelling and punctuation.

Useful tips:

- Try to imagine the scenes in your mind when you read the text. This can help you to understand the text better.
- Read slowly when the text is difficult. Do not rush.

How should I go about answering the cloze sections?

There are basically three types: Vocabulary Cloze, Grammar Cloze & Comprehension Cloze.

Here are some steps you can take to do well in this section:

1. Read the text carefully & make sure you understand what it is about. Do not worry about the blanks yet.
2. Use your background knowledge to help you to understand the passage.
3. Your answer should be in the correct tense and part of speech. It should also be appropriate.
4. As you decide on your answers, do read forward and look backwards in the text for clues.
5. After completing the cloze sections, it is important to read through the entire passage to check your answers. This helps to confirm whether the passage sounds coherent.