

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SINGAPORE
in collaboration with
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1128/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

October/November 2016

INSERT

1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains Text 1, Text 2 and Text 3.

This document consists of 5 printed pages and 3 blank pages.



Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board

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CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

[Turn over

Oct/Nov 2016 Paper 2 (1)

Section A

Text 1

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

SCIENCE MUSEUM

Open and free
10.00 to 18.00
(last entry 17.15)

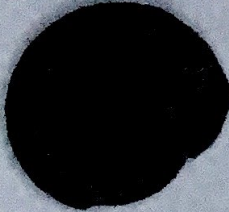
Visiting the Science Museum
Click [here](#) for Google map directions

Welcome to the home of human ingenuity. On our extensive site, we look after a world-renowned collection and organise exciting exhibitions, events and IMAX films for over 3 million visitors every year. Why not come and join them?

Whether you visit in person or online, the Science Museum has something to offer YOU.


Online Science
Access our blogs and discover the whole world of science at the click of a mouse. Marvel at breathtaking images, play educational games and keep up to date with what our Discovery team are doing.

Collections Blog




See what our curators have been up to on the **Stories from the Stores Blog** – from Einstein's smelly feet to how pigeons hid the Big Bang. Click [here](#)

Science Museum Blog



Be first to hear about our new galleries and exhibitions, events, arts projects, and some fascinating research that goes on behind the scenes. Click [here](#)

Shop Online



This wheel is just one of the many interactive toys in our shop to capture children's imaginations. Click [here](#) to browse and order.

Love science? Please make a donation today. Your donation will help us to make the most of our world-famous collections and learning programmes. Click [here](#) to donate.

Section B

Text 2

In the text below a man called Nayir is preparing to set out on a journey. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5–13 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 Early that morning, Nayir was surveying the view from his cabin window. There were many reasons to love the marina, he thought, like waking to the uplifting smell of the sea which fluttered like a scarf around the boats and extended like satin towards the horizon. He loved spending the day in the fresh air, cooled by the wind, and watching the pedlars who wandered by, selling brass pots and cotton sandals from China. 5
- 2 He liked to see the food vendor's large silver truck park at the marina gates at precisely 6 a.m. and enjoyed the smells of rice, of fresh pita, of beans cooked in garlic and of the best coffee in the world, all of which came wafting towards him out of the truck's windows. At 6.15 a.m. the truck's side would flip open and the local workmen, having queued there stoically, would scramble round for their breakfast, falling on the vendor's window like a pack of hungry wolves. 10
- 3 He was aware of the cabin's lullaby rocking, which seemed to him a magical thing, suggesting motion within immobility. But perhaps the finest thing about the marina, he mused, was the constant lap of water against the boat's hull and the gentle clatter of boats against their moorings. This was a reminder that unlike a house his boat was not a prison, and that it was merely a matter of untying the rope and starting the engine, and Nayir and his entire existence would float free on the waves. 15
- 4 The boat also gave him the essential ability to distance himself from his neighbours. If it ever became too difficult to avoid their scrutiny, he would simply relocate to a different place in the marina, where a whole new set of different eyes, not yet familiar enough to begin spying, would keep their modesty behind curtained portholes. Since coming to the marina, he had not actually moved his boat, but knowing that it was possible to escape from questions about his career and family brought him a tremendous sense of freedom and made having neighbours more bearable. 20
- 5 And yet people were always asking him how a man devoted to the desert had come to have such a fondness for the sea. He had no answer really. He had learned to love the desert as a boy, but as an adult he had come to desire a newer version of the wild. He found the sea a curious copy of the sandy waste. There was the same vastness, silence and hidden life, and the same strange mixture of monotony and change. Like the waves, the bodies of the dunes had changed endlessly with the wind, rising into peaks or slithering like snake trails. 25
- 6 By 7 a.m. he was standing on the pier with his raincoat draped over his arm, ready for his planned trip. He was trying to rid himself of anxious thoughts by contemplating the goodness of his world, and might have contemplated further if it had not been for his neighbour, Majid, who was watching him from the boat opposite. 30
- 7 'What's the news?' Majid called. 35
When Nayir did not reply, Majid stepped on to the pier.
'Heading out this morning?'
'Yes, I've got some things to do.'
'What is this?' Majid pointed to the coat. 'Let me see. Did you buy yourself a coat?' He touched the arm of the coat and inspected it closely. 'Is it a raincoat?' He smiled. 'Tell me, where are you going that you might encounter rain?'
'I'm not going anywhere.'
Majid grinned. 'Are we expecting rain here?' he said. 40

Section C

Text 3

The article below is about elephants. Read it carefully and answer Questions 14–19 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 Thousands of years ago, many kinds of giant animals, both reptiles and mammals, roamed the dense forests which then covered the Earth. Hampered by their size, when the climate began to change they were unable to adapt to new conditions and gradually perished. In this extinction all the huge reptiles vanished, and of the mammals only the elephants remained. 5
- 2 An elephant's body is covered in thick grey skin which is almost hairless; standing when fully grown somewhere between two and three metres tall, it weighs around six tonnes with thick pillar-like legs to support its immense weight. The sharp tusks, really overgrown incisors, are used both to dig up roots for food, and as weapons of defence; its tail is long and slender and its eyes small and weak. But it is the long proboscis, or trunk, dangling nearly to the ground, which is the elephant's most distinctive feature: an extremely flexible extension of the nose and upper lip, it also acts as a hand and arm, enabling the animal to reach high branches for leaves to eat. The trunk may have as many as 40,000 muscles, making it strong and supple and, with the tip ending in a kind of finger, it is able to pick up an item even as small as a pin. 10
15
- 3 It had always been thought that the elephant had no natural predators, but recently several video clips have appeared on the internet of lions attacking elephants in drought conditions, when competition for water-holes forces the two species into close proximity. While a lion is no match for an adult elephant, a young one can be vulnerable if it becomes separated from the rest of the herd. Lions hunting in packs can use their sharp claws to cling on to its back and bring it to its knees. The danger is especially acute during drought, when the lions' normal prey is in short supply. Night is a particularly treacherous time because elephants can see little in the dark, while the eyes of these predators are much more sensitive. Sometimes the adult elephants are unaware of the threat until too late. 20
- 4 Elephants' relationship with human beings is long-standing. In ancient times they were used in warfare, sometimes goaded into actually charging the enemy lines – spreading terror among the opposing troops. However, they were more often positioned as shields to protect soldiers from enemy weapons. When the Carthaginian general Hannibal crossed the Alps to attack Rome in 218BC, elephants carried his army's equipment, although, sadly, many plunged to their deaths or succumbed to the adverse weather conditions. Left to themselves, elephants are gentle animals, dangerous only when frightened, and easily trained to perform a variety of tasks. Before mechanisation, elephants were much used in the timber industry as they could be taught to pull and push. They were once popular acts in the circus, but this practice largely ceased with the realisation that animals suffer stress when forced to perform acts unnatural to them, and that sometimes cruelty was involved in the training methods. 30
35
- 5 Nowadays, elephants are common in zoos all over the world, where breeding programmes are often very successful and visitors flock to see a new elephant calf. In Asia, they are still a powerful symbol and play a vital part in ceremonies and festivals. At one time it looked as though elephants in the wild would be hunted to extinction for their tusks and, although the trade in ivory has been drastically curtailed by international law, regrettably this callous practice continues today. In Africa, nature reserves, set up to protect elephants as far as possible from the illegal poaching, have proved a great tourist attraction in their own right to the considerable benefit of the local economy. Outside the reserves, elephants are frequently blamed for destroying crops and even trampling down village houses. Now, 40
45

however, the need to manage the interaction between villagers and elephant herds has provided an unexpected boost to the community with the employment of local people as wardens.

Section A [5 marks]

Text 1

Refer to the webpage (Text 1) on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1–4.

1 In what way does the main picture aim to attract visitors to the museum?

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

2 How does the webpage suggest the current popularity of the Science Museum?

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

3 Write down **two** phrases, of four words each, from the website which might appeal to people who like to have the latest information.

(i)
(ii) [2]

4 Which sentence gives the main message of the webpage?

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

Section B [20 marks]

Text 2

Refer to Text 2 on page 3 of the Insert for Questions 5–13.

- 5 At the beginning of this text, Nayir is looking out of his cabin window at the sea. Explain how the language used in Paragraph 1 makes the sea seem attractive. Support your ideas with **three** details from the paragraph.

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.....
.....
.....
.....

[3]

- 6 In Paragraph 2, we are told that 'At 6.15 a.m. the truck's side would flip open and the local workmen, having queued there stoically, would scramble round for their breakfast, falling on the vendor's window like a pack of hungry wolves.'

What do the words 'scramble' and 'falling on' suggest about the behaviour of the men?

.....[1]

- 7 (a) In Paragraph 3, what phrase does the writer use to show that being on the boat was soothing?

.....[1]

- (b) In the same paragraph, what is (i) unusual and (ii) effective about the phrase 'motion within immobility'?

(i) it is unusual because

.....[1]

(ii) it is effective because

.....[1]

8 In Paragraph 3 we see the distinction which Nayir makes between living in a house and living on a boat. Which **two** separate words emphasise this contrast most clearly?

(i)

(ii)[1]

9 In Paragraph 4, the writer says Nayir is concerned to 'distance himself from his neighbours'. What **two** things does he most want to avoid?

(i)

(ii)[2]

10 In Paragraph 5, there 'was the same vastness, silence and hidden life, and the same strange mixture of monotony and change. Like the waves, the bodies of the dunes had changed endlessly with the wind, rising into peaks or slithering like snake trails.'

Identify words or phrases in the given sentences which suggest similarities between the sea and desert.

Similarities	Words or phrases from passage
(i) the pattern left by the movement of the waves and sand	
(ii) repetitive yet varied	
(iii) creatures existing below the surface	

[3]

11 In Paragraph 7, we see that Majid is just the kind of interfering neighbour Nayir would like to avoid. How does Majid show his intense curiosity about Nayir's actions?

.....[1]

12 In which **two** ways does Nayir make clear that he is annoyed with Majid?

(i)

(ii)

.....[2]

- 13 The structure of the text reflects Nayir's thoughts and feelings as he prepares for his journey. Complete the flowchart by choosing one word from the box to summarise the main thoughts or feelings presented in each part of the text. There are some extra words in the box you do not need to use.

Nayir's thoughts and feelings

Freedom Recollection Irritation Gratitude Regret Contentment Anger

Flow chart

Paragraphs 1–2: (i)



Paragraphs 3–4: (ii)



Paragraph 5: (iii)



Paragraphs 6–7: (iv)

[4]

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to Text 3 on pages 4–5 of the Insert for Questions 14–19.

14 (a) According to Paragraph 1, what did the landscape look like when the 'giant animals' lived on Earth?

.....[1]

(b) Why did these giant animals die out?

.....[1]

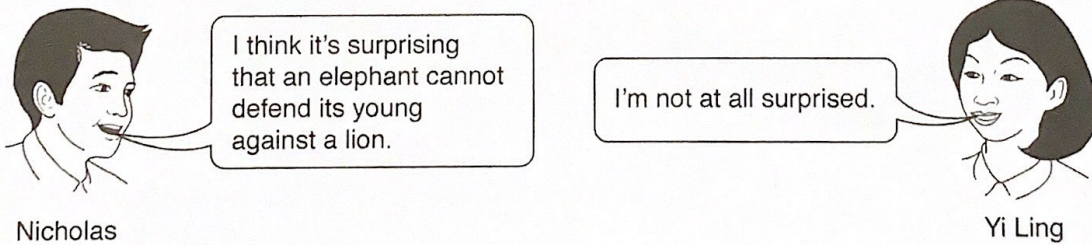
15 In Paragraph 2, we are told of two parts of its body which an elephant uses to obtain food. Write down the part of the body and in each case say how it is used to obtain food.

Part of body	Use	
(i)	
(ii)	[2]

16 Explain what the writer means by describing the trunk as 'the elephant's most distinctive feature' (line 11). **Answer in your own words.**

.....[1]

17 Here is part of a conversation between two students who are discussing the strengths of an elephant and a lion:



(a) Referring to the description of the elephant in Paragraph 2, explain why Nicholas is surprised that a lion could overcome an elephant. Give **two** features.

(i)

(ii)[2]

(b) With reference to Paragraph 3, give **one** feature which a lion possesses which accounts for Yi Ling's lack of surprise.

.....[1]

18 From Paragraph 3, give **two** reasons why drought conditions are particularly dangerous for elephants. **Answer in your own words as far as possible.**

(i)

.....

(ii)

.....[2]

19 Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the ways, as outlined in the passage, in which elephants were used by human beings in the past, and are still used today.

Use only information from Paragraphs 4 and 5.

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).

In ancient times human beings made use of elephants to

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