

Name of Candidate: _____ ()

Class: _____



**BUKIT PANJANG GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2020
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS / 4 & 5 NORMAL (ACADEMIC)**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2 Comprehension

INSERT

1128/02

Date: 17 August 2020

Duration: 1 hr 50 min

Time: 1050h – 1240h

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

This insert contains Texts 1, 2, and 3.

Setters: Mrs Christine Wong (Sections A and B) and Mr Yeo Zhi Wen (Section C)

This insert consists of 5 printed pages.

Text 1

Study the webpage below and answer Questions 1–5 on the Question Paper.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL mewr.gov.sg/semakau. The page header includes the MEWR logo and the text "Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources SINGAPORE".

SEMAKAU
CREATED OUT OF SEA SPACE

THE ISSUE
Limited Space For Our Growing Amount Of Waste

We only have one landfill left. Each year, we send about 200,000 tonnes of solid waste and all incineration ash to the Semakau landfill. At this rate we are sending waste there, it will run out of space by around 2035. As there is no available land for landfill on mainland Singapore, Semakau Landfill had to be created by enclosing 350 hectares of sea space between two offshore islands. Semakau Landfill opened on 1 April 1999 and is now the only one we have.

THE CHALLENGE Building Landfills Is Not A Sustainable Solution

We have already used up large tracts of land on mainland Singapore, in various areas such as Choa Chu Kang, Lim Chu Kang and Lorong Halus. The Semakau Landfill had to be constructed out of sea space due to our land constraints. It is difficult for Singapore to continually build landfills to handle our growing amount of waste. We need to look for more sustainable solutions to handle our waste.

OUR EFFORTS
Incinerable waste is sent to our four incineration plants, and the ashes end up at Semakau landfill. Incineration can reduce waste volume by over 90%! The excess heat energy produced contributes to about 3% of our electricity supply. By diverting recyclable materials away from the rubbish chute, we send less to the landfill and lengthen its lifespan.

2052
2040
2025
2012

PROLONGED LIFESPAN OF SEMAKAU LANDFILL

Through recycling and other waste minimisation efforts, we are progressively lengthening the lifespan of our last landfill.

Click [here](#) to share your ideas on waste minimisation.

Section B

Text 2

The text below comes from a book by Gerald Durrell, where he writes about how he runs his zoo and his fund-raising experiences. In the text below, Durrell recounts his last social engagement event and a noteworthy event that occurred the day after. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 6–20 on the Question Paper.

- 1 I undertook my last speaking engagement at an incredibly exclusive and expensive country club where you could not obtain admittance until you had at least a million bucks in your bank account. It seemed an appropriate place for to me to go with my begging bowl. The place was littered with expensive *nouveau riche*¹Americans, the females with violet hair, necks like vultures and the minute, tell-tale scars of the last facelift showing through the real or fake tan. They were bejewelled like Christmas trees and tinkled like musical boxes as they walked in. I felt that if I could lure one of them behind a bush and strip her of her baubles, I would probably keep the zoo solvent for several years. However, my gentlemanly instincts prevented me from applying this technique for obtaining, easily and rapidly, funds to help the animals. 5 10
- 2 The males who belonged to these females were all overweight, with voices that had a rich timbre through regular gargling with gravel, and purple pouting faces like giant babies suffering from nappy rash. They rode around in electric golf carts so there was no risk of their losing weight. Everywhere else in America I had met charming, civilized and overwhelmingly generous and gracious people, so this collection of horrors was, to say the least, off-putting. My plea to these people was supposed to take place after dinner. Dinner was preceded by two hours of solid and lavish drinking on a scale I have rarely seen equalled. 15
- 3 By the time dinner was served, my audience was well on the way to inebriation. With dinner, of course, came the appropriate wines with each course. Then came my great moment. The person who had organized this terrifying ordeal rose to his feet, and fighting gamely against the roars of after-dinner conversation, made a short, totally inaudible speech of introduction and sat down rather unsteadily. This was my cue. I rose. Everyone stopped talking and stared at me owlshly. 20 25
- 4 I launched into my heartrending plea on behalf of the animals of the world to an audience of quite the most unprepossessing mammals I had ever encountered. I was glad not only to sit down but to leave this exclusive club the following day, richer by a hardly magnificent one hundred dollars.
- 5 It was imperative that we caught an early morning plane to New York, for I had radio, TV and a press conference lined up, so early that morning after having breakfasted and packed, I shuffled off to Peter's room to make sure he had not overslept. A sad and soulful voice told me to come in. His breakfast tray was on the bed but he was nowhere to be seen. 30

¹ *nouveau riche* – people from a relatively low social class who have recently acquired wealth and like to show this publicly by spending a lot of money

- 6 "Where are you?" I called. 35
 "In here, Gerry, in here," came his faint voice from the bathroom.
 I poked my head around the door and discovered Peter standing stark naked in the bath, clutching a large towel to his bosom, with an expression of extreme terror on his face.
- 7 "What's the matter?" I asked, puzzled by his demeanour. 40
 "Look," he croaked, pointing downwards.
 I looked. A great stream of blood was pouring down his leg and forming a gory pool in the bath.
- 8 "Good God! What have you done?" 45
 "I don't know. I think I cut myself with my signet ring when I was drying myself."
- 9 "Come lie on the bed and let me have a look at it," I said, thinking somewhat 50
 uncharitably that Peter would wait until we had a tight schedule before slashing himself with a signet ring. He lay on the bed and I discovered that the ring had sliced neatly through a largish vein in that part of his anatomy where it was impossible to put a tourniquet without turning my friend and helper into a boy soprano. As I wondered how to staunch the blood, my eyes fell on the breakfast tray. On the tray was a salt cellar. Quickly I mopped the blood off the severed vein and poured the contents of the capacious salt cellar onto it. The results were not quite what I had expected. All his ballet training came to the fore. Peter left the bed with a leap Nijinsky² could not have emulated, scattering blood and salt in all 55
 directions, uttering loud yodelling cries. I had to pursue several times around the room before I could get him to lie on the bed again, but only when he had extracted a promise that I would not use any more salt. Of course, all the activity had excited the vein which was now pumping out blood like a fountain. It was obvious something drastic must be done if Peter were not to bleed to death and we were 60
 going to catch our plane on time.

² Vatslav Nijinsky was a ballet dancer and choreographer cited as the greatest dancer of the early 20th century. He was celebrated for his virtuosity and admired for his seemingly gravity-defying leaps.

Section C

Text 3

The text below is about the phenomenon of adults purchasing toys. Read it carefully and answer Questions 21–27 on the Question Paper.

- 1 Many adults probably experienced a point in their childhood where they decided that they were too old for toys; they think it is a part of growing up to give up childish things. In recent years, however, many grown-ups are getting them out again. The grown-up's taste for toys has thrown a lifeline to manufacturers faced with shrinking sales. When the London Toy Fair opens each year, the industry 5
 always has "kidults" in its sight as well as parents.

- 2 According to new research conducted by NPD Group, a retail analyst, sales of toys to adults have increased by almost two-thirds over the past five years, and by more than 20 per cent in just the last year. As a result, the 'toys for adults' market is now worth £300m³ – and said to be growing three times faster than the children's toy market itself. As with most things, millennials are largely to blame. More than half of the 'kidult' spend comes from 18 to 34-year-olds, snapping up everything from £500 Scalextric sets to drones, Nerf guns and £200 Star Wars Lego models. 10
- 3 Play can bring parents closer to their children. "I have a lot of toys around the house, but it's more of a way of connecting with the kids," says Andrew Birkin, a 71-year-old screenwriter who lives with his grandchildren. But the primary audience for many of Lego's new products is adults, regardless of whether they have children. The advantages for Europe's biggest toy producer are obvious: the model of Old Trafford Stadium released this week and aimed at over-16s costs £250 – hardly pocket-money pricing. The Forma range of mechanical models is for "adults looking for a fun, engaging way to reconnect with their creative side". In November, the company bought BrickLink, the world's largest online community of adult fans, to strengthen its ties with older users. 15
20
- 4 This phenomenon of adults buying toys is about more than a simple case of nostalgia, though the Star Wars Millennium Falcon model (7,500 pieces; £650) certainly suggests that is a factor. The recently published Build Yourself Happy: The Joy of Lego Play promises that the tactile interaction with Lego bricks can improve your cognitive skills and allow you to practise mindfulness. For many, it is a reaction to the stresses of modern adult life, a relief from the constant mediation of experience through a screen, and a rare opportunity to be in undisputed charge of things. The persistent, quiet focus required is a welcome respite from the endless stimulus-response of social media. 25
30
- 5 For some it's a chance to recapture the careless raptures of childhood, while for others it's a chance to escape the hassle and hardships of adult life. Lego offers the possibility of purposeless, pressure-free creativity, whereas even hobbies such as baking and painting can be shadowed by the worry that the results will fail to please other people. No one could say that the most elaborate Lego sets are undemanding; but to most people they will feel less taxing than, say, reading a difficult novel. As with the vogue for other 'mindfulness aids' like adult colouring books and dot-to-dot, they allow people to focus yet relax, instead of rushing to meet yet another target. 35
40
- 6 Many of us could do with more rest and recreation in our lives. Yet there is something dismal and even contradictory about the idea of play as a tool to make us more fit for the relentless demands of the adult world, and about the growing hunger for such an escape. Play is, as David Hockney once observed, serious. It is a basic human need, whether it involves pieces of plastic or simply the attitude people bring to their lives. But toys are no substitute for a world that offers children and adults the opportunities for creativity and control in their daily lives. 45

³ British pounds (£) – 100 British Pounds converts roughly to 180 Singapore Dollars. £300million ≈ \$540million SGD

Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the webpage (Text 1) on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1–5.

1 What is the purpose of this webpage?

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

2 Refer to the text under the heading 'The Issue'. It starts with 'We only have one landfill left' and ends with 'is now the only one we have'. What effect is created by these two lines?

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

3 Refer to the image next to 'The Challenge'. How does the image complement the information under the heading 'The Challenge'?

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

4 Why is incineration crucial in waste management for Singapore?

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

5 Which group of words is an invitation to the readers to join the effort in helping to lengthen the lifespan of our landfill?

..... [1]

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 2 on pages 3–4 of the Insert for Questions 6–20.

- 6** At the beginning of the text, the writer is at an exclusive and expensive country club. Explain how the language used in paragraph 1 shows that the writer did not think well of the ladies at the club.

Support your ideas with **two** details from paragraph 1, with each detail reflecting a different aspect of the ladies.

Aspect	Your answer
Appearance	
Character/ Personality	

[2]

- 7** Why was the club deemed an 'appropriate place' (line 3) for the writer to speak at for his fund-raising campaign?

.....
 [1]

- 8** What is the writer's tone when he writes 'there was no risk of their losing weight' (line 15)?

..... [1]

- 9** What phrase in paragraph 2 sums up his disdain for the audience he was to speak to?

..... [1]

- 10** In paragraph 3, the writer says his 'audience was well on the way to inebriation'. Explain **in your own words** what was happening to the audience.

.....
 [1]

- 11** What phrase in paragraph 3 shows the writer's reluctance to speak at this club?

..... [1]

12 The writer says the person who introduced him was 'inaudible' (line 24). Why was this so? Answer in your own words.

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

13 Write down the phrase (of not more than four words) in paragraph 4 that provides evidence that the writer did not view his audience as respectable humans?

..... [1]

14 What is unusual about the writer's use of the word 'magnificent' (line 29) in describing the amount of money he raised at the club?

..... [1]

15 What was puzzling about Peter's demeanour (line 40) to the writer?

..... [1]

16 What **two** separate words used by the writer suggest that Peter was not well before the writer saw Peter's injury?

i. From Paragraph 6:

ii. From Paragraph 7: [1]

17 What emotion is conveyed by the writer's utterance of 'Good God!' (line 44)?

..... [1]

18 "Come lie on the bed and let me have a look at it," I said, thinking somewhat uncharitably that Peter would wait until we had a tight schedule before slashing himself with a signet ring." (Paragraph 9)

What **two** feelings did the writer experience at this point? Explain your answer using evidence from the text above.

(i)
.....

(ii)
..... [2]

19 The writer says the vein 'was now pumping out blood like a fountain' (line 59). How is this description effective?

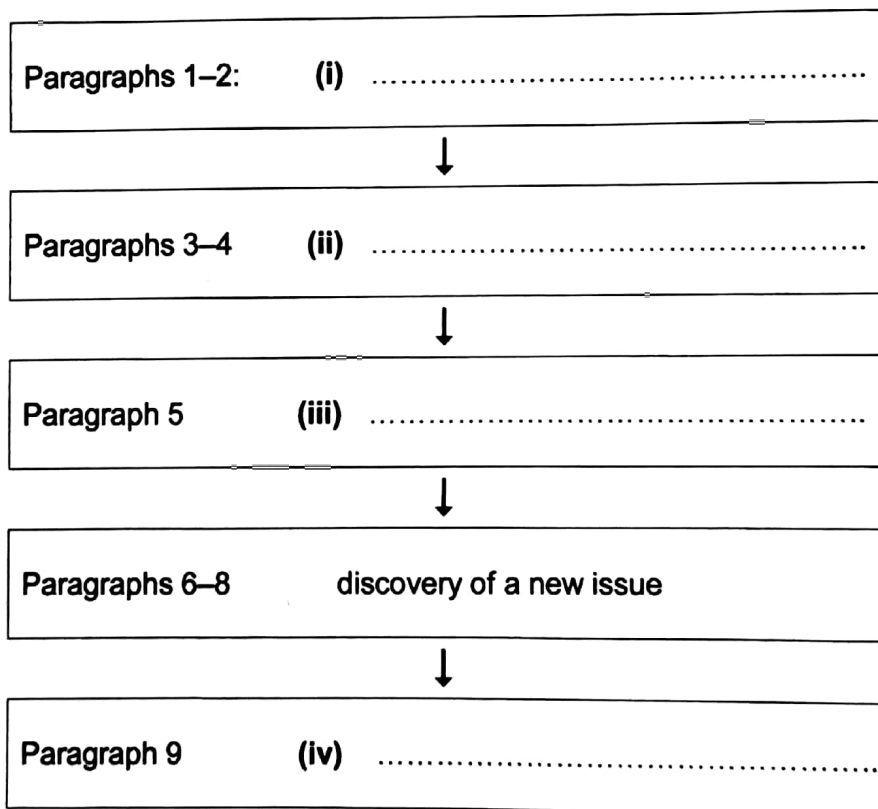
.....
..... [1]

20 The structure of the text reflects the stages of the writer's experience. Complete the flow chart by choosing one phrase from the box to summarise the events in each stage. There are some extra phrases in the box you do not need to use.

Stages of the writer's experience

desperate attempt to solve a problem	fulfilling duty
orientating himself to the audience	enjoying an extravagant dinner
fighting against fear	preparing for the next engagement
reflecting on one's choices	

Flow chart



[4]

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to Text 3 on pages 4–5 of the Insert for Questions 21–27.

21 According to paragraph 1, what impact has adults' interest in toys had on the toy industry? Answer in your own words.

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

22 In line 11, the writer says, 'As with most things, millennials are largely to blame.'

(a) What are millennials being 'blamed' for?

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

(b) Give one reason why the use of the word 'blame' is unusual.

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

23 (a) Explain fully what the 'obvious' (line 18) advantage is that Lego has.

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

(b) Why is 'hardly pocket-money pricing' (line 20) a suitable description for the price of the model of Old Trafford Stadium?

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

24 According to paragraph 4, the writer suggests 'nostalgia' as a factor for adults wanting to buy the Star Wars Millennium Falcon model. With this understanding, suggest one reason why adults would want to buy the toy.

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

25 Here is a conversation between two students, Victoria and Murali, who have read this article.

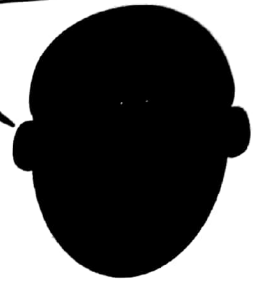
Victoria

I think playing with Lego helps people to relax.



Murali

I agree, but some other leisure activities can be stressful.



(a) How would Victoria explain her position with reference to paragraph 5? Give **two** points.

- (i)
- (ii) [2]

(b) Identify **one** example from lines 33 to 39 that Murali can give to support his view.

..... [1]

26 'But toys are no substitute for a world that offers children and adults the opportunities for creativity and control in their daily lives.' (lines 47-48)

What is the writer's attitude towards the idea of playing with toys as a form of play as suggested in the extract above?

..... [1]

