Anglo-Chinese School
(Barker Road)

MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2008

SECONDARY TWO
EXPRESS / NORMAL (ACADEMIC)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 1

TIME: 1 hour 45 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the Answer Paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Write your Index Number on ALL answer papers that are handed in.
Answer both **Section One** and **Section Two**.

Write your answer for each section on a fresh sheet of paper.
At the end of the examination, hand in Section One and Section Two SEPARATELY.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in [ ] at the head of each section.

This paper consists of 3 printed pages

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PART ONE [30 marks]

You are advised to write between 300 and 450 words on one of the following topics.

At the head of your composition, write the number of the topic you have chosen.

1. Describe a scene at an amusement park or a playground.
2. An unexpected gift.
3. "School is boring". Do you agree? In what way can school be made more interesting?
4. Write about a narrow escape that you have had.
5. Obedience.

PART TWO [30 marks]

Begin your answer on a fresh page.

You are advised to write between 200 and 250 words for this section.

You should read the information carefully and plan your answer before beginning to write.

Write a letter to a cousin, who wants to go on a holiday trip, but is undecided about the location. Tell him or her about your recent holiday experience to Australia. Make your description so interesting that he or she would like to visit Australia.

You can include the following points, and add any others you think necessary, in order to make your letter sound convincing.

Accommodation

Maxsis Hotel is the first and finest luxury hotel in Australia that delivers the promise of royal treatment by providing all guests with impeccable 'Butler Service' - a unique concept of consolidated services associated with the utmost personalised care. Located in the heart of the historical and cultural district of Australia, Maxsis Hotel is just a short drive from the city's business centres, shopping malls and beaches. It is just eight kilometres away from the Australia International Airport. A holiday hotel, designed to offer a comfortable abode to travellers with its excellent facilities and service, it has 236 all-executive rooms, three recreational rooms, two pools that cater to the needs of the most demanding clientele.

For apartment accommodation, you cannot miss the Medina hotel with its fully-equipped kitchen, babysitting, restaurant and laundry services. A Medina hotel apartment is your ideal accommodation solution...space, comfort, security...and award winning, warm and friendly hotel service. Whether you are travelling with your family, or having a romantic weekend getaway, our hotel apartments at Medina offer the perfect environment for your next leisure escapade.

A wide variety of beaches and recreational activites

Mandurah Beach is only fourteen kilometres from the middle of Perth, W.A. Catch a bus to

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swimming and bodyboarding. The beautiful weather of Mandurah Beach entices water sports and boating on the waterways and beaches. Plenty of caravan park/camping grounds and motels are scattered throughout the area for your Mandurah beach vacation.

Enjoy the many cafes and restaurants that abound. City beach is another wonderful Perth beach close to the city that attracts thousands of swimmers in the summer. Fishing in the evening is another attraction of City Beach. At the end of the day, enjoy the setting sun over the Indian Ocean with a barbecue!

If you enjoy pristine white sand and clear water, then take the twelve kilometre drive to Floreat Beach, where native birds roost. For young children, the Mattam's Pool located alongside the beach is sheltered and a great place to use your snorkel for the first time.

A wide variety of food

Food lovers and those who cannot get enough fabulous nightlife will certainly enjoy a visit to Australia. With more eating establishments than any other place, every taste will be catered for. Most of the Perth restaurants, pubs and clubs are located in Northbridge, just a short walk from the city centre. This is also where most of the best Australian night spots can be found. Nearby Subiaco also has several great places worth visiting. If you're looking for an excellent Greek restaurant in Perth, try George's Meze Restaurant in Subiaco. The warm Australian weather is ideal for alfresco dining, with plenty of options available. A restaurant with views of the water is the Blue Duck Café which overlooks the beautiful Cottesloe beach, a beach that is extremely popular with locals and visitors.

Write your letter using an appropriate tone and in clear, accurate English.

End of Paper

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Anglo-Chinese School
(Barker Road)

MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2008

SECONDARY TWO
EXPRESS / NORMAL (ACADEMIC)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 2

(INSERT)

TIME: 1 HOUR 40 MINUTES

This paper consists of 5 printed pages

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Read Passages A and B and then answer the questions which are printed in the separate question paper. Write your answers on the answer paper provided. Begin your Summary on a new and separate sheet of paper.

PASSAGE A

The following passage tells the story of young Priscilla Harding who takes issue with the accepted standards of Melbourne in the late 1800s. Her struggle is linked to the story of the first women doctors in Australia.

1 Never before had her father been so angry with her. If he were angry over this, how would he have acted if she had said what she really wanted to do? As she sat wondering, her father suddenly appeared at the nursery door and announced that if Nicholas and Anne would like to come into the warehouse the next day after school, he would show them the typewriter and also the telephone that had recently been installed. Priscilla, as a punishment for arguing and behaving in such an unladylike manner, would not be allowed to go.

2 After he had gone, Prissy sat on in stony silence. Why? Why? Why? She asked herself. Why was it wrong for her to say she would like to help in the office? Father had always wanted Nick to, and Nick had never been really interested. She didn't really want to help in the business anyway, but it had somehow seemed important at the time to stand up for the idea.

3 "Sorry old thing," said Nick, interrupting her thoughts. "You'll just have to try to be more careful what you say to the old man."

4 "But Nick, I don't understand," replied Prissy, very near to tears. "You know how he likes me to ask him about the business and to talk to me about it. Why is it so different when I want to do something about it?"

5 "He just can't bear these new ideas about girls going into things outside the house. You must know that by now."

6 "I don't really want to have anything to do with the beastly business," said Prissy emphatically. "It was just talking about the typewriter and girls typing that made me argue. Why shouldn't girls go into offices anyway?"

7 Nick sighed and walked away. It was quite true, he knew, and quite useless too. Ever since the day they had played tennis at Aunt Kate's and Prissy had met that wretched female medical student, she had changed. Whenever she saw Aunt Kate, she besieged her with questions about how the lady doctors were getting on in their struggle for equal rights, and what subjects were studied at the University for a medical course. Even if no one else knew what was going on in Prissy's mind, he and Aunt Kate most certainly did.

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PASSAGE B

In this passage, Rosemary Mahoney learns from the spectacular Sabriye Tenberken who puts a joyous new spin on the idea of the blind leading the blind.

1 Sabriye Tenberken walks fast and with authority. Suddenly, a little girl spots Tenberken through the crowd. She springs to her feet, and crows at the top of her lungs: "Here comes a blind idiot!" Throughout her life, first in her native Germany and later in Tibet, Tenberken has been the object of this phrase, and worse, countless times. However, Sabriye Tenberken has single-handedly brought literacy to the blind people of Tibet.

2 In founding Lhasa's[1] *Braille Without Borders* (the region's first rehabilitation and training centre for the blind), she has inspired a revolution in their status, their thinking and their future. She has also won numerous honours and awards for her work.

3 Born with a degenerative retinal disease, Tenberken was blind by 12. As a result, her schoolteachers approached her with what she felt was a **patronising** deference that set her apart. Her classmates spurned and taunted her. Determined to fit in, Tenberken initially denied her blindness to herself and worked hard to hide it: "Not accepting that I was blind was miserable. I was constantly compensating and pretending." She pauses to think and with visible emotion adds, "Not until I accepted my blindness did I begin to live."

4 Tenberken enrolled at a boarding school for the blind, where in addition to academic subjects, the students were taught horseback riding, swimming, white-water rafting, braille, and, above all, self-reliance. "Suddenly, I was one among many," she tells me. "I had friends, I was equal and happy... I can do things."

5 Tenberken then pursued Central Asian studies at the University of Bonn, the only blind student out of 30,000. There, several professors tried to **dissuade** her from studying the difficult Tibetan language. There were no Tibetan texts available in braille[2]. Using the system of rhythmic spelling Tibetans employ to memorise their complex language, Tenberken compiled a Tibetan-German/German-Tibetan dictionary. Eventually, she helped to devise a software system that enabled her to convert entire Tibetan texts into formally printed braille, a feat no one had ever accomplished.

6 She realised that the people of Tibet could also benefit from this system and was inspired to start a school. Rejected by several development organisations, who saw her blindness as a **liability**, Tenberken resolved to make the project happen on her own. In 1997, at the age of 26, with her family's support, she travelled alone to China. She took an intensive course in Chinese, and then proceeded to Tibet where she learned that more than 30,000 of Tibet's 2.6 million people are blind – about twice the global rate. While poor diet and unhygienic conditions are factors, Tibet's main cause of blindness is its high elevation. At this altitude, the intensity of the sun's ultraviolet rays causes damage to the unprotected eye.

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7 Tenberken also discovered a deep-seated prejudice against the blind in Tibet, as blindness is considered punishment for misdeeds conducted in a past life. For centuries Tibet's blind have been shunned, and generally treated as subhuman. Prior to Tenderken's arrival, no single institution or organisation had provided assistance for the region's blind.

8 Tenberken decided to travel through remote areas of the countryside, spreading the word about her braille system and assessing the situation of blind children there. What she found appalled her. Isolated, disrespected, sometimes beaten, abandoned, or turned out in the streets to beg, almost all were illiterate and uneducated. When villagers saw Tenberken walking or riding a horse, they refused at first to believe she was blind. Tenberken persuaded them that though blind, their children, too, could ride horses, read, and write. One astounded father told her, "The prospect of your school is like a dream for us."

9 At the moment, there are 37 students – ranging in age from 3 to 19 – in residence at the school, as well as six trained teachers and five staff members, but new students arrive regularly. Tenberken says that when students first arrive at the school, they often object to being asked to learn and participate in school tasks. But when they see the other kids working hard, they change their views. The students are helping each other, not passively waiting to be told what to do.

10 Tenberken, who used $20,000 of her own money to start the school, spends a great deal of time applying for grants, making speeches, and travelling to raise funds from private individuals. Though the project has gained international renown, donations are often not forthcoming. However, Tenberken believes that presenting her students as pitiable simply furthers the prejudice against them. "We've learned that you'll get funding if people feel sorry for you, but the perception of your capabilities will *never* change."

Adapted from August 2005, O, The Oprah Magazine.

Notes:

1. Lhasa (line 7): The capital of Tibet.
2. Braille (line 25): A system first devised in 1821 by Frenchman, Louis Braille that is widely used by blind people to read and write. Each Braille character is made up of six dot positions, arranged in a rectangle containing two columns of three dots each.

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Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road)

MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2008

SECONDARY TWO
EXPRESS / NORMAL (ACADEMIC)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 2

TIME: 1 HOUR 40 MINUTES

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Name, Class and Index Number on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **ALL** questions.
Leave a space of at least three lines after your completed answer to each question.
Write your answers on the separate answer paper provided.
If you use more than one sheet of paper, fasten the sheets together.
Your answer to **Question 16 (Summary)** is to be handed in **separately**.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in [ ] at the end of each question.
The insert contains the passages for comprehension.
Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalized in any part of the paper.

This paper consists of 3 printed pages

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Read Passage A and Passage B in the *INSERT* and then answer ALL questions which follow. **You are recommended to answer the questions in the given sequence. Ensure that you label your question number correctly.**

Begin your Summary Question on a separate piece of paper.

Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the paper.

NOTE: When a question asks you to answer in your own words, YOU MUST NOT COPY THE WORDS IN THE PASSAGE IN YOUR ANSWER.

FROM PASSAGE A:

From Paragraphs 1 and 2

1. Explain why Priscilla was not invited by her father to visit the warehouse together with her brother, Nicholas and sister, Anne. [2]

2. Give TWO pieces of evidence that suggest that the Harding family was wealthy. [2]

From Paragraphs 4 and 5

3. Why do you think Nick said to Prissy that Mr. Harding "just can't bear these new ideas about girls going into things outside the house. You must know that by now"? [2]

From Paragraph 7

4. Suggest a reason why Nick referred to the source of Prissy's inspiration as "that wretched female medical student." [1]

5. Select ONE word from this paragraph that shows how determined Prissy is to find out more about the struggle of the lady doctors. [1]

6. Select ONE sentence in this paragraph that shows that Prissy enjoyed a close relationship with her brother and aunt. [1]

From Paragraph 8

7. In your own words, explain what Prissy did in order to prepare herself for a possible career in medicine. [2]

From Paragraph 9

8. What happened to Prissy that lifted her out of her unhappiness? [1]

From Paragraph 10

9. "When dinnertime came, Prissy seemed quite normal..." In what way is Mr. Harding's conclusion regarding managing children ironic? [1]

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FROM PASSAGE B:

From Paragraph 3

10. How was Tenberken able to overcome her blindness and change her life for the better? [1]

From Paragraph 4

11. Give TWO reasons why Tenberken was happy at the boarding school. [2]

From Paragraph 5

12. Which word in this paragraph tells you that what Tenberken achieved was considered difficult and therefore to be highly commended? [1]

From Paragraph 6

13. What are the reasons why Tibet's people are quite prone to blindness? [2]

From Paragraph 8

14. **In your own words,** what does Tenberken's school, *Braille Without Borders*, represent to Tibet's blind children and their parents? [1]

15. For each of the following words, **give one word or phrase (of not more than seven words) that has the same meaning** that the word has in the passage. [5]

From Passage A:
a) Pored (line 36)
b) Firm (line 49)

From Passage B:
c) Patronising (line 12)
d) Dissuade (line 23)
e) Liability (line 32)

16. From Passage B:

Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the daunting challenges that Tenberken faced and her incredible achievements. [25]

Use material from line 18 to 64 of Passage B. Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not exceed 160 words, including the 10 given words below to help you begin.

Begin your summary as follows: *Apart from establishing Braille Without Borders, Tenberken's incredible achievements include...*

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Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road)
Mid-Year Examination 2008
Secondary Two
Express/Normal (Academic)
English Language Paper 2

Passage A

1 This was the punishment laid out by her father to punish her for having the intention of wanting to work in the office and arguing with her father regarding this issue, especially in an unlady-like behaviour. Her actions were unacceptable in that era.

2 They owned a business and a warehouse, which is equipped with a telephone and typewriter.

3 He hinted to Prissy to give up and drop the idea of wanting to work outside as it was Mr Harding's character and perception that was very hard to change. Indirectly, he was also trying to resolve the conflict between Prissy and their father.

4 Nick felt that she was a bad influence to Prissy as she had 'inspired' Prissy to ponder and question upon issues that were unbecoming of women in that era.

5. The word is "besieged".

6. The sentence is "Even if no one else knew what was going on in Prissy's mind, he and Aunt Kate most certainly did."

7. She read through all her brother's books and read up reference books from libraries that would pave the way to a medical career.

8. Prissy felt that as long as her dream was still alive in her heart, there was still hope for her to pursue her dream.

9. Mr. Harding thought that he had succeeded in 'taming' Prissy, just by being 'firm' and controlling their physical actions. However, she still haboured intentions of becoming a doctor and achieving things that women usually would not do. Thus, it is considered an irony as actually, Mr Harding was not as successful as he thinks he is.

Passage B

10. She began to accept her condition of being blind.

1 She was happy as she was exposed not only to academic studies, but was also taught to do outdoor activities, learn the braille and develop self reliance. She also learnt to be independent and made friends as well.

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12. The word is 'feat'.

13. Tibetans are quite prone to blindness as they do not have a proper diet and live in unhygienic conditions. However, the main contributing factor is the high altitude of Tibet, which exposes them greatly to the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun which can injure the eyes.

14. The school is like a dream and fervent hope to the parents and the blind themselves.

15. Passage A: a) Pored (line 36): studied
b) Firm (line 49: strict

Passage B: c) Patronising (line 12): pretentious
d) Dissuade (line 23): discourage
e) Liability (line 32): burden

16.**Summary**

Taunting challenges that Tenberken faced
- Professors discouraged her from studying Tibetan Language as there were no Tibetan texts in Braille
- Wanted to start a school but was rejected by developers due to her handicap
- Travelled the Tibetan countryside to spread the word about her Braille system and to assess the situation of the blind children
- Tried to change the mindsets of the people towards the blind and encouraged parents to enroll their blind children in the school
- Children were initially unresponsive to the school activities but gave in subsequently
- Constantly appealed to the public for support but donations were not forthcoming
- Challenged to not allow the blind to feel pitied by building up the capabilities of the blind

Her incredible achievements
- Learnt horseback riding, swimming white water rafting and Braille
- Learnt self-reliance and made friends at the boarding school
- Only blind student out of 3,000 to enter University of Bonn, pursuing Central Asian studies
-Compiled a German-Tibetan/Tibetan-German dictionary
-Devised a soft ware that translated Tibetan texts into Braille
-Travelled alone to China to study Chinese intensively in order to understand the locals
- Started a school for the blind with her own funds and received overwhelming response with the project becoming internationally renowned

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