RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
Year 2 Term Assessment

Language Arts

MAY 2, 2008

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Writing Paper

1 HOUR 30 MINUTES

NAME _____

CLASS _____

INDEX NO. _____

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL INSTRUCTED.

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

Answer ALL the questions.
Write your answers on the separate Writing Paper provided.

This paper has 4 printed pages, including this cover page.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
The total number of marks for this paper is 40.

You are reminded of the need for legible handwriting and language accuracy in your answers.

SECTION	MARKS
A	
B	
TOTAL	

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

Section A: Literary Response – Romeo and Juliet (10 marks)

(You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section.)

Read the excerpt carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Excerpt 1

Prince: This letter doth make good the friar's words,
Their course of love, the tidings of her death;
And here he writes that he did buy a poison
Of a poor 'pothecary, and therewithal
Came to this vault to die, and lie with Juliet.
Where be these enemies? Capulet, Montague,
See what a scourge is laid upon your hate,
That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love.
And I for winking at your discords too
Have lost a brace of kinsmen; all are punished.

1. "All are punished". In view of this quote by Prince,
   i. choose one character who is punished, and
   ii. state why he/she is responsible for what he/she did and is therefore deserving of this punishment.

[10]

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

Section B: Reading Comprehension and Response (30 marks)

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

1. Home-schooling is today, becoming more and more popular in Britain with many parents making the decision of educating their children at home rather than sending them to a state-school. On top of that, computer technology has played an **empowering** and influential role in making home-education so much more feasible than it was in the past. Today, more and more parents rely heavily, though not completely, on it for their children's learning and development.

2. The public perception is still that home-educated children are out of the ordinary. One shining example would be the **precocious** person of Ruth Lawrence who entered Oxford at the age of 12. She was in her younger years, **intensively** coached at home by her father.

3. Claire, a parent, educates her two children at home. "I know that home educated children are seen as slightly odd as they might not seem to get much of socialisation," she admits, "but I do not worry about it at all as my children play with other children of all ages all the time. Another parent, by the name of Katherine Thomas agrees. Her son Eliot once studied in a state school but is now educated at home. She affirms, "I am led by Eliot. We talk about what he wants to talk about and I answer all his questions. If it's a nice day, we go to the library or park. Several times a month, we get together with other home-schooling families and organize big outings, such as to the Museum of Science and Industry."

4. Children like Eliot are fiercely independent and tend to arrange their own day. Spending his time on the Internet and enriching himself with his CD-ROMs are but day to day activities for Eliot. Research has shown that home-educated children are usually two years ahead of those at school. They also have greater self-confidence and have better social skills at dealing with people of all ages.

5. "School," says Professor of Education Roland Meighan, "creates a more **hostile** learning and teaching environment for both students and teachers. Children are being pushed through the National Curriculum and compulsory testing. They're **oppressed** by the system which doesn't encourage them to expand and develop. What is on offer in our present state school system is invalid and children are being damaged in it."

6. On the other hand, University of Exeter's Ted Wragg states that "sending children to school is far more than just filling their heads with facts. Schools offer specialist facilities such as gyms, labs and game fields. Good teachers mean that children are being taught by a professional specialist. School is vital for a child's social development, and there are also out-of-school activities which develop them."

7. While most agree that home-educated learners make more active and independent learners than school-educated ones as they are able to follow their own interests; the overriding contention remains: how will home-educated children cope with the world once they move out of their comfortable, private learning environment and will they ever really fit in?

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

From paragraph 1

1. How is home education made more feasible today? [1]

From paragraph 2

2. How is Ruth "out of the ordinary"? [1]

From paragraph 3

3. (a) What is one problem of home education that Claire talks about? [1]
   (b) How is this problem solved by Katherine? [1]

From paragraph 5

4. (a) Give any two reasons why Meighan is opposed to state education. [2]
   (b) What is the word that Meighan uses that defines state education as being inadequate? [1]

From paragraph 6

5. Give one reason why Wragg says that school education is necessary. [1]

From paragraph 7

6. What do you think the phrase "cope with the world" means? [2]

From the entire passage

7. Explain the following in a word or phrase. [5]
   (a) empowering (line 3)
   (b) precocious (line 8)
   (c) intensively (line 9)
   (d) hostile (line 23)
   (e) oppressed (line 25)

Reader Response

8. Use one example from the passage and together with your own experience, state whether or not you think home education is better than school education. [15]

   Your answer should be approximately 200 – 250 words.

END OF PAPER

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

River Valley High School
Year 2
Mid-year Term Assessment 2008
Language Arts

Section B: Reading Comprehension and Response (30 marks)

1. Home education has been made more feasible today through computer technology.

2. Ruth is a home educated child who manages to get into Oxford University at the age of twelve. Her feat of entering Oxford University at such a tender age is out of the ordinary.

3. (a) Claire speaks of the problem of home-schooled children not having equal chances of socializing as compared to school-going children.

3. (b) She interacts with Elliot and clears his doubts. She also brings him to the library and on outings to educational places with other home-schooling families on a regular basis as a means of socialisation.

4. (a) Children have to go through a rigid education system, which does not allow them to grow and learn freely. School also makes children and teachers co-exist in a hostile environment.

4(b) The word is "invalid".

5. Schools are able to offer support facilities such as gyms, labs and game fields.
Teachers are professional specialists who are available to teach the children.
Schooling aids in a child's social development and external activities further nurture them. (Any 1 point is sufficient)

6. It means to handle the true reality of the society.

7 (a) empowering (line 3): enabling
(b) precocious (line 8): extraordinary
(c) intensively (line 9): rigorously
(d) hostile (line 23): harsh
(e) oppressed (line 25): restricted

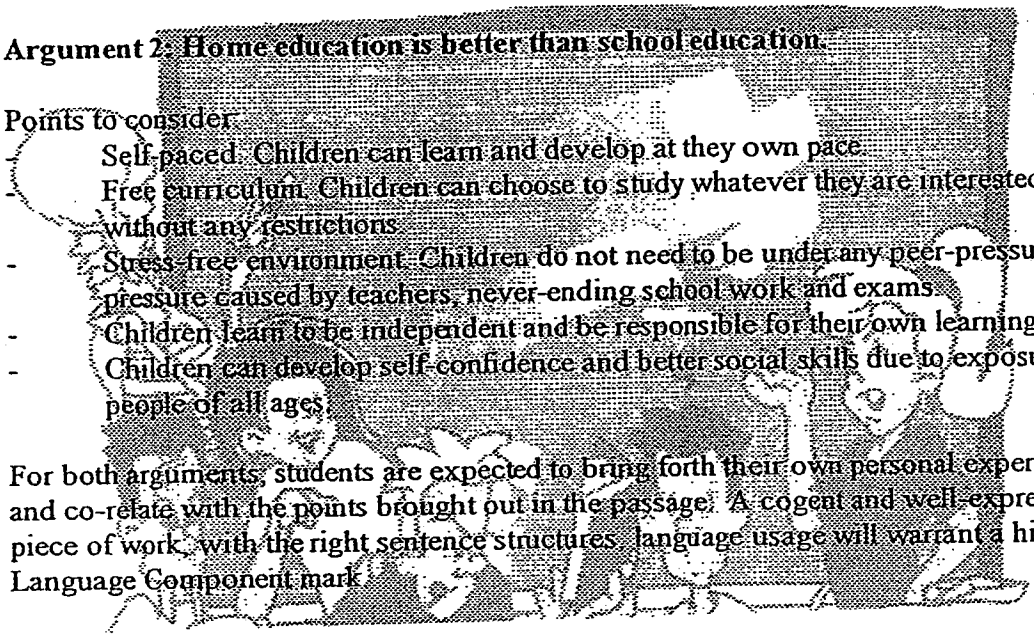
8.
Argument 1: School education is better than home education.
Points to consider:

- Professionals are available to attend to children.
- Aids in social development as students are grouped into classes which can develop their socialising skills as they can interact with each other.

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

- Out-of-school activities such as co-curricular activities, provides a different learning environment.
- Enrichment activities can help to nurture students to become all-rounders.
- Planned time-table ensures learning through a focused routine.

Argument 2: Home education is better than school education.



Points to consider:

- Self-paced. Children can learn and develop at they own pace.
- Free curriculum. Children can choose to study whatever they are interested in without any restrictions.
- Stress-free environment. Children do not need to be under any peer-pressure and pressure caused by teachers, never-ending school work and exams.
- Children learn to be independent and be responsible for their own learning.
- Children can develop self-confidence and better social skills due to exposure to people of all ages.

For both arguments, students are expected to bring forth their own personal experiences and co-relate with the points brought out in the passage. A cogent and well-expressed piece of work, with the right sentence structures, language usage will warrant a higher Language Component mark.

Downloaded from SingaKids.com