Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road)

Secondary 3

MID YEAR EXAMINATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 1

TIME : 1 HOUR 45 MINUTES

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Write your index number and name 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 both Section One and Section Two.
At the end of the examination, hand in Section One and Section Two separately.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of 2 printed pages

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

Section 1 [30 marks]

1. **Write about a time when your decision to help brought about unexpected** consequences.

2. **Concerned.**

3. **Do you feel that all students should be made to participate in at least one Sports CCA? Give reasons to support your point of view.**

4. **What do you think members of the public can do to improve the well-being and safety of all road users, such as pedestrians, motorists and cyclists?**

5. **"What a wonderful smell!" Write about one of the scents you like best and why it means so much to you.**

Section 2 [30 marks]

The school is planning to build a new extension and the principal has earmarked a space in this extension for students to set up a student enterprise or cooperative. Several proposals for the student enterprise or cooperative have been submitted to the principal, and he and the school board will shortly give approval for the set up of one of the proposed student enterprises or cooperatives. You have seen the proposals displayed on the school bulletin board:

Comics Café

The café will stock comics from all regions of the world, including syndicated collections from the United States to manga from Japan. The comics will come in book format and video format, which students can read for a nominal half-hourly fee while enjoying a selection of beverages and finger foods, during recess time and after school hours.

LAN Zone

In the LAN Zone, the latest LAN games can be accessed via state-of-the-art equipment. The setting is specially designed to allow 20 persons to play individually or compete at the same time. The acoustics and lighting are specifically configured to give all persons, players and spectators, the most satisfying LAN experience within the allocated space.

Fashion and Sports Accessories Stop

The most fashion forward apparel and sports accessories designed for young adults are sourced for this stop. The concept behind the enterprise is to bring in small quantities of merchandise at competitive prices. Each of the merchandise items is chosen for its quality and strength of market appeal.

Write a letter in which you explain in detail to the Director of the school board which of the three enterprises you would prefer to have at the new extension and the reasons for your choice. Try to persuade him and the school board and convince them that your choice is the one they should approve.

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

Read the following passage carefully before you attempt any questions. Answer all questions. Do answer them in the order set. Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the paper.

Passage A

1	Smith turned on his heel towards the gate behind him. The prison camp was no more than a collection of wooden huts set out in rows and surrounded by high razor wire fences strung between a handful of spindly guard towers, with a marble quarry somewhere beyond. No trees, no bushes, no flowers. It was a bad posting, with a bad reputation: a place of brutality, too far from any town for off duty amusements, with nothing to do but watch the defeated.	1 5
2	He walked towards the gate, and a soldier on guard lounging at the door of a hut just inside the wire watched him impassively, holding his rifle loosely, more as formality than for any specific purpose.	
3	"You joining us?" His voice was flat.	10
4	Smith nodded. There would be time enough later to learn names and explore personalities. For the moment he needed only to report his arrival to the commander. Then he could explore further.	
5	"The office is the first hut." The soldier gestured vaguely with his rifle. "You'll find the commander in there."	15
6	The office was sparse: a trestle table, an elderly typewriter, a filing cabinet and a field telephone. A lance corporal sat picking at the typewriter like a hen pecking up grains, using a single finger in spasmodic little jerks. He looked up, and then glanced at a piece of paper. "You must be Smith."	
7	Smith nodded. "That's me." He took a buff envelope from a pocket and held it out tentatively. "Corporal."	20
8	The lance-corporal sniffed. His rank did not seem to weigh on him very heavily. He tossed the envelope into a wire basket. "Can you type?" Smith shook his head and he sighed.	
9	"I'm doing death returns. They die like flies in this place, it's a tedious chore. Rows of names, ranks, numbers, and nobody cares one bit." He gestured vaguely over his shoulder. "I'll tell the commander you've arrived."	25
10	Introduction to the commander was swift and brief. The commander barked, "I'll need you to count the bodies." Together, the three of them walked to the first prisoner hut. Smith found himself standing in a small open space of floor. The air stank of urine, and faeces, and something sweet, sickly and foul. Smith had smelt it before, during the campaign, when his regiment had cleared the area that had been fought over. It was the smell of death.	30
11	The commander made a face. "Find out which senior prisoner was responsible	

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

for clearing this hut this morning, corporal, and tell him I'll have him whipped the next time."

12 He nodded towards Smith and the lance corporal cleared his throat. "The commander expects the prisoners to clear their huts before they go to work." He rapped his words as though reciting from rote. "All toilet facilities must be cleaned, all bodies removed."

13 The commander pulled his revolver half way from its holster. "Right, let's see where it is." The lance corporal led the way then stopped by a bunk. "Here's one, sir." He reached into a bunk to pull a man's leg free. It did not move.

14 The commander freed his revolver. "Is he alive or dead?"

15 The lance corporal shook the leg tentatively. "I think it's dead, sir."

16 "Turn him out."

17 The lance corporal put his clipboard on an empty bunk, and pulled at the leg. A man slid out from between the blankets, clad only in pale khaki vest and underpants, to drop heavily on the wooden floor between the rows of bunks. He was young, had been young, a typical soldier with a close-cropped head.

18 The commander looked down at him with an expression of disgust. "Make sure his bedding is burned."

Adapted from The Prisoners by Nicholas Travers

Passage B

1 The furore in China surrounding the discovery that children and the mentally handicapped had been kidnapped and sold into slavery is showing no sign of abating. It seems increasingly likely that the controversy will mark a significant milestone in the evolution of the country's civil society. Police said they had rescued more than 500 people from forced labour in brick kilns, where they were worked 18 hours a day and beaten if they tried to escape. Some 30 arrests have been made and more are expected following a massive police rescue operation involving 35,000 officers checking 7,500 work places.

2 The crackdown began after some 400 parents of children who they suspected had been kidnapped published an anguished letter on the popular Internet forum Tianya Club on June 7. The letter said they had managed to rescue some 40 children before running into stiff resistance from the local authorities in the northeastern province of Shanxi, where most of the kilns were situated. The letter sparked a storm on the Internet, and on June 13 a member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party expressed concern about the issue. Police action soon followed.

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

3	Populist criticism on the Internet has been at the forefront of the outrage — and may be a harbinger for how grassroots' protests are heard by Chinese authorities in the future. As is often the case, (coverage of the incident has been gently moved off the front pages of Chinese newspapers.) Nevertheless, the subject is still a hot topic on Chinese websites, where much of the criticism was directed at the authorities for failing to intervene to stop the human trafficking and enslavement of the brick kiln workers. Even in usually docile official publications like the English language *China Daily*, the sense of shock and outrage many Chinese felt on seeing footage and pictures of the dazed, sometimes bleeding workers being led out of the kilns was evident, even if relegated to *op-ed pages.	20 25
4	"None of the synonyms for 'anger' is strong enough to express the public's fury," wrote columnist Liu Shinan. "I want to ask: What were local government officials doing when the children and other workers were tormented?" Liu also noted that "nobody would believe that such atrocities... are happening in today's China." Another columnist in the same paper praised the role of a provincial newspaper reporter in exposing the slave trade and argued that China needed more investigative journalism.	30
5	Such criticism of the authorities and calls for a greater watchdog role by the tightly controlled media reflects the extent of shock many Chinese feel at the gruesome revelations. But it also shows the way the party is being forced to offer some accountability to a citizenry that is increasingly affluent and unwilling to accept that they have no ability to counter the arbitrary power of the state. The party leadership recognises that it must adapt to the changing attitudes or risk losing control. "There is room to manoeuvre and the party is willing to negotiate so long as there is no challenge to its authority," says Nicholas Bequelin, a China researcher for Human Rights Watch. *Adapted from Slave Labour in China Sparks Outrage by Simon Elegant in Time, June 20, 2007.*	35 40

* *op-ed pages – pages opposite the editorial pages/less prominent pages in the newspaper/less important pages in the newspaper*

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

From Passage A:

From paragraph 1:

1 ***In your own words*, explain why the soldier, Smith, considered his posting in this prison camp "a bad posting"?** [3]

From paragraph 2:

2 What was the author implying about the situation in the camp in his description of the soldier at the door "holding his rifle loosely, more as a formality than for any specific purpose"? [2]

From paragraph 4:

3 Explain *in your own words* what it means to "explore personalities". [1]

From paragraph 7:

4 When Smith saw the lance corporal for the first time, he held out an envelope "tentatively" to the lance corporal. Why was this done in a tentative manner? [1]

From paragraph 8:

5 "His rank did not seem to weigh on him very heavily." Explain what this means *in your own words*. [2]

From paragraph 9:

6 "I'm doing death returns." What was the purpose of the chore that the lance corporal was engaged in? [1]

7 How did the lance corporal feel about his chore? [2]

From paragraph 10:

8 Explain, in your own words, the living conditions for prisoners in the camp. [2]

From paragraph 14:

9 Why did the commander free his revolver? [1]

From paragraph 15:

10 What attitude of the lance corporal towards the prisoners is revealed when he replied to the commander, "it's dead, sir"? [1]

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

From paragraph 18:

11 **Why did the commander ask that the dead soldier's bedding be burnt?** [2]

From Passage B:

From paragraph 1:

12 Explain in your own words what "no sign of abating" means. [1]

13 **In your own words, explain what "milestone" in the evolution of the country's civil society means.** [1]

From Passages A and B:

14 For each of the following words or phrases, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage: [5]

From Passage A:

1. impassively (line 8)
2. sparse (line 16)
3. spasmodic (line 18)

From Passage B:

4. harbinger (line 18)
5. relegated (line 27)

From Passage B:

15 The writer tells us about the outrage sparked by slave labour in China. [25]

Using your own words as far as possible, summarise how slave labour in China was uncovered and the reactions of the people, the media, the government authorities and the Party.

USE ONLY MATERIAL FROM LINE 9 TO LINE 34.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not in note form), must not be longer than 160 words, including the 10 words given below.

Begin your summary as follows:

Slave labour in China was uncovered by parents of children ...

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

Answers

From Passage A:

From paragraph 1:

1 *In your own words*, explain why the soldier, Smith, considered his posting in this prison camp "a bad posting"? [3]

- Nothing with natural beauty grew within the camp
- Violence/cruelty was common
- The access to entertainment/recreational activities after work was poor
- Their sole activity was monitoring/guarding prisoners of war/enemy soldiers they had overwhelmed and captured
- Others did not speak well of it

Marks to be awarded for any 3 of the 4 above answers.

(Lifted:
no trees, no bushes, no flowers
with a bad reputation
a place of brutality
too far from any town for off-duty amusements
nothing to do but to watch the defeated)

From paragraph 2:

2 What was the author implying about the situation in the camp in his description of the soldier at the door "holding his rifle loosely, more as a formality than for any specific purpose"? [2]

The prisoners did not create much trouble for the guards[1], thus guards did not feel the need to be vigilant[1].

or

The prisoners were well under control in the camp[1], so the guards did not have to be constantly on the alert[1].

From paragraph 4:

3 Explain *in your own words* what it means to "explore personalities" [1]

It means to find out the nature of the other soldiers/to gain an understanding of the nature of the other soldiers/to find out what the other soldiers were like as people/to find out about their character.

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

From paragraph 7:

4 **When Smith saw the lance corporal for the first time, he held out an envelope "tentatively" to the lance corporal. Why was this done in a tentative manner?** [1]

He did not know if he should be handing the lance corporal the information contained in the envelope./He was not sure how the lance corporal might respond.

From paragraph 8:

5 "His rank did not seem to weigh on him very heavily." Explain what this means ***in your own words.*** [2]

The lance corporal was not awed by Smith [1], even though Smith outranked him. [1]

The lance corporal did not feel he needed to treat Smith with greater deference [1] even though he had a lower rank than Smith[1].

From paragraph 9:

6 "I'm doing death returns." What was the purpose of the chore that the lance corporal was engaged in? [1]

He was notifying soldiers' families about the soldiers' demise/death in battle/in the prison camp.

OR

He was documenting the soldier's demise/death in battle/in the prison camp.

7 How did the lance corporal feel about his chore? [2]

- He resented the chore
- He felt it was a tedious task
- He felt that it was a thankless task.
- He approached it with a sense of indifference.

Marks to be awarded for any 2 of the 3 above answers.

("tedious chore", "rows of names, ranks, numbers and nobody cares one bit", "die like flies")

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

From paragraph 10:

8 **Explain, in your own words, the living conditions for prisoners in the camp.** **[2]**

- **They lived in cramped quarters [1]**
- **They lived in huts that smelled bad [1]**
- **They lived in unhygienic quarters [1]**

Marks to be awarded for any 2 of the 3 above answers.

(Lifted
Small open space of floor
Stank of urine and faeces...the smell of death)

From paragraph 14:

9 Why did the commander free his revolver? [1]

To shoot a prisoner if he were on the verge of death to finish him off.

OR

He did it instinctively for protection or self defence.

From paragraph 15:

10 What attitude of the lance corporal towards the prisoners is revealed when he replied to the commander, "it's dead, sir"? [1]

He did not think of the prisoners as human beings/ he equated the prisoners with animals.

From paragraph 18:

11 Why did the commander ask that the dead soldier's bedding be burnt? [2]

The soldier could have died of disease [1] and burning will ensure that the disease does not spread within the prison camp [1].

From Passage B:

From paragraph 1:

12 Explain in your own words what "no sign of abating" means. [1]

Does not appear to be dying down/lessening in degree.

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

13 In your own words, explain what "milestone" in the evolution of the country's civil society means. [1]

It means turning point/event

From Passages A and B:

14 For each of the following words or phrases, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage: [5]

From Passage A:		From Passage B:	
i. impassively	(line 8)	iv. harbinger	(line 18)
ii. sparse	(line 16)	v. relegated	(line 27)
iii. spasmodic	(line 18)		

i. Impassively (line 8) – devoid of emotion/revealing no emotion

ii. Sparse (line 16) – not densely covered/meagrely furnished

iii. Spasmodic (line 18) – convulsive/fitful/moving intermittently/moving abruptly/moving in twitches

iv. Harbinger (line 18) –something that signals future events/something that foreshadows future events/something that presages future events

v. Relegated (line 27) – consigned to/ given an inferior position/an obscure position

From Passage B:

15 The writer tells us about the outrage sparked by slave labour in China. [25]

Using your own words as far as possible, summarise how slave labour in China was uncovered and the reactions of the people, the media, the government authorities and the Party.

USE ONLY MATERIAL FROM LINE 9 TO LINE 34

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not in note form), must not be longer than 160 words, including the 10 words given below.

Begin your summary as follows:

Slave labour in China was uncovered by parents of children ...

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

Lifted	Own Words
<u>How slave labour was uncovered</u>	
1. **who they suspected had been kidnapped (line 9)**	1. **whom they thought had been forcibly taken**
2. They managed to rescue some 40 children before running into stiff resistance from the local authorities (line 11-12)	2. They were able to save/recover/liberate/emancipate /salvage 40 children prior to encountering/meeting/facing strong resistance/heavy hindrance/powerful impediment from local officials
3. In the northeastern province of Shanxi, where most of the kilns were situated (line 13)	3. of Shanxi, the location of the majority of the kilns
4. Published an anguished letter (line 10)	4. There was the exposure of a letter detailing their affliction/distress/agony/despair
5. On...popular internet forum (line 11)	5. on a favoured/celebrated/well-liked /widely accessed internet forum
6. The letter sparked a storm on the internet (line 14)	6. the letter ignited/began/initiated/prompted/ kindled/provoked/ triggered/stimulated/ set off/precipitated a flurry of discussion on the internet
<u>Reactions</u>	
7. A member of the... Chinese Communist Party expressed concern about the issue (line 14-16)	7. a Chinese Communist Party member voiced/indicated/showed/displayed concern about the matter
8. Police action soon followed (line 16)	8. and subsequently resulted in police intervention
9. Populist criticism on the internet has been at the forefront of the outrage (line 17)	9. Much/multitudinous censure/rant/panning/denunciation /denigration on the internet brought about further/escalated general wrath/fury/indignation

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

10. May be the harbinger for how grassroots' protests are heard by Chinese authorities in the future (line 18-19)	10. could augur/signal/portend the manner/the way the common people's outcry/lamentations are taken note of/registered among the Chinese officials later/are brought to the consciousness of Chinese officials later
11. Coverage of the incident has been gently moved off the front pages of Chinese newspapers (line 19-20)	11. Reporting of the outrage/scandal has been dampened /taken off the headline news of papers
12. The subject still a hot topic on Chinese websites (line 21)	12. But the matter remains widely discussed/debated on internet forums
13. Much of the criticism was directed at the authorities for failing to intervene (line 22)	13. Most blame the authorities for not stepping in/ most are displeased with the authorities' apathy/indifference/lack of action
14. To stop the human trafficking and enslavement (line 22-23)	14. To curtail/halt/arrest the trading of humans and oppression/subjugation
15. Even in usually docile official publication...the sense of shock and outrage...was evident (line 23-26)	15. Even the normally/conventionally meek/mild/acquiescent/abiding official publication expressed/voiced disbelief and anger
16. Relegated to op-ed pages (line 27)	16. Confined to/put aside in the less prominent pages
17. "none of the synonyms for 'anger' is strong enough to express public fury," wrote columnist (line 28-29)	17. No words can adequately/sufficiently articulate/reveal people's wrath/indignation/anger
18. What were local government officials doing (line 29-30)	18. The local authorities were negligent/the local authorities disregarded their duties
19. Nobody would believe that such atrocities...are happening in today's China (line 31-32)	19. It is unbelievable that such terrible deeds are occurring/present in modern China/in recent times in China

Downloaded from SingaKids.com

20. Another columnist praised the role of a provincial newspaper reporter in exposing the slave trade (line 32-33)	20. Another writer lauded/complimented the provincial newspaper reporter for uncovering the slave trade
21. Argued that China needs more investigative journalism (line 33-34)	21. Called for more investigative journalism in China/urged reporters in China to investigate and write

Downloaded from SingaKids.com