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Cedar Girls' Secondary School

MID YEAR EXAMINATION

2009

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Subject	:	**English Language**
Paper	:	**One**
Level	:	**Secondary 3**
Duration	:	**1 hour 45 minutes**
Date	:	**27 Aug 2009**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1) Answer both **Section One** and **Section Two**.
2) Begin **Section Two** on a fresh sheet of paper.
3) Write the section and question number before you begin.
4) Hand in Section One and Section Two separately.
5) You are advised to spend equal amount of time on each section.

Additional Materials:

3 sheets of writing paper

This question paper consists of 3 printed pages.

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Section One [30 marks]

You are advised to write between 350 and 500 words on one of the following topics.

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

1. "The only child in a family tends to be over-protected and spoilt." Do you agree with the statement?

2. Compassion.

3. In what ways do family members and friends affect the self-esteem of a young person?

4. Write about an occasion when your carelessness led to an unforeseen consequence.

5. Singapore is opening its doors and becoming a more inclusive society. What values do you think will endure despite a rapidly changing society and technological advancements?

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Section Two [30 marks]

You are advised to write between 250 and 350 words for this section.

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

The editorial committee of the school's yearbook is writing its annual wrap-up of the activities that have been conducted. This year, the committee has tasked a few representatives among the senior students to reminisce about the different events that were held by the school. As the Chairperson of the student leadership committee, you have to write one of these articles. You have interviewed some of your peers and noted their responses.

National Education events:
- Cultural immersion activities were fun and the food was tasty.
- More aware of the challenges facing our small country.
- Could have more hands-on activities.

Sports Day:
- Most are going to miss the cheerleading segments.
- Opportunity to show off sporting talents and prowess.
- Boring, when only a member of the audience.

50th Anniversary Celebrations:
- Tickets to the Golden Jubilee Dinner were expensive.
- It was inspiring to know that the school has produced so many successful women.
- The 50-lap run was interesting. Didn't know that the teachers were so fit!

Outdoor Adventure Camp:
- Learnt relevant and practical skills.
- Fostered closer ties between classmates and teachers.
- Took up a lot of time and energy. Could have been better spent on studying.

Write an article for the school magazine that is both **informative and interesting** so as to engage your readers. **Explain in detail why** these activities were **memorable** despite the negative aspects and the **valuable lessons** that have been learnt from them.

Your report must be in **clear and accurate** English and in a tone that is **appropriate** to the **purpose** and to the **reader**.

End of paper.

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Read Passage A and passage B and then answer the questions.

Passage A

1 Anti-personnel landmines remain one of the unmet challenges of preventive medicine. In the aftermath of modern civil and international conflict, civilians - especially children - continue to be killed long after the end of hostilities. Many victims are not recorded in official statistics. Nonetheless, estimates place the current death rate at some 800 people a month, with another 1000 - 2000 surviving each month with blast injuries and consequent disability. At least 26 of the estimated 200 nations of the world have landmines seeded over their surface, and many other countries have a role in their manufacture, sale, and use. Even if an international moratorium on the manufacture and use of anti-personnel mines was achieved now, landmine clearance will take centuries.

2 The case against the continued production and use of antipersonnel mines, like that against poison gas and biological warfare, is their indiscriminate effects on civilians and children. The profession of arms, like all professions, has evolved a code of ethics, with the underlying ethos that even when all attempts to maintain peace have failed, when peoples or nations go to war, it is still possible to prosecute combat at a level above that of animalistic degradation. All nations currently regard the use of landmines as legitimate weapons of war. If used within existing ethical codes there is no moral violation in their tactical use. But, as with poison gas and biological weapons, those most likely to use them are those least likely to observe humanitarian codes of armed conflict.

3 Landmines are specifically designed as anti-vehicle mines, as ambush weapons, or as anti-personnel mines. Modern anti-vehicle mines are highly sophisticated and contain computerised circuitry that can detect critical mass, ferrous metals, or vibration, and can select vehicles or other hard targets for destruction. There is now a bewildering array of anti-personnel mines, and more than 60 different types are used in conflict zones. Anti-personnel mines can be improvised, often with great ingenuity, from simple explosives with crafty triggers, such as those made from slit bamboo and nails or metal foil. In the past decade, however, mass production of anti-personnel mines has lowered the unit price and even the poorest nations or groups of insurgents can import tens of thousands each year. Over 110 million landmines are currently in existence.

4 Anti-personnel mines require only a small charge of explosive to be effective. With deadly cynicism, many armies use smaller mines to wound rather than kill. A dead soldier will not in himself halt an advance, but an injured one requiring resuscitation and rescue will. Formal tactical training in many countries acknowledges that extracting survivors of landmine blasts hinders morale, ties up transport and other resources, and demands aeromedical evacuation.

5 Although anti-personnel landmines may be a legitimate weapon of war, they have no place in an ensuing peace. The civilian death toll shows that they are often sown in places where civilians - especially children and farmers - work, forage, and play. Many of the anti-personnel mines used in the 1990s were made entirely of plastic to escape detection and so may float in floodwater run off, killing and injuring people many kilometres from the site of primary implantation in places where mines are not considered a threat. This has been a particular problem in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Rwanda, where all plastic, butterfly shaped, "babykiller" mines have been dispersed by air.

6 The medical consequences of landmines are well known. Avulsion of one or both feet or lower limbs is typical, with shrapnel fragmentation wounds to the pelvis, abdomen, thorax, and face. Blinding in one or both eyes is common, and conductive deafness almost inevitable. The blast wave travels up the bones of the leg, and amputation well

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above the site of frank avulsion is necessary because of bony as well as soft tissue devitalisation. Civilian injuries usually involve more than one victim, and sometimes whole families or groups of children are killed or injured. The legacy of legless, partly deaf, blinded orphan children is a challenge for preventive medicine that the medical profession cannot ignore.

7 The common thread woven through this ethical evolution of the profession of arms is that all such weapons are indiscriminate in their effects. The technology of the 20th century has produced a cheap, highly efficient, indiscriminate killer. In this context it is logical, indeed now mandatory, to insist on a new international convention to ban the manufacture, trade, and use of anti-personnel mines.

Adapted from an article by Professor John Pearn in the British Medical Journal of 29 November 1997.

Passage B

1 The announcement of a unilateral ban on the use and stockpiling of antipersonnel landmines by the government of the United Kingdom is the culmination of a vigorous media campaign by a coalition of agencies led by the Red Cross. Some media reports, especially the recent one on Princess Diana's visit to Angola, however, have seriously distorted the facts about landmines. The debate on the international regulation of landmines has been emotional and conducted by people with little firsthand experience. Much of the commentary is ill informed, and wider issues of landmine control have not been adequately discussed.

2 For five days the British media were full of pictures from Angola of Diana, Princess of Wales, as she visited hospitals, rehabilitation centres, and other sites showing the devastation caused by antipersonnel landmines in that war ravaged country. The Princess is a magnet for the British media. She is considered newsworthy regardless of the occasion, and her picture on the cover is said to increase the sales of most magazines. Her picture, associated with the tragic results of mines in Angola, has brought landmines to the notice of an audience which would never otherwise have seen them. In her first speech, in Luanda, the Princess spoke of the horror of these weapons, of the human tragedies they cause, and of the campaign by the Red Cross for a ban on their manufacture, sale, and use.

3 Seeing the overwhelming support for Diana from the nation, which had been presented for the first time with the human face of Angola's tragedy, the government reacted swiftly and made it clear that the Government and Diana shared a common objective of trying to see an end, particularly, to the [indiscriminate] use of landmines. The Princess's tour has had extraordinary results. She has put a human face onto the politics of antipersonnel landmines and has wrong footed governments that seek to persuade the world that very slow progress toward a worldwide ban is adequate. Her aim as reported in all newspapers – "All I'm trying to do is help"–has certainly been achieved.

4 However, a complete ban on antipersonnel landmines is impossible to enforce and not necessarily desirable. The number of mines said to be still active in various countries is in the tens of millions, but there is little evidence to support these estimates. Some have claimed that landmines made in Britain injure civilians in many countries. This is in contradiction to our experience: over the past five years we have worked with landmine clearance teams in many heavily mined countries and neither of us has ever seen a mine retrieved that was made in Britain.

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A better option would be to enact a treaty which permits the use of self destructing or self neutralising weapons but completely bans the use of non-detectable mines. The explosive charge could be limited as this would reduce the number of patients requiring amputations above the knee and thus lessen the problems of rehabilitation. This type of approach rather than an outright ban would increase the chance of the United Nations enacting a treaty or tightening protocol of its weapons convention. The medical profession has been in the forefront of the campaign for stricter regulation of landmines. As scientists we know that complicated situations cannot be reduced to black and white issues. Writing emotional sketches and exaggerating the known facts may sell newspapers, but it is not going to solve the problem.

Adapted from 2 letters by Eddie Chaloner and Vivienne Nathanson in the British Medical Journal of 25 January 1997.

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Read Passage A and Passage B in the insert and then answer all the questions which follow below.

You are recommended to answer the questions in the order set.

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 paragraph 1:

1 (a) Suggest one problem that may arise due to lack of complete records of the use of anti-personnel landmines. [1]

1 (b) Why is it difficult to achieve an international moratorium against the use of antipersonnel landmines as a weapon? [2]

From paragraph 2:

2 Explain **in your own words**, the code of ethics for the conduct of war. [2]

From paragraph 3:

3 Explain why antipersonnel landmines are used on a wide scale. [1]

From paragraph 4:

4 Explain fully, in **your own words**, how armies use the antipersonnel landmines to stop an invading army. [2]

From paragraph 5:

5 Identify the TWO reasons why it is so difficult to locate the exact positions of antipersonnel landmines. [2]

From paragraph 6:

6 What are the social and economic consequences for a country with civilian landmine victims? [2]

From Passage B

From paragraph 1:

7 Why, in the author's opinion, are media reports untrustworthy and limiting? Answer **in your own words**. [2]

From paragraph 2:

8 Explain how the hypocrisy of the British media is further demonstrated. [1]

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From paragraph 3:

9 'She has put a human face on the politics of antipersonnel landmines...' What does the author mean by this phrase? [1]

10 What do you think were Princess Diana's political objectives before she went on the trip and how have they been achieved? [2]

From paragraph 4:

11 How has the author rebutted the arguments that support the complete ban on antipersonnel landmines? [2]

From Passages A and B:

12 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.

From Passage A:
1. indiscriminate (line 11)
2. bewildering (line 22)
3. primary (line 40)

From Passage B:
4. retrieved (line 33)
5. exaggerating (line 42)

[5]

13 **Passage** A provides a number of reasons that explain why the manufacture, sale and use of anti-personnel landmines should be banned.

Using your own words as far as possible, summarise these reasons.

USE THE MATERIAL IN PASSAGE A FROM LINE 10 TO LINE 52.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be more than 150 words (not counting the words given to help you begin).

Begin your summary as follows:

The international community requires a convention that either controls or bans the manufacture, trade and use of anti-personnel landmines because ... [25]

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Answer Sheets

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Passage A

Q1a) The lack of complete records of the use of anti-personnel landmines hinders the tracing and subsequent removal of the landmines after the hostilities have ended in the said region, causing further civilian harm.

Q1b) It is difficult to achieve it as numerous countries are involved in the production, sale and deployment of landmines and tracing the usage of the mines will take a huge effort and extended timeline for full clearance to be realized.

Q2. The code of ethics for the conduct of war revolves around the constant thought that should all else fails to maintain the peace among hostile parties, combat should still be undertaken at a level with some humanity, with no involvement of the young and the unarmed.

Q3. Antipersonnel mines are used on a wide scale as mass production has lowered the unit price of the mines, allowing hostile parties to be able to arm themselves and deploy the landmines with relative ease and in large numbers.

Q4. Antipersonnel mines aim to maim and injure invading troops rather than killing them totally. Injured troops will require saving and rescuing efforts on the field, slowing the advancement of the army and lowering the army's morale. Also, resources have to be mobilized for the rescue efforts which may actually be put to better use on the battle field.

Q5. Landmines were made entirely of plastic which may escape detection by metal detectors during minefield clearances. Also, landmines may float during floods, bringing them away from the deployment areas, making detection and subsequent removal efforts harder than before.

Q6. Landmine victims have to be given adequate medical care and livelihood provision which may last the entire life of the victim, sapping much on the economic resources of the country. As families may be broken apart due to the landmines, social problems may rise with so many orphaned and homeless children under the care of the country.

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Answer Sheets

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Passage B

Q7. Media reports try to play up the emotions of readers with the reporting and are written by people with little hands-on exposure in the field. Also, the reports are also not well informed and may exclude several wider aspects of the control of landmines.

Q8. The British media leverages on Princess Diana's appearances in war ravaged countries to boost its sales by placing pictures of the Princess on magazines, a total cynical way of using death and destruction to boost media sales.

Q9. The author meant that Princess Diana's humanitarian involvement in anti-mine usage efforts has brought attention to the issue and indirectly exerted pressure on the countries and bodies involved to step up efforts to bring an end to this long and dragging issue.

Q10. She wanted to exert pressure on countries to step up efforts in mine clearance efforts and mine production bans. Also, the Princess was also looking forward to efforts to stop the indiscriminate use of landmines.

Q11. The author had explained that the number of landmines to be neutralized and banned was too overwhelming for any efforts to be viable. He then proceeded on to suggest a treaty that limits the type of mines that could be used to reduce unnecessarily destructive effects instead of a complete but non-viable ban on mine usage, which can more easily be endorsed and enforced by the United Nations.

Q12. 1) Unselective and random
2) Extremely Confusing
3) Original
4) Recovered
5) Overstating untruthfully

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Answer Sheets

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Q13. Points Should Include:

- Indiscriminate usage of mines on civilians, children and the unarmed.
- Most nations that utilize mines for destruction are less likely to observe humanitarian codes of armed conflict.
- Mass production has made mines widely affordable for insurgents and nations, worsening the situation of destruction.
- Mines are designed to maim and injure rather than kill for military tactical reasons but also making it a more inhumane weapon of destruction.
- Civilians make up great percentage of victims due to deployment of mines in civilian areas and movement of mines to civilian areas from their initial area of deployment.
- Landmines cause severe injuries to victims which may include blinding, maiming and compulsory amputation, requiring intensive medical care, indirectly draining economic resources.
- Families may be broken up due to landmine deaths.
- Social problems may arise when blind, deaf and orphaned children will have to grow up and be taken care of by the society.

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