Name _____ Class _____ Index Number _____

METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL

Founded in 1887

MID-YEAR EXAMINATION

Secondary 3

8 May 2009

1 hour 45 minutes

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 Composition

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Answer both Section One and Section Two.

Begin your answer to Section Two on a fresh sheet of writing paper.

At the end of the examination, hand in your answers to the two sections separately.

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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 the composition, write down the number of the topic you have chosen.

1 Describe a place you go to when you are feeling down. How does being in this place help you feel better?

2 Write about an occasion when you struggled to do what had to be done. What was the outcome and how did the experience affect you?

3 "Like mother, like daughter." Does this saying accurately describe your mother and you?

4 Straight 'A's

5 "Old is gold." Do you agree with this statement?

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Section Two [30 marks]

Begin your answer on a fresh page.

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 Principal of your school has noticed an increase in the number of students in the school who dress like 'emo kids', with dark, worn-out and somewhat undersized T-shirts and canvas shoes. These kids also like to sport long fringes when they are outside the school. She is concerned that they may also have other deeper and unhealthier behaviours associated with 'emo kids', like cutting themselves or having suicidal thoughts.

You are the Senior Prefect in charge of student welfare in the school, and your committee has been asked to suggest ways of giving information about 'emo kids' to students of your school. You have been asked to choose the best idea for the purpose and report its details to the Principal.

Your committee produced four ideas:

Multimedia information blitz
Put out information about the dangers of the trend through different forms of media that can capture students' attention, like posters in the classrooms and corridors, and music over the PA system. The Media Club will also be asked to produce a vided to be shown to students.

Celebrity influence
Invite a celebrity to the school to give a shor talk and do a short concert for the students. He or she should be someone who wears 'emo' fashion and listens to 'emo-punk' rock music but who does not slavishly follow the fad, and who will influence the students positively.

Talk by expert
Invite a psychologist to give a talk to students and elaborate on the warning signs and symptoms of the 'emo kid' phenomena so that students will be aware of the danger signs. He will also talk about the helplines available and give advice to students who are following the trend.

Teaching in the classroom
Ask class teachers who know their students to talk to them in class about the problem. Teachers will use their rapport with students to find out more about their concerns and talk to them about the dangers of following the trend.

Write a report to the Principal, giving reasons for your choice. Explain in detail why you think this will be the most successful way to help students to be aware of the dangers of 'emo' trends and to seek help from adults* where necessary. Include in your report your suggestions on how the project could be carried out.

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Read Passage A and Passage B and then answer the questions that follow.

Passage A

1 All great men, and especially inventors, sooner or later get legends attached to them which usually prove that the more false they are, the oftener they're retold and sentimentalised.

2 I had in the mail a week ago, a heartbreaking story sent to me by a kind stranger who felt I might never have heard it. I hadn't. But I sent it on to a friend who spent part of his time, for many years, examining the hundreds of legends that have accumulated around this famous man. Briefly the letter told about "a noble lord" out for a country stroll one day and saw his little son floundering in a swamp and about to drown. He was saved by a poor farmer and thereupon the noble lord, after learning that the farmer had a son of about the same age - a child of five - the noble lord swore he would pay to give the farmer's boy the same education as his own rescued son. The name of the sinking son was Winston Spencer Churchill. And the poor farmer? Fleming.

3 The generous offer was accepted and the studious farm boy went on to become the very Alexander Fleming who discovered penicillin, which subsequently saved Mr Churchill's life one time when, in remote Tunis, he was far gone with pneumonia and, his doctor feared, close to death. This is a compact and moving tale and absolutely comically false.

4 My friend, the expert in mythical Churchilliana, tells me that the story first appeared in print in the late 1940s and has ever since been embellished in various ways. One version has the farmer telephoning the noble lord at his mansion - Blenheim, no less - to recount the dramatic and finally happy story. I must say the chances of a poor farmer or a rich farmer's telephoning anybody at that time are about one in a million, due to the collision of two awkward facts. Young Winston in 1879 was five. Only two years before - 3,000 miles away - Alexander Graham Bell had demonstrated the very first test telephone and the miraculous instrument was not available to poor farmers or rich farmers or even noble lords of that day.

5 Nor, by the way, was penicillin available to Churchill in December 1943. He was saved by a sulphur drug which was the magic drug of the time. All the rest of the story, while heartbreaking, is false. But some lies are true and the mention of Fleming reminds me sharply that the main legend about him is true. Looking over a specimen whose mouldiness would have made most researchers throw it away, Dr Fleming paused long enough to work on the mould itself and find it could stop or inhibit the growth of some bacteria and become universally known as the first antibiotic.

6 We should note and salute the passing of a lady who offered a simple suggestion to her research boss - one Dr Hershey - which within 11 months had inspired the famous discovery of the two molecular biologists Watson and Crick and subsequently helped Dr Alfred Hershey to receive the Nobel Prize for Medicine. The name of this gifted - and incidentally rather beautiful – woman is Martha Chase, a biology student from Ohio.

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7 Just out of college, she got a job with this Dr Hershey who came to be concerned with the methods whereby viruses repeat or rather make replicas of themselves. In an experiment described as "simple and elegant" they wanted to find out whether the DNA or the protein of the virus is responsible for the infection or as they technically say "carried the genetic information for infection".

8 But how do we separate the DNA from its protein colleague? At an historic but unnoticed moment in time Miss Chase said, "How about a kitchen blender?" The humblest, you'd guess the crudest, of separators. It worked. At the moment of infection the DNA alone entered the bacteria and so the DNA was the only replicator of the virus.

9 Within less than a year Watson and Crick had their helix model and discovered the structure of the DNA molecule and for this discovery were awarded the 1962 Nobel Prize award. So, dead at 75, Martha Chase will remain an important footnote in the history of medicine and proof that some simple and colourful legends are based in fact.

Adapted from : Some Colourful Legends are Based in Fact
Alistair Cooke's Letter from America

Passage B

1 Subterranean cities hidden deep in the jungle, unidentified flying objects, tribes of savages, lost explorers, mediums receiving psychic messages - the tales that surround the life of Colonel Percy Fawcett include all of these. Even the probable reality sounds like the most unlikely fiction you have ever read.

2 The excitement began when Fawcett was surveying the border between Bolivia and Brazil for the Royal Geographical Society in 1908. An early completion of the job he had been assigned led Fawcett to volunteer to map the border along the Rio Verde, a river that no Westerner before him had ever explored. He and his party found it almost impossible to descend from a plateau that they were on into the valley. Once they did reach the river, the going in the Mato Grosso, as the area is called, soon became tougher than he might have anticipated. His small party had to abandon their canoe because there were too many rapids in the river. For six weeks it rained every day; the weed-filled water was bitter and fish and game to eat non-existent; and their rations soon ran out.

3 Nearing the source of the river, they found themselves trapped in its valley. When things were at their most desperate, a miracle - the stuff of all the best movies - saved them. A freak rifle shot brought down a deer, providing them with food and, more importantly, the will to carry on.

4 So much for reality. Back in London, Fawcett told his story to many, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Fawcett believed that the shape of many of the mountains he had seen suggested that there might be cities hidden under the hills, perhaps ancient lost civilizations. Conan Doyle's imagination took over. Why should there not be monsters from the dawn of man's existence roaming those heights

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unchallenged, imprisoned by unscalable cliffs, as Fawcett's expedition had temporarily, been? As a result, Fawcett supplied Conan Doyle with photographs and all the information he had. The result of that was Conan Doyle's book, 'The Lost World' and countless derivative films, the most famous being 'Jurassic Park'.

5 Eventually Fawcett, naturally, went back to the Mato Grosso to find these lost civilizations that he was sure existed. He claimed that the region was well-defined, a poisoned Hell impossible to explore on foot, with giant 20-metre anacondas capable of pulling a man out of a canoe. There were savage ape-men and bats so large that they looked like the flying dinosaurs, the pterodactyls. Swarms of flying bees were among the hazards guarding the lost city. In 1925, Colonel Fawcett, his son Jack and their friend Raleigh Rimmell mysteriously disappeared while looking for the long-lost civilization that he believed was there for the finding, a civilization of clothed white Indians, with marvelous underground cities, cities greater than those of the Inca Empire, older than the oldest Eqyptian discoveries. He was searching for cities with a strange source of light that filled with terror the Indians who had seen it.

6 When, no one knows for sure, the ground is fertile for the imagination. Fired also by Conan Doyle's book - a great success - the stories kept coming. A German settler in Brazil claimed to have met Fawcett and his son years later. They were, he claimed, advanced souls who were worshipped by the Indians with whom they lived in the subterranean cities of Matalir and Aracauga in the Mato Grosso, the area of jungle where Fawcett went missing. From these secret places, flying saucers flew off on global reconnaissance.

7 Some of these stories were unsubstantiated – strangely - or perhaps not so strangely, considering the circumstances-no one really explored the Mato Grosso region to check the claims, until an expedition of 2001 set out to travel the route indicated by Fawcett, and followed by the explorers in the Lost City. The team wanted simply to verify that this was indeed the geographical location used by Conan Doyle for the story.

8 Their journey followed Fawcett's in many ways. They too could find hardly any wildlife to eat. They found the plateau that Fawcett and Conan Doyle described, and like Fawcett they worried about it being ideal snake country. They too found cliffs at the end of the plateau and no obvious way down them. They remembered the advice of the Indians in the fictional account and made for some caves, using them to descend into the valley. Later, on the river they met the rapids that Fawcett described and reached the rapid that had blocked Fawcett's expedition, the one where Challenger capsized in the Lost City. They survived the rapid as they had foreknowledge of it. The biggest worry they had was a group of about ten threatening-looking men on the bank-the area is now notorious for the movements of drugs through it. The expedition was convinced that in following Fawcett's route, they were also following the route described in Conan Doyle's book.

Adapted from Percy Fawcett *'Lost Civilisations'*

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Read Passage A and Passage B above and then answer all the questions 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 paragraphs 1 – 4:

1. Write down the word which tells us that the author was emotionally affected by the letter he received from a stranger. [1]

2. What does the phrase "hundreds of legends" suggest about the interest which the author's friend had in Winston Churchill? [2]

3. Explain why the author feels that the story about Fleming saving young Churchill's life was "false". [2]

From paragraphs 5-9:

4. In your own words, describe Fleming's behavior that led to him discovering the first antibiotic. [2]

5. What was Martha Chase's contribution to medicine? [1]

6. Explain why the author used the phrase "important footnote" to describe Martha Chase's contribution to medicine. [2]

From Passage B:

From paragraphs 1-4:

7. Explain in your own words the underlined words in the statement, "Even probable reality sounds like the most unlikely fiction you have ever read." [2]

8. What does 'miracle - the stuff of all the best movies -' suggest about what saved them? [2]

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From paragraphs 5:

9. Fawcett was sure that his 'lost civilisations' existed. What evidence found on his journey supports his claim? [2]

From paragraph 6-8:

10. Explain in your own words Fawcett's story continues to surface. [2]

11. Give two examples to show how information from Doyle's book helped the team to survive the expedition. [2]

From Passage A and Passage B:

12. For each of the following words, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage:

From Passage A
1. subsequently (line 15)
2. passing of (line 36)

From Passage B:
3. hazards (line 33)
4. verify (line 51)
5. notorious (line 62) [5]

13. From Passage B:

Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the true events that led to Colonel Percy Fawcett becoming a legend.

USE ONLY THE MATERIAL IN PASSAGE B FROM PARAGRAPHS 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than 150 words (not counting the words given to help you begin). [25]

Begin your summary as follows:

When Fawcett completed the surveying job earlier than expected, he ...

End of Paper

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Answer Sheets

Methodist Girls' School Paper 2 2009

Passage A

Q1. The word was 'heartbreaking'.

Q2. The phrase suggests that the author's friend was very passionate on Winston Churchill and had probably examined his many legends in depth over an extensive period of time.

Q3. The author feels that the story about Fleming's deed was false as there were many discrepancies surrounding the story. Firstly, one of the stories dictated that Fleming's father had telephoned his lord to inform of Fleming's deed. That was not possible as telephony was too costly for any farmer to afford. Furthermore, the telephone was only invented only two years before which makes it even false sounding.

Q4. It implied that Fleming was inquisitive, questioning and detailed in his findings and works, paying attention to each and every detail which everyone else would have overlooked.

Q5. Martha Chase gave a random but timely suggestion to her mentor, Dr Hershey, who employed her simple idea and successfully managed to separate DNA for protein, en route to the discovery of DNA.

Q6. The author used the phrase 'footnote' as Martha's contribution was vital however, may be placed in second place and overlooked or overshadowed by the main discovery, just like how a footnote is, important but yet playing second fiddle to the main content of the piece of work.

Passage B

Q7. The underlined words meant that the accounts reported that were supposedly true sounded too unreal to be even recounted as fiction, making it totally unbelievable even to qualify as a story that was made up.

Q8. The phrase suggested that what saved them was extremely clichéd and expected of when it comes to that particular situation.

Q9. He found that the region was huge and very well defined with several hazardous animals like bats and savage ape-men, apparently guarding something very hidden.

Q10. Fawcett's story still very much 'continues to surface' as there were reports of sightings and encounters of Fawcett and his son even after their disappearance.

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Furthermore, strange sightings of flying saucers were also reported flying from the exact jungle that Fawcett went missing, yet again linking Fawcett with the strange sightings.

Q11. The team was firstly unable to descend from a plateau but managed to remember the advice of Indians to use caves to make the descent and managed to get out of the situation. Secondly, the team was prepared for the rapids and managed to survive them, by utilizing the prior knowledge and warnings about it from the book.

Q12. i) Thereafter,
ii) Death
iii) Unavoidable dangers
iv) Ascertain the truth
v) Famous in a bad way

Q13. Points Should Include:

- Volunteered to map the border of Rio Verde, a river no Westerner had ever set foot on
- Successfully survived the harsh conditions of the 'no-man's land' that he attempted to explore
- On his return to London, Fawcett recounted his story to many and suggested that there were lost civilizations hidden among the treacherous terrain he had returned from
- Fawcett fueled Conan Doyle with the line of imagination and fiction in regard to lost civilizations and treacherous discovery expeditions
- Fawcett provided information and photographs about his expeditions, allowing Conan Doyle to come up with famous films such as 'Jurassic Park' and 'The Lost World'
- Fawcett returned to the Mato Grosso to continue his search for the Lost Civilizations he believed existed
- In 1925, Fawcett, with 2 others from his exploration party, mysteriously disappeared while on their expedition
- Claims including that of a German settler's, claimed that Fawcett and his son still lived among the jungle they mysteriously disappeared from

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