ST MARGARET SA2

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. **Describe one thing you have kept for a long time and explain why it means so much to you.**

2. Possibilities

3. Write about an occasion when you made a mistake but it turned out to be the best thing that happened to you.

4. It is not only memories that bring people back to visit their former schools. Describe some other factors that will draw them there.

5. " We rely too much on computers." To what extent is this true?

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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.

Every year, your school holds an event one week after the final examinations to bid farewell to the graduating students. The Head of Department of your school responsible for planning The Graduation Event has found out from the graduating students how they would like this event to be.
The suggestions by students from three different classes representing the level are summarised below:

Class 1
Sit down dinner
Venue: Hotel ballroom
Dress code: formal
Graduating students to perform
Competitions for individuals as well as groups
Students pay $80 each, needy students may apply for subsidies

Class 2
Buffet dinner
Venue: restaurant
Dress code: informal
Identified talented students from any level to perform
Only table games and prizes to be awarded on a group basis
Students pay $50 each, no subsidy

Class 3
Lunch with food contributed by students
Venue: School Hall
Dress code: very casual
Secondary 3 students to perform
Mass games in the school field
Students pay $10 each, no subsidy

As a student leader, you have been asked to **decide** which **suggestion** would be best to help students **interact, showcase their talents** and **have a memorable time**. Write a report for the Head of Department, **giving the reasons for your choice**. Explain in detail why you think this will be the **most meaningful way to bid farewell** to the students. Include in your report your suggestions on how the programme can be **organized**.

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Read Passage A and Passage B and then answer 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.

Passage A

1 Thanks to excavation, thousands of years of human history are now familiar which a hundred years ago were a total blank. The old histories, resting principally on written documents, were largely confined to those events which at every age writers thought most fit to record – wars, political happenings, the chronicles of kings. Excavation may result in not only written records, but also brings to light a mass of objects illustrating the handicrafts of the past, temples and the setting in which people's lives were spent All over Europe, in Central America, in China and in Turkestan excavation is supplementing our knowledge, and adding new vistas to our outlook over man's past.

2 How does it come about that things get buried and have to be dug up? Clearly, in the case of graves, which yield many of the archaeologist's treasures, the question does not arise, for the things were put underground deliberately and have remained there; but how do houses and cities sink below the earth's surface? They do not: the earth rises above them, and though people do not recognise the fact, it is happening all around them every day. Go no further than London. How many steps does one have to go down to enter the Temple Church? Yet it stood originally at ground level. Wherever a place has been continuously occupied the same thing has happened. In old times, the street was the natural receptacle for refuse and the street level gradually rose with accumulated filth. If it was re-paved, the new cobbles were laid over the old dirt at a higher level, and you stepped down into the houses on either side. When a house was pulled down and rebuilt, the site would be partly filled in and the new ground floor set at or above street level; the foundations of the older building would remain undisturbed below ground. The process would be repeated time after time so that when foundations are made for the huge buildings of today which go down nearly as far into the earth as they rise into the air, the excavating gangs cut through layer after layer of wall stumps and artificial filling of these represents a stage in the city's growth. In the Near East the rate of rise is faster. The commonest building material is mud brick, and mud-brick walls have to be thick; when they collapse the amount of debris is very great, and fills the rooms to a considerable height. As you cannot use mud bricks twice over, and the carting

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away of rubbish is expensive, the simplest course is to level the surface of the ruins and build on the top of them.

3 I have not mentioned one way in which buildings may be buried, because it is so lamentably rare; that is by volcanic action. If the field archaeologist had his will, every ancient capital would have been overwhelmed by the ashes of a conveniently adjacent volcano. It is with a green jealousy that the worker on other sites visits Pompeii and sees the marvellous preservation of its buildings, the houses standing up to the second floor, the frescoes on the walls, and all the furniture and household objects still in their places as the owners left them when they fled from the disaster. Failing a volcano, the best thing that can happen to a city, archaeologically speaking, is that it ~~should be sacked and very thoroughly burnt by an enemy.~~ The owners are not in a position to carry anything away and the plunderers are only out after objects intrinsically precious. The fire will destroy much, but by no means everything. It will bring down on the top of what does remain so much in the way of ashes and broken brickwork that the survivors, if there are any, will not want to dig down into the ruins; a burnt site is generally a site intact.

Adapted from '*Digging up the Past*' by Leonard Woolly

Passage B

1 For Fyodor Shidlovskiy, hunting down and digging up the extremely dead is life's great joy. Each summer he mounts a safari of men, buses, trucks, amphibious vehicles, planes, helicopters, and river-boats and ventures onto the tundra of northeastern Siberia. He and his team spend weeks at a stretch recovering the bones and tusks of woolly mammoths, the lumbering precursors of today's elephants.

2 Shidlovskiy invited photographer Lynn Johnson and me to join him on an expedition. It was to be more than your run-of-the-mill Siberian mammoth quest, he promised. A hunter had tipped him to the whereabouts of an intact buried baby mammoth skeleton, the rarest of the rare, and he wanted to have us come along to record what promised to be an important find. Hours before dawn on a August morning, we met Shidlovskiy outside his apartment building in Moscow and prepared to set out on his latest escapade.

3 Shidlovskiy is a member of a small fraternity of men who excavates fossils and sells them for profit. I discovered that some dealers are careful collectors and honest businessmen; others are disreputable and brutish, ripping bones from national parks and other protected lands and selling them. Still others, particularly in developing countries such as China and Morocco, are peasants striving to ease their painful lives with whatever they can claw, quite literally, from the earth around them.

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4 During my travels I witnessed some of the damage that unscrupulous or untrained dealers do. I also watched commercial dealers excavate fossils with exquisite care and keeping finely detailed records of their discoveries. Yet academic paleontologists around the world tend to tar all dealers with the same brush – as greedy yahoos and enemies of science.

5 After a 14-hour bus drive, we arrived at the Yoshkar Ola air base and boarded a Russian border patrol cargo plane. After nearly ten flying hours, the plane shuddered to a halt on the airstrip at Cherskiy. We disembarked and fell into the bear hugs of the loquacious Sergei Zimov and his wife, Galia. Sergei, an ecologist, plays host to scientists and the occasional commercial bone collector.

6 After a day of rest at the Zimovs' camp, we pulled on hip boots and clambered onto a Mi-8 helicopter. We were taken to a rough wooden shack alongside a snaking stream, where two of Shidlovskiy's men had spent the past two months. They had collected an array of mammoth bones and tusks, which they loaded into the helicopter.

7 Our next stop for the day was the village of Andryushkino. More bones were collected before we headed back to Cherskiy.

8 Late the next night we drove down to the port. We boarded a government-owned ship for a 480-mile trip on the Kolyma River. The hunt for the baby mammoth was finally on.

9 As the sun set on our second day out, we anchored near the fossil site and went ashore in powerboats. We trudged clumsily in our hip boots to a shallow mud pit where Shidlovskiy's men had discovered the large femur and a few other bones.

10 The long-awaited excavation then began and continued around the clock for the next forty-eight hours. To everyone's frustration, only a few more bones were uncovered. The youngster had either been killed at another location and part of its remains dragged by predators to this place, or over the millennia bits and pieces had been washed away by rain and melting snow. We left, Shidlovskiy dejected.

11 But not for long. A few hours after setting sail back toward Cherskiy, we dropped anchor at a three-cabin settlement. The previous summer Shidlovskiy had recruited the hunter-fishermen who lived there to gather whatever bones they came across, mammoth or otherwise. One of them led us to a space beneath one of the log cabins, where he and his friends had stashed tusks and bones.

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12 Shidlovskiy estimated the haul at over a thousand pounds and offered the men the equivalent of $16,000, which they snapped up. He handed over a thick stack of rubles and promised to deliver a snowmobile and an outboard motor. The bones were ferried out to our ship, and we resumed the overnight run to Cherskiy.

13 About twenty minutes later we were hailed by four men wearing Environmental Protection Committee patches on their camouflage windbreakers. When confronted with a charge of poaching fossils in Kolyma National Park, Shidlovskiy assured the officers that their concern was misplaced. If they would collect bones for him in the future, he would take good care of them. The erstwhile defenders of the land thanked their new benefactor profusely, hopped back onto their speedboat, and departed.

Adapted from *National Geographic*

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From Passage A:

From paragraph 1:

1. (a) **What have we learnt about civilizations from written records?** [1]

(b) Explain in your own words in what way the information uncovered by excavation is different from written documents. [2]

2. "... excavation is *supplementing* our knowledge, and adding new *vistas* to our outlook over man's past." Explain the italicised words. [2]

From paragraph 2:

3. Explain in your own words why archaeologists excavate graves? [1]

4. How is the Temple Church in London proof that the earth rises above buildings? [1]

From paragraph 3:

5. (a) "If the field archaeologist had his will, every ancient capital would have been overwhelmed by the ashes of a conveniently adjacent volcano." Why would the field archaeologist have been pleased? [2]

(b) In the absence of volcanic activity, explain in your own words why the archaeologist hoped for a city to be plundered and burnt. [2]

From Passage B:

From paragraph 1:

6. What are amphibious vehicles? [1]

From paragraph 2:

7. Explain in your own words why Shidlovskiy invited the author and photographer Johnson on the expedition. [2]

From paragraph 3:

8. Explain fully how the peasants could "ease their painful lives"? [1]

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From paragraph 4:

9. **What evidence suggests that the author probably disagreed with the charge made by academic paleontologists?** [1]

From paragraph 6:

10. **What does the word "snaking" tell us about the stream?** [1]

From paragraphs 12 and 13:

11. Which words show that the hunter-fishermen were happy with the money they had been given? [1]

12. "The erstwhile defenders of the land thanked their new benefactor profusely, hopped back onto their speedboat and departed."

(a) Why does the author describe the officers as "erstwhile defenders of the land"? [1]

(b) How was Shidlovskiy to become a "benefactor" to the officers? [1]

13 **From Passage A and Passage B:**

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:	From Passage B:
1. principally (line 3)	3. escapade (line 13)
2. lamentably (line 37)	4. unscrupulous (line 21)
	5. loquacious (line 29)

[5]

14. **From Passage A:**
Using your own words as far as possible, summarise how cities and buildings come to be 'buried'.

USE THE MATERIAL IN PASSAGE A FROM PARAGRAPH 2 TO PARAGRAPH 3.

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).
Begin your summary as follows:

The earth around buildings and cities rose above them as... [25]

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Answer Sheets

St Margaret's Secondary School Paper 2 2009

Passage A

Q1a) From written records, we have learnt more about ancient events in history, such as warring events, governmental and political events and also, chronicles of reigning kings in their era.

Q1b) Information that is excavated supplements the information known through written records by showing us actual objects illustrating the events of the past.

Q2. Supplementing gives the idea of adding on and building upon what was previously available, to make it better or clearer. 'Vistas' depict having a far-reaching mental view of our outlook over Man's past.

Q3. They excavate graves to gain access to artifacts that may provide a better insight on the past.

Q4. As time passes, one has to gain access to Temple Church in London by going downwards from ground level even though the Church's foundations have not moved a single bit, giving proof that the earth rises above buildings.

Q5a) The field archaeologist would have been pleased as the ashes from a volcanic eruption will seal or preserve the entire city and its structures perfectly and in its original positions, allowing archaeologists to gain access to perfect and untainted artifacts for deciphering.

Q5b) A city, upon being plundered and burnt, will preserve most of the structures and items within the city. Though burnt, not everything will be destroyed by the fire, but instead, the remains will remain untouched by survivors, perfect for archaeological uncovering.

Passage B

Q6. Amphibious vehicles are vehicles that could transverse in water and on land.

Q7. Shidlovskiy invited the author and photographer on the expedition as he was tipped off by a reliable source, certain that this expedition was going to be a major archaeological event where a rare find was going to be uncovered and had to be recorded on paper and on film for authentication and verification purposes in future.

Q8. The peasants could "ease their painful lives" by profiting from the sale of the artifacts that they collect.

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Q9. The author witnessed along the way and felt that not all dealers were unscrupulous. There were still careful and respectful dealers who record their records and regarded themselves as scientists who respect Nature apart from being commercial dealers.

Q10. It tells us that the stream was meandering and following a path similar to the way a snake moves.

Q11. The words were 'snapped up'

Q12a) They were described in that manner as they prevented poachers from poaching fossils illegally within the National Park, doing a great service to protect Nature.

Q12b) He became their "benefactor" as he had probably promised a handsome reward for the officers if they assist in his bone collecting efforts.

Q13. i) Primarily
ii) Regrettably
iii) Adventurous undertaking
iv) Conscience-lacking
v) Talkative

Q14. Points Should Include:

- Streets being the natural place for garbage gathering accumulates both dirt and earth
- Repaving works will mean that more road-paving material like cobbles will be laid over the accumulated dirt at a higher level
- Higher street levels will thus mean people have to step down into their houses
- Houses are pulled down and rebuilt by partly filling the site, with their foundations extending way down into the earth, with the process repeating many times as time passes
- In the East, mud brick which is used as the building material will have to filled over and leveled for more construction work to be done on top of the debris, aggravating the entire phenomena
- In regard to natural ways of getting buildings 'buried', volcanic action will be able to bury entire cities with volcanic ash which will preserve full structures and artifacts as they were, prior to the eruption
- Plundering and burning down entire cities will bring down structures, preserving at least some of the artifacts and other surrounding structures which will be untouched lest for archaeological efforts

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