4Exp/5NA

Candidate Name: _____ Class: _____

Centre Number	Candidate Number

KRANJI SECONDARY SCHOOL
Preliminary Examination 2
Secondary 4 Express / 5 Normal Academic

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **1127/01**

Paper 1 Composition

Friday **17 August 2012** **1 hr 45 minutes**

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the Answer Paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Write your class, index number and name on all the work you hand in.
Answer both **Section One** and **Section Two.**
Write all your answers on the separate Answer Paper provided.
At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

Set by : Miss Serene Lai

This question paper consists of 3 printed pages.

[Turn over

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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. "A leopard never changes its spots." What are your views on this saying?

2. In your opinion, should an overseas learning journey be made compulsory for all students as part of secondary school education?

3. Describe a place in your estate that is popular with the local residents. Why is it favoured by the residents?

4. Write about a time when your refusal to heed advice from your parents led to regrettable consequences.

5. Faith.

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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.

Soon, you will graduate from the school and move on to post-secondary education. Recognising that you have benefited tremendously from the holistic education provided by the school, you intend to return to the school, together with your schoolmates, to contribute as part of the alumni.

In some of the informal conversations you had with your friends, the following suggestions on how you could contribute, were brought up:

- Mentor the student leaders in the organisation and execution of a key school event. Share your knowledge on a unique school tradition associated with the event.

- Share your learning points and experience in your preparations for the O Level Examinations. Give advice on post-secondary education choices.

- Work with CCA student leaders in the areas of skills training and leadership development. Assist teachers in the organisation of any relevant key CCA activities.

Write a **letter** to the **Principal** stating your intentions and which suggestion you are most keen on. Explain clearly why you believe your choice will play a part in nurturing the school values. Include details of how the alumni may be involved in the character development of the students.

Set out your letter correctly in **clear, accurate English**, in a **persuasive** tone that will convince your Principal that you sincerely wish to contribute to the school as part of the alumni.

End of paper

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Read Passage A and Passage B and then answer the questions which are printed in the Question Paper.

Passage A

1 A lot of people wonder how Chinese parents raise such stereotypically successful kids. They wonder what these parents do to produce so many math whizzes and music prodigies, what it's like inside the family, and above all, whether they could do it too. Well, I can tell them, because I've done it. Here are some things my daughters, Sophia and Louisa, were never allowed to do:

- attend a sleepover
- have a playdate
- watch TV or play computer games
- choose their own extra-curricular activities
- get any grade less than an A
- play any instrument other than the piano or violin

2 When Western parents think they're being strict, they usually don't come close to being Chinese mothers. For example, my Western friends who consider themselves strict make their children practise their instruments 30 minutes every day. An hour at most. For a Chinese mother, the first hour is the easy part. It's hours two and three that get tough.

3 To the Chinese, nothing is fun until you're good at it. To get good at anything one has to work, and children on their own never want to work, which is why it is crucial to override their preferences. This often requires fortitude on the part of the parents because the child will resist; things are always hardest at the beginning. But if done properly, the Chinese strategy produces a virtuous circle. Tenacious practice, practice, practice is crucial for excellence; rote repetition is underrated in America.

4 Why do Chinese parents get away with what they do? I think there are three big differences between the Chinese and Western parental mind-sets.

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5 First, I've noticed that Western parents are extremely anxious about their children's self-esteem. They worry about how their children will feel if they fail at something, and they constantly try to reassure their children about how good they are notwithstanding a mediocre performance on a test or at a recital. Chinese parents aren't. They assume strength, not fragility, and as a result they behave very differently.

6 For example, if a child comes home with a B on the test, some Western parents will still praise the child, or sit their child down and express disapproval. But they will be careful not to make their child feel inadequate or insecure, and they will not call their child "stupid" or "a disgrace". If a Chinese child gets a B – which would never happen – there would first be a screaming, hair-tearing explosion. The devastated Chinese mother would then get maybe hundreds of practice tests and work through them with her child for as long as it takes to get the grade up to an A. They demand perfect grades because they believe that their child can get them. The Chinese parent believes that their child will be strong enough to take the shaming and to improve from it.

7 Second, Chinese parents view that their kids owe them everything. It is probably a combination of Confucian filial piety and the fact that the parents have sacrificed so much for their children. The understanding is that Chinese children must spend their lives repaying their parents by obeying them and making them proud. For the western parents, the belief is that it's the parents who foist life on their kids, so it's the parents' responsibility to provide for them. Kids don't owe their parents anything. Their duty will be to their own kids.

8 Third, Chinese parents feel that they know what is best for their children and therefore override all of their children's own desires and preferences. That's why Chinese daughters can't have boyfriends in high school and can't go to sleepaway camp. For a western kid, this is totally unheard of.

9 Asian parents are portrayed as callous people indifferent to their kids' true interests. For their part, many Chinese secretly believe that they care more about their children and are willing to sacrifice much more for them than Westerners, who seem perfectly content to let their children turn out badly. I think it's a misunderstanding on both sides. All decent parents want to do what's best for their children. The Chinese just have a totally different idea of how to do that.

10 Western parents try to respect their children's individuality, encouraging them to pursue their true passions, supporting their choices, and providing positive reinforcement and a nurturing environment. By contrast, the Chinese perspective is that the best way to protect their children is by preparing them for the future, letting them see what they're capable of, and arming them with skills, work habits and inner confidence that no one can ever take away.

Adapted from Why Chinese Moms Are Superior by Amy Chua

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Passage B

1 I have a lot of respect for my dad. He's thoughtful and generous to all of us. When he is with his friends, he speaks highly of us. His constant reading makes him an interesting and well-informed conversationalist. He makes his life decisions very carefully, yet never looks down on me for making different decisions than him. Instead, he tells me all the time that he loves and misses me, and that he's proud of who I've become. I feel so lucky to have him as my dad.

2 Unfortunately, we have not always gotten along so well. Less than ten years ago, our relationship had been almost completely destroyed thanks to authoritarian parenting. It forced both of us into roles that we were not at all suited for, with tragic results.

3 For my dad, authoritarian parenting caused him to see our relationship as a power struggle; maintaining his authority was his biggest responsibility and highest priority. After all, if we were calling the shots in our own lives, we would become self-indulgent and lack internal self-control. So in order not to fail at parenting, my dad had to be hyper-vigilant against giving up power to us kids. How difficult to create a positive relationship with that kind of dynamic: it's impossible to mandate real respect and love!

4 For me as a teen, authoritarian parenting very nearly reduced me to an empty shell of a person. Questioning my parents' decisions or expressing different opinions, even on trivial matters, were signs of rebellion. Even the simple act of lifting my eyebrows could get me in trouble. In order to survive, I had to bury my negative emotions and try to become more passive and less opinionated.

5 My parents' preferred method of discipline when I was in my teens was to take away privileges. To protect things I cared about, I tried to stay detached. One technique that helped me care less about something was to focus on the negative about it. Inevitably, it extinguished any previous optimism I had.

6 Now as I enter college and start to work through many of my social anxiety issues, I continue using the relational techniques that helped me survive at home. I am passive; I go along with other people's ideas and goals; I have no strong opinions or desires of my own. I am just there, a non-factor, grateful to be included.

Adapted from Authoritarian Parenting and Emotional Repression

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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. What is the prime question asked by a lot of people when they look at Chinese parenting? [1]

From paragraph 3:

2. Explain fully why the author believes that parents must have fortitude in parenting. [2]

3. Explain in your own words what the author means by "rote repetition is underrated in America." (lines 22 – 23) [2]

From paragraph 5:

4. What is odd about the way parents always try to reassure their children about how good they are? [2]

5. According to the author, why is it that Chinese parents do not behave in the same way as Western parents? [1]

From paragraph 6:

6a. "a screaming, hair-tearing explosion" (line 36) [1]

Apart from a noisy outburst, what else does the phrase suggest about the nature of the outburst?

6b. What does the phrase suggest about how the parents feel about the grade? [1]

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From paragraph 7:

7. Quote a phrase in the same paragraph that conveys the same idea of filial piety. [1]

From paragraph 8:

8. "For a western kid, this is totally unheard of." (line 52) [1]

What does this suggest about a western child's reaction if they undergo Chinese parenting?

From paragraph 9:

9. Based on the information from line 53 to 54, how does the author really want the readers to see Chinese parents as? [2]

Passage B:

From paragraph 1:

10. The author's father "speaks highly" of him. Give a word from this paragraph which has the same idea. [1]

From paragraph 3:

11. Explain fully why the author's father was hyper-vigilant against giving up power to the children. [2]

From paragraph 4:

12. Explain why the author believed that becoming more passive and less opinionated was the way to cope with his parents' style of parenting. [1]

From paragraph 5:

13. What was the outcome of the author's detachment to the things that were important to him? [1]

From paragraph 6:

14. Explain why, as an adult, the author feels "grateful to be included". [1]

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From **Passages A and B:**

15. 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 this passage.

From Passage A:
(a) inadequate (line 34)
(b) foist (line 46)

From Passage B:
(c) tragic (line 10)
(d) bury (line 21)
(e) detached (line 24) [5]

16. **Using your own words as far as possible,** summarise the **beliefs** that drive Chinese parents in the way they raise their children.

USE THE MATERIAL IN PASSAGE A FROM LINE 16 TO THE END OF THE PASSAGE

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 to begin).

Begin your summary as follows:

A belief Chinese parents have when they raise children is ... [25]

End of Paper

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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. What is the prime question asked by a lot of people when they look at Chinese parenting? [1]

They wonder if they could do the same. (1m)

From paragraph 3:

2. Explain fully why the author believes that parents must have fortitude in parenting. [2]

Detail: The child will resist against the parents. (1m)
*Inference: Hence, parents **must persevere and not give in**. This will then **enable them to discipline and change the child**. (1m)*

3. Explain in your own words what the author means by "rote repetition is underrated in America." (lines 22 – 23) [2]

From text: "rote repetition" & " underrated"
Own Words: *The author meant that the value of **doing something over and over again (1m)** is **not fully recognised / appreciated/ considered / as important (1m)** in America.*

Do not accept: not recognised / appreciated.
One mark for each idea accurately paraphrased.

From paragraph 5:

4. What is odd about the way parents always try to reassure their children about how good they are? [2]

*Even though their children's performance is **mediocre** (1m), they **do not point out that they could do better**, but **give them the false impression** that they are good. (1m)*

Both parts must be answered to show the contradiction. Otherwise, award zero.

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5. According to the author, why is it that Chinese parents do not behave in the same way as Western parents? [1]

Detail: Chinese parents assume strength, not fragility.
Inference: *They believe that their children **have what it takes to succeed / is capable** and will strive to make it happen for their children. (1m)*

Note: Answer will communicate the belief that their children inherently have the qualities to succeed and need to molded.

From paragraph 6:

6a. "a screaming, hair-tearing explosion" (line 36) [1]

Apart from a noisy outburst, what else does the phrase suggest about the nature of the outburst?

It is sudden / chaotic. (1m)

6b. What does the phrase suggest about how the parents feel about the grade? [1]

*They are **upset / disgraced** by the mediocre results. (1m)*

Note: Answer must communicate the extreme.

From paragraph 7:

7. Quote a phrase in the same paragraph that conveys the same idea of filial piety. [1]

"repaying their parents" (1m)

Apply excess rule if the following are quote:
"spend their lives repaying their parents by obeying them and making them proud" (the concept of filial piety is about repaying parents. The additional items are elaboration),

From paragraph 8:

8. "For a western kid, this is totally unheard of." (line 52) [1]

What does this suggest about a western child's reaction if they undergo Chinese parenting?

They are unable to accept it. (1m)

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From paragraph 9:

9. Based on the information in lines 53 to 54, how does the author really want the readers to see Chinese parents as? [2]

From text: "**callous** people **indifferent to their kids' true intentions**"
Own Words: *The author wants her readers to see that Chinese parents* ***do care for / feel for their children / sensitive*** *(1m) and they* ***care about what is important to*** *their children (1m).*

Note: both items must be differentiated and paraphrased.
Do not accept if candidate answers, "they are not callous people who are indifferent to their kids' intentions."

Passage B:

From paragraph 1:

10. The author's father "speaks highly" of him. Give a word from this paragraph which has the same idea. [1]

"proud" (1m)

From paragraph 3:

11. Explain fully why the author's father was hyper-vigilant against giving up power to the children. [2]

Detail: If their children are given power, they would ***become self-indulgent and lack internal self-control. (1m)*** *(Candidates must paraphrased slightly to be awarded this mark)*
Inference: This would cause them to disregard / disrespect the authority of their parents and become disobedient. (1m)

From paragraph 4:

12. Explain why the author believed that becoming more passive and less opinionated was the way to cope with his parents' style of parenting. [1]

Detail: Questioning his parents' descision or expressing different opinions, even on trivial metters, were signs of rebellion.
Inference: Hence, it was best to keep his opinions to himself or avoid taking a stand ***so that it would not be misinterpreted*** as a sign of rebellion. (1m)

From paragraph 5:

13. What was the outcome of the author's detachment to the things that were important to him? [1]

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It **extinguished any previous optimism** that he had over things he cared about. (1m)

From paragraph 6:

14. Explain why, as an adult, the author feels "grateful to be included". [1]

Detail: Now, he sees himself as a non-factor.
*Inference: He **doesn't feel that people ought to consider him in the first place** since he is so passive. (1m)*

From **Passages A and B:**

15. 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 this passage.

From Passage A:
(a) inadequate (line 34) – incomplete / not good enough / not confident enough

X: insufficient

(b) foist (line 46) – give

Note: the idea that it is parents who give life to their children. Their children did not choose to be born.

From Passage B:
(c) tragic (line 10) – very sad / regrettable

Note: must communicate the extreme

X: sad / sorry

(d) bury (line 21) – hide / suppress (emotions)

(e) detached (line 24) – disassociate / disengaged / not to feel anything for it / apathetic [5]

Note: answer must communicate the idea of feeling / not feeling for something. Must not have suggestions of physical association (in the context of the passage)

X: removed / separate

16. **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the **beliefs** that drive Chinese parents in the way they raise their children.

USE THE MATERIAL IN PASSAGE A FROM LINE 16 TO THE END OF THE PASSAGE

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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 to begin).

Begin your summary as follows:

A belief Chinese parents have when they raise children is … [25]

	From text	*Paraphrased*
1	*Nothing is fun until you're good at it*	*Things become enjoyable when you do well in it.*
2	*To get good at anything one has to work*	*One has to put in effort to become good at something*
3	*Children on their own never want to work.*	*Given a choice, children do not want to work hard.*
4	*It is crucial to override their preferences*	*It is vital to not to give them a choice*
5	*Tenacious pracice, practice, practice is crucial for excellence*	*Hard work is needed for someone to become great*
6	*They assume strength, not fragility*	*Chinese parents believe that their children are strong enough to endure it.*
7	*They demand perfect grades because they believe their child can get them.*	*They expect top grades / good results as they believe their children's capability.*
8	*The Chinese parent believes that their child will be strong enough to take the shaming and to improve from it.*	*They believe that their children can withstand the shaming and do better*
9	*Chinese parents view that their kids owe them everything.*	*Their children's success is dependent on their parents.*
10	*A combination of filial piety* *OR Chinese children must spend their lives repaying their parents by obeying them and making them proud*	*Children need to give back to their parents*
11	*Parents have sacrificed so much for their child*	*Because they have given up so much for them.*
12	*They know what is best for their children*	*They know what is the best thing for them*

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13	*They care more about their children and are willing to sacrifice much more for them*	*They love their children and will give up a lot more for them*
14	*The best way to protect their children is by preparing them for the future*	*They believe that the best thing is to ensure that their children are ready for the future*
15	*Letting them see what they're capbable of*	*And help them to see how able they are*
16	*Arming them with skills, work habits and inner confidence that no one can take away*	*Their children must be equipped with the skills, abilities and the assurance that no one can remove.*

A belief Chinese parents have when they raise children is that things become enjoyable when they do well in it. Hence, they must put in effort to become good at something. Given a choice, children do not want to work hard and so, they believe that it is vital not to give them a choice. Also, hard word is necessary for them to become great. Chinese parents believe they are strong enough to endure it when they push them. They expect top grades because they have faith in their capability. Their children are able to withstand shaming and will do better. In addition, Chinese parents think that their children need to give back as they have given up so much for them. As parents, they know what is the best thing for them. They believe that the best thing is to ensure that their children are ready for the future and help them to see how able they are.

Total: 159 words (including the 10 given words)

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