SWISS COTTAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL
SECONDARY FOUR EXPRESS/ FIVE NORMAL ACADEMIC
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Name: _____( ). Class: Sec _____

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 Composition

1127/01
Tuesday 21 August 2012
1 hour 45 minutes

Additional materials: Writing paper (6 sheets)

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

Answer both **Section One** and **Section Two.**
Answer **Section Two** separately on a fresh piece of writing paper.

At the end of the examination, fasten your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the head of each section.

This question paper consists of 3 printed pages.

Setter: Miss Herina, Miss Tan Mee Han, Miss Samantha O'Hara
Vetter: Mrs Constance Wong, Miss Tan Annie

[Turn over

We nurture Thoughtful Leaders who Think, Care and Lead with P.R.I.D.E.

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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. Do schools in Singapore adequately prepare young people for life in the 21st century?

2. Write about a time when your flaw ended up in being an advantage to you.

3. Change.

4. Describe your ideal job and what qualities you will need to succeed in that job.

5. 'I have no time to read!' is often the cry of teenagers today. What could be done about this?

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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.

There are plans to conduct a post-secondary talk for the graduating students to help them prepare for their academic life after secondary school.

Two suggestions have been recommended after a survey with the student representatives from every graduating class:

> Invite students from a few tertiary institutions. Our students can then get a first-hand account of their experiences and ways of coping in a tertiary institution.

> Invite teachers from various tertiary institutions. They can then share with our students their expectations and offer their advice.

In addition to the suggestions, two concerns have also been raised:

- It would be boring to merely listen to the speakers.
- Sitting on the floor in the school hall for the talk in the afternoon is both warm and uncomfortable. Students would not be able to concentrate.

As the Welfare Head of the Student Council and organiser of the upcoming post-secondary talk, you have been asked by your Principal to decide which **one** of the suggestions would be the most enlightening to graduating students.

When you have made your choice, you should **write a letter** to the **Principal:**

- explaining which suggestion you support and giving reasons for your choice
- giving details of the talk
- saying when and where it will be held
- addressing the concerns surfaced.

Write your letter in clear, accurate English, and in a confident, persuasive tone, to convince the Principal that the upcoming post-secondary talk will be an engaging and beneficial one.

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PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Name: _____( ) Class: Sec _____

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1127/01

Paper 2

Tuesday 21 August 2012

1 hour 40 minutes

Additional materials: Writing paper (4 sheets)

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/tape.

Write your name, index number and class in the spaces provided on the Answer Paper.
Answer **ALL** questions.
Leave a space of **one** line between your answers to **each part** of a question, e.g., between **1(a)** and **1(b).**
Leave a space of at least **three** lines after your completed answer to each **whole** question.
Write your answers on the separate Answer Paper provided.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the paper.

SUBMIT ANSWER TO THE SUMMARY QUESTION SEPARATELY.

This question paper consists of **4** printed pages.

Setter: Miss Samantha O' Hara, Mr Terence Wong, Mrs Constance Wong
Vetter: Miss Tan Annie

[Turn over

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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. Write down the **single** word that tells us Americans are uneducated with regards to the World Cup soccer. [1]

2. According to the author, why, if you are American, can you choose to cheer for whichever team you like? **Answer in your own words.** [2]

From paragraph 2:

3 What are the **two** contrasting human qualities one is likely to see at the World Cup soccer? [2]

From paragraph 4:

4. Summarise in **not more than 14 words** how Club soccer is set up. [2]

From paragraph 6:

5. **In your own words**, explain what the writer means by 'success disproportionate to their talents on paper'. [2]

From paragraph 7:

6. Explain fully why it is noteworthy that South Korea and Japan co-hosted the World Cup in 2002. [2]

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From Passage B

From paragraph 1:

7. 'One thing drummed repetitively in my head'. How did this affect the main character? [2]

From paragraph 2:

8. Quote an example to show that the shrubs are given human qualities. [1]

9. **Using your own words**, explain **one** physical reaction that the main character experienced when he was coming out of the pool of water. [1]

From paragraph 3:

10. Why do you think the main character described the maze as 'a mockery with no solutions'? [2]

From paragraphs 4 to 7:

11. 'Two wings sprouted off the red beast's bodies – one on each side.' What does the beast refer to? [1]

From paragraph 8:

12. What does the phrase 'so close, yet never further' tell us about the main character's understanding of his fate? [2]

From Passage A and Passage B:

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

From Passage A:

(a) allegiances (line 6)

(b) converge (line 38)

(c) convictions (line 60)

From Passage B:

(d) soothed (line 1)

(e) estranged (line 21)

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REMINDER: Begin your answer on a fresh sheet of writing paper.

From Passage A:

14. **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the negative and positive aspects of soccer.

USE ONLY THE MATERIAL IN PASSAGE A FROM PARAGRAPHS 4 TO THE END OF THE PASSAGE.

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:

Soccer certainly has its dark side, for example... [25]

END OF PAPER

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PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Name: _____( ) Class: Sec _____

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2

1127/01
Tuesday 21 August 2012
1 hour 40 minutes

Additional materials: NA

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

This insert contains the comprehension passages.

This question paper consists of 4 printed pages.

Setter: Miss Samantha O' Hara, Mr Terence Wong, Mrs Constance Wong
Vetter: Miss Tan Annie

[Turn over

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

Passage A

1 There are many beautiful things about being an American fan of men's World Cup soccer – foremost among them is ignorance. The community in which you were raised did not gather around the television set every four years for a solid, breathless month. Your country has never won. You can pick whatever team you like best and root for it without shame or fear of reprisal. You have not been indoctrinated into unwanted-yet-inescapable tribal allegiances by your soccer-crazed countrymen. You are an amateur, in the purest sense of the word. So when the World Cup is taking place, you can expect to spend the month in paradise.

2 That is what I do. The world of the World Cup is the one I want to live in. I cannot resist its United Nations-like pageantry and high-mindedness, the apolitical display of national characteristics, the revelation of deep human flaws and unexpected greatness, the fact that entire nations walk off the job or wake up at 3 a.m. to watch men kick a ball. There are irritating fans: "U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!" Blessedly only a few. There are children who hold hands with each player as he walks onto the field. National anthems play. Men paint themselves in their national colours and cry openly at defeat. An announcer shouts "GOOOOOOOOOOOOAL! GOAL, GOAL, GOAL!"

3 As my copy of "Soccer and Its Rules" says: "Are you ready? Ready to cheer the players to victory, marvel at their fitness level, speed and skills, urging them to win every tackle for the ball, ready to explode at a powerful shot? Ready for the excitement of flying wingers, overlapping backs, curling corners, slick one-two passing and goals scored with panache? Ready for another moment in a fantasy world?" I am ready.

4 Soccer's worldwide popularity is not surprising when you look at what has always motivated humans: money and God. There is a lot of money in soccer, of course. Club soccer (like capitalism) is basically the childlike desire to make dreams come true, no matter what the cost, realised by men with enough money to combine such commodities as the best Brazilian attacker, Dutch midfielder, British defender, and German goalie and turn them loose on whatever other billionaires can put together – an unfair situation that describes much of the world these days. However, the divine is there too.

5 What is soccer if not everything that religion should be? Universal yet particular, the source of an infinitely renewable supply of hope, occasionally miraculous, and governed by simple, uncontradictory rules that everyone can follow.

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6 The religious undercurrent in soccer runs especially runs deep in the World Cup years. Teams from across the globe converge on the host nation in something of an unarmed, athletic crusade. As in the Crusades, the host nation tends to repel them. There is a weird power in home-team advantage. Hosts find a level of success disproportionate to their talents on paper. It is almost as if God is on their side.

7 It is well-known that soccer, like religion, can provoke violence – hooliganism and tramplings at overcrowded, Mecca-mid-hajj-like stadiums are what many Americans assume about the game. However, soccer has also proved unique in its ability to bridge differences and overturn national prejudices. The fact that the World Cup could even take place in South Korea and in Japan (they co-hosted in 2002), only 50 years after South Korea refused to let the Japanese cross its borders for a qualifier, was a victory for tolerance and understanding. Give the world another 50 years and we might even see the Cup co-hosted by Israel and Palestine.

8 And why not? Soccer's universality is its simplicity – the fact that the game can be played anywhere with anything. Urban children kick the can on concrete and rural children kick a rag wrapped around a rag wrapped around a rag barefoot, on dirt.

9 The beautiful game – let us call it business and religion combined – is at its most unfair, frustrating and magnificent during the World Cup. And what makes the World Cup is the world, all of us together. The joy of being one of the billion or more people watching 32 countries abide by 17 rules fills me with the conviction, perhaps ignorant, but like many ignorant convictions, fiercely held, that soccer can unite us all.

Source: Adapted from The Thinking Fan's Guide to the World Cup, *edited by Matt Weiland and Sean Wilsey. HarperCollins. 2006.* National Geographic. June 2006.

Passage B

1 I opened my eyes to pitch darkness, soothed unexplainably by the obscurity. How long had it been since I was last asleep? I tried my hardest to remember, but no ideas came as to what I had been doing, or what had happened at all. One thing drummed repetitively in my head: I had to find food. I had to bring food back to my starving mother.

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2 Picking myself off the ground, I ran a few metres ahead, eyes darting left and right to make out where exactly I was. It was not too long till I realised I was stuck in a maze, composed intricately of dull green, blade-edged shrubs that reached up to my upper body. They bent grudgingly as I ran and trampled across them, producing these *shuck-shuck-shucking* noises that seemed to voice out tones of irritation at me, the intruder. Afraid, I moved ahead blindly, hoping to reach a clear ending which would get me out of the maze and a direction back to my home. There was a sudden depression in the ground and I tumbled into a pool of cold, murky water that reeked of mud and rotten shrubbery. The depth of the pool was neither that high nor its width very wide, but as I stumbled my way out of it, I could feel the hair on my skin standing on end, my heart thumping wildly against my chest. I paused, breathing heavily as I stood still among the seemingly never ending maze.

3 It must have been at least two or three hours. My legs were tired; the maze seemed like a mockery with no solutions, and I still could not remember how I ended up here, estranged from my mother and four siblings who must be now worried sick for me. And then I smelt it – food, delicious food. My stomach rumbled loudly. How long had it been since we had something to eat? Two days? Three?

4 Suddenly, a wave of bright light hit me and I squeezed my eyes shut, hardly daring to breathe. I opened my eyes and saw one enormous entity right before me, looking larger than ever at such close proximity. I felt heat simmering off its bright red body as it vibrated, shaking the shrubbery it had landed upon violently. It appeared to be angry, and I dared not move. Then, the vibrating stopped. Two wings sprouted off the red beast's bodies – one on each side. Staring at it with total horror, I saw two giants emerging from the insides of the beast, appearing from where its wings had sprouted. They moved awkwardly and unsteadily. They yelled out loud in a language I could not understand. I turned silently, wanting to creep off unnoticed.

5 Unfortunately, they approached me and picked me up. I struggled to be freed, only to be lifted up higher and higher. Craning my head back, I came face to face with two large, white globes, each filled with a smaller black circle in between that darted back and forth as they studied me.

6 One giant got hold of me.

7 "Look at this, Sam! A rat! Let's kill it! Run it over the tires of your car or something!"

8 My eyes roamed back longingly to the distance where my nest was – my mother, my siblings. It was so close, yet never further.

Source: Adapted from http://www.qlrs.com/story.asp?id=594. Lim Hern Koon, *Returning Home*. Quarterly Literary Review Singapore. Vol. 7 No. 1 Jan 2008.

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SWISS COTTAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL
SECONDARY FOUR EXPRESS/ FIVE NORMAL ACADEMIC
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Name: _____( ) Class: Sec _____

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2

1127/01
Tuesday 21 August 2012
1 hour 40 minutes

Additional materials: Writing paper (4 sheets)

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/tape.

Write your name, index number and class in the spaces provided on the Answer Paper.
Answer **ALL** questions.
Leave a space of one line between your answers to **each part** of a question, e.g., between **1(a)** and **1(b)**.
Leave a space of at least **three** lines after your completed answer to each **whole** question.
Write your answers on the separate Answer Paper provided.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the paper.

SUBMIT THE ANSWER TO THE SUMMARY QUESTION SEPARATELY.

This question paper consists of **4** printed pages.

Setter: Miss Samantha O' Hara, Mr Terence Wong, Mrs Constance Wong
Vetter: Miss Tan Annie

[Turn over

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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. Write down the **single** word that tells us Americans are uneducated with regards to the World Cup soccer. [1]

   - **The word is 'ignorance'.** *[No mark will be awarded if word is wrongly copied.]*

2. According to the author, why, if you are American, can you choose to cheer for whichever team you like? **Answer in your own words.** [2]

   - **As America had not experienced any victory,** *[This point is compulsory.]*
   - **they would not need to feel humiliation/mockery or retaliation/revenge if they sided with any team.** *[Accept any underlined part for this point.]*

   [Original text: Your country has never won. You can pick whatever team you like best and root for it without shame or fear of reprisal.] [Underlined parts must be rephrased in own words.]

From paragraph 2:

3. What are the **two** contrasting human qualities one is likely to see at the World Cup soccer? [1]

   - **The revelation of deep human flaws and**
   - **unexpected greatness.** *[Both contrasting points must be given before the full mark is awarded.]*

From paragraph 4:

4. Summarise in **not more than 14 words** how Club soccer is set up. [2]

   - **Rich men buy the best players**
   - **to fulfill their dreams at whatever the cost.**
     [1m is awarded for partial response.]

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From paragraph 6:

5. **In your own words**, explain what the writer means by 'success disproportionate to their talents on paper'. [2]

- **They achieved more than** *[The comparative element is seen.]*
- **what they had received their training in/ their abilities stated in their certificates/what is expected from their skills/talents/qualifications.**

From paragraph 7:

6. Explain fully why it is noteworthy that South Korea and Japan co-hosted the World Cup in 2002? [2]

It showed that both South Korea and Japan
- **were able to bridge their differences**
- **and overturn national prejudices.**
- **It was a victory for tolerance and understanding.**

[To be awarded full marks, all three points must be seen. Note that the words 'Explain fully' require students to locate the 3rd point which is found elsewhere in the paragraph. Award 1m for partial answer.]

From Passage B

From paragraph 1:

7. 'One thing drummed repetitively in my head'. How did this affect the main character? [2]

- **He was so obsessed with the idea of finding food for his starving mother**
- **That he was unable to rest/sleep.**

From paragraph 2:

8. Quote an example to show that the shrubs are given human qualities. [1]

- **'They bent grudgingly as I ran and trampled across them' OR**
- **'producing these shuck-shuck-shucking noises that seemed to voice out tones of irritation at me'**

[The underlined part must be seen. Do not accept the answer if additional irrelevant words are given or if both examples are given.]

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9. **Using your own words**, explain **one** physical reaction that the main character had when he fell into a pool of water. [1]

- **The hair on the skin became stiff/ prickly. (Hair on my skin standing on one end)** *[Do not accept 'stood up'.]* **OR**
- **The character's heart was pounding uncontrollably. (My heart thumping wildly)**

From paragraph 3:

10. Why do you think the main character described the maze as 'a mockery with no solutions'? [2]

- **It was because it seemed that there was no way out of the maze**
- **and the feeling of being trapped in the maze was likened to being jeered at/ laughed at.** *[Do not accept equivalents which do not convey the appropriate the emotion e.g. 'teased'.]*

From paragraph 4 to 7:

11. 'Two wings sprouted off the red beast's bodies – one on each side.' What does the beast refer to? [1]

- **It refers to <u>a car/ a vehicle</u> (with doors on each side - optional).**

From paragraph 8:

12. What does the phrase 'so close, yet never further' tell us about the main character's understanding of his fate? [2]

- **The main character knew that he was going to die/be killed/his life was going to terminate.**
- **He was close enough to home, yet his home seemed so far away as he could escape from his captives.**

From Passage A and Passage B:

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

From Passage A:

(a) allegiances (line 6)
- **loyalty/ devotion to a cause/ <u>strong</u> support for a cause**

From Passage B:

(d) soothed (line 1)
- **calmed/settled/** tranquilised

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(b) converge (line 38)
- **tend to meet <u>together</u> <u>at a point/</u> move <u>together</u> <u>towards a point</u>**

(c) convictions (line 60)
- **fixed/firm beliefs**

(e) estranged (line 31)
- **separated**

REMINDER: Begin your answer <u>on a fresh sheet of writing paper</u>.

From Passage A:

14. **Using your own words as far as possible,** summarise the negative and positive aspects of soccer.

USE ONLY THE MATERIAL IN <u>PASSAGE A</u> FROM PASSAGE 4 TO THE END OF THE PASSAGE.

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:

Soccer certainly has its dark side, for example… [25]

Ref	Points from the Passage A	Use of Own Words
	Start with negative points as guided by the question and the given sentence.	
1	*Club soccer (like capitalism)*	• **club soccer is lucrative/profitable business/venture.**
2	*is basically the childlike desire to make dreams come true, no matter what the cost, realized by men with enough money to combine such commodities……turn them loose on whatever other billionaires can put together*	• **Regardless of cost, wealthy men**
3		• **buy the best players in order to fulfill their fantasy.**
4	*an unfair situation that describes much of the world these days.*	• **The biased practice is common/prevalent/widespread nowadays.**

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	More negative points #9 & #10 can be added to #1 to #4.	
	Use the sentence linker, 'However', to introduce contrasting positive points.	
5	*Universal and particular*	• **<u>However</u>, soccer is accessible to all,**
6		• **and yet, unique**
7	*the source of an infinitely renewable supply of hope, occasionally miraculous*	• **in providing one with endless hope and sometimes, marvelous/ wondrous results.**
8	*and governed by simple, uncontradictory rules that everyone can follow.*	• **The rules are fair and simple which all can adhere to.**
	The negative points #9 and #10 can be grouped together with the negative points #1 to #4.	
9	*soccer, like religion,*	• **Extremists/people obsessed with soccer**
10	*can provoke violence...hooliganism and tramplings*	• **can resort to uncontrollable acts of rage.**
11	*ability to bridge differences*	• **Soccer can help people resolve their misunderstandings**
12	*and overturn national prejudices.*	• **and overcome the biases of opposing countries.**
13	*The fact that the World Cup could even take place in South Korea and in Japan (they co-hosted in 2002), only 50 years after South Korea refused to let the Japanese cross its borders for a qualifier,*	• **Despite South Korea denying Japan a chance to enter the country to meet the standard for a soccer round, they could unite to host the World Cup fifty years later.**
14	*was a victory for tolerance and understanding*	• **It was a glorious demonstration of fairness/objectivity.**

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15	*universality is its simplicity –*	• **The easy game** *[No need to repeat 'universality' if it was mentioned in #5.]*
16	*the fact that the game can be played anywhere with anything.*	• **can be played at any place and using anything.**
17	*Urban children kick the can on concrete*	• **City children kick drink cans**
18	*rural kids kick a rag wrapped around a rag wrapped around a rag, barefoot, on dirt*	• **while village children without shoes kick a rolled up rag.**
19	*And what makes the World Cup is the world, all of us together. The joy of being one of the billion or more people watching 32 countries abide by 17 rules...*	• **The World Cup, which reaches out to more than a billion people,**
20	*that soccer can unite us all.*	• **is able to make all join together for a common cause.**

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