Centre Number	Index Number	Name	Class

WEST SPRING SECONDARY SCHOOL

Thirst for Knowledge

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2012

1127/ 02

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
INSERT

DATE : 24 / 08 / 2012
DURATION : 1 h 40 min

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains the comprehension passages.

SETTERS : Ms Victoria Chong / Ms Veronica Aw

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

PASSAGE A

1 Translation has played a central role in human interaction for thousands of years. When monarchs or ambassadors met on the international stage, there would **invariably** be interpreters present. However, there are limits to what can be done in this way. The more a community is linguistically mixed, the less it can rely on individuals to ensure communication between different groups.

2 The problem has traditionally been solved by finding a language to act as a *lingua franca*, or 'common language'. Sometimes, when communities began to trade with each other, they communicate by adopting a simplified language, known as *pidgin*, which combines elements of their different languages. Many of such *pidgin* languages survive today in territories which formerly belonged to the European colonial nations, and act as *lingua francas*; for example, West African Pidgin English is used extensively between several ethnic groups along the West African coast. Most often, a language is accepted from outside the community, such as English or French, because of the political, economic or religious influence of a foreign power.

3 The prospect that a *lingua franca* might be needed for the whole world is something which has emerged strongly only in the twentieth century, and since the 1950s in particular. The United Nations and many international bodies such as UNESCO and UNICEF have come into being as a result of this **emergence**. The pressure to adopt a single *lingua franca*, to facilitate communication in such contexts, is considerable, the alternative being expensive and impractical multi-way translation facilities.

4 The need for a global language is particularly appreciated by the international academic and business communities, and it is here that the adoption of a single *lingua franca* is most in evidence, both in lecture-rooms and board-rooms, as well as in thousands of individual contacts made daily all over the globe.

5 The benefits, which would flow from the existence of a global language, are considerable; but several commentators have pointed to possible risks. Perhaps a global language would cultivate an elite monolingual linguistic class, more complacent and dismissive in their attitudes towards other languages. Those who have such a language at their disposal – and especially those who have it as their mother-tongue – will be more able to think and work quickly in it. They could manipulate it to their own advantage at the expense of those who do not have it thus increasing the chasm between rich and poor.

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6 The presence of the global language might make people lazy about learning other languages, or reduce their opportunities to do so. It might also hasten the disappearance of minority languages, or – the **ultimate** threat – make all other languages unnecessary. 'A person needs only one language to talk to someone else', it is sometimes argued, 'and once a world language is in place, other languages will simply die away'. This is the uninviting force of linguistic triumphalism – the danger that some people will celebrate one language's success at the expense of others.

7 It is important to face up these fears and to recognise that they are widely held. For some, they see nothing wrong with the vision that a world with just one language in it would be one of unity and peace, with all misunderstandings washed away – a widely expressed hope underlying the movements in support of a universal artificial language. For others, they regard the presence of a global language as potentially dangerous. It can be said that it is extremely difficult to deal with anxieties, which are so speculative, or, in the absence of evidence, to determine whether anything can be done to reduce or eliminate them.

Taken and adapted from *English as a Global Language* by David Crystal

PASSAGE B

1 Like almost everyone else on almost every trip through Asia, I found myself at Hong Kong's Kai Tak Airport. Quick with the honking cries of energy and enterprise, pungent with discounts and deals. Hemmed in by skyscrapers, pressed down under sheer green hills, its single runway squeezed into a spit of reclaimed land so close to the sea that upon landing, I saw a Lufthansa jet nose-dive in the water. Kai Tak is the spiritual centre – and the discount centre – of typhooning Hong Kong.

2 By 1985, negotiations had made formal what circumstances had long made **inevitable** – in 1997, Hong Kong would be handed over from Whitehall to Beijing. And with the signing of that agreement, the Colony seemed truly to be left in no hands but its own, directed by nothing save the force of individual will. An unregulated free-for-all, Hong Kong in 1985 seemed more than ever a kind of special economic zone, a giant version of one of those anonymous, convenient international spaces – the convention centre, the five-star lobby, the departure lounge – where people can meet between flights to cut deals, have drinks, talk options. Offering all the amenities of a city with none of the encumbrances of a state, the entrepôt provided a perfect movable feast for go-getters, overachievers and rootless expatriates – driven, self-making men with no allegiances except for the self. The Colony promised plenty of income and almost no tax. It honoured no absolutes save profit and impermanence. And the only common denominator, the only *lingua franca* binding everyone together in Hong Kong – Chinese back-street tailor, British administrator and

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American investment banker – was money. "Business and shopping are the only things to do here," announced my Chinese colleague the day I arrived – making money and spending it.

3 Where freedom meets money – that was the location of Hong Kong. And by 1985, the city had become the last wide open settlement in the Wild East, the final El Dorado. This was where corporate cowboys came to lasso their future, where fortune hunters **flocked** to pan for gold. "This is the second frontier," an advertising executive told me, excitement from in his eyes. "Shoot from the hip," said his boss, stopping by for a strategic chat. "In Hong Kong," said a cabbie, there's lots of freedom. You have money, you can do anything." And where anything goes, everyone goes, to be somebody.

Taken and adapted from *Video Night in Kathmandu* by Pico Iyer

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

50 marks

Instructions to Candidates

Write your index number and name on all the work you hand in.
Answer all the questions on the writing papers provided.

Leave a space of **one** line between your answers to **each part** of a question, e.g. between **8(a)** and **8(b).**

Leave a space of at least **three** lines after your completed answer to each **whole** question.

SETTER(S): Ms Victoria Chong / Ms Veronica Aw

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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. How has translation played a central role in human interaction for thousands of years? [1]

From paragraphs 1 and 2:

2. (a) "The problem has traditionally been solved..." (line 6) [2]

Explain, **in your own words**, what the problem is.

(b) Give **one** piece of evidence that suggests that *pidgin languages* managed to solve this problem. [1]

3. Why were English and French spoken widely outside of their countries? [1]

From paragraph 3:

4. Explain, **in your own words**, why there is pressure to adopt a single *lingua franca*. [2]

From paragraph 4:

5. **Using your own words**, where is the global language mostly used? [2]

From paragraph 7:

6. **Why would it be a challenge to deal with anxieties towards a global language?** [1]

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From Passage B:

From paragraph 1:

7. "Like almost everyone else on almost every trip through Asia, I found myself at Hong Kong's Kai Tak Airport." (lines 1-2) [1]

What does this sentence tell us about Hong Kong?

8. Give **one** piece of evidence that tells us that Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport had limited space. [1]

From paragraph 2:

9. "...negotiations had made formal what circumstances had long made *inevitable..*" (lines 8-9) [1]

What was inevitable?

10 What does the word 'truly' (line 10) suggest about how Hong Kong was governed before the signing of the agreement? [1]

11 (a) Give **one** reason why Hong Kong was described as 'a perfect movable feast' (line 17). [2]

(b) Describe, **in your own words**, two types of people for whom Hong Kong was 'perfect' for. [2]

From paragraph 3:

12. Give two reasons why was Hong Kong described as the 'Wild East' (line 27). **Explain in your own words.** [2]

From Passage A and B:

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

From Passage A:

1 invariably (line 3)
2 emergence (line 19)
3 ultimate (line 39)

From Passage B:

4 inevitable (line 9)
5 flocked (line 29) [5]

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From Passage A:

14. **Using your own words as far as possible,** summarise the reasons why there should be a global language and the criticisms against having one.

USE ONLY MATERIAL IN PASSAGE A FROM PARAGRAPHS 3 to 7.

Your summary, which should 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:

Adopting a global language has many benefits in that it ... [25]

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