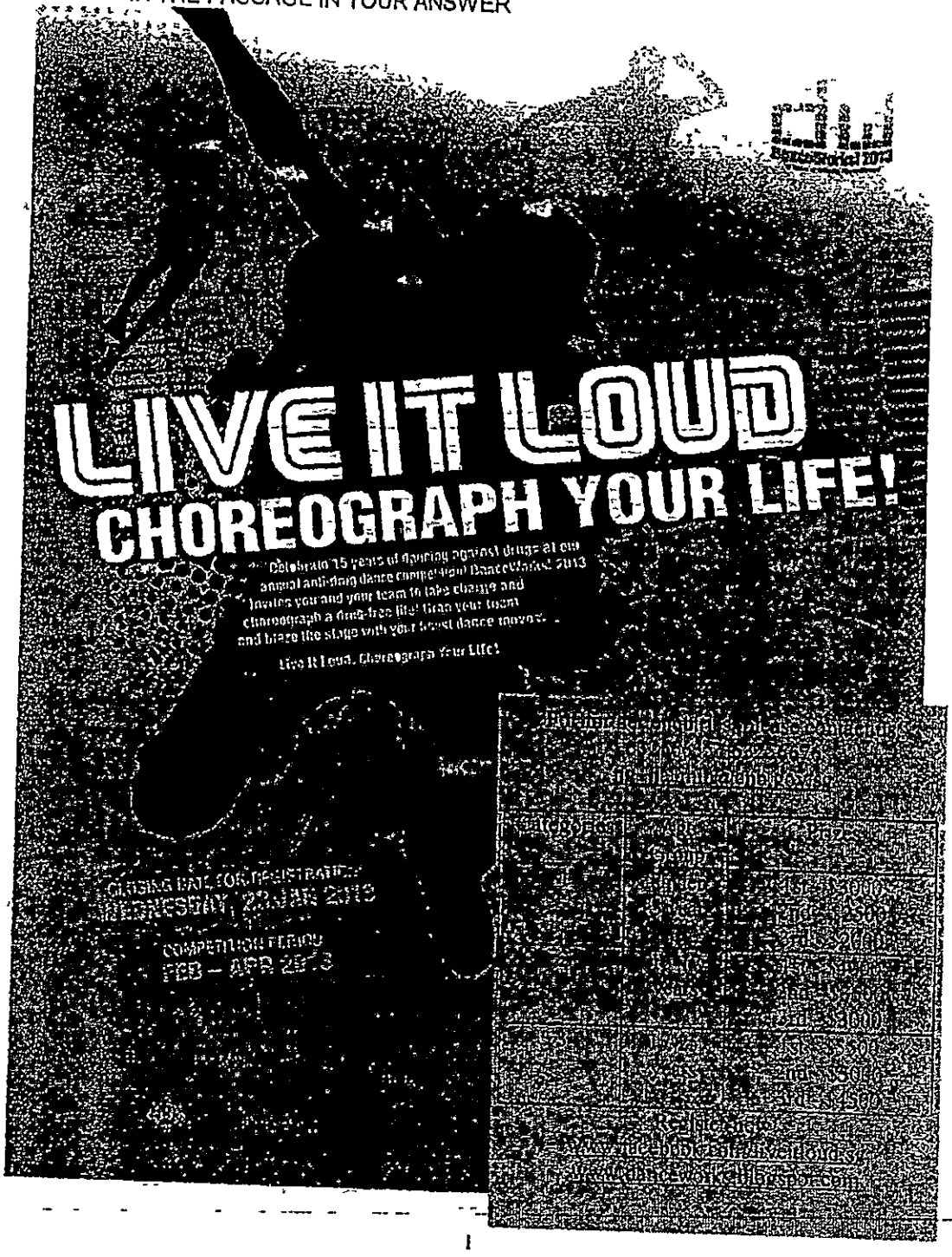
Saint Andrews Secondary School

Text 1

Study the advertisement below and answer Questions 1-4

Read Text(s) 2 and 3 and answer Questions 5-19

NOTE When a question asks you to answer in your own words, YOU MUST NOT COPY WORDS IN THE PASSAGE IN YOUR ANSWER



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Text 2

(In this extract, a young woman displays her extraordinary willpower despite her rough childhood.)

1 In 1997, I found myself in a situation I never thought I'd be in alone and begging for money in New York. I was 16, homeless, and desperately searching for a high school that would let me enroll after years of truancy. My father had been estranged from our family for a while, and though I knew he was in a nearby men's shelter, he was in no position to help. My mother had recently died from complications related to cancer, and I'd spent the few months since her death sleeping in friends' homes or on a staircase landing in some random building in the bustling city.

2 What I remember most about such nights is lying on the cold marble floor and using my backpack for a pillow, my worn out flannel shirt draped over me to dim the unrelenting fluorescent lights. I'd listen as the sounds of families echoed up to me in the staircase – children calling out for their parents, TVs playing cartoons, dinner plates clanking – all the sounds of life that transform an apartment into a home. To deal with the isolation, I escaped into daydreams. With my eyes shut, I would envision my family together again: snapshots of Ma alive and the way she'd get those little lines around her eyes whenever she laughed really hard, and the four of us – Mum, Dad, my sister Lisa, and me – safe under one roof again. But the most vivid daydreams were about my future. I would see myself sitting in school, diligently taking notes. I'd see myself walking across a university campus filled with tall stone buildings drizzled in autumn leaves, my attention focused as I walked briskly to class. The feelings of safety, belonging and hope helped soothe me to sleep.

3 My life today bears no resemblance at all to my life then. I graduated not only from high school but also from Harvard University. I no longer wear tattered clothes or sleep in hallways. Instead, I am safe each night in my own apartment in Manhattan. And my passion for the past 11 years has been to travel around the world helping people transform their own lives. In short, I am unrecognisable from my former self. Oddly enough, even after all that I've been through – and maybe because of it – I believe that a certain amount of want is healthy. In fact, "freedom from want" was never my goal. Indeed, want served as a catalyst for my dreams, not a hindrance, and my dreams have always been what motivated me.

4 When I was that young homeless woman struggling to find a break, I'd spend hours trekking the footpaths of Manhattan searching for a school – any school – that would admit me. What would have been torturous for most was not for me. That's because I recognised that I was on the verge of enacting the very scenes I had imagined back on those frozen stairwell landings where I slept. These scenes even had their own soundtrack. In my pocket I carried an old, busted-up CD player on which I played inspirational tunes. Paula Cole's "Me" and Michael Cook's "The Distance". I saw my future and clearly envisioned stepping into it.

5 Even though I had lost my family and was carrying around nothing more than some music, a photo of my mother, a few articles of clothing, and some shoplifted food, dreaming about my future and then acting on it was as exciting as getting

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into Harvard. Much the way a captain orients his ship to a constellation, I realised there was a place I wanted to be, and my goals guided my daily actions as I took steps to get myself there

6 While I made choices every single day to turn my life around, equally critical to my journey were the people there to see me through. There was the alternative high school, Humanities Preparatory Academy that was my one 'yes' in a world filled with 'no'. There was also the haven for homeless teenagers called the Door, a non-profit organisation that provided me with counselling, medical care and food, all of which kept me going while I completed my homework in train stations and under hallway lights. For me to have succeeded, there had to be people to meet me halfway, and when I searched for them – they were there.

7 Perhaps the most surprising help though, I did not seek out; it found me. After I'd spent two years as a homeless student earning 'A's in my courses, The New York Times told my story. In the weeks that followed, dozens of strangers reached out to me from all across the United States. At my high school, I began receiving handwritten letters of encouragement. Strangers showed up bearing brownies, clothes, books, and even hugs. Since the article mentioned I was applying to Harvard, one woman knitted a blanket for me. She attached this note to the box it was posted in: "It gets cold in those dorms. May you warm yourself knowing that people care about you." Before these people – some of them nameless – I just didn't realise how good people could be. But now I do, and I can say that the people who helped me have forever changed me. They are the reason behind my decision to join the board at the Door so that I can be part of a small team of people opening a high school for homeless teenagers. They are the reason I dedicate my life to opening pathways for others.

Source: The New York Times

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Text 3

1 It's easy to miss amid the day-to-day headlines of global economic problems, presidential campaign gossip and Middle Eastern chaos, but there is a less conspicuous kind of social upheaval underway that is fast altering both the face of the planet and the way that human beings live That change is the rapid acceleration of urbanisation, as more and more people in every corner of the world put down their farm tools and move from the countryside or the village to the city In 2008, for the first time in human history, more than half the world's population was living in towns and cities. And as a new paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) shows, the process of urbanisation will only increase in the decades to come, with an enormous impact on biodiversity and potentially on climate change.

2 The bulk of that great urban expansion will be in Asia — where more than 75% of the increase in urban cover is projected to occur — and in Africa, where urban land cover will be 590% above the 2000 level of 41,000 sq. km In China and in India, cities will balloon, especially smaller, second-tier cities like Dalian or Pune that often lack the attention and the funding of megacities like Guangzhou or Shanghai. That's worrying because much of the urbanisation wave is happening with little to no advance planning, amplifying the environmental cost of stuffing hundreds of millions of poor people into half-built metropolitan areas that often lack basic sanitation, waste management or water services "The growth is really going to be in those medium-sized cities, and that's where the planning has often been lacking," says Professor Lucy Hutyra of Boston University

3 Those areas of Asia, Africa and parts of South America that will see urban territory grow most rapidly tend to overlap with biodiversity hotspots, concentrations of exotic plants and animals. Humans are the ultimate invasive species. When we move into new territory, we often displace the wildlife that was already living there. Researchers estimate that urban expansion will encroach on or displace habitats for 139 amphibian species, 41 mammalian species and 25 bird species that are either critically endangered or endangered. And as land is cleared for those new cities — especially in the densely forested tropics — carbon will be released into the atmosphere as well. "In developing countries, there is a lot of pristine land and hotspots that could be threatened by the process of urbanisation," says Karen Seto, a professor of the urban environment at Yale University.

4 Counter-intuitive as it might be, we've usually presented urbanisation as a good thing for the environment and especially for carbon emissions. In the U.S , its residents of cities like New York that tend to have smaller carbon footprints, especially compared to their counterparts in the countryside and the suburbs. Dense urban areas reduce commute distances — saving gas — and allow residents to forgo cars altogether. That density also pushes urban residents to live in smaller homes, which in turn means less energy is needed for heating and cooling living spaces. If urbanisation tends to be good for the environment in the

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U S and Europe, why wouldn't that be the case in the rest of the world?

5 It's true that as people in developing nations move from the countryside to the city, the shift may reduce the pressure on land, which could in turn be good for the environment. This is especially so in desperately poor countries like Madagascar, where residents in the countryside slash and burn forests each growing season to clear space for farming But the real difference is that in developing nations, the move from rural areas to cities often leads to an accompanying increase in income and that increase in income leads to an increase in the consumption of food and energy, which in turns produces an uptick in carbon emissions. Getting enough to eat and enjoying the safety and comfort of living fully on the grid is certainly a good thing — but it does carry an environmental price.

6 The urbanisation wave can't be stopped — and it shouldn't be. But the PNAS paper does underscore the importance of managing that transition. Seto notes that around 65% of the urban land core in 2030 has yet to be built. If we do it the right way, we can mitigate urbanisation's impacts on the environment. "There is an enormous opportunity here, and a lot of pressure and responsibility to think about how we urbanize," says Seto. "The one thing that's clear is that we can't build cities the way we have over the last couple of hundred years. The scale of this transition won't allow that." We're headed towards an urban planet no matter what, but whether it becomes a heaven or a hell is up to us.

Source. TIME Magazine

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Section A (5 marks)

Refer to Text 1 for Questions 1-4:

1) The poster begins with the phrase *Live it Loud* What effect is this intended to have on the reader?

_____

_____

[1]

2) Look at the silhouettes of the dancing teenagers on the poster. How does the use of such silhouettes illustrate any one characteristic a dancer should have?

_____

_____

[1]

3) How can you tell that the poster is meant to attract different groups of participants?

_____

_____

[1]

4) Why does CNB partner the Singapore Polytechnic in this competition?

_____

_____

_____

_____

[2]

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Section B (20 marks)

Refer to Text 2 for Questions 5-11:

5) Paragraph 1 describes the author's initial experience in New York.

Identify the phrases which suggest that the author

(i) was not attending school regularly - _____

(ii) had a father that was not close to his family anymore - _____

[2]

6) In paragraph 2 the author talks about her observations and feelings as a teenager
Explain how the language used in paragraph 2 makes the author appear lonely

Support your ideas with three details from paragraph 2

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

[3]

7) What does the expression 'the most vivid daydreams were about my future' (line 18) reveal about the writer's situation?

_____

_____

_____

_____

[2]

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8) From paragraph 3, how can you tell that the author wishes to emphasise the vast difference between her past and present state?

[2]

9) How does the author justify having a certain amount of want in her life? **Answer in your own words.**

[2]

10) 'I'd spend hours trekking the footpaths of Manhattan searching for a school – any school – that would admit me' (line 33-34).

Explain how the language used makes the search for a school appear challenging.

[2]

11) From paragraph 6, give evidence which shows that most schools in the United States are not receptive towards underprivileged teenagers.

[1]

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12) 'In the weeks that followed, dozens of strangers reached out to me from all across the United States' (line 55-56)

Do you think that people in the United States are aware of the plight of underprivileged teenagers beforehand? Explain your answer.

[2]

13) Use the phrases given below to describe the experiences of the author throughout her recount, based on paragraph number(s). You may use each phrase only once

Visions of the past and future	Self-motivation through music
Tragedy in the family	A transformed adult life	Daily fight towards success
Receiving assistance from benefactors	Receiving acceptance

Paragraph 1	
Paragraph 3	
Paragraph 5	
Paragraph 7	

[4]

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Section C (25 marks)

Refer to Text 3 for Questions 12-17:

14) (i) From paragraph 1, what does 'less conspicuous kind of social upheaval' (lines 2-3) refer to?

[1]

(ii) Why does the writer describe it as "less conspicuous"?

[1]

15) From paragraph 2, how is funding important for the expansion of cities?

[2]

16) From paragraph 3, state the dilemma faced with the conservation of biodiversity hotspots

[1]

17) Why do you think the author uses the expression 'counter-intuitive as it might be' (line 35) to describe the perception of urbanisation?

[1]

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18) Given below are the comments of two respondents after reading the article

Daniel. Urbanisation signifies progress and therefore beneficial for man Jorge We must also consider the negative impacts of urbanisation.

(i) Identify two examples from paragraph 4 that Daniel can give to support his view.

[2]

(ii) How would Jorge explain his position with reference to paragraph 5?

[2]

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19) **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the negative effects of urbanisation

Use only information from paragraphs 2 to 5.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing, must not be longer than 80 words (not counting the words given to help you begin). [15]

Urbanisation is often criticised for _____

_____

_____

_____

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End of Paper

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SAS Secondary 2014

Section A (5 marks)

Refer to Text 1 for Questions 1-4:

1) The poster begins with the phrase *Live it Loud*. What effect is this intended to have on the reader?

It will evoke the interest of the reader through the allure of loud music and dancing

[1]

2) Look at the silhouettes of the dancing teenagers on the poster. How does the use o such silhouettes illustrate any one characteristic a dancer should have?

The silhouettes demonstrate the need for a dancer to be trendy / flexible / modern

[1]

3) How can you tell that the poster is meant to attract different groups of participants?

There are different categories within the event catering to different age groups

[1]

4) Why does CNB partner the Singapore Polytechnic in this competition?

Singapore Polytechnic has the young people (1) that CNB wants to reach out to (1)

[2]

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Section B (20 marks)

Refer to Text 2 for Questions 5-11.

5) Paragraph 1 describes the author's initial experience in New York

Identify the phrases which suggest that the author

(i) was not attending school regularly – **'years of truancy'**

(ii) had a father that was not close to his family anymore – **'estranged from our family'**

[2

6) In paragraph 2 the author talks about her observations and feelings as a teenage
Explain how the language used in paragraph 2 makes the author appear lonely

Support your ideas with three details from paragraph 2.

'To deal with the isolation suggests that the author had to cope with a life of solitude / a solitary life.

'I escaped into daydreams' suggest that the author wanted to take his mind away from solitude

'Envision my family together again' suggests that the author missed his famil

[3

7) What does the expression 'the most vivid daydreams were about my future' (line reveal about the writer's situation?

The writer's situation was less than ideal / unsatisfactory (1) and he sought to improve it / aimed to lead a better life. (1)

[2]

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8) From paragraph 3, how can you tell that the author wishes to emphasise the vast difference between her past and present state?

The author uses two similar expressions, (1) namely 'My life bears no resemblance at all to my life then' and 'I am unrecognisable from my former self' (1)

[2]

9) How does the author justify having a certain amount of want in her life? Answer in your own words.

She believes that 'wants' encourage / inspire her in reaching her goals (1) and do not consider them obstacles. (1)

[2]

10) 'I'd spend hours trekking the footpaths of Manhattan searching for a school – any school – that would admit me' (line 33-34)

Explain how the language used makes the search for a school appear challenging

The word 'trekking' is used, usually meant to describe a long and adventurous journey on foot.

The phrase 'any school' implies that the author could not be picky regarding her choice of school.

[2]

11) From paragraph 6, give evidence which shows that most schools in the United States are not receptive towards underprivileged teenagers

The expression "one 'yes' in a world filled with 'no'" shows that most schools in the United States are not receptive towards underprivileged teenagers.

[1]

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12) 'In the weeks that followed, dozens of strangers reached out to me from all acros the United States' (line 55-56).

Do you think that people in the United States in general are aware of the plight of underprivileged teenagers beforehand? Explain your answer

No. (1) The people had to read the author's story in the *New York Times* before help came. (1)

[2]

13) Use the phrases given below to describe the experiences of the author throughou her recount, based on paragraph number(s). You may use each phrase only once

Visions of the past and future	Self-motivation through music
Tragedy in the family	A transformed adult life	Daily fight towards succes
Receiving assistance from benefactors	Receiving acceptance

Paragraph 1	**Tragedy in the family**
Paragraph 3	**A transformed adult life**
Paragraph 5	**Daily fight towards success**
Paragraph 7	**Receiving assistance from benefactors**

[4]

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Section C (25 marks)

Refer to Text 3 for Questions 12-17:

14) (i) From paragraph 1, what does 'less conspicuous kind of social upheaval' (lines 2-3) refer to?

It refers to the process of urbanisation, which is less readily noticeable compared to other world news.

[1]

(ii) Why does the writer describe it as "less conspicuous'?

It is less obvious than what usually appears in the headlines, drawing less attention.

[1]

15) From paragraph 2, how is funding important for the expansion of cities?

Funding enables the provision of sanitation, waste management and water services (1) which takes into account the increase in the human population (1)

[2]

16) From paragraph 3, state the dilemma faced with the conservation of biodiversity hotspots

The areas where urban territories grow most rapidly tend to overlap with biodiversity hotspots.

[1]

17) Why do you think the author uses the expression 'counter-intuitive as it might be' (line 35) to describe the perception of urbanisation?

We often perceive urbanisation as being bad for the environment but it actually has a positive effect in developed nations.

[1]

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18) Given below are the comments of two respondents after reading the article

Daniel. Urbanisation signifies progress and therefore beneficial for man
Jorge We must also consider the negative impacts of urbanisation

(i) Identify two examples from paragraph 4 that Daniel can give to support his view

Dense urban areas reduce commute distances and allow residents to forgo c

(1)

High-density living results in smaller homes which use less energy for heatin and cooling (1)

Do not accept. 'Residents of cities like New York tend to have smaller carbon footprints compared to their counterparts in the suburbs ' – The idea of 'beneficial for man' is not clearly communicated

[2

(ii) How would Jorge explain his position with reference to paragraph 5?

As people's income rises, their carbon emissions rise too due to an increase the consumption of food and energy. (1)

People who live comfortably in areas supplied with electricity also impact the environment negatively. (1)

[2

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19) Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the negative effects of urbanisation

Original text	Paraphrased text
amplifying the environmental cost of stuffing hundreds of millions of poor people into half-built metropolitan areas	Heightened environmental impact due to overcrowding in cities
often lack basic sanitation, waste management or water services	Insufficient basic amenities add to the problem
Those areas of Asia, Africa and parts of South America that will see urban territory grow most rapidly tend to overlap with biodiversity hotspots	Biodiversity hotspots tend to give way to urban expansion
When we move into newly urbanised territory, we often displace the wildlife that was already living there	Humans outcompete existing wildlife in newly urbanised areas
And as land is cleared for those new cities – especially in the densely forested tropics – carbon will be released into the atmosphere as well	Carbon is emitted into the atmosphere when land is cleared
"In developing countries, there is a lot of pristine land and hotspots that could be threatened by the process of urbanisation,"	Developing countries have large amounts of land at risk
that increase in income leads to an increase in the consumption of food and energy, which in turn produces an uptick in carbon emissions	Carbon emissions rise due to an increase in food and energy consumption attributed to rising incomes.
enjoying the safety and comfort of living fully on the grid is certainly a good thing – but it does carry an environmental price	People living comfortably in areas with electric also impact the environment negatively

[1

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