MARIS STELLA HIGH SCHOOL (PRIMARY)

2023 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**PAPER 1 (WRITING)**

17 August 2023 (Thursday)

1 hour 10 minutes

55 marks

NAME

CLASS

Instructions

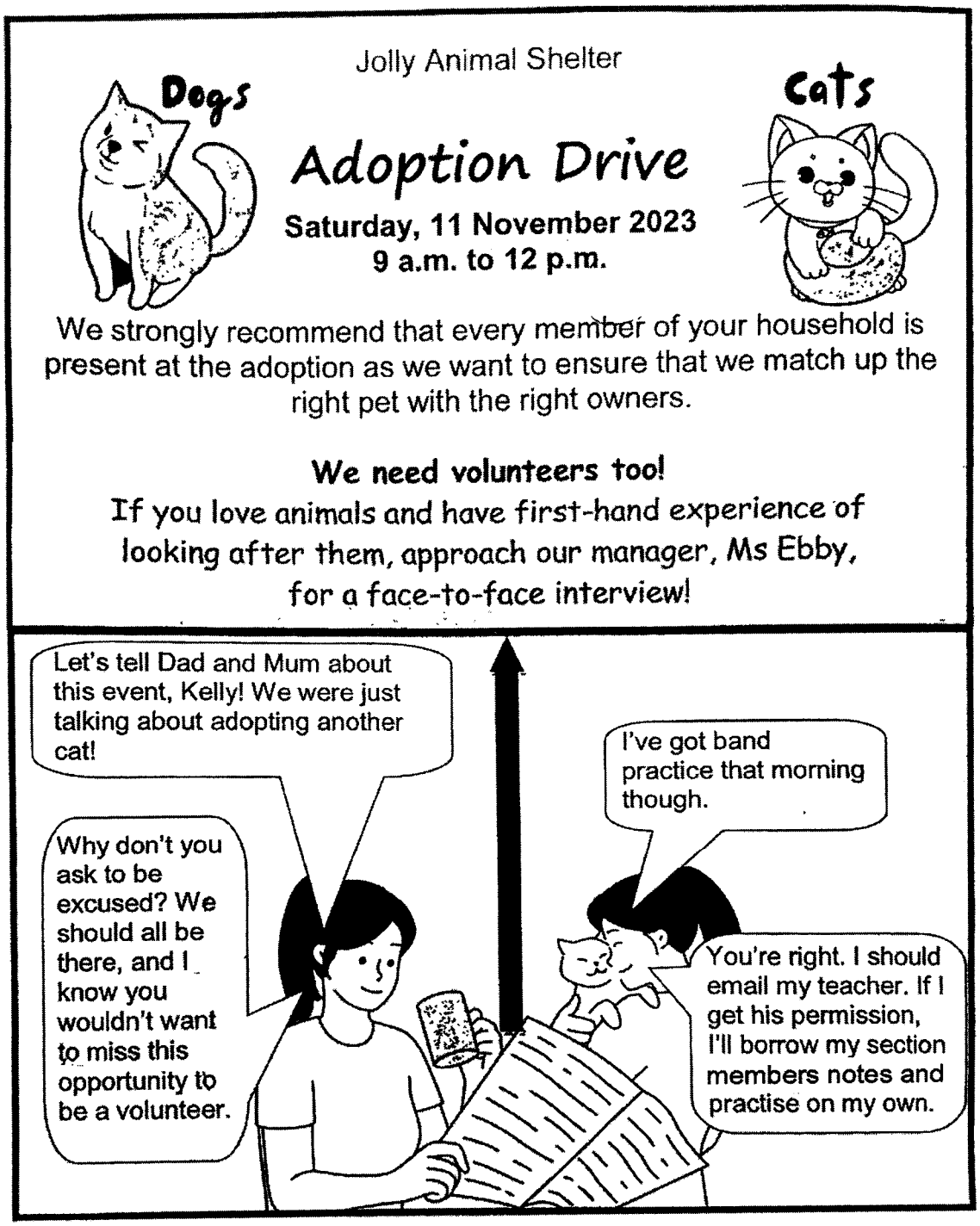
1. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
2. Answer all questions.
3. Write your answers in the Answer Booklet provided.

**PARENT'S SIGNATURE :** _____

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**Part 1: Situational Writing (15 marks)**

1 The picture below shows Kelly and her sister, Tammy, discussing a notice that they saw in the newspaper on 21 October 2023. Study the picture carefully.




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*Your task*

Imagine you are Kelly.

**Write an email to Mr Tan, teacher-in-charge of your school band, asking if you could be excused from band practice.**

You are to refer to the pictures and information on page 1 for your email.

In your email, include the following key information:

- the date you wish to be excused from band practice
- the event you wish to attend and the time it will be held
- two reasons you need to attend the event
- what you intend to do if you are excused from band practice

You may reorder the points. Remember to write in complete sentences.

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## Part 2: Continuous Writing (40 marks)

2 Write a composition of <u>at least 150 words</u> about **a difficult task.**

The pictures are provided to help you think about this topic.

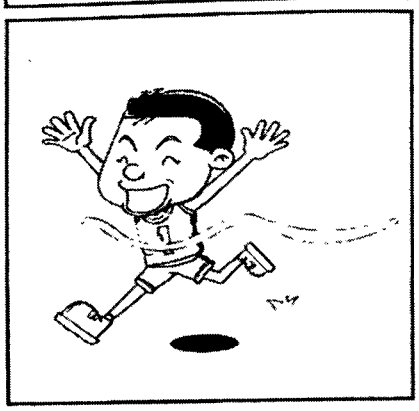
Your composition should be based on one or more of these pictures.

Consider the following points when you plan your composition:

- What was the difficult task?
- Was the task accomplished?

You may use the points in any order and include other relevant points as well.







END OF PAPER

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MARIS STELLA HIGH SCHOOL (PRIMARY)

2023 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)**

**BOOKLET A**

17 August 2023 (Thursday)

28 marks

Total Time for Booklets A and B: 1 h 50 min

| |
|---|
| NAME |
| CLASS |

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

1. Write your Index number in the boxes at the top right-hand corner.
2. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
3. Follow all instructions carefully.
4. Answer all questions.
5. Use a 2B pencil to shade your answers on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS).

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For each question from 1 to 10, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4) and shade your answer on the Optical Answer Sheet.

(10 marks)

1. Neither Tim nor his sisters _____ how to play the piano.

(1) know
(2) knows
(3) known
(4) knowing

2. There were _____ scenes in the movie that made us chuckle non-stop.

(1) any
(2) little
(3) much
(4) some

3. Those cupcakes on the tray were not baked by the instructor, but by the children _____.

(1) himself
(2) yourself
(3) ourselves
(4) themselves

4. Mrs Yap brought along a mat _____ the intention of spreading it on the ground so that she could sit on it when having a picnic.

(1) in
(2) on
(3) for
(4) with

5. "Mr and Mrs Bala have a new car, _____ they?" my neighbour asked.

(1) do
(2) don't
(3) have
(4) won't



(Go on to the next page)

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6. If i had known that Jacob was hospitalised, I _____ him today.

(1) will visit
(2) am visiting
(3) would be visiting
(4) would have visited

7. She continued to pursue her dreams _____ many people doubted her abilities.

(1) as
(2) but
(3) although
(4) nonetheless

8. Simon _____ father is a Science professor emerged as the champion of the Science Olympiad this year.

(1) who
(2) which
(3) whom
(4) whose

9. The students were able to share on the given topic as they _____ the notes provided by the teacher.

(1) have read
(2) had read
(3) reads
(4) read

10. When the police arrived at the coffee shop, they saw an angry man _____ on the ground.

(1) lying
(2) lain
(3) lies
(4) lay



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For each question from 11 to 15, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice(1, 2, 3 or 4 ) and shade your answer on the Optical Answer Sheet.

(5 marks)

11. After musch thought, she finally _____ to face her fears and pursue her dream of becoming an astronaut.

(1) obliged
(2) pressed
(3) resolved
(4) compelled

12. The commuters shrieked when they spotted a rat _____ across the MRT platform.

(1) strolling
(2) scurrying
(3) scattering
(4) sashaying

13. The scouts decided to carry on with the hike even though there was an _____ storm.

(1) imminent
(2) inevitable
(3) unforeseen
(4) unpredictable

14. The small boat _____ up and down in the choppy water, causing passengers to feel queasy.

(1) jiggled
(2) bobbed
(3) wobbled
(4) quivered

15. After losing the first half of the match, the coach spoke to the players and their confidence was _____.

(1) restored
(2) refreshed
(3) revamped
(4) recharged



(Go on to the next page)

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For each question from 16 to 20, choose the word(s) closest meaning to the underlined. word(s). Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

Simon and his CCA teammates alighted from the bus at Gardens Primary School. Simon, who was seated at the front, got down the bus (16)hastily. They were greeted by the prefects, who (17)usheres them to the hall on the third floor. Students from different schools were there to participate in the zonal chess competition.

There was an air of excitement in the hall. The participants waited (18)with bated breath for the competition to start. "Good afternoon, everyone. The competition will commence in fivr minutes," the emcee announced. Simon proceeded to fish for his glasses in his bag and realised that thay were missing. He needed his glasses for the competition. Just as he was feeling (19)worried and anxious, Miss Phua, his CCA teacher, handed him his pair of glasses. That certainly (20)boosted his morale. "Your mother just dropped this off. Now do your best," she said reassuringly.

16. (1) rapidly
(2) instantly
(3) speedily
(4) hurriedly

17. (1) guided
(2) signalled
(3) prompted
(4) instructed

18. (1) eagerly
(2) hopefully
(3) dreadfully
(4) impatiently

19. (1) discouraged
(2) sorrowful
(3) annoyed
(4) troubled

20. (1) raised
(2) elevated
(3) increased
(4) advanced



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Study this article from a magazine, Learning Resource, and then answer questions 21 to 28.

## Why is Science Important?

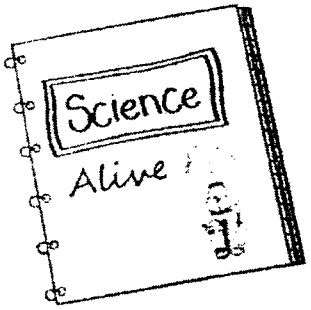
by Max Kang

The learning of science allows us to be curious about the world around us. Scientists have made extensive use of the knowledge gained through their inquisitiveness to improve our quality of life. Many marvellous things we use are the result of years of scientific research. The amazing thing is that scientists are still coming up with all sorts of ingenious inventions! Why not get started on your learning journey with our book recommendation this month? You might just become one of the greatest scientists of our time!

RECOMMENDED

### Science Alive

Available at bookstores for the price of $16.90.




An excellent book that allows children to have fun!

**Choose Science Alive!**

- ✓ Learn about science from hands-on experience and careful observation!
- ✓ Thirty interesting science experiments to do at home!
- ✓ Clear instructions and detailed diagrams make it easy to set up the experiments!
- ✓ Simple explanations for the key concepts demonstrated by the experiments!
- ✓ Only everyday objects found in most households are used, so no further purchases of tools and materials are required!

Get it online at www.books.sg and receive a 10% discount. You will receive an additional 5% discount if you purchase it before 1 September 2023.

Get it at Book Fair 2023, and stand a chance to win a set of children's books worth more than $20 if you make a purchase on the first day of the fair.

Venue: Expo Centre
Dates: 1–5 September 2023

*A perfect book for the December school holidays. Get it now!*

*Check out an extract from Science Alive on the next page, and get a glimpse of what you can expect to find inside the book!*

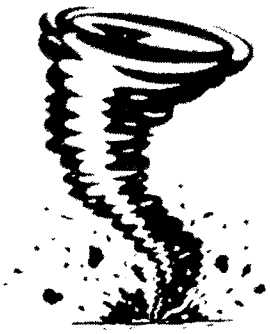


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From page 14 of "Science Alive"

# Tornado in a Bottle



What are tornadoes?

Also known as twisters, tornadoes are violently spinning, funnel-shaped columns of air that sometimes form during thunderstorms. The wind from a tornado can reach 400 kilometres per hour - faster than a race car - and cause a lot of damage. Tornadoes are capable of ripping apart buildings and bridges and sending trains and cars flying!

What causes tornadoes?

Before you try to understand the explanation found at the end of this chapter, create your own tornado with just two clear plastic bottles, water, food colouring and strong adhesive tape! Doing this experiment and watching closely to see what happens will help you get a better grasp of the concept!

**Step 1**

Clean the bottles and remove any labels so that you can see through the plastic clearly. Pour water into one of the bottles until it is about three-quarters full, then add a few drops of food colouring to give colour to the water.



**Step 2**

Screw the cap back on the bottle tightly. Mix the liquids together by giving the bottle a good shake.



**Step 3**

Remove the cap and fill the bottle to the brim with water. Then dry the rim with a piece of cloth.



**Step 4**

Place the empty bottle upside down on top of the full bottle and tape them firmly together, making sure the joint is carefully sealed so that no water can leak out.



*Eager to know the other steps needed to create a tornado with the above experiment set-up and learn about what causes tornadoes? Get a copy of Science Alive today!*



(Go on to the next page)

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For each question from 21 to 28, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice(1, 2, 3 or 4 ) and shade your answer on the Optical Answer Sheet.

(8 marks)

21. What was the tone used by the writer in the section, "Why is Science Important?"?.

(1) witty
(2) caring
(3) persuasive
(4) authoritative

22. Refer to the section "Choose Science Alive". Which of the following words tells you that the items used for the experiments can be found easily?

(1) simple
(2) detailed
(3) everyday
(4) hands-on

23. The purpose of the exclamation marks found in the section "Choose Science Alive!" is to _____.

(1) give children a surprise
(2) get children excited about the book
(3) show the importance of learning Science
(4) encourage children to try out the experiments

24. Mr Tan wants to buy the book as a gift for his nephew who is celebrating his birthday in August 2023. To get the book at the lowest price, Mr Tan should buy it _____.

(1) online in September 2023
(2) on the first day of Book Fair 2023
(3) at a bookstore in September 2023
(4) online during his nephew's birthday month

25. An extract from the book is included in the article for the following possible reasons except _____.

(1) to get readers to be interested in the book
(2) to let readers have a brief look at the book's contents
(3) to tell readers the steps to create their own tornadoes
(4) to assure readers that materials required are easily available



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MARIS STELLA HIGH SCHOOL (PRIMARY)

2023 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)**

**BOOKLET B**

17 August 2023 (Thursday)

67 marks

Total Time for Booklets A and B: 1 h 50 min

| |
|---|
| NAME |
| CLASS |

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

1. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
2. Follow all instructions carefully.
3. Answer all questions.
4. Use a dark blue or black ballpoint pen to write your answers in the space provided for each question.
5. Do not use correction fluid/tape or highlighters.

| **MARKS OBTAINED** | |
|---|---|
| **BOOKLET A** | **: _____/ 28** |
| **BOOKLET B** | **: _____/ 67** |
| **TOTAL** | **: _____/ 95** |

PARENT'S SIGNATURE : _____

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There are 10 blanks, numbered 29 to 38, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

**EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (A) are | (D) could | (G) however | (K) these | (N) where |
| (B) besides | (E) has | (H) in | (L) through | (P) while |
| (C) between | (F) have | (J) is | (M) to | (Q) whom |

"Hic! Hic!" You may have let out these distinctive sounds after a heavy meal at one time or another. They are known as hiccups and they feel like jumpy gulps in the back of your throat. Have you wondered what causes hiccups? The structure responsible for hiccups in our complex body system **(29)**_____ our diaphragm. This is a dome-shaped muscle at the bottom of your chest and is **(30)**_____ all hiccups begin.

When a person inhales, the diaphragm pulls down to help draw air into the lungs. When one exhales, it relaxes and air flows out of the lungs **(31)**_____ the nose and mouth into the surroundings. **(32)**_____ are actions which take place automatically, whether you are awake or asleep. **(33)**_____, there are times when the diaphragm becomes irritated. When this happens, the air rushes into your throat, hits your voice box and your vocal cords close suddenly, resulting **(34)**_____ a big hiccup.

There are many reasons as to why the diaphragm **(35)**_____ be irritated. Stress, eating too much or too quickly and feeling nervous are a few common reasons that may lead **(36)**_____ hiccups.

There are lots of suggestions out there on how you can get rid of hiccups, and you might **(37)**_____ even tried one or two of them. One way is to hold your breath and count to ten **(38)**_____ another one is to sip water. Luckily, most hiccups are not harmful and will stop by themselves after a while.

| **Score:** | **/ 10** |
|---|---|

(Go on to the next page)



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Each of the underlined words contains either a spelling or grammatical error. Write the correct word in each of the boxes. (12 Marks)

*Koalas are native to Australia. How much do you know about them? There is*

(39) [ ]

*a lot more to these antrawling living 'teddy bears' than their cuddly size and laid-*

(40) [ ] (41) [ ]

*back lifestyle that they are fame for. Is your curiauscity piqued?*

(42) [ ]

*When the Europeans first settled in Australia, they mistaking these tree*

(43) [ ]

*dwellers for a type of bear. However, koalas are similar with kangaroos, both of*

(44) [ ]

*which are marsupials - mammals that nurcher their newborn in a pouch. Of all*

(45) [ ]

*the marsupials, its closest relatives are the wombats.*

*Koalas live and feed on the eucalyptus trees. They climb up to the*

(46) [ ]

*branches to munch on the leaves, voraycously eating up to a kilogram of them*

(47) [ ]

*daily. Did you know that the leaves of these trees were poisonous? Furthermore,*

(48) [ ]

*they are tough to digest and provide few nutrition. Koalas have a specially*

(49) [ ]

*adapted digestive system that not only tharaghly extracts nutrients from the*

(50) [ ]

*leaves but newtralises their toxins. How amazing they are!*

Score: / 12

(Go on to the next page)



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Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (15 marks)

Intelligence is the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills. Human intelligence is a unique quality that consists of the abilities to learn from experience and **(51)**_____ to new situations. When a computer or a robot is able to **(52)**_____ a problem, it may seem intelligent. However, this type of intelligence is different **(53)**_____ a human's intelligence. It is called artificial intelligence or A.I. The term A.I. was **(54)**_____ in 1955 by John McCarthy, a computer scientist working on making computers intelligent.

The process of teaching computers to be intelligent involves researchers training the systems to play video games. Games provide a boundary with a set of rules. Computers play the games and based on **(55)**_____ and error, different ways to win are figured out. They **(56)**_____ on their stored memory to build on successes and learn from **(57)**_____ made.

You might also be familiar with "Siri" on iPhone. It is an intelligent personal assistant who responds to your request, provides information and **(58)**_____ tasks when told. You might ask "Siri", for example, to schedule an **(59)**_____ in your calendar for your next visit to the dentist or dial your mother's phone number.

A.I. robots known as chatbots* are being **(60)**_____ in online shops and the websites of government agencies to answer common **(61)**_____ that customers may have. These chatbots have advanced to the stage where they possess **(62)**_____ conversational abilities than ever before. Amazingly, A.I. has enabled these "deep learning" machines to learn from human behaviour, and **(63)**_____ human knowledge and skills. For instance, chatbots can take the **(64)** _____ of a doctor and start prescribing medicines to people. These expert systems can provide more advanced services which are typically carried out by highly **(65)**_____ professionals – those that take many years of learning - such as doctors, lawyers and accountants.

Despite all the benefits, there is fear that artificial intelligence may take over our jobs. Whether artificial intelligence is good or bad, it is an advancement that is here to stay.

* A chatbot is a computer program designed to send messages back to a human user, as if it is having a conversation with the person.

**Score: / 15**



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For each of the questions 66 to 70. rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in **one** sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s). (10 marks)

**66.** The twins know how to cycle. Joe knows how to cycle.

_____ as well as

_____

**67.** Tim was thoughtful. He bought a cake for his grandmother's birthday

It was thoughtful _____

_____

**68.** George adjusted his school tie before going on stage.

George made _____

_____

**69.** Everyone was having a good time. The exception was Daniel.

With the _____

_____

**70.** "Can you explain this difficult problem to me?" John asked Miss Sim.

John asked Miss Sim _____

_____

**Score: / 10**

(Go on to the next page)



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Read the passage on page 9 in Booklet A and answer questions 71 to 80. (20 marks)

Do not write in this space.

**71** Nigel "tried hard to mask his disappointment" (lines 10-11).

**(a)** What did Nigel do to mask his disappointment? [1m]

_____

**(b)** What does the word "nevertheless" (line 14) tell us about his attempt at masking his disappointment? [1m]

_____

**72** Nigel had an "unrealistic expectation" (line 12).

**(a)** What was Nigel's expectation? [1m]

_____

**(b)** What evidence was there in the passage to indicate that Nigel's expectation was unrealistic? Refer to information from an earlier part of the text. [1m]

_____

**73** Based on lines 4-18, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so. [2m]

| | True/False | Reason |
|---|---|---|
| **(a)** Nigel wished his mother could pick him up at the school gate. | | |
| **(b)** Nigel was excited when his grandmother said that she was holding a celebration for him. | | |



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NAME: _____

**P6 Preliminary Examination Comprehension Corrections *(Selected Questions)***

**71** Nigel "tried hard to mask his disappointment".

**(a)** What did Nigel do to mask his disappointment? [1m]

_____

**(b)** What does the word "nevertheless" (line 14) tell us about his attempt at masking his disappointment? [1m]

_____

**72** Nigel had an "unrealistic expectation" (line 12).

**(a)** What was Nigel's expectation? [1m]

_____

**(b)** What evidence was there in the passage to indicate that Nigel's expectation was unrealistic? Refer to information from an earlier part of the text. [1m]

_____

**73**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **(a)** Nigel wished his mother could pick him up at the school gate. | **True** | |
| **(b)** Nigel was excited when his grandmother said that she was holding a celebration for him. | **False** | |

**74** Based on lines 19-21, how can we tell that it was not easy for Nigel's mother to save up money? [2m]

_____

_____

**78**

| | |
|---|---|
| (a) her dream | |
| (b) one such occasion | |
| (c) predicament | |



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Do not write in this space

74 Based on lines 19-21, how can we tell that it was not easy for Nigel's mother to save up money? [2]

75 From lines 22-28, pick out one word and one phrase that tell us Nigel's mother was good at cooking. [2m]

**(a)** a word:

**(b)** a four-word phrase:

76 From lines 29-36, pick out a four-word phrase which tells us that Nigel put in effort to bond with his mother. {[1m]

77 Fill in the table below to explain how Nigel's feelings had changed. [2m]

| | When Nigel was seven years old | When Nigel's mother opened her stall |
|---|---|---|
| **How Nigel felt about his mother** | **Resentful** | **(a)** |
| **Why Nigel felt this way** | **(b)** | **He saw his mother cooking with great skill.** |



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78 Look at table below. What do the words in the left column refer to in the passage? Write your answers in the column on the right. [3m]

Do not write in this space.

| Word(s) from the passage | What the word(s) refer to |
|---|---|
| (a) her dream (line 19) | |
| (b) one such occasion (line 30) | |
| (c) predicament (line 33) | |

79 In what ways did Nigel's mother show kindness to the elderly man? [2m]

(a) _____

_____

(b) _____

_____

80 What were the "surprises" mentioned in line 39? [2m]

(a) _____

_____

(b) _____

_____

END OF PAPER

Score: / 20

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SCHOOL : MARIS STELLA HIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEVEL : PRIMARY 6
SUBJECT : ENGLISH
TERM : 2023 PRELIM

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**Booklet A**

| Q 1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q7 | Q8 | Q9 | Q10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Q 11 | Q12 | Q13 | Q14 | Q15 | Q16 | Q17 | Q18 | Q19 | Q20 |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Q 21 | Q22 | Q23 | Q24 | Q25 | Q26 | Q27 | Q28 | | |
| 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | |

**Booklet B**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q29) | (J) is | Q39) | Enthralling | Q49) | Thoroughly |
| Q30) | (N) where | Q40) | Famous | Q50) | Neutralises |
| Q31) | (L) through | Q41) | Curiosity | | |
| Q32) | (K) these | Q42) | Mistake | | |
| Q33) | (G) however | Q43) | To | | |
| Q34) | (H) in | Q44) | Nurture | | |
| Q35) | (D) could | Q45) | Their | | |
| Q36) | (M) to | Q46) | Voraciously | | |
| Q37) | (F) have | Q47) | Are | | |
| Q38) | (P) while | Q48) | little | | |



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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Q51) | Adapt | Q61) | Questions |
| Q52) | Solve | Q62) | Better |
| Q53) | From | Q63) | Acquire |
| Q54) | Coined | Q64) | Role |
| Q55) | Trial | Q65) | Trained |
| Q56) | Rely | | |
| Q57) | Mistake | | |
| Q58) | Does | | |
| Q59) | Appointment | | |
| Q60) | Used | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Q66) | The twins as well as Joe know how to cycle. |
| Q67) | It was thoughtful of Tim to buy a cake for his grandmother's birthday. |
| Q68) | George made an adjustment to his school tie before going on stage. |
| Q69) | With the exception of Daniel, everyone was having a good time. |
| Q70) | John asked Miss Sim if she could explain that difficult problem to him. |
| Q71) | a. He managed to force a smile.<br>b. Nigel nodded half-heartedly as his thoughts drifted. |
| Q72) | a. For his mother to be waiting for Nigel at the school gate.<br>b. He could count the number of times his mother came to pick Nigel up on the fingers of one hand. |
| Q73) | |

| | True/ False | Reason |
|---|---|---|
| a. Nigel wished his mother could pick him up at the school gate. | True | He was often envious of his friends whose mothers would be waiting eagerly for them at the school gate at dismissal time. |
| b. Nigel was excited when his grandmother said that she was holding a | False | He nodded half-heartedly to his grandmother's proposal. |



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| | |
|---|---|
| | celebration for him. |
| Q74) | Nigel's mother toiled day and night without sufficient rest. Her pay as a cook was not much. |
| Q75) | a. Finesse<br>b. Working up a storm |
| Q76) | Only a few coins |
| Q77) | |

| | When Nigel was seven years old | When Nigel's mother opened her stall |
|---|---|---|
| How Nigel felt about his mother | Resentful | a. Proudly |
| Why Nigel felt this way | b. She did not have time for Nigel anymore. | He saw his mother cooking with great skill. |

Q78)

| Word(s) from the passage | What the word(s) refer to |
|---|---|
| (a) Her fream (line 19) | Nigel's mother opening her own noodle stall. |
| (b) One such occasion (line 30) | Only a few coins |
| (c) Predicament (line 33) | Reassured him that no payment was needed |

| | |
|---|---|
| Q79) | a. She did not charge the elderly man any money.<br>b. She gave the elderly man a bigger portion of food. |
| Q80) | a. Nigel being accepted by a prestigious culinary school<br>b. Nigel wanting to take his grandmother and mother for a holiday overseas for mother day. |



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