CEDAR GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2023
Secondary Four

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1184/02

Paper 2 Comprehension
Insert

23 August 2023

1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains Text 1, Text 2, Text 3 and Text 4.

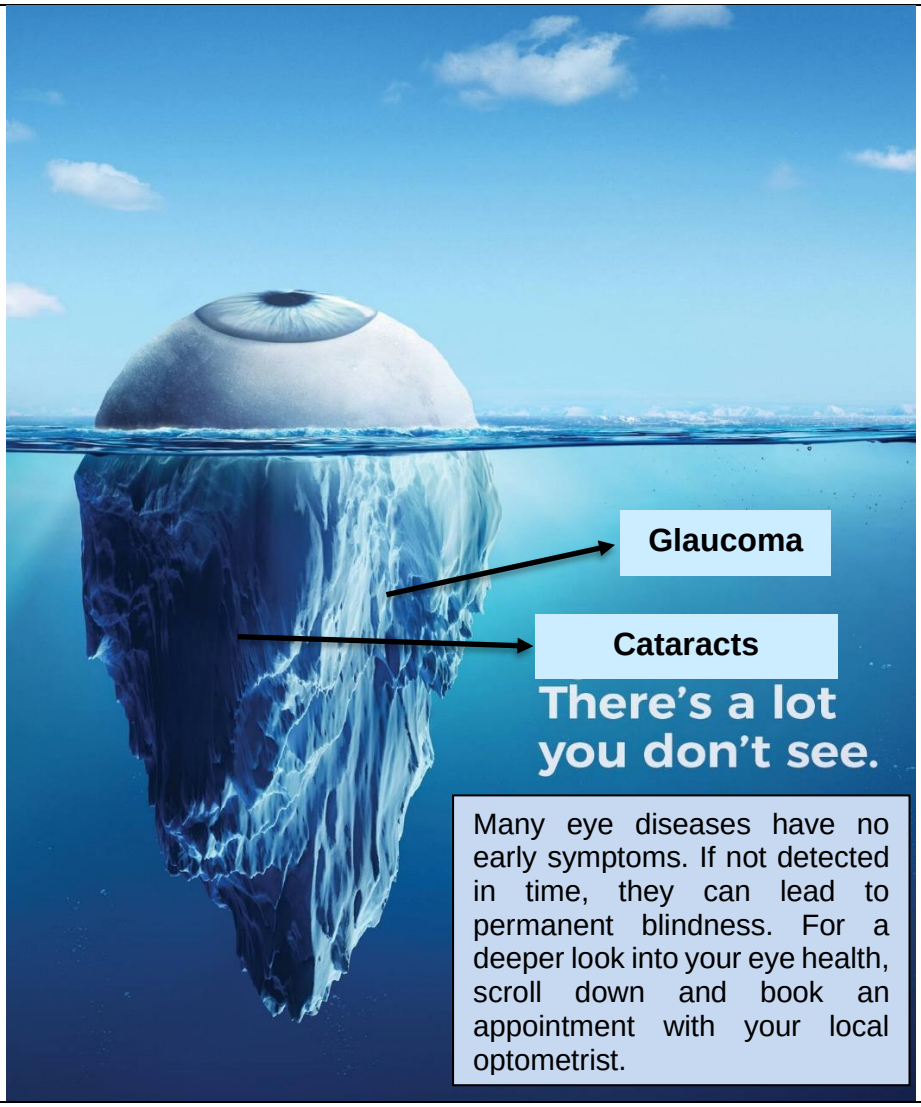
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Section A

Study the advertisement **(Text 1)** and the research article **(Text 2)** and answer Questions 1 – 4 in the Question Paper.

Text 1 is taken from an advertisement by Eyehealth1st, the largest online directory of optometrists in Australia.



Text 2 is taken from a research article on Awareness of Common Eye Diseases and Their Risk Factors.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that between 2010 and 2020, the global number of people with glaucoma had increased from 76 million to 95.4 million. As a result of an aging population, a rise in the number of people with cataracts (especially those aged 70 years and over) has been projected. Many eye diseases (e.g. glaucoma) can be asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic for a long time. Older people may misinterpret the reduction in vision as part of the normal aging process instead of an eye disease symptom. High public knowledge of common eye diseases is important for reducing the global burden of eye diseases, and for early detection and treatment.

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Section B

Text 3

The text below describes a native runner who goes on a search and rescue mission. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5 - 15 in the Question Booklet.

1 From high on the ridge, I raised my binoculars and scanned the chaotic expanse below. Nature's wrath had etched its mark here through a wildfire that tore through Crestline 20 years ago. The once towering trees now stood as solemn sentinels, their charred remains piercing the sky. The land bore the scars of its fiery ordeal. The ground was scattered with the remnants of scorched timber, as if strewn about carelessly like a child's discarded playthings. It was a landscape of contrasts, where the beauty of nature's resilience intertwined with the unforgiving force of destruction.

2 The marathon of traversing over the fallen trees and granite slabs had taken its toll. Seventeen miles of relentless terrain had tested the limits of my endurance, and the persistent embrace of fatigue was becoming harder to ignore. With a deep breath, I shouted into the rugged valley below. 'Anna!' My voice cut through the stillness like a lifeline cast into uncertainty. An anxious silence followed, as the echo of her name faded into the wilderness. No response.

3 This day had begun with the promise of a solitary run along the Crestline, those majestic mountains that loomed near my home in McCall, Idaho. Yet, life has a way of interweaving the unexpected into even the best-laid plans. As I suited up for my run, my wife showed me a Facebook post from the local sheriff's office: a hiker was missing in the area. I was headed out anyway, so I figured I might as well help to search.

4 At around 7:30 a.m., I called the sheriff's office. 'I'm a runner,' I said. The sergeant on the other end was cautious, apprehensive about unleashing a second search party. 'I know the Crestline like the back of my hand,' I told her, 'and I am used to covering dozens of miles in a day.' Plus, I packed my Garmin inReach and cellphone, knowing I'd have service on the high ridges. I promised to check in with the rescue team throughout the day. She relented. The sheriff's office revealed that the missing hiker was called Anna and she liked to camp alone near water bodies. So I decided to approach from the south, planning to run the length of the mountain chain, visiting every remote lake I could until I found her.

5 The distance — at least 20 miles, depending on where my search took me — was routine, but I felt more focused than usual. My willingness to push myself was heightened: for once, my running wasn't selfish.

6 A few hours in, I'd already visited a handful of lakes and had seen no sign of the missing hiker. Temptations of retreat beckoned, an alluring sanctuary from the relentless pursuit. I considered turning back to my car, which would make it a 35-mile day. Yet, a voice within me whispered a different narrative, urging me onward. 'You're close,' said a voice in my head. 'You're going to find her.'

7 Fifteen years ago, I lost my dad in a mountaineering accident. He had always wished for me to be a runner, and his death inspired me to get back into the sport. Today, his legacy served as a compass, pointing me towards the chance to make a difference, to ensure another soul would not be claimed by the same treacherous path. I pulled out my map and made a last-ditch plan. I noted any blue marks on the map, including unnamed lakes and even dinky potholes; I'd check them all, relying on my hunting and tracking experience to spot any signs of Anna. First, I needed to get higher. I scrambled up the steep granite slopes of the 8,755-foot Mt. Rain, glassing the fire-scarred land with my binoculars. With eyes like a predator's, I combed through every

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patch of land for the sign that would lead me to Anna. Below, I spotted a small lake. That was the one. I could feel it. *45*

8 I dropped down, planning to head toward the lake and veer south. My steps were purposeful, the anticipation of an encounter electrifying the air. I shouted her name as I ran. And then I heard a voice. 'Anna?' I called. 'Are you Anna?'

9 I wove through the trees toward the lake, heart racing in time with my steps. I couldn't see anyone, but I could hear someone. Was it her? I followed the sound, pumping with adrenaline. Then, I broke into a dead sprint, jumping over fallen trees like hurdles. The lake — a muddy puddle, really — appeared, and then a dog and a woman, her face badly burnt by the sun. 'Please tell me you're Anna?' *50*

10 'Yes, I'm Anna,' she replied. I exhaled deeply. It was over. *55*

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Section C

Text 4

The article below is about artificial intelligence. Read it carefully and answer Questions 16 – 22 in the Question Booklet.

1 In a world dominated by technological innovations, artificial intelligence (AI) platforms like ChatGPT have taken centre stage, evoking fascination and excitement on a global scale. While discussions about AI have circulated within tech enthusiast circles for years, it is the emergence of platforms such as ChatGPT that has catapulted these conversations into the mainstream. Every day, more individuals express their amazement at the capabilities of these systems, which are fuelled by their extraordinary ability to understand and process human language with exceptional precision.

2 At the heart of the appeal lies ChatGPT's ability to manage both mundane and intricate tasks. And it does so with grace – generating quality output consistently in a matter of seconds. It is also able to process vast amounts of data quickly, learn from new data, and adapt to changing circumstances to improve its performance. This versatility is evident as users find value in diverse activities, ranging from sourcing recipes for family meals, to offering concise overviews of lengthy documents or refining written content (though scepticism remains on AI's capacity to improve the clarity of writing). The promise of liberating humans from the drudgery of routine tasks opens doors to more imaginative and consequential pursuits both in professional and personal settings.

3 While the potential for AI applications like ChatGPT to contribute positively is undeniable, so too is their potential for misuse and harm. The eagerness to explore AI's capabilities inadvertently exposes users to unforeseen vulnerabilities, resembling the prudence required when dealing with potentially hazardous elements such as rogue QR codes. Incidents such as the AIA's dubious 'blood pressure device' offer a glimpse into the world of AI-driven scams that prey on users' trust. The rise of AI-generated messages characterised by flawless grammar serves as a stark reminder of the sophistication behind these fraudulent activities. The repercussions of unregulated AI also extend beyond scams. Other than job displacement, disinformation campaigns, the propagation of misinformation, and cyberattacks all lie within the capabilities of those well-versed in AI's intricacies. As the technology evolves, the potential for misuse increases, highlighting the necessity for a judicious and measured approach.

4 Moreover, while the enthusiasm surrounding ChatGPT echoes the early fervour around platforms like Facebook and social media, it is essential to remember that AI technologies like ChatGPT possess exponentially greater power. The advocacy for AI regulation from global leaders and tech pioneers emphasises the need for a cautious journey in this realm. Italy's temporary ban on ChatGPT and the European Union's exploration of measures to curb high-risk AI products highlight the urgency for responsible AI integration. The willingness of AI pioneers like Geoffrey Hinton to transparently address AI risks adds weight to the conversation. Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI – the firm behind ChatGPT – has urged lawmakers to regulate AI, emphasising the necessity of preventing potential technology mishaps.

5 In conclusion, the rise of AI platforms like ChatGPT signifies an era of exceptional technological possibilities. Yet, amid the excitement, it is crucial to acknowledge and address the potential dangers. Striking a balance between harnessing AI's capabilities for societal advancement while safeguarding against misuse is paramount. As the world engages in conversations about AI regulation, it is evident that a careful and deliberate approach is essential.

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