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ANDERSON SECONDARY SCHOOL
Preliminary Examination 2024
Secondary Four Express & Five Normal

CANDIDATE NAME:

CLASS: / INDEX NUMBER:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1184/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

21 August 2024
1 hour 50 minutes
1100 – 1250h

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

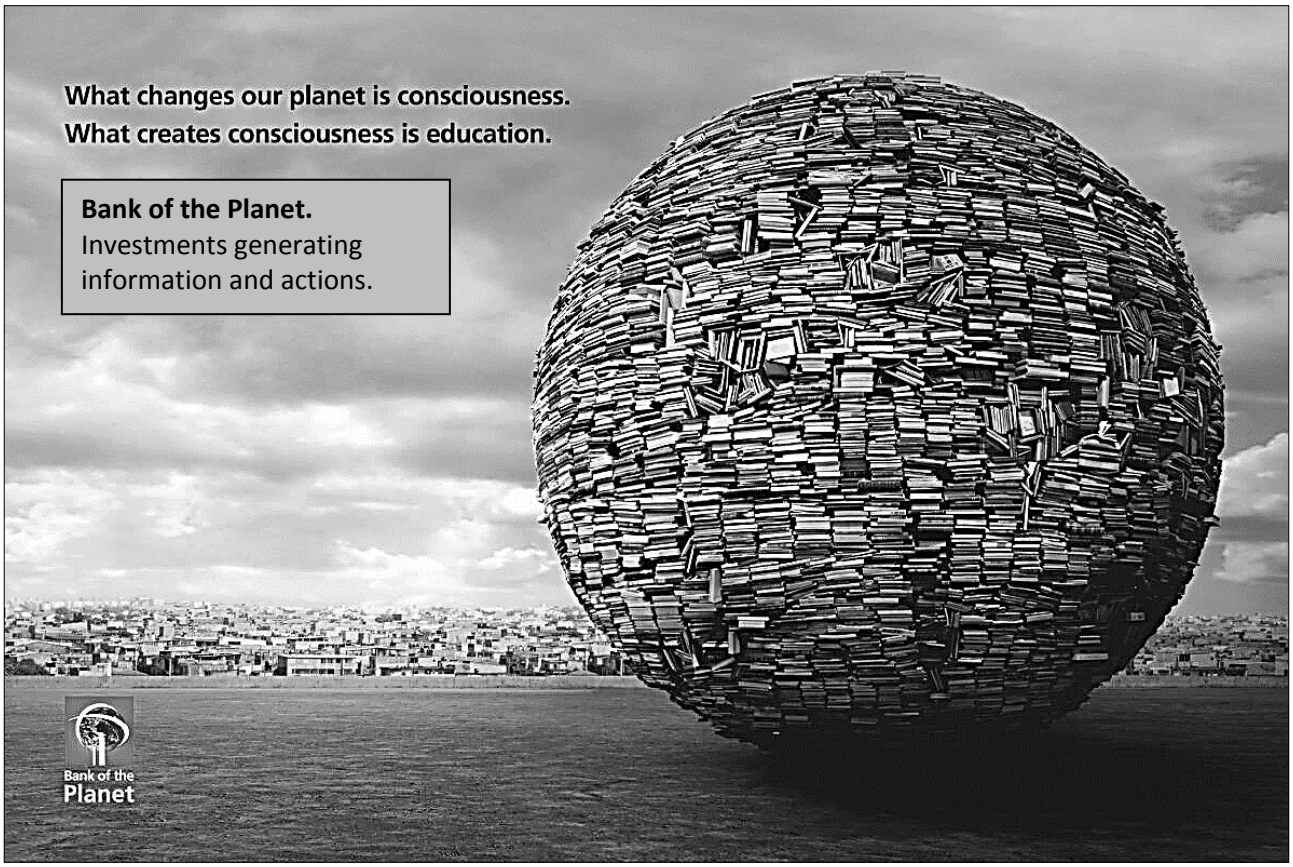
Section A
This document consists of **6** printed pages.

Setter: Ms Petrina Wong and Ms Yeow Swee Li **[Turn over**

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Study the poster (**Text 1**) and the excerpt from a blog post (**Text 2**) and answer Questions 1 – 4 in the Question Paper.

Text 1 is taken from a poster about the importance of education.



Source: *Bank of the Planet: Water, garbage, forest, energy, education.* Ads of the World. https://www.adsoftheworld.com/campaigns/water-84fe335f-c291-45cf-8d27-11380cbf94c9

Text 2 is taken from a blog post about climate education.

There were also assignments to help us apply the skills we acquired, such as using the latest word processor to type an essay about our summer vacation plans or creating a visually appealing and informative slide show of our favourite animal in PowerPoint. Looking back at the 12-year-old me choosing between different font styles to type "wolf" or learning how to correctly resize an image of said wolf I found on ClipArt, I realise how those skills are part of a decades-long mission to teach computer literacy in schools.

The computer literacy classes I took as a child gave me the skills needed to succeed in today's workplace. In a similar vein, just as we adapted our educational approaches to cater to the demands of the digital age, we must now employ the same innovative thinking to foster in our students an empathy for the green economy.

Source: *Nolasco, D. (2024, January 24). Can climate education save our planet?* Earth Day. https://www.earthday.org/can-climate-education-save-our-planet/

Section B

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Text 3

In the text below, the writer recounts memories of how she discovered her artistic talent.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5 – 15 in the Question Paper.

1 Not long after the installation of the television, I was found to have developed a squint. Whether it was the cause of the problem, or an innocent diagnostic tool, remained a matter of fierce debate. The undisputed fact was that Mum had found me watching The New Avengers with my hand over one eye. My untroubled explanation that I would otherwise be seeing two images led us directly to the opticians for tests. Expert opinion concluded that I was suffering from nothing more than 'a lazy eye' and recommended a patch for the unaffected eye. There is never a good time to wear an eyepatch, but it was especially unfortunate that this episode coincided with my first term at secondary school, when inconspicuousness would have served me better.

2 Mum's attempts at home tuition to prime me for prestigious schools or scholarships had not worked in her favour. Talk of integers and denominators and percentages caused a hot metal bolt of incomprehension to tighten up behind my eyes.

'She's artistic,' was Dad's verdict.

'She's a dreamer,' said Mum.

'She lacks concentration,' said my school report.

It was certainly true that I wasn't destined for exam success. I couldn't seem to get the answers out of my head, where they teemed like shoals of slippery fish, and onto the page. I would think for too long about each question, my thoughts frequently taking off down byways of their own, which though interesting were not in the least pertinent. When some distraction would cause me to look down, half the time would have elapsed and I would have produced nothing but a page of doodles.

3 Losing my television rights made me particularly insufferable. When Dad had had enough, he unearthed a wooden box containing some crumpled tubes of oil paint and balding brushes. Some of the paints were fossilised beyond redemption, but we managed to squeeze out a few threads of chrome yellow, white and ochre, and I produced what I considered a passable still life, entitled Milk Jug, Egg and Banana. I took it to school to show my art teacher, Mr Hatch, and he was very complimentary, and even gave me some hints on composition, suggesting, for example, that next time I didn't need to arrange the objects in a straight line, and could possibly put them on something, rather than have them floating in space. Dad wanted to frame it, but once Mr Hatch had hinted at its flaws, I didn't feel it deserved to be displayed. I kept it anyway, as it represented a milestone: the beginning of a stormy relationship with oils.

4 In addition to his other advice, Mr Hatch had recommended I carry a small sketch pad and pencil with me when I was out and about, and get into the habit of 'Sketching from Life'. In reverence, I ventured to the train station and found myself a seat at the end of the platform which commanded a view of arriving trains, and began, rather self-consciously, to draw. My eyepatch seemed to be something of an asset in this endeavour, removing the troubling three-dimensional element from the matter of composition. Viewed through one eye the world already looked as flat as a picture. However, I was unprepared for the annoying reluctance of Life to keep still while I was drawing it, and several of my sketches had to be abandoned incomplete as the subjects wandered off to catch a train. After a while I began to appreciate the importance of speed in capturing the unposed human form, and to yearn for the relative compliance of my milk jug, egg and banana.

5 Half an hour passed. My pencil was blunt, my bottom numb, and I had produced a

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dozen unfinished scribbles of my surroundings, and one detailed drawing of my own shoe.

6 The day my eyepatch came off, the world rose up to meet me. Houses and trees sprang to attention like the pages of a pop-up book; the sharpness and solidity of things amazed me and I started to draw again, inspired by this new insight. 'It's the artist's gift to make the familiar strange and the strange familiar.' Mr Hatch said, and I saw at last what he meant. He had been prompted to this remark by the sketch of my shoe. It looked, he said, like something organic – a species of cabbage, perhaps – and he put it up, properly mounted, on the wall outside the head's office, where all the best pictures went.

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Adapted from "In a Good Light" By Clare Chambers.

Section C

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Text 4

In the article below, a writer explains the challenges faced by the food delivery industry today.

Read it carefully and answer Questions 16 – 20 in the Question Paper.

1 Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have witnessed an unprecedented demand for food deliveries from supermarkets, restaurants and even fast food joints. Online ordering from the palm of our hand or desktop is now commonplace, with the top reason being convenience. Even as the focus now is on the convenience of ordering, we see major issues confronting the food delivery industry. What will the future hold for these services?

2 Online restaurant ordering now accounts for about 40% of total restaurant sales, just over $22.4 billion in 2021. Experts forecast that the food delivery market size will expand to $320 billion by 2029. No one in the grocery or food service disputes the rise and importance of online shopping for food and products; but what is not being addressed is the problem with delivery. The pandemic forced many restaurants to adapt to the changing times by offering delivery or takeout. For sure, this has allowed them to continue operating during lockdowns and when social distancing measures were implemented; and those that had been able to pivot to delivery have had a lifeline. However, as the pandemic recedes, we have to wonder if this trend will continue.

3 A major challenge for restaurants is that the fees associated with delivery services can eat into their profits. Restaurants have had to raise prices or reduce portion sizes to offset the fees charged by delivery platforms. Many cities capped the fees or commissions of delivery services at 15 percent to help struggling restaurant operators, but many of these caps have ended or are ending and the fees are back on the rise. Now, restaurants may need to consider investing in their own delivery infrastructure, which can be costly but more profitable in the long run.

4 The mantra of these start-up food delivery companies was all about speed – of picking up the order and getting it to the customer in around 15 minutes, regardless of the very real obstacles including traffic and pedestrians. New York City alone is the home to 65,000 delivery workers. Reports of pedestrian and auto accidents, delivery bike thefts at knife or gun point and even delivery driver deaths have been reported in the thousands. These are delivery experiments that all failed.

5 Grocers have taken back their online service from third parties in an effort to answer shopper complaints about the quality of the foods selected in-store and the delivery. Yet another issue that confronts the food delivery industry is about worker classification. Many food delivery drivers are classified as independent contractors, which means they are not entitled to benefits such as health insurance and paid time off. This has led to legal challenges and protests by delivery drivers, who argue that they should be classified as employees. This makes it difficult to build a reliable and strong workforce.

6 The consumers are now looking at their credit card bills and the delivery charges and for some, the fees charged by delivery services can make the service unaffordable in this era of rising food prices. Grocery and restaurant delivery companies are to blame for the discontent surrounding food delivery – they are so fixated with speed of delivery and the expansion of their businesses that they forgot it's all about the food: and there is nothing more human than food.

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7 Food is a fundamental part of our human life, providing nourishment and sustenance necessary for survival. Our relationship with food is multi-faceted and influenced by a range of factors like culture, tradition, emotions, and personal and dietary preferences. How we eat and relate to food has a significant impact on our overall sense of well-being and daily lives. Alas, food delivery services, whether run by grocers, restaurants or third-party services don't seem to embrace that thinking. If food delivery is to survive it must be profitable for all parties, affordable for the consumer and recognise that they are the caretakers of the most valuable resources of our planet: our foods. *45*

Adapted from "The Future Of Food Delivery Depends On Human Emotions: Not Speed" by Phil Lempert, FORBES.com, February 17, 2023.

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