

SiL

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Our motto: "Sharing is Learning"

QUESTION BOOKLET

PAPER: **ENGLISH** (SAMPLE)

LEVEL: YEAR **9**

DURATION OF TEST: **75** MINS

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1.) THIS TEST COVERS THE MAIN ASPECTS OF READING, GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY CORRESPONDING TO THE LEVEL STATED ABOVE.
- 2.) EACH QUESTION CARRIES 1 MARK, THE FULL SCORE OF THE TEST IS 40. TRY TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS WITHIN THE GIVEN TIME.
- 3.) YOU CANNOT ASK THE INVIGILATOR TO READ ALOUD, EXPLAIN THE MEANINGS OR SPELL OUT ANY WORDS / PHRASES.
- 4.) BOTH THE QUESTION BOOKLET AND THE ANSWER SHEET MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE INVIGILATOR AFTER THE TEST.

Part A. (READING)

 **Jasper has just finished his diary entry for today. Read his entry and answer Questions 1-6.**

27th April 2025

Sunny

Today, something truly unexpected happened, and it's left me reflecting deeply on how we respond to situations without overthinking. I'd been feeling a little burnt out with all the school work and assessments piling up lately, so I decided to spend the afternoon at the local park to find some peace, and to work on my art project while chilling out.

The park was idyllic. The sun bathed everything in a golden light, and a gentle breeze rustled through the trees, carrying the faint scent of freshly cut grass. I settled on a wooden bench near the duck pond, a favourite spot of mine because of the way the sunlight dances on the water. Everything felt still, like the world had paused for a moment, how peaceful it was.

As I began to doodle in my notebook, a small boy caught my attention. He couldn't have been more than six years old. His laughter rang out, carefree and conta_____s. I found myself smiling as well, momentarily lost in his joy. But then, in a split second, everything changed. The boy chased his ball toward the pond, and before I could even process what was happening, his foot slipped on the muddy bank, and he tumbled headfirst into the water.

My heart froze. The pond wasn't particularly deep, but the water was murky, and the boy was flailing, unable to find his footing. Without thinking, I threw my notebook aside and ran towards him. My mind raced with panic as I reached the edge of the pond. Just then, a man walking his dog appeared and sprinted over to help. Together, we managed to grab the boy and pull him out of the pond.

The boy was soaked, shivering, and crying, but thankfully, he seemed unharmed. His mother, who had been sitting on a nearby bench and was having a phone call, came rushing over. She wrapped him in her arms, her face a mixture of relief and guilt. "Thank you," she kept repeating, her voice trembling. "I don't know what I would've done if something had happened to him."

The man who helped patted the boy's back gently, trying to comfort him. Then he turned to me and said, "You were brave to act so quickly." His words caught me off guard. I didn't feel brave; I felt shaky and overwhelmed, my hands trembling from the adrenaline and my cheeks turned red. I mumbled something about just doing what anyone would have done, but his words stuck with me.

As I walked home later, still damp from where the water had splashed me, I replayed the moment in my head. I thought about how fragile life can be, how quickly things can change. I didn't feel like a hero; I felt lucky that we'd been able to help the little boy in time. But I also felt a quiet sense of pride. Sometimes, we don't need to overthink—we just need to care enough to act. And today, I'm grateful I did.

Pick the best option and write your answer in the box or on the line provided on the **Answer Sheet**.

1. What was the narrator's original plan for the afternoon?

- | | |
|--|---|
| A to play with a ball in the park | B to relax and work on an art project |
| C to help a friend with homework | D to visit the pond and feed the ducks |

2. How does the setting contribute to the tone of the diary entry?
- A** The peaceful park creates a sense of calm before the incident
 - B** The loud and busy park creates a sense of chaos
 - C** The park's crowded nature adds tension to the story
 - D** The overcast weather creates a gloomy and suspenseful atmosphere
3. A word is not fully spelled out in the 3rd paragraph of the diary entry, what should it be? (Hint: it is a synonym for "infectious" / "spreadable")
- (Write the **WHOLE word** out on the line on the answer sheet)
4. Which of the following statements is **TRUE**?
- A** The boy was completely unharmed and calm after being pulled out of the pond.
 - B** Jasper hesitated at first but eventually helped the boy who fell into the pond.
 - C** The man that was walking his dog comforted Jasper after the rescue.
 - D** Jasper blushed when the man called him brave, because he wasn't expecting the praise.
5. What theme is most evident in the diary entry?
- A** The importance of teamwork during emergencies
 - B** The beauty of spending time in nature
 - C** The need to be cautious around water
 - D** The impact of small, caring actions
6. In the bottom half of the diary entry, find 1 word that can fit in the following sentence.

Charged with _____, I took several deep breaths and walked on to the stage for the first night of the show.

Part B. (READING)



Zac is reading a letter from his aunt, Carla. Read the letter below and answer Questions 7-11.

Dear Zac,

It's Aunt Carla here. I hope this letter finds you well and I hope you're having a great time at your new school! As I promised during my last visit, I am writing to tell you all about my recent travels around the world. It was a life-changing experience that has left me with countless stories, some of which I can't wait to share with you...

My first stop was Japan, a country that perfectly blends modernity with tradition. In Tokyo, I marvelled at the neon-lit skyscrapers and bustling streets, but it was the tranquil temples and serene tea ceremonies in Kyoto that truly captivated me. Did you know that the Japanese bow as a sign of respect and greet each other with a quiet

"konichiwa"? I even learned how to make sushi at a local cooking class—it's harder than it looks!

From Japan, I flew to Morocco, a country of vibrant colours and mesmerising culture. The markets in Marrakech were like stepping into a dream, with their rich spices, intricate rugs, and handmade jewellery. I was particularly enchanted by the Moroccan tradition of mint tea—a gesture of hospitality that every household practices. **Their** tagines, a slow-cooked dish, are so flavourful that I'm determined to try making one at home.

Next, I ventured to Italy, a place that felt like walking through a living museum. Rome's ancient ruins, especially the Colosseum, took me back in time, while Venice's canals were pure magic. Italians are incredibly passionate about their food, and I think I ate my weight in pasta and gelato. One phrase I picked up was "la dolce vita," which means "the sweet life."

Finally, I ended my journey in Kenya, where I went on a safari. There's nothing quite like watching elephants roam freely or hearing lions roar at dawn. The Maasai people, with their vibrant attire and intricate beadwork, were kind enough to share their stories and traditions with me. It was humbling to see how deeply they respect nature and live in harmony with it.

If there's one thing I've learned from my travels, it's that every culture has something unique to offer. People around the world are so different, yet they share a universal kindness and warmth that transcends borders. It made me appreciate how much there is to learn from others if we take the time to listen and observe.

I hope these stories inspire you to dream big and explore the world one day. Until then, keep learning, stay curious, and remember that the world is a vast, beautiful place waiting to be discovered.

**With all my love,
Aunt Carla**

Pick the best option and write your answer in the box or on the line provided on the **Answer Sheet**.

7. Which two contrasting aspects of Japanese culture did Aunt Carla highlight?

- A** sushi-making and skyscrapers **B** neon lights and ancient tea ceremonies
C modern cities and tranquil traditions **D** respectful greetings and bustling markets

8. What does "**their**" refer to in paragraph 3 of Aunt Carla's letter?

- A** the markets' **B** the Moroccans' **C** the teas' **D** the households'

9. In which city did Aunt Carla feel she was brought back in time?

- A** Rome **B** Venice **C** Marrakech **D** Tokyo

10. Which of the following statements is **TRUE**?

- A** Maasai people demonstrate their respect for nature by building intricate temples.
B The Japanese word "konichiwa" means "Goodbye".
C The Moroccans demonstrate their hospitality by serving mint tea to the guests.
D Aunt Carla learned beadwork from the Maasai people while she was in Kenya.

11. In the last 3 paragraphs, find 1 word that can fit in the following sentence. (You may have to change the spelling of the word a bit for the sentence)

Be open with your feelings to your closest friends and be ready to listen to them as they share their stories, that helps _____ and evolve the friendship.

Part C. (READING)

 **Matthew is reading some posts on the school forum about missing items. Read the posts and answer Questions 12-16.**

Forum Posts: The Mystery of the Missing Backpacks

The Disappearing Backpacks

Strange events have occurred at our school recently, prompting me to write this post.

The first incident took place on Monday during a biology lesson. After the class ended, all the students went to the lockers in the hallway to retrieve their belongings. Lily Jacobs couldn't find her backpack anywhere. Everyone helped her search the surrounding area, but it was nowhere to be found. Lily had to borrow supplies for her next class and walk home without her usual bag.

The next day, another incident occurred. Students from the drama club had their regular practice in the auditorium after school. When the session was over, three students discovered that their backpacks were missing as well!

I believe we have a backpack thief in our school. What do you all think? If anyone has clues about the missing backpacks, please share them here.

Mark Jones (9B)

Posted on 12 April (Wed), 8:00 p.m.

2 comments

Comment 1: Mark, there's more to this mystery!

This morning, Miss Baker was working in the teachers' lounge. She left her backpack on the sofa while she went to get a cup of tea. When she returned, only her lunchbox was left on the sofa; her entire bag had vanished!

I think someone may be sneaking around and targeting backpacks specifically. Please be careful with your belongings!

Jessica Lee (8A)

Posted on 12 April (Wed), 9:45 p.m.

Comment 2: We solved it!

Hi, everyone. Mark and I decided to investigate. Today, we placed a bright yellow backpack near the library and hid behind a bookcase to watch. After a few minutes, we heard a sound and peeked out. A large raven swooped down, grabbed the bag with its beak, and flew off! We followed it to a tree near the school parking lot and found a nest filled with shiny objects and the missing backpacks! *Mystery solved: it was the raven all along!*

Lily Jacobs (9C)

Posted on 14 April (Fri), 4:30 p.m.

Pick the best option and write your answer in the box or on the line provided on the **Answer Sheet**.

12. What was the first incident reported in the forum post?
- A** Lily Jacobs's notebook was taken from the locker.
 - B** Lily Jacobs's backpack disappeared after biology class.
 - C** A stranger grabbed a student's backpack from the hallway.
 - D** Drama club students lost their supplies in the auditorium.
13. Where did the second incident involving missing backpacks occur?
- A** the biology classroom
 - B** the school auditorium
 - C** the teachers' lounge
 - D** the parking lot
14. Which word best describes the tone of the final forum post (i.e. Comment 2)?
- A** light-hearted
 - B** suspenseful
 - C** anxious
 - D** serious
15. What lesson can be learned from this story?
- A** Backpacks should be compulsorily locked up.
 - B** Teachers need to monitor students more closely.
 - C** Always be prepared to investigate mysteries.
 - D** Animals can sometimes be the cause of strange events.
16. In the 1st forum post, find 1 word that can fit in the following sentence.
(You may have to change the word form)

The investigation was completed after the _____ of debris from the recent seismic activity.

Part D. (Grammar)

 **This part is all about Grammar. Let's give it a go and pick the best option for each question.**

17. Which word does not belong in the same word family?
A actual **B** active **C** activism **D** act
18. Identify the error in the following sentence: "The car—a purple, flashy convertible—was parked outside that big house."
A The punctuation is correct.
B The dash should be replaced with a colon.
C The comma after "purple" is unnecessary.
D The sentence needs quotation marks around "a purple, flashy convertible."
19. Which root word is associated with the meaning "to speak"?
A scrib **B** chro **C** dict **D** port
20. What does the suffix "-ate" mean in "regulate" and "activate"?
A become **B** glorify **C** glance **D** increment
21. What type of pronoun is "whom" in the sentence, "To whom should I address the letter?"
A possessive pronoun **B** reflexive pronoun
C subject pronoun **D** object pronoun
22. "Stop talking in the quiet zone immediately!" What type of sentence is this?
A imperative **B** declarative **C** exclamatory **D** interrogative
23. Which sentence has the wrong match of its corresponding literary device (LD)?
A I felt a sweet sorrow as I watched them leave the building. (LD: oxymoron)
B Time is a thief, but let's try to do what we can to make every minute count. (LD: metaphor)
C Pamela is very upset as she just got let go from a job. (LD: simile)
D The whispering wind wove through the woods. (LD: alliteration)
24. "There's enough food on the table to feed an entire army!" What type of literary device has been used?
A simile **B** metaphor **C** personification **D** hyperbole

25. "Each student received a certificate." Which word functions as a determiner in this sentence?
A Each **B** student **C** received **D** certificate
26. "She had her phone stolen at the concert." What form of verb is "stolen" in the sentence?
Write the name of the verb form on the line provided.
27. What is the grammatical function of "eating" in the sentence, "Eating too much can make you feel unwell"?
A infinitive as subject **B** participle modifying subject
C gerund as subject **D** gerund as object
28. Choose the sentence below which uses inversion correctly.
A Rarely she goes to the cinema.
B Rarely does she go to the cinema.
C Rarely she went to the cinema.
D Rarely she has gone to the cinema.
29. Which of the following sentences demonstrates the correct sequence of tenses?
A I will call you when I finished my homework.
B I will call you when I finish my homework.
C I would call you when I finished my homework.
D I called you when I finish my homework.
30. What is the grammatical term for the phrase "to win the game" in the sentence, "Aiden practised hard to win the game"?
A prepositional phrase **B** gerund phrase
C participial phrase **D** infinitive phrase
31. Choose the sentence below which uses personification.
A The thunder sounds like a group of fierce lions.
B Less is more.
C The smell of freshly baked bread danced through the kitchen.
D "All hands on deck!" the captain shouted.


32. "Problem, the wind that had died down in the last few days is expected to gain momentum and blow wildly across the area, which makes the fire even more difficult to contain."

One word is not grammatically correct in the sentence, write the correct form on the line provided.

33. Rearrange the words in this sentence, and write it correctly on the line provided:

The of first-ever amazed "library the referred to by fashion talented show a his editor, designer, British invention".

Part E. (Vocabulary)

 **This part is all about Vocabulary. It is going to cover mainly the meaning and spelling of some commonly seen/used words, as well as those that are a bit more challenging. Let's give it a go and pick the best option for each question.**

34. The findings _____ the dynamism of our brain cells and how they constantly transform themselves in response to how we live and move.
A undercovered **B** underscored **C** underwrote **D** underwent
35. Nowadays, although widespread hunting is no longer posing any harm to whales, they still have to face a series of threats including ship strikes, which cause terminer injuries.
(Instruction: correct the spelling of the underlined word)
36. The educational committee _____ a return to traditional teaching methods, seeing the benefits of that over the excessive use of technology in lessons.
A irked **B** prevented **C** conjoined **D** advocated
37. Rewrite the following paragraph using the correct spelling of all the misspelled words.
"Esercise can fresher and rennovat the white matter in our brains, accoding to a resent study on brain health. It can potencially enhans our memory recoll as we age."
38. What is the antonym of the adjective "taciturn"?
A lucrative **B** divulsive **C** abductive **D** talkative
39. A lot of the comments that we see online are very imper_____nt, it's better to filter and not be easily influenced by them.
(Instruction: write only the missing letters to complete the spelling)
40. The defendant insisted to the court that the accusations that had been made against her were sheer _____on. (hint: starts with "fabr")
(Instruction: write the WHOLE word)