

391/01

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ELang1: Using Language

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 17 January 2007

(1½ Hours)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **both parts** of the question: **(a)** and **(b)**.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Marks for this unit are divided equally between **(a)** and **(b)**.

In this unit you will be assessed on your ability to:

- communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to the study of language, using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression;
- demonstrate expertise and accuracy in writing for a variety of specific purposes and audiences, drawing on knowledge of linguistic features to explain and comment on choices made;
- know and use key features of frameworks for the systematic study of spoken and written English.

Remember that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

Complete tasks (a) and (b). Each counts for half of the total marks for this unit.

The subject of this unit is *Emperor penguins in Antarctica*.

Read the following Notes about Antarctica and Emperor penguins on pages 3 and 4.

Then, using this information, complete the two tasks which follow.

Tasks

- (a) During 2005 a documentary film was released by Warner Bros. following the Emperor penguin in Antarctica, called *March of the Penguins*. Imagine that you were part of the film crew making this film in Antarctica and that you kept a journal of your experiences during the twelve months of your stay. Using the material that follows, write an extract from the journal you kept.

Write the text of an extract from your journal about your experiences in Antarctica while filming the Emperor penguins. Use at least 300 words.

- Make use of relevant information from pages 3 and 4.
- Aim to be entertaining and informative.
- Convey your thoughts and feelings about what it was like in Antarctica and about any dangers or obstacles you encountered.
- Give information about the Emperor penguins and what you witnessed whilst filming them.
- Use your own words as far as possible.
- Remember to make your language choices appropriate for the style of a personal journal.

- (b) **When you have completed task (a), write about the language you have used (approximately 400 words).**

Drawing on your knowledge of language frameworks and linguistic features, you should explain and comment on the language choices you have made. Comment particularly on your use of language features and how you have made your choices of language appropriate for a personal journal.

NOTES

Antarctica - the world's greatest wilderness

“The coldest, windiest, driest and darkest continent on the planet.” (Ernest Shackleton, explorer)

Made up of sea ice over the ocean, and of an ice cap covering almost all of the landmass, the Antarctic continent is about 1250 miles from New Zealand and 600 miles from South America.

With its 5.5 million square miles, the southern continent is the fifth largest in the world.

Its ice and snow cover can vary from 1.5 miles deep to as much as three miles deep.

Conditions are so cold that no plants grow there and animals stay by the coast.

Antarctica is considered one of the most rigorous environments on earth, with temperatures as low as -89.2 degrees Celsius (recorded on July 21, 1983), and the strongest winds on the planet.

Speeds of the winds in Antarctica have been recorded at 327 kilometres an hour. Winds in Antarctica roll towards the coast through the force of gravity, in an almost constant direction.

Penguins

The only species of bird that has adapted most fully to water and the extreme cold.

They are flightless, clumsy on the land, and are at home in water.

Emperor Penguins

- These are the largest of the 17 species, growing up to 1.15 metres tall.
- There are approximately 195,000 pairs of Emperors breeding in 35 locations along the Antarctic coast.
- They are capable of breeding during the worst weather conditions on earth, usually on the frozen sea, which is linked to the annual setting and breaking up of the ice.
- They eat fish, squid and krill – a small crustacean 2-3 inches long.
- They can dive 565 metres below the surface of the sea and remain under water for 22 minutes.
- They have four layers of scale-like feathers which provide excellent insulation.
- They have very small bills and flippers, which conserve heat.
- They have strong claws for gripping the ice.
- They are very social creatures. They huddle together to keep warm. As a result they do not defend territory and are therefore not territorial.
- Emperor parents share close responsibility for their parenting duties.

- Breeding begins in March and ends in December.
- This allows parents to fledge (train to fly) their chicks during the summer when the weather is warmer and food is plentiful.
- The male Emperor endures a 115-day ordeal, during which he courts a female, mates and then incubates an egg without eating a single meal.
- The female lays her egg in mid-May, then leaves to spend the rest of the winter at sea, returning in mid-July. (The winter months in Antarctica include May to July.)
- She finds her mate again in mid-July after memorising his call.
- The male transfers the egg from his feet, where it has been incubated for 65 days, to the female penguin's pouch in about 10 seconds. The egg hatches shortly after.
- An egg or chick accidentally tipped on the snow and abandoned can freeze to death in two minutes.
- As the young penguins grow, they are left in groups of chicks called crèches while the adults fish for food. On their return, the adults regurgitate the food for their young.

Concerns about the environment

The global warming that affects our planet, and in particular the polar regions, triggers changes that affect primarily the species inhabiting these regions.

Whether in the North or South polar regions, species suffer from the shrinking of the sea ice and its consequences.

In the more or less short term, polar bears and penguins will have no other choice but to change their way of life if they want to survive these changes.

Seasonal holes in the ozone layer over Antarctica may pose a threat – there is evidence that the eyes of seals and penguins are being affected by an increase in UV intensity.

Debris and litter left by scientific and support staff on the continent are also a concern.

Tourists who land for day visits from cruise ships are also in danger of disturbing seal and penguin colonies as well as leaving litter and alien diseases.

In 2001, numerous Emperor penguin chicks drowned, because the sea ice melted too early in the season, not giving them enough time to learn to swim.

These notes have been derived from a selection of sources.

'Penguins' – *By courtesy of Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc, Copyright 1984;*

'Environment and People' by Michael Witherick;

'www.aad.gov.au' – Australian Antarctic Division;

'www.warnerbros.com/marchofthepenguins' – Warnerbros Online;

'www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/creaturefeature/1010/penguins2.html' – National Geographic.