

391/01

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ELang1: Using Language

A.M. TUESDAY, 17 January 2006

(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 **survival at sea**.

Read the extracts on pages 3 and 4, from:

'The Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Travel' by Joshua Piven and David Borgenicht (©2001 booksoup publishing inc. Reproduced with permission from Chronicle Books LLC);

'Life of Pi' by Yann Martell (first published in Great Britain by Canongate Books, 14 High Street, Edinburgh);

'The Faber Book of Reportage', edited by J.Carey (Faber and Faber Ltd. 1987) – an eyewitness account of the sinking of the Titanic.

After reading these extracts, complete the two tasks which follow.

Tasks

- (a) A popular weekly magazine is currently running a series of short articles entitled *Amazing Survival Stories*. The first article in the series will be about survival at sea.

Write the text for your article about survival at sea in at least 300 words.

- Make use of relevant information from pages 3 and 4.
- Aim to be entertaining and informative.
- Give a few tips on surviving a disaster at sea.
- Include a sense of human interest in conveying some personal experiences.
- You may introduce relevant ideas and details of your own.
- Use your own words as far as possible.
- Remember to make your language choices appropriate for the style and readership of a popular weekly magazine.

- (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, how you have made your choices of language appropriate for a magazine article and how this would appeal to the readership of a popular weekly magazine.

Extract from *The Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Travel*, by Joshua Piven and David Borgenicht.

HOW TO SURVIVE IN FRIGID WATER

1. **Do not attempt to swim unless it is a very short distance.**

A strong swimmer has a 50-50 chance of surviving a 50-yard swim in 50-degree Fahrenheit water. Swim only if you can reach land, a boat, or a floating object with a few strokes. (Swimming moves cold water over skin, causing rapid cooling. Cold water saps body heat 25 times faster than air of the same temperature, and water any colder than 70 degrees Fahrenheit can cause hypothermia.)

2. **If you are alone and wearing a flotation device, assume the heat escape lessening position (HELP).**

Cross your ankles, draw your knees to your chest, and cross your arms over your chest. Your hands should be kept high on your chest or neck to keep them warm. Do not remove clothing. Clothes will not weigh you down but will hold warm water against your skin like a diver's wetsuit. This position can reduce heat loss by 50 percent.

3. **If two or more people are in the water and all are wearing flotation devices, assume the "huddle" position.**

Two to four people should "hug", with chest touching chest. Smaller individuals can be sandwiched between larger members. This position allows body heat to be shared. Also, rescuers can spot groups more easily than individuals.

4. **Keep movement to a minimum.**

Increasing the heart rate speeds body cooling. Try to breathe normally.

5. **Once you are rescued, look for signs of hypothermia.**

Slurred speech and a lack of shivering are signs of severe body temperature loss. Immediately rewarm your body.

IF YOU ARE NOT WEARING A FLOTATION DEVICE

1. **Grab anything that floats.**

A piece of driftwood, a floating cooler, and a plastic bag full of air all work well as flotation devices.

2. **If nothing buoyant is available, float on your back, tread water very slowly, or assume the HELP position (see step 2 above).**

3. **If you are unable to float or tread water, button the top button of a coat or shirt and splash air and water under the bottom edge of your clothing to trap air.**

Trapping air under clothing may help you to stay afloat, but can also be dangerous since it increases movement and hence cooling.

Extract from *Life of Pi* by Yann Martell

Background information: *Pi Patel, a 16-year-old Indian boy, describes being on board a ship which sank when crossing the Pacific Ocean in 1977.*

The ship shook and there was that sound, the monstrous metallic burp. What was it? Was it the collective scream of humans and animals protesting their oncoming death? Was it the ship itself giving up the ghost? I fell over. I got to my feet. I looked overboard again. The sea was rising. The waves were getting closer. We were sinking fast. ...

I ran for the stairs to the bridge. Up there was where the officers were, the only people on the ship who spoke English, the masters of our destiny here, the ones who would right this wrong. They would explain everything. They would take care of my family and me. I climbed to the middle bridge. There was no one on the starboard side. I ran to the port side. I saw three men, crew members. I fell. I got up. They were looking overboard. I shouted. They turned. They looked at me and at each other. They spoke a few words. They came towards me quickly. I felt gratitude and relief welling up in me. I said, "Thank God I've found you. What is happening? I am very scared. There is water at the bottom of the ship. I am worried about my family. I can't get to the level where our cabins are. Is this normal? Do you think -"

One of the men interrupted me by thrusting a life jacket into my arms and shouting something in Chinese. I noticed an orange whistle dangling from the life jacket. The men were nodding vigorously at me. When they took hold of me and lifted me in their strong arms, I thought nothing of it. I thought they were helping me. I was so full of trust in them that I felt grateful as they carried me in the air. Only when they threw me overboard did I have doubts.

Extract from *The Faber Book of Reportage*

Background information: *Mrs D.H. Bishop describes the sinking of the Titanic in April 1912, as seen from her lifeboat.*

We did not begin to understand the situation till we were perhaps a mile or more away from the *Titanic*. Then we could see the rows of lights along the decks begin to slant gradually upward from the bow. Very slowly the lines of lights began to point downward at a greater and greater angle. The sinking was so slow that you could not perceive the lights of the deck changing their position. The slant seemed to be greater about every quarter of an hour. That was the only difference.

In a couple of hours, though, she began to go down more rapidly. Then the fearful sight began. The people in the ship were just beginning to realize how great their danger was. When the forward part of the ship dropped suddenly at a faster rate, so that the upward slope became marked, there was a sudden rush of passengers on all the decks towards the stern. It was like a wave. We could see the great black mass of people in the steerage sweeping to the rear part of the boat and breaking through into the upper decks. At the distance of about a mile we could distinguish everything through the night, which was perfectly clear. We could make out the increasing excitement on board the boat as the people, rushing to and fro, caused the deck lights to disappear and reappear as they passed in front of them.

The panic went on, it seemed, for an hour. Then suddenly the ship seemed to shoot up out of the water and stand there perpendicularly. It seemed to us that it stood upright in the water for four full minutes.

Then it began to slide gently downwards. Its speed increased as it went down head first, so that the stern shot down with a rush.

The lights continued to burn till it sank. We could see the people packed densely in the stern till it was gone ...

As the ship sank we could hear the screaming a mile away. Gradually it became fainter and fainter and died away. Some of the lifeboats that had room for more might have gone to their rescue, but it would have meant that those who were in the water would have swarmed aboard and sunk her.