



PAPER B

Practice
Questions



ICAS International
Competitions
and Assessments
for Schools

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL INSTRUCTED.

STUDENT'S NAME:

Read the instructions on the **ANSWER SHEET** and fill in your **NAME, SCHOOL** and **OTHER INFORMATION**.

Use a 2B or B pencil.

Do **NOT** use a pen.

Rub out any mistakes completely.

You **MUST** record your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

Mark only **ONE** answer for each question.

Your score will be the number of correct answers.

Marks are **NOT** deducted for incorrect answers.

Use the information provided to choose the **BEST** answer from the four possible options.

On your **ANSWER SHEET** fill in the oval that matches your answer.

Questions may sometimes be placed next to each other.

Make sure you read **ACROSS** the page and answer the questions in the correct order.

You are **NOT** allowed to use a dictionary or an electronic translator.

ENGLISH

**Educational
Assessment**

Catastrophe Cat



Catastrophe Cat
Lives in our house
She doesn't mind dogs
She won't chase a mouse.

She sleeps all day long
If there's nobody there
But when we come home
She gets quite a scare.

Cat skates on the table
And breaks all the dishes
She scratches the couch
And knocks over the fishes.

She hangs off the curtains
Then skids on the floor
Grandma moves quickly
As Cat thumps the door.

My mum likes to pat Cat
But Cat won't sit still.
She hides in the cupboard
Waiting until

Mum gets the sausages
Ready for tea
Then Catastrophe swipes them
And leaves none for me.

She waits in the hallway
Outside Dad's door
And she starts to wail
When he starts to snore.

You'd think Dad would learn
But he chases the cat
She moves so swiftly
He trips on the mat.

And all through the house
We hear Meeeeeow and Owwww
'That cat is a nuisance
Get rid of it now!'

But despite all the mess
The noise and the strife
We all love our Cat
She's part of our life.



1. What does Catastrophe Cat do when the family is not home?

- (A) chase mice
- (B) sleep all day
- (C) scare the fish
- (D) hang off the curtains

2. Catastrophe Cat likes to hide in the cupboard so she can

- (A) see where Dad is.
- (B) catch some mice.
- (C) steal the sausages.
- (D) get away from the noise.



3. Why did Dad chase Catastrophe Cat?

- (A) she stole his food
- (B) she interrupted his sleep
- (C) they were playing a game
- (D) he fell over her in the hallway

4. Which option shows who made the sound 'Owww' and why?

	Who said 'Owww'?	Why?
(A)	Dad	He fell over chasing Cat.
(B)	Mum	She hurt herself cooking.
(C)	the poet	Cat stole her sausages.
(D)	Catastrophe Cat	Dad caught her.

5. When Dad says that Catastrophe Cat is a 'nuisance', he means that she is

- (A) annoying.
- (B) secretive.
- (C) energetic.
- (D) dangerous.

6. The cat was named 'Catastrophe' because she

- (A) was loved by the family.
- (B) liked to fight with the dog.
- (C) often caused trouble in the house.



7. Onomatopoeia is when a word sounds like the noise it is describing. Which of the following is an example of onomatopoeia?
- (A) 'skids'
 - (B) 'thumps'
 - (C) 'swipes'
 - (D) 'trips'
8. The poem has a rhyme scheme. Which lines in each stanza rhyme?
- (A) the first line and the third line
 - (B) the first line and the second line
 - (C) the second line and the third line
 - (D) the second line and the fourth line
-

For questions 9 and 10 choose the CORRECT option.

9. Choose the best word to complete the following sentence.
- Paul knew he was almost home _____ he saw the lights of his farmhouse ahead.
- (A) however
 - (B) when
 - (C) but
 - (D) although
10. Which statement is punctuated correctly?
- (A) 'Have you done your homework, asked Sue?'
 - (B) 'Have you done your homework,' asked Sue?
 - (C) 'Have you done your homework?' asked Sue.
 - (D) 'Have you done your homework? Asked Sue.'

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Sources

“Catastrophe Cat” poem © Sheryl Persson.
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The following year levels should sit THIS Paper:

Australia	Year 4
Brunei	Primary 4
Hong Kong	Primary 4
Indonesia	Year 5
Malaysia	Standard 4
New Zealand	Year 5
Pacific	Year 4
Singapore	Primary 3
South Africa	Grade 4



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- Rub out all mistakes completely.
- Print your details clearly in the boxes provided.
- Make sure you fill in only one oval in each column.

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

D	E	B	B	I	E
○	○	○	○	○	○
A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	●	●	B	(F)
C	C	C	C	C	(C)
●	D	D	(C)		

B	A	C	H
○	○	○	○
A	●	A	A
●	B	B	(F)
C	C	●	
D	(C)		

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

C	H	A	N
O	O	O	O
A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B
C	C	C	C
D	D	D	D

A	I		B	E	N	G
O	O	O	O	O	O	O
A	A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B	B	B
C	C	C	C	C	C	C
D	D	D	D	D	D	D

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

J	A	M	A	L		B	I	N		A	B	A	S
A			A			A	A	A	A	A			
B	B	B	B	B	B		B						
C	C	C	C	C	C	C							
D	D	D	D	D	D	D							

[illegible][illegible]

☐ Male ☐ Female



☐ Yes ☐ No

School name: _____

Day		Month		Year	
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6

(A)	(K)
(B)	(L)
(C)	(M)
(D)	(N)
(E)	(O)
(F)	(P)
(G)	(Q)

TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Example:
Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word.

I want you to give this important matter prompt attention.

- (A) quiet
- (B) careful
- (C) immediate
- (D) deliberate

Immediate is the word closest in meaning to prompt in this sentence, so you would fill in the oval (C), as shown.

- (A) (B) (C) (D)



START

- 1

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 2

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 3

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 4

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 5

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 6

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 7

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 8

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 9

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 10

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

QUESTION	KEY	DESCRIPTION OF SKILL	AREA	DIFFICULTY
1	B	Locate information in a poem	RL	Easy
2	C	Identify the reason for an action in a poem	RL	Easy
3	B	Identify the reason for a character's action in a poem	RL	Medium
4	A	Interpret character interaction in a poem	RL	Medium/Hard
5	A	Identify the meaning of a word in a poem: nuisance	VOC	Easy
6	C	Interpret the meaning of a word from context in a poem: catastrophe	VOC	Medium
7	B	Identify an example of onomatopoeia in a poem: thumps	TD	Hard
8	D	Identify the rhyme scheme of a poem	TD	Easy
9	B	Identify the correct connective to complete a sentence	SYN	Medium
10	C	Identify the correct use of a question mark and speech punctuation	SYN	Medium/Hard

LEGEND

Area refers to the particular curriculum area or strand assessed by the question.

RL Reading – Literary	questions which require students to comprehend and interpret texts such as stories, poems, extracts from novels, reviews, plays
RF Reading – Factual	questions which require students to understand and interpret information and argument texts, including texts which incorporate diagrams, tables and images from a range of curriculum areas, e.g. reports, editorials, advertisements, explanations
TD Textual devices	questions which require students to recognise and to interpret textual devices which include figurative and rhetorical language (e.g. metaphor, rhetorical question, pun) and text conventions (e.g. use of different font sizes and types, captions)
SYN Syntax	questions about accuracy and clarity within sentences or texts (e.g. pronoun reference, tense) and the recognition of grammatical terms (e.g. noun, main clause)
VOC Vocabulary	questions about the meaning of words or phrases

Level of difficulty refers to the expected level of difficulty for the question.

Easy	more than 70% of candidates will choose the correct option
Medium	about 50–70% of candidates will choose the correct option
Medium/Hard	about 30–50% of candidates will choose the correct option
Hard	less than 30% of candidates will choose the correct option