

Name : _____ ()

Class : Primary 6 _____

CHIJ ST NICHOLAS GIRLS' SCHOOL



Primary 6

PSLE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (2)– 2006

English Language

PAPER 2

BOOKLET A

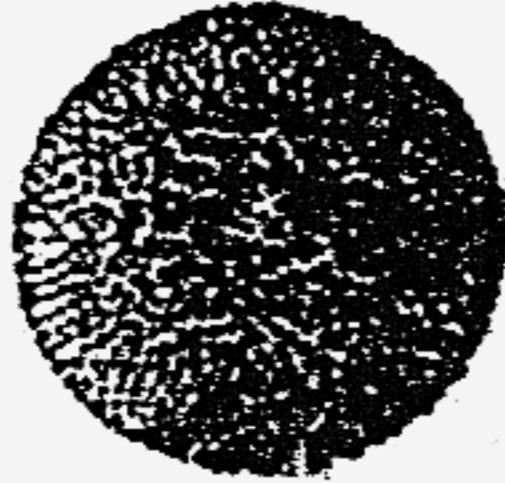
11th September 2006

Total Time for Booklets A and B: 1 hour 50 minutes

30 questions
30 marks

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.
Follow all instructions carefully.
Answer all questions.

Study the following text and then answer questions 1 to 5.



TheatreWorks Writers' Lab:
an incubation space for Singapore playwrights

24-HOUR PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

A programme of TheatreWorks Writers' Lab

LET YOUR IDEAS COLLIDE

5 Stimuli (5 genres)

24 Hours

1 Script

Are you up for it? Discover the new you!

The 24-hour playwriting competition organised by TheatreWorks Writers' Lab is back for its 9th year! Held at the rustic and tranquil seaside resort, Aloha Changi, the challenge is on again to stimulate one's heart and mind to produce a play within 24 hours.)
Come realise the 'play' in you.

TheatreWorks Writers' Lab has for the past 16 years discovered and nurtured new talent, as well as incubated and provided research and development opportunities for existing playwrights.

Dates: Sat 29 July (4 pm) to Sun 30 July (4pm) 2006

Venue: Aloha Changi

Competition Categories	Prizes for each category
Youth Category 15 to 18 years	1st Prize: \$800 2nd Prize: \$500
Open Category 19 years and above	3rd Prize: \$200 Merit Prize: \$100
Registration Fee	Registration Deadline
Youth - \$25	15 July 2006
Open - \$35	Limited to 100 places

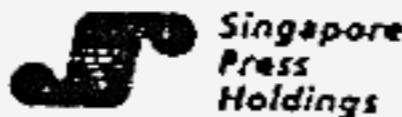
Visit www.theatreworks.org.sg for a registration form.

Organised by

Writers' Lab Main Sponsors

Official Venue

With support from



TheatreWorks (S) Ltd, 72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road, Singapore 239007
T: 6737-7213 F: 6737-7013

(Go on to the next page)

For each question from 1 to 5, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

(5 marks)

1. The 24-Hour Playwriting Competition is sponsored by _____.
 - (1) Singapore Press Holdings and TheatreWorks
 - (2) Singapore Press Holdings and Aloha Resorts
 - (3) Singapore Press Holdings and SPH Foundation
 - (4) Singapore Press Holdings and National Arts Council

2. What could be a possible reason for the competition to be held at Aloha Changi be?
 - (1) The main office of Singapore Press Holdings is situated there.
 - (2) It is a seaside resort easily accessible by public transport.
 - (3) It is where TheatreWorks Writer's Lab is situated.
 - (4) The peace and serenity allows for creativity.

3. A word which is closest in meaning to the word "nurtured" in the advertisement is _____.
 - (1) provided
 - (2) cultivated
 - (3) incubated
 - (4) discovered

4. This event has been held by TheatreWorks Writers' Lab for _____ years already.
 - (1) 5
 - (2) 9
 - (3) 16
 - (4) 24

5. Which one of the following statements is true?
 - (1) The event is held over two weekends.
 - (2) The competition is opened to 100 youths only.
 - (3) The playwriting competition is a two-day event.
 - (4) The registration forms can be downloaded online.

(Go on to the next page)

For each question from 6 to 12, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

(7 marks)

6. Let's try to find John, _____ we?
- (1) do
 - (2) are
 - (3) must
 - (4) shall
7. The woman made her son take the test _____ his illness.
- (1) though
 - (2) despite
 - (3) however
 - (4) nevertheless
8. Neither of the contestants _____ undergone voice training for this singing competition.
- (1) has
 - (2) was
 - (3) have
 - (4) were
9. It was very unlikely that he _____ by five o'clock.
- (1) arrived
 - (2) will arrive
 - (3) has arrived
 - (4) would arrive
10. He heard the clock _____ six and knew that it was time for him to get up.
- (1) strike
 - (2) struck
 - (3) strikes
 - (4) had struck

(Go on to the next page)

11. I screamed the moment I stepped into the room as it was infested _____ rats.

- (1) in
- (2) with
- (3) from
- (4) upon

12. We wanted two single rooms at the hotel but had to settle _____ a room with two beds instead.

- (1) in
- (2) on
- (3) for
- (4) with

(Go on to the next page)

For each question from 13 to 15, choose the correct punctuation to complete the passage
Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (3 marks)

John stepped into the kitchen, looking around for the whisk that he had carelessly left on the kitchen counter. There it was – shiny, still glistening with egg white which he had furiously whipped to make little peaks for his meringues.

“What’s that you’ve got in your hand (13) inquired his mother, looking just a tad suspicious.

“Nothing (14) mumbled John, his face turning a deep red as he rinsed the whisk under the running tap. He had not told her that he had been secretly taking cooking classes.

“Hey!” boomed a voice at the door (15) “Something smells heavenly here!”

John’s mother peered into the oven and there they were; the hugest meringues she had ever seen, baked to perfection.

13. (1) [, ”] comma and inverted commas
(2) [. ”] full stop and inverted commas
(3) [? ”] question mark and inverted commas
(4) [! ”] exclamation mark and inverted commas
14. (1) [. ”] full stop and inverted commas
(2) [, ”] comma and inverted commas
(3) [” ,] inverted commas and comma
(4) [” .] inverted commas and full stop
15. (1) [,] comma
(2) [.] full stop
(3) [, “] comma and inverted commas
(4) [. “] full stop and inverted commas

(Go on to the next page)

For each question from 16 to 20, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3, or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet (5 marks)

16. The editor is _____ the geography text book to bring it up to date.

- (1) revising
- (2) reviving
- (3) revisiting
- (4) reviewing

17. The photograph showing dead and dying civilians _____ the horrors of the war.

- (1) captures
- (2) contains
- (3) captivates
- (4) contemplates

18. It was very cold on the mountain. The skiers _____ their way up to keep warm.

- (1) tramped
- (2) stamped
- (3) stumped
- (4) thumped

19. There are ramps in the new library to make it more _____ to the handicapped.

- (1) admissible
- (2) accessible
- (3) adaptable
- (4) available

20. After his illness, Beng Soon became almost a _____ of his former self.

- (1) vision
- (2) picture
- (3) mirage
- (4) shadow

(Go on to the next page)

For each question from 21 to 25, choose the word(s) closest to the meaning to the underlined words. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

The rickshaw, a fragile-looking vehicle, was basically two parallel wheels with a cab on them that could carry one or two passengers. It had a collapsible canvas hood that, when unopened, made a trip in the vehicle a charming one under the stars. In rough weather, its hood would be raised and buttoned up with canvas flaps, sides and front, that ensured the passenger, at least, would not get completely wet.

(21)

(22)

The local rickshaw puller never wore anything except coarse, blue denims. He operated on the road, fair weather or foul, either barefoot or shod on sandals shaped from cut-out car tyres. His only form of headwear was a straw hat – usually a conical one with a flat brim that was the hallmark of the dominant Fujian dialect group.

(23)

(24)

(25)

21. (1) an idyllic
(2) an amusing
(3) an irresistible
(4) an appeasing
22. (1) soaked
(2) doused
(3) drenched
(4) submerged
23. (1) rough
(2) caustic
(3) uneven
(4) abrasive
24. (1) commonly
(2) invariably
(3) regularly
(4) typically
25. (1) brand
(2) stamp
(3) speciality
(4) trademark

(Go on to the next page)

Read the passage below and answer questions 26 to 30

It was my third year at a school when 16-year-old Mikey gave me a note from his mother. It explained his absence from the class the day before:

"Mikey's 80-year-old grandmother fell down the stairs from too much coffee and I needed Mikey to take care of her and his baby sister so I could go to my job. P.S. His grandmother is OK."

5

I had seen Mickey writing the note at his desk, using his left hand even though he was right-handed. I said nothing. Most parental-excuse notes I had received were penned by my students. They had been forging excuse notes since they learnt to write and if I were to confront each forgery, I would be busy twenty-four hours a day.

I threw Mikey's note into a desk drawer along with other notes. I decided to read all the notes I had only glanced before. I made two piles: one for the genuine ones, the other for the forgeries. The second was much the larger pile, with writing that ranged from imaginative to lunatic.

10

Wasn't it remarkable, I thought, how the students whined and said it was hard putting two hundred words together on any subject? But when they forged excuse notes, they were brilliant. How could I have ignored this great treasure trove, these gems of fiction and fantasy? Here was writing at its best – raw, real, urgent, lucid, brief and lying. I read:

15

"His sister's dog ate his homework and I hope it chokes him."

"Arnold was getting off his train and the door closed on his school bag and the train took it away."

20

One day, I typed out a dozen excuse letters and distributed them to my class. The students read them intently and asked me who had written them. "You did," I said. "I omitted names to protect the guilty. This is the first class to study the art of the excuse note. So try writing an excuse for your 15-year-old who needs an excuse for falling behind in English."

The students produced a rhapsody of excuses, ranging from 16-wheeler rig crashing into their house to a severe case of food-poisoning at the school canteen.

25

Heated discussions followed. Before long, I saw students so immersed in writing, their friends had to urge them to go to lunch. My heart sank as the principal entered, along with the superintendent of schools. Neither acknowledged me. They walked up and down, peering at papers. The superintendent picked one up, showed it to the principal. On their way out, the principal said the superintendent would like to see me.

30

Here it comes, I thought. The reckoning.

(Go on to the next page)

For each question from 26 to 30, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

- 26 Mikey used his left hand to write the note because he _____.
- (1) was trying to be creative
 - (2) was trying a new type of handwriting
 - (3) did not want his to use his injured right-hand
 - (4) did not want his handwriting to be recognised
- 27 In line 12, "with writing that ranged from imaginative to lunatic" showed that some excuses concocted were _____ while some were _____.
- (1) innovative, ridiculous
 - (2) brilliant, incredible
 - (3) outstanding , mad
 - (4) genuine , fake
- 28 In line 23, "the guilty" refers to the students who _____.
- (1) whined about writing
 - (2) forged the excuse notes
 - (3) handed in their work late
 - (4) lied about their absenteeism
- 29 One reason the writer considered the excuse notes "writing at its best" was that they were _____.
- (1) clichéd and real
 - (2) clear and concise
 - (3) creative and factual
 - (4) credible and interesting
- 30 The writer thinks that he is probably going to be _____.
- (1) promoted by the superintendent
 - (2) reprimanded by his supervisors
 - (3) rebuked by his principal
 - (4) praised by his bosses

There are 10 blanks numbered 31 to 40, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

-
- | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------------|-----------|
| (A) also | (D) by | (G) not | (K) thereby | (N) where |
| (B) around | (E) from | (H) off | (L) thereafter | (P) which |
| (C) between | (F) in | (J) only | (M) when | (Q) with |
-

About 25 years ago, a group of scientists began studying wildlife in the forests of Central and South America. The scientists became concerned _____ entire species of
(31)

the brightly coloured harlequin frogs started dying _____
(32)

Today, scientists think they have solved the mystery. Comparing changes _____ annual temperatures with the number of frog species spotted, they
(33)

have documented a direct correlation _____ global warming and the
(34)

extinction of about two-thirds of the 110 species of harlequin frogs.

These frogs spend their days near stream banks _____ their
(35)

constant motion and vibrant hues make it easy for researchers to count them. Previous studies have shown that it is _____ heat alone that kills harlequins but
(36)

_____ a fungus that attacks their skins. This fungus actually thrives in cool
(37)

weather in temperatures ranging _____ 17°C to 25°C. _____
(38) (39)

increased global warming, the cloud cover increases in the tropical forests

_____ lowering daytime temperatures. This makes the frogs more vulnerable
(40)

to fungal attacks.

(Go on to the next page)

Correct each word in **bold** for spelling and each underlined word for grammar. Write the correct word in the relevant box. (10 marks)

Elephants are not only the largest land animals but also among the most

(41)

*intelligent creatures on earth. Their **younik** body structure, complex social behaviour*

(42)

(43)

and intrigue communication network epitomize Mother Nature's wonder creations.

(44)

*Few animals can rival the close **asosiasion** elephants experience with humans.*

(45)

Since their domesticate some four thousand years ago, Asian elephants have

(46)

influenced the Asian way of life more significance than any other animal.

(47)

***Riveered** as gods in Hinduism, regarded as sacred in Buddhism, trained as tanks*

for battlefields and tamed as beasts of burden for logging, elephants have played,

(48)

and will continue to play an important role in the life of thousands of Asians.

It is unfortunate that elephants' tusks, a powerful tool and status symbol in

elephant societies, are so treasured by Man; thousands of elephants have been

(49)

(50)

***slortered** in cold blood for the aivorie trade. Though protected by the law now,*

African elephants and to a lesser extent, Asian elephants, continue to die at the

hands of poachers.

(Go on to the next page)

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

(15 marks)

The damage done by Eddie's father was, at the beginning, the damage of neglect. As an _____ in his early years, Eddie was rarely held by the man, and as a child, he was
(51) mostly grabbed by the arm, less with love _____ with annoyance. While Eddie's
(52) mother handed out the tenderness, his father was there for the discipline.

Still, for countless hours of his youth, Eddie _____ for his father's attention,
(53) sitting on railings, squatting on his short pants atop tool chests in the repair shop. Often he would offer, "I can help. I can help!" but the only job _____ on him was crawling
(54) beneath the worktable in the morning to _____ up the screws and nails that had
(55) _____ on the floor from the day's work.
(56)

At least four evenings a week, his father _____ cards. The table had
(57) money, bottles, cigarettes and rules. Eddie's rule was simple: Do not disturb. Once he tried to stand _____ to his father and look at his cards, but the old man put down his cigar
(58) and _____ like a volcano, _____ Eddie's face with the back of his hand.
(59) "Stop breathing on me," he snarled. Eddie _____ into tears and his mother pulled
(60) him to her waist, consoling him. Eddie never got that close again.
(61)

Other nights, when the cards went bad and the bottles had been drunk and his mother was already asleep, his father took his _____ out on Eddie and his brother. He
(62) raked through their toys, hurling them _____ the wall. Then he made his sons
(63) lie face down on the mattress while he pulled off his belt and _____ their rear
(64) ends, screaming that they were _____ his money on junk. Eddie used to pray for
(65) his mother to wake up but even the times she did, his father warned her to "stay out of it".

Adapted from "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom

(Go on to the next page)

For each of the questions 66 to 70, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in **one** sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s). (10 marks)

66. Immediately after he had kicked the ball into the goalpost, the final whistle sounded.

No sooner _____

67. The tea is very hot. You cannot drink it.

_____ too _____

68. "When will I get paid?" asked the man.

The man asked _____

69. Please wait here. He will return.

_____ until _____

70. She will not remember her lines. She should learn them by heart.

_____ unless _____

(Go on to the next page)

Read the passage below and answer questions 71 to 80.

(20 marks)

An oversized cello looked exactly like a coffin, so as I pushed mine through Central Juvenile Hall, I attracted a lot of attention. I was on my way to the chapel, after getting roped to perform for the young inmates by Sister Janet Harris, who coordinated volunteer activities. The project closest to her heart (was a writing programme in which I had recently started teaching. My students were high risk offenders who had been charged with murder or armed robbery and were waiting for their cases to be tried.

5

Somehow, Sister Janet learnt that I played the cello as a hobby and asked me to perform. I tried to reason with her that classical music would not be looked upon kindly by these inmates. She only smiled, saying, "These kids will listen, John. You'll see."

After passing through a maze of wire fencing, I reached a building with a cross on its roof. Over the roar of amplified music coming from outside, I introduced myself to someone with a clipboard and a walkie-talkie. He leafed through the schedule and found my name.

10

"You are up next," he said.

He led me to the chaplain's office where I could unpack my cello and warm up. "When we call you, go right through that door and you will be right on the stage," he explained.

15

After he left, I opened the door just enough to peek in. I was curious to see what kind of act I would be following. It was a hip-hop group; their music heavily amplified and the audience was swaying and clapping along. One of the performers was an attractive young woman wearing tight jeans and a shirt that revealed her belly button. She did not sing and the use of the tambourine suggested a minimum of training. Yet a glance at the all-male audience confirmed that she was the star of the show. I closed the door and slumped into the chaplain's chair. Sister Janet appeared at the door.

20

"I don't think having me perform was such a good idea," I told her.

"Why not?"

"Listen to what is going on in there. They are stomping their feet and working up a sweat."

25

"Have a little faith," she urged.

At two o'clock, the amplifier was unceremoniously turned off and the group left. The audience had to sit quietly. No one looked happy. The silence in the room so unnerved me that I failed to see the raised platform on the stage. I walked right into it, stubbing my big toe and careering forward. I narrowly avoided my fall by using the cello as a ski pole to balance myself. The inmates rewarded me with laughter and a round of applause.

30

I stalled for time telling them more about the instrument. But when whatever facts I could dispense ran out, I told the boys the first piece I was going to play, "The Swan" by Camille Saint-Saens, always made me think of my mother. I started playing. In the high-walled chapel, the cello sounded divine. Then a rustling from the audience brought me back to reality. The boys were bored, as I had feared.

35

The rustling grew louder. It was not the sound of fidgeting nor the sound of whispering. I glanced at the audience and saw a roomful of boys with tears running down their faces. What I had heard was the sound of sniffing and nose-wiping.

I played the piece better than I had ever played it, and when I finished the applause was deafening.

40

ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

71. Why did the writer attract a lot of attention on his way to the chapel?

72. What did the writer do as a volunteer at Central Juvenile Hall?

73. Who was the writer performing for?

74. Explain in your own words what the ^{writer} author meant when he said that classical music "would not be looked upon kindly".

75. Which two-word phrase from lines 16 to 22 shows that the music was turned up very loudly?

76. Which two actions showed that the audience enjoyed the hip-hop performance?

77. Quote the sentence which suggests that the star of the hip-hop group was not a talented performer.

78. What does the word "it" in line 29 refer to?

29

79. What was the rustling sound that the writer heard?

80. What was the feeling that the writer feared his audience would display?

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
3	4	2	2	4	4	2	1	4	1
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
2	3	3	2	4	1	1	1	2	4
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30
1	3	1	4	4	4	1	2	2	2
Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34	Q35	Q36	Q37	Q38	Q39	Q40
M	H	F	C	N	G	A	E	Q	K

41. unique 46. significantly 51. infant 56. dropped 61. burst
42. intriguing 47. Reversed 52. than 57. played 62. anger
43. wonderful 48. lives 53. yearned 58. close 63. at
44. association 49. slaughtered 54. bestowed 59. erupted 64. whipped
45. demonstration 50. ivory 55. pick 60. slapping 65. wasting

66. No sooner had he kicked the ball into the goalpost than the find whistle sounded.
67. The tea is too hot for you to drink.
68. The man asked when he would get paid.
69. Please wait here until he returns.
70. She will not remember her lines unless she learns them by heart.
71. The cello which the writer was carrying was oversized and looked exactly like a coffin.
72. He taught students in a writing programmed.
73. The writer was performing for the inmates.
74. The writer meant that the inmates might not like and enjoy classical music and they might jeer at the writer.
75. It is "heavily amplified ".

76. The audience was swaying and clapping along during the hip-hop performance.
77. It is "she did not sing and the use of the tambourine suggested a minimum of training".
78. It refers to the named platform on the stage.
79. It was the sound of sniffing and nose-wiping.
80. It was the feeling of boredom.