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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAM (2006)
PRIMARY SIX
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)
BOOKLET A

Name: _____ ()

Class: Primary Six _____

30 Questions
(30 Marks)

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Follow all instructions carefully.

Answer all questions.

This booklet consists of 10 printed pages.

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



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learn a language.

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understanding of the spoken
language.

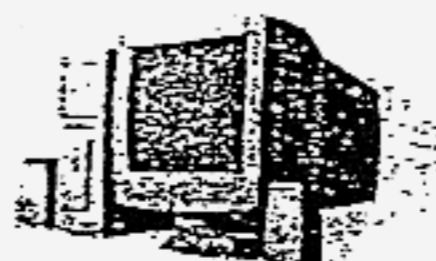
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develop your reading skills by
linking written language to real-
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programme which compares your
voice to the native speaker's and
grades your pronunciation.

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which evaluate your spelling,
syntax and punctuation.

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- CD-ROM with 20 activities in each lesson
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- Curriculum Text and User's Guide



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Level 1 CD-ROM	\$139
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RoseStone Language Learning Success

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. Which one of the following is an advantage of the Dynamic Immersion method?
 - (1) It encourages active memorisation of words.
 - (2) It provides extensive drills on grammar items.
 - (3) It allows the user to acquire a language in a shorter time.
 - (4) It teaches by translating the foreign language into your native language.

2. Should one choose to learn a language, one would expect a/an _____ speaker to be the teacher.
 - (1) local
 - (2) native
 - (3) English
 - (4) aboriginal

3. In order to know one's progress, one has to _____.
 - (1) call 1800-6310-1389 and ask the teacher
 - (2) get feedback from the automated tutorials
 - (3) complete all the 20 activities in each lesson
 - (4) compare one's voice with the native speaker's

4. In order to get the best deal, one should buy _____.
 - (1) the level 1 CD-ROM
 - (2) the level 2 CD-ROM
 - (3) both the level 1 and 2 CD-ROM
 - (4) the level 1 CD-ROM first, then get the level 2 CD-ROM

5. To obtain a 20% discount, one needs to pay by _____.
 - (1) cash and order online
 - (2) credit card for all purchases
 - (3) cash and call 1800-6310-1389
 - (4) credit card and state the promotional code

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. Did you see the squirrel _____ up the tree?

- (1) climb
- (2) climbed
- (3) is climbing
- (4) has climbed

7. "Ali, come quickly!" shouted John, "Rani _____ into the pool!"

- (1) falls
- (2) falling
- (3) has fallen
- (4) had fallen

8. Tom is very timid. He usually yields _____ his employer's unreasonable demands.

- (1) at
- (2) to
- (3) with
- (4) from

9. The teacher, together with her students, _____ gone to watch a drama at the theatre.

- (1) is
- (2) are
- (3) has
- (4) have

10. Martin, _____ we were talking about, is walking up the aisle now.

- (1) that
- (2) who
- (3) which
- (4) whom

11. _____ the naughty boy has disappointed his teacher many times, she still believes in him.

- (1) Since
- (2) Unless
- (3) Though
- (4) Because

12. Jenny wasn't afraid of the dark, _____ she?

- (1) is
- (2) was
- (3) isn't
- (4) wasn't

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)

Chinese physician, Mr Seow, explains from the Chinese perspective (13) Contrary to what most people believe, trauma and sports related injuries are not the most common causes of back and neck problems. More often than not, it is the "silent agents" at work (14) the daily toll of poor posture, muscular tension, bad habits, long hours of carrying heavy loads, and normal wear and tear from ageing (15)

13. (1) [,] comma
(2) [.] full stop
(3) [, "] comma and inverted commas
(4) [. "] full stop and inverted commas
14. (1) [,] comma
(2) [-] hyphen
(3) [.] full stop
(4) [;] semi colon
15. (1) [.] full stop
(2) ["] inverted comma
(3) [!] exclamation mark
(4) [. "] full stop and inverted commas

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. Our modern _____ lifestyle - hours spent sitting in the office, driving, watching TV, leads to back and neck aches over time.

- (1) slothful
- (2) immobile
- (3) sedentary
- (4) motionless

17. For the less adventurous, _____ into dense forests to experience a thrilling canopy walk would not be the choice.

- (1) plunging
- (2) venturing
- (3) embarking
- (4) pioneering

18. The workers were horrified when they found the old house to be _____ with cockroaches.

- (1) infected
- (2) infested
- (3) invaded
- (4) invested

19. John has been _____ to help with the show.

- (1) roped in
- (2) roped on
- (3) roped up
- (4) roped off

20. The school crest is _____ on the trophy.

- (1) encoded
- (2) enclosed
- (3) endorsed
- (4) engraved

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

The Masai tribe (21) lay on either side of the border between Kenya and Tanzania. Their beautiful, complex culture – like most African cultures – cannot be perceived by taking pictures during a safari, but in the intimacy of their (22) conventions. The rite of initiation, for example, features a lot of physical and aesthetic steps that go beyond that which is strictly (23) ritual. Young men go away from the family village and gather in a separate village, where they tighten the lasting links of a generation and acquire their first knowledge of their ancestral culture. While Masai women have the custom of shaving their heads, men, and in particular young men, love having hair. They (24) extend it with fake hair and braids which they smear with clay to make it look red. They also paint their faces with pigments they extract from the riverbanks and draw (25) patterns and snake-like images which run from their chests to their legs.

21. (1) covers
(2) reaches
(3) stretches
(4) straddles
22. (1) manners
(2) traditions
(3) regulations
(4) behavioural patterns
23. (1) radical
(2) informal
(3) ceremonial
(4) unconventional
24. (1) stretch
(2) enlarge
(3) expand
(4) lengthen
25. (1) logos
(2) motifs
(3) shapes
(4) images

Read the passage below and answer questions 26 to 30.

Asthma— a condition involving breathlessness and wheezing, affects more children than adults in Singapore. Asthma is a result of involuntary constriction of the airways, usually in response to airborne allergens or environmental changes. Asthma poses a great problem – affecting school or work performance, and repeated hospitalisations and visits to doctors increase socio-economic costs. In some rare cases as a result of food or insect venom anaphylaxis, the asthmatic can die or suffer severe allergic reactions. 5

Although the cause is largely genetic, environmental factors contribute to asthma. Triggers may be something as seemingly harmless as eggs, and the asthmatics are often irritated by air-borne particles such as air pollutants, dust mite allergens and aerosols. The commonest culprit is the house dust mite. In addition, bird's nest, a prized delicacy, has been shown to be a major cause of food-related allergy in Singapore. Even intensive exercise or a drastic drop in temperature can trigger asthma! 10

Due to common misconceptions about asthma, or even through misdiagnosis from unreliable "allergy-testing", many asthmatic children may suffer from poor growth and development and an impaired quality of life for both themselves and their families. With scary stories of people dying from a sudden asthma attack triggered by peanuts, food-allergy-caused asthma figures have been inflated. Actually, according to the Children's Medical Institute at the National University Hospital (NUH), food allergens only trigger 6 to 8 per cent of childhood asthma and 1 per cent of adult asthma. 15 20

Due to the misconceptions, some parents restrict food such as cold drinks and chocolate to prevent asthma or allergy. This is a misconception as both irritate the airways and cause coughing, which may be mistaken as early signs of asthma. 25

What then should be done to prevent asthma? Early identification and treatment of asthma can prevent aggravating symptoms, and allow asthmatics to enjoy life as much as non-asthmatics.

Adapted from Eng. K. Breathe easy. *Lifestyle*, May 2006.

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. Which of the following statements is correct?
- (1) Only children suffer from asthma.
 - (2) Asthma will result in breathlessness and wheezing.
 - (3) Food-allergy-caused asthma figures have been exaggerated to scare people.
 - (4) Intensive exercises cause a drop in body temperature which triggers an asthmatic attack.
27. According to the passage, the main cause of asthma is attributed to _____ conditions.
- (1) genetic
 - (2) physical
 - (3) environmental
 - (4) socio-economic
28. Asthma can be triggered by _____.
- (1) eating peanuts
 - (2) eating chocolate
 - (3) drinking cold drinks
 - (4) inhaling dust particles
29. Many asthmatic children may suffer from poor growth and development as _____.
- (1) they are made to undergo intensive exercise
 - (2) their parents misapprehend the cause of asthma
 - (3) there are many asthma cases caused by food allergy
 - (4) there are many scary stories of people dying from a sudden asthma attack
30. Asthma can be prevented by _____.
- (1) exercising regularly
 - (2) refraining from eating bird's nest
 - (3) modifying one's lifestyle and undergoing treatment
 - (4) consuming food that promotes growth and development

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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAM (2006)
PRIMARY SIX
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)
BOOKLET B

Name: _____ ()

Class: Primary Six _____

50 Questions
(65 Marks)

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

Components	Marks
Booklet A	
Booklet B	
TOTAL	

Parent's
Signature: _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Follow all instructions carefully.

Answer all questions.

Write your answers in this booklet.

This booklet consists of 8 printed pages.

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 in order to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

(A) and	(D) as	(G) from	(K) of	(N) that
(B) about	(E) at	(H) if	(L) outside	(P) where
(C) around	(F) by	(J) into	(M) on	(Q) with

A FESTIVAL OF SOUND AND FIRE

We will spend five exciting days in the city (31) _____ everything is a party. Musical groups enliven the streets (32) _____ the men and women of Valencia parade (33) _____ in traditional costumes, and the nights come alive (34) _____ breathtaking displays (35) _____ fireworks.

All this hustle (36) _____ bustle is quietened only (37) _____ the so-called *masclètà*. It is a Valencian-style spectacle of sound and light that we can watch (38) _____ a prime spot because we will be staying at the four-star hotel located in the plaza right (39) _____ the town hall.

The festivities conclude on the night of St. Joseph, when the 350 *fallas* spread around the city are burned and Valencia becomes the city of fire. It is a moment that blends emotion and sadness as people start thinking (40) _____ the *falla* they will build for next year as they bid goodbye to this year's creations.

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

Confucius is long considered as China's pre-eminent teacher, whose
41.
phillosophy and moral teachings have been the country's guide to life for millennia.

42.
Following the teachings is Professor Chew Cheng Hai, where entire professional life

43.
has been devoted as Chinese language education in Singapore. Whether it is

44.
teaching or training in various educational institutions, or driving the compilation of

a global Chinese dictionary, Professor Chew has been there.

His contributions have been enormous and far-reaching, and he has trained
45. 46.

newmerous Chinese language teachers. With his leadership, both the centre of
47.

Chinese Language and Culture and NIE's Chinese Division flourised. He has also
48.

servng in numerous national committees on Chinese language teaching and review.
49.

Professor Chew was also responsible for setting off the Confucius Institute at
50.

NTU. The idea was floated by China in 2004 – Professor Chew saw the potensal
benefits that such an institute would bring to NTU, and pushed for its implementation.

Fill in the blanks with the most suitable answer. (15 marks)

Puppets go way back. Perhaps it all started in a cave during the Paleolithic Age when dancing shadows from a bonfire (51) _____ someone laugh and it became a primitive marionette. Since that magical moment, automatons, moving giants and string puppets have found a place among the range of human fantasies.

The European (52) _____, made of string and used on a stage, is known as *little Mary* because the first female figures were inspired (53) _____ representations of the Virgin. They are coquettish ladies (54) _____ rosy cheeks.

The beautiful stiff puppets of Java, Bali and Malaysia are (55) _____ puppets that sometimes reach human-like dimensions. A wooden rod gives them a backbone and a solemn look unlike the graceful puppets of Europe. During religious (56) _____, they are used to represent scenes of the abundant Hindu mythology almost always accompanied by ritual *gamelan* music, and colourful ceremonial *wayang* dancing.

In other (57) _____ of Indonesia, people preserve the *dalang* tradition involving Bali puppets representing irreverent stories blending Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim mythology and the imagination of the artisan. Agile string puppets dance and jump on a (58) _____.

Even more unique are Vietnamese water puppets, so called because the base – wooden poles that make up their spine – is submerged in a large bowl of (59) _____. The masters sit behind a clear screen, with water up to the waist, (60) _____ manipulate their puppets of articulated wood. As these beautiful creatures fly around the stage, (61) _____ plays with deep Vietnamese drums, vertical flutes and two-string violins.

And there are the old *bunraku* theatres of the Japanese city of Osaka. Many (62) _____ this to be the most refined kind of puppets in the (63) _____. Here the trickery is in plain view: the puppeteer handles the puppets before the (64) _____. Some are so big that the puppeteer (65) _____ help from a couple of aides. Working in semi-darkness, the puppet masters wear garb reminiscent of Imperial Japan (helpers in black, almost invisible), while the puppets wear gauze and light kimonos.

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. Mandy is rich. Mandy is smart.

Not only _____

67. Both Tom and Jerry failed to turn up for the party.

Neither _____

68. Although he is old, he behaves immaturely.

Despite _____

69. Shaun must obtain his parents' consent. He can go to Little India with the class.

Unless _____

70. "Why do you want to do this?" Tom asked.

Tom asked _____

Read the passage below and answer questions 71 to 80. (20 marks)

This is the true tale of a warthog, a tough charismatic animal that is common to the (African) savannah. This particular individual lived in the Sabi Sands Game Reserve, South Africa, residing in and around the lodge, where he fed on the green grass of the camp lawns and leftovers from the kitchen. Over time, he had lost his natural fear of humans and has become something of a camp mascot.

5

Late one afternoon, he was strolling through his "home" turf in the lodge gardens when he was surprised by a hungry lioness. He tried to escape, but only made it as far as the river before she caught him.

However, the lioness gained only a tenuous grip, and a battle of raw power and endurance began. The fight raged up and down, with the advantage swinging first this way and then that, and each opponent trying every move they knew. The warthog battered with his (tough, bony head and slashed with his tusks,) while the lioness bit and savaged with tooth and claw.

10

After about 45 minutes, in a final do-or-die effort, the warthog caught the lioness off-guard. He landed a devastating blow that sent the cat sprawling into the water, forcing her to retreat lest she herself became the victim.

15

With the adrenaline wearing off, the hog crept under the breakfast deck and collapsed. The next day, the lioness returned and waited for him to make his move. The warthog escaped to the north, running through the camp where human activity deterred the lioness from pursuing him. But as he ran, he crashed into trees and rocks, because the severe swelling around his eyes had sealed them shut. Indeed the lioness had inflicted such wounds that he would never again see the light of day.

20

On a warm day, a month later, a bizarre creature strolled into the camp. It was clearly the same animal, but with massive swellings where his eyes should have been. He was navigating skilfully by smell alone, using footpaths and game trails to move between his burrow in the bush and his feeding grounds around the camp.

25

To the camp staff, he became a symbol of strength, courage and determination. He was, however, **living on borrowed time**. Five months later, the same lioness crossed his path and battled him again. This time, he did not win. Yet the legend of "Samson the Great", as he was dubbed by the local staff, lives on in the area and in the hearts and minds of those who were privy to his story.

30

Adapted from Marais, L. You Only Live Twice. BBC Wildlife, January 2006.

ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

71. Which country did this tale take place in?

72. Why was the warthog not afraid of humans?

73. How did the warthog defend himself?

74. Why did the lioness choose to withdraw from the battle?

75. Who does the phrase "bizarre creature" (line 23) refer to?

76. Why was the lioness hesitant about following the warthog into the camp?

77. What permanent injury did the warthog suffer in his fight with the lioness?

78. How did the warthog find his way around the camp after his fight with the lioness?

79. Why did the narrator say that the warthog was "living on borrowed time" (line 28)?

80. Which word in the passage has the same meaning as "icon"?

END OF PAPER

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7. 3	14. 2	21. 4	28. 4	

31. (P) where	35. (K) of	39. (L) outside
32. (D) as	36. (A) and	40. (B) about
33. (C) around	37. (F) by	
34. (Q) with	38. (G) from	

41. philosophy	45. numerous	49. up
42. whose	46. Under	50. potential
43. to	47. flourished	
44. compilation	48. served	

Accepted	Unaccepted
51. made	
52. puppet	
53. by	
54. with	
55. large / big	
56. festivals	
57. parts	
58. stage	
59. water	
60. and	
61. music	
62. consider	
63. world	
64. audience	
65. needs	

66. Not only is Mandy rich but smart.
67. Neither Tom nor Jerry turned up for the party.
68. Despite his old age / being old, he behaves immaturely.
69. Unless Shaun obtains his parents' consent, he cannot go to Little India with the class.
70. Tom asked me why I wanted to do that.

Comprehension

71. It took place in South Africa.
72. The warthog had often been fed by the humans (with the leftovers from the kitchen).
73. The warthog rammed into the lioness with his tough, bony head and tusks.
74. She was afraid that she might fall into the river.
75. It refers to the warthog.
76. She might be killed by the human beings. *Or*
She did not like the presence of humans.
77. The warthog was blinded.
78. He navigated solely by smell.
79. Though the warthog managed to survive in his first battle with the lioness, he died. *Or*
The warthog had a physical handicap which would make him an easy prey for other predators.
80. The word is "symbol".

Setter: Ms Seah Hui Ling