

FORM 1

ENGLISH
LISTENING COMPREHENSION

TIME: 15 minutes

Teacher's Paper

Instructions for the conduct of the Listening Comprehension Examination

The teacher should instruct the candidates to answer the questions on the paper provided. The following procedure for reading the Listening Comprehension passage is to be explained to the candidates immediately before proceeding with the examination.

You have been given a sheet containing the Listening Comprehension questions. You will be given three minutes to read the questions based on the passage. I shall then read the passage at normal reading speed. You may take notes during the reading. After this reading there will be a pause of another three minutes to allow you to answer some of the questions. The passage will be read a second time and you may take further notes and answer the rest of the questions. After this second reading you will be given a further three minutes for a final revision of the answers.

- a. 3 minutes – Students read questions
- b. 3 minutes – Teacher reads passage aloud for the first time while students take notes
- c. 3 minutes – Students answer questions
- d. 3 minutes – Teacher reads passage for the second time. Students may answer more questions.
- e. 3 minutes – Students revise final answers.

Teacher's Paper

You are going to listen to Kim Smith talking about London's Tower Bridge.

London's Tower Bridge is one of the most famous bridges in the world.

Plans for Tower Bridge were made around 1876 when the east of London became too crowded and a bridge across the Thames in that area of the city seemed necessary. It took another eight years before construction of the bridge started.

The bridge was ready in 1894. The 265-metre long bridge was built by 450 workers. 11,000 tons of steel were used to build the framework. At first many people disliked its design, but over time the bridge became one of London's most loved symbols.

Since it is near the harbour and it is close to the sea, the bridge had to be made in such a way that it would allow large ships to pass. Therefore, the designers decided to create a bridge which could be opened. The mechanism to open the bridge is hidden in the two towers. Steam power was used until 1976, when the mechanism started to work by electricity. It used to open almost 50 times a day for ships to pass through, but nowadays it is only raised about 1,000 times a year.

Visitors can check the bridge's website to find out when it is going to be raised or lowered.

Lots of tourists take photographs of Tower Bridge but you can also go inside the bridge, where you'll have a magnificent view over London.

Inside the bridge you can also visit the Tower Bridge Exhibition, a display area that includes the walkway and the two famous towers where you can see the engine room. Visitors can learn about the history of the bridge through photos, films and other media.

At present the bridge is undergoing a renovation project that should be completed this year.

FORM 1

**ENGLISH
 LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

TIME: 15 minutes

Name: _____

Index No: _____

Class: _____

1. Show whether the following statements are **TRUE (T)** or **FALSE (F)** by ticking (✓) the correct column. (4 marks)

| T | F |
|----------|----------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

- a) The plans for the Tower Bridge were made in 1876.
 b) People still dislike the design of the Tower Bridge.
 c) The mechanism to open the bridge is in one of the towers.
 d) You can also go inside the bridge.

In Questions 2 and 3 tick (✓) the correct answer.

2. How many workers built the Tower Bridge? (2 marks)

| |
|--|
| |
| |
| |
| |

- a) 45
 b) 400
 c) 450
 d) 500

3. Where can you see the timetable showing the times when the bridge is opened and closed? (2 marks)

| |
|--|
| |
| |
| |

- a) In the newspaper.
 b) On the noticeboard.
 c) On the bridge's website.

4. Fill in with words from the passage. (2 marks)

- a) From the bridge you can see a magnificent _____.
 b) The bridge is being restored and should be ready this _____.

FORM 1

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
COMPREHENSION TEXTS

SECTION B – READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and then answer the questions on the Language Paper.

History of the Pencil

Pencils are found everywhere! However, it's sometimes very difficult to find a sharpened one when you need it! As pencils are so useful and common, they are taken for granted. And yet, pencils are one of the greatest inventions of all times.



- 5 The history of the pencil starts with a violent storm in England in the sixteenth century. During the storm, a large tree was uprooted. Under the tree the local people saw an unknown black substance. It was shiny, soft and smooth and it left a black mark on their hands when they touched it.
- 10 At first, farmers used this strange substance to mark their sheep. However, people quickly realised that they could use it to write on paper. But it was very messy, so people wrapped pieces of sheepskin or rope around a thin stick of the substance. Later, this substance was called graphite.
- 15 It was the Italians who first invented the wooden covering to hold a thin stick of graphite to make it easy to write with. They made a hole in two pieces of wood and placed the graphite in the middle. They then glued the pieces together to form a pencil.
- 20 The first mass-produced pencils were not painted, to show off the beautiful wood covering. But by the 1890s, many pencil-makers started painting pencils and printing brand names on them. There's an interesting story about why pencils started being painted yellow. That bright colour isn't just so you can find a pencil on your desk more easily! During the 1800s, the best graphite in the world came from China. Pencil-makers wanted a special way to tell people that their pencils contained Chinese graphite. In China, the colour yellow reminds people of the royal family. Pencil-makers began painting their pencils bright yellow to suggest this "royal" feeling and association with China. Even today, most pencils sold are still painted yellow. However,
- 25 nowadays yellow pencils have become very common and they do not remind us of kings and queens.

Adapted from an article by Edwin Drummond and text from <http://www.pencils.com>

FORM 1

ENGLISH

TIME: 2 hours

Name: _____

Index No: _____

Class: _____

| Oral Assessment | Listening Comprehension | Written Paper | Total |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------|
| | | | |

SECTION A: LANGUAGE

15 MARKS

1. **Bill has just started a new job at a hotel and is talking to Karen. Complete the dialogue by writing questions starting with who, what, where, why, when and how. The first one (0) has been done for you.** (6 marks)

Karen: Hello! I'm Karen. (0) **What's your name?**

Bill: Hi! My name is Bill.

Karen: Welcome to the hotel, Bill.

Bill: Thanks Karen. (1) _____

Karen: Andrew is the manager. He's also in charge of the bar.

Bill: (2) _____

Karen: He's very kind and friendly. (3) _____

Bill: I'm going to start working here next week.

Karen: That's interesting. (4) _____

Bill: I'm excited. (5) _____

Karen: I'm from Australia. (6) _____

Bill: I came to Malta because my parents used to live here and I wanted to live on this beautiful island.

2. Read the story and fill in the blanks with the words in the box. You can use each word only once. The first one (0) has been done for you.

| | | | | |
|-----|------------|---------|-------------|-------|
| but | and | but | as a result | since |
| so | because of | because | while | |

A man argued with his wife (0) because his toast was burnt. (1)_____ he left home later than usual. (2)_____ he was late for work, he drove very fast. (3)_____ he was going round a corner, a dog ran across the road. The man stamped on the brakes (4)_____ the car skidded because of the slippery road. The man lost control of the car (5)_____ crashed into a lorry. The lorry was not damaged (6)_____ the car was almost destroyed. All this happened (7)_____ the burnt toast! The man was suffering from shock, (8)_____ he had to be taken to hospital.

3. Complete the following story by filling in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in brackets. The first one (0) has been done for you. (5 marks)

Ms Borg (0) started (start) following a diet two months ago. She (1)_____ (be) very slim a few years ago but now she (2)_____ (be) overweight. Ms. Borg feels that she (3)_____ (not have) much energy now. She (4)_____ (read) about this new diet in the newspaper. It (5)_____ (be) very simple to follow. Her friends (6)_____ (do) the same thing now. They only (7)_____ (eat) one meal a day and drink a lot of water as this (8)_____ (help) them to lose weight. On weekdays, Ms Borg usually (9)_____ (have) a salad and she (10)_____ (not have) any dessert.

SECTION B: READING COMPREHENSION

Read “History of the Pencil” which is on a separate sheet, and then answer the following questions.

1. Underline the correct answer in Questions a and b. (1 mark)
 - a) The passage is about
 - i) a sharpened pencil.
 - ii) a terrible storm.
 - iii) the making of a pencil.
 - iv) a yellow pencil.
 - b) A pencil is considered to be (1 mark)
 - i) of great use.
 - ii) out of fashion.
 - iii) printed always with a brand name.
 - iv) made in China only.
2. List **THREE** important things which happened as a result of the violent storm in England. (3 marks)
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
3. Write down the **FOUR** words in the passage which describe the black substance. (2 marks)
 - a) _____ b) _____
 - c) _____ d) _____
4. What was the name given to the black substance? (1 mark)

5. List **TWO** uses of graphite as described in the passage. (2 marks)
 - a) _____
 - b) _____

6. Continue the sentence below with words from the passage.

So as not to dirty their hands when writing on paper, people _____

7. Describe how the pencil is formed by referring to lines 14-16. (1½ marks)

8. What do the following words refer to in the passage? (2 ½ marks)

a) one (line 2) _____

b) it (line 8) _____

c) their (line 10) _____

d) They (line 16) _____

e) their (line 23) _____

9. Find a word in the passage which means the same as: (2 marks)

a) easy to find (para 1) _____

b) below (para 2) _____

c) stuck (para 4) _____

d) produced in big numbers (para 5) _____

10. List **TWO** reasons why pencils were painted yellow. (2 marks)

a) _____

b) _____

SECTION C: LITERATURE

PART I: POETRY – Unprepared Text

10

SUMMER GOES

by *Russell Hoban*

Summer goes, summer goes
Like the sand between my toes
When the waves go out,
That's how summer pulls away,
Leaves me standing here today,
Waiting for the school bus.



Summer brought, summer brought
All the frogs that I have caught,
Frogging at the pond,
Hot dogs, flowers, shells and rocks,
Postcards in my postcard box –
Places far away.



Summer took, summer took
All the lessons in my book,
Blew them far away.
I forgot the things I knew –
Arithmetic and spelling too,
Never thought about them.



Summer's gone, summer's gone –
Autumn and winter coming on,
Frosty in the morning.
Here's the school bus right on time.
I'm not really sad that I'm
Going back to school.

1. Describe the child's **feelings** in the poem by choosing the correct word from the box.

(2 marks)

| | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|
| forget | happy | remembers | change |
|--------|-------|-----------|--------|

- a) **In the first stanza** the child feels a sudden _____ because now s/he has to go back to school after summer.
- b) **In the second stanza** the child _____ all the things that he/she enjoyed in summer.
- c) **In the third stanza** the speaker feels amazed **at** the way summer time made him/her _____ the things learnt at school.
- d) **In the fourth stanza** the child thinks that even though school is starting s/he still feels _____.

2. Fill in the table below.

| List TWO things that summer brought . | List TWO things that summer took away . |
|---|---|
| a) | a) |
| b) | b) |

3. a) Write a simile from the poem. (1 mark)

b) Fill in the blanks in the sentence below. (2 marks)

In this simile, the poet compares the way summer ends to the feeling of _____ moving under your feet when you are standing in the _____.

4. a) *"Summer took, summer took
All the lessons in my book,"* (1 mark)

The above is an example of a _____.

b) In the lines above we imagine that summer is a _____ who takes away the child's _____ and throws them away. (2 marks)

PART II: PROSE – Unprepared Text

10 MARKS

And now a queer thing happened to him. Billy was in the act of stepping back and turning away from the window when all at once his eye was caught and held in the most peculiar manner by the small notice that was there. BED AND BREAKFAST, it said. BED AND BREAKFAST, BED AND BREAKFAST, BED AND BREAKFAST. Each word was like a large black eye staring at him through the glass, holding him, compelling him, forcing him to stay where he was and not to walk away from that house, and the next thing he knew, he was actually moving across from the window to the front door of the house, climbing the steps that led up to it, and reaching for the bell.

He pressed the bell. Far away in a back room he heard it ringing, and then at once - it must have been at once because he hadn't even had time to take his finger from the bell button - the door swung open and a woman was standing there. Normally you ring the bell and you have at least a half-minute's wait before the door opens. But this lady was like a jack-in-the-box. He pressed the bell - and out she popped! It made him jump.

1. Why didn't Billy turn away from the window? (1 mark)

2. What is each of the words of the small notice compared to? (1 mark)

3. What effect did the small notice have on Billy?

4. What is the woman who opened the door compared to? (1 mark)

5. Why does the writer make this comparison? (2 marks)

6. What effect does the woman have upon Billy? (1 mark)

7. From the second paragraph, find **TWO** words that suggest sudden movement. (2 marks)

SECTION D: COMPOSITION

25 MARKS

Write between 100 and 150 words on **ONE** of the following:

1. Look at the picture below and write a story about it.

The following words may help you:

birthday, cake, candles, party, friends, family, camera, photo, enjoy, sing



2. Your English friend is visiting Malta in the summer holidays. Write a letter telling him/her about some places of interest in Malta and Gozo which you enjoy visiting. Your address is 19, Valley Street, Mosta. MST 1032
3. Continue the story: The girl ran up the stairs shouting “She’s here! She’s here!” ...

