

FORM 2

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.

FORM 2

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LISTENING COMPREHENSION

TIME: 15 minutes

Lighthouses

Storms have driven many thousands of sailing ships onto hidden rocks and, as a result, many sailors and passengers have lost their lives. In the past, families used to light fires or used lamps to help their loved ones reach shore. Later, great fires on primitive buildings helped guide sailors into safe harbours.

The first known lighthouse was built about 280 BC. It stood on the island of Pharos in the harbour at Alexandria in Egypt, one of the richest cities in the world at that time. Indeed, the Pharos lighthouse was so spectacular that it became one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. It was over 100 metres high and ships at sea could see the light from its tower from over 50 km away. The Pharos lighthouse survived many earthquakes and other natural disasters for over 1500 years. However, a devastating earthquake in the fourteenth century finally destroyed the lighthouse.

Until the late eighteenth century, burning wood, coal or large candles were used to produce the lighthouses' warning lights. However, in 1782 Ami Argand, a Swiss man (ironically from a country with no coastline at all), invented a new device that burnt oil and produced a clear bright flame. Mirrors were put behind the light to increase the strength of the beam.

A further improvement in 1822 was a lens which, when placed in front of the light, sent out an extraordinarily powerful beam. This lens could rotate to give a revolving beam that looked to a distant observer like a flashing light. Different speeds of rotation and different colour patterns meant that each lighthouse gave off a different series of flashes. With this system sailors could tell one lighthouse from another to identify their exact position at sea.

Britain's most famous lighthouse is the Eddystone, built in 1698. This lighthouse stands on a rock 13 miles away from Plymouth. Keepers of lighthouses like the Eddystone found life lonely and very difficult in the past. Keepers tended to work all on their own for a period of two months before having time off ashore. They required patience as well as bravery to stand the harsh conditions of their work.

Today, lighthouses are all automatic and powered by electricity. Modern technology means inspectors can run the lighthouses from shore and maintenance crews visit remote lighthouses by helicopter only when they need to do repairs.



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Name: _____ **Index No:** _____ **Class:** _____

A. Put a tick (✓) in the correct box according to whether the statement is TRUE (T) or FALSE (F). 3 marks []

1. Pharos is the name of an island in Egypt.
2. The Pharos lighthouse can still be visited nowadays.
3. Ami Argand lived by the sea.
4. The flashing light of each lighthouse is different.
5. In the past, a lighthouse keeper had a difficult job.
6. Nowadays, lighthouse inspectors live in lighthouses.

T	F

B. Fill in the blanks with the following words, numbers or dates. You will not need to use all the words, numbers or dates. 3 marks []

14th	18th	lamps	lens	mirror
1500	280 B.C	1698	1782	1822

1. Years ago, families lit fires and _____ to guide sailors home.
2. The Pharos lighthouse was built in Alexandria in _____.
3. The Pharos lighthouse was destroyed in the _____ century.
4. To strengthen the beam of light, Ami Argand placed a _____ behind the flame.
5. The rotating lens was invented in _____.
6. The Eddystone lighthouse was built near Plymouth in _____.

C. What do the following refer to? 4 marks []

1. 100 metres: _____
2. 50 kilometres: _____
3. 13 miles: _____
4. 2 months: _____

(10 marks)

FORM 2

ENGLISH

Time: 2 hours

Name: _____ Index No: _____ Class: _____

Marks			
Oral Assessment	Listening Comprehension	Written Paper	Total

A. Fill in the blanks with a word from the box. Use each word/phrase only ONCE.

any	more	much	many	the
few	a few	little	a little	a

The Scott family is preparing for a picnic.

Mrs Scott: What else shall we take for lunch? There's very (1) _____ room left in the picnic basket.

Mr Scott: Let's take some (2) _____ fruit and maybe (3) _____ more sandwiches too.

Mrs Scott: And we mustn't forget to take (4) _____ cartons of juice I bought yesterday.

Mr Scott: How (5) _____ cartons did you buy?

Mrs Scott: Three. You know how thirsty the children get.

Mr Scott: Are you sure we're doing the right thing? I mean, we have hardly had (6) _____ days without rain this week.

Mrs Scott: Don't worry. It won't be cold and according to the weather forecast, there will only be (7) _____ rain in the evening.

Mr Scott: Where are we going to go? Let's choose (8) _____ place we haven't been to already.

Mrs Scott: How about Beaver Wood? There are usually (9) _____ people there at this time of year, so we can be sure of a peaceful day as there wouldn't be (10) _____ noise.

(5 marks)

B. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form. The first one (0) has been done for you.

My cousin Sarah (0) is (be) a keen sportswoman. During the last few years, she (1) _____ (win) many judo competitions. Sarah (2) _____ (begin) judo when she (3) _____ (be) 10 years old because she (4) _____ (want) to compete with her brother. He (5) _____ (participate) in the National Championship the year before. To prepare for the 2008 Olympics, she (6) _____ (not take) time off from school but still (7) _____ (train) for up to five hours a day. Now she is 18 and she (8) _____ (study) hard for her exams next month. However, she still (9) _____ (practise) every day – though now it is only four times a week. She (10) _____ (look forward) to participating in the next Olympic Games!



(5 marks)

C. Fill in the blanks with a word from the box. Some of the words need to be put into the plural form.

furniture	tin	knife	tomato	advice
object	money	rubbish	collection	news

Who became famous for painting a (1) _____ of soup? The answer is the American pop artist, Andy Warhol. Andy painted everyday (2) _____ and he also liked to collect them in large numbers: cooking jars, vases, forks and (3) _____, paintings and (4) _____. Andy died in 1987 and his vast (5) _____ was sold. Someone paid \$23,000 for two cookie jars that cost a few dollars each. A chair was sold for \$300,000. The sale raised (6) _____ for the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, which now has \$100 million! So, before you clear out your cupboards at home, take another look. What you think is (7) _____ today, might be treasure tomorrow. The good (8) _____ is that grandma's ugly, old painting of a man selling oranges and (9) _____ may be more valuable than you think. Therefore, some good (10) _____ is 'don't throw anything away'!

(5 marks)

D. Fill in the blanks with a suitable word. The first one (0) has been done for you.

My Uncle Arnold, who used to live in Spain, has returned (0) to Malta to live with my grandparents. I have never met anyone (1) _____ him. First of all, he looks like a movie (2) _____. He is very good-looking and is taller (3) _____ Dad even though they are brothers. Uncle Arnold (4) _____ 26 years old and has light brown eyes that crinkle at the corners (5) _____ he smiles. He speaks Maltese, English and Spanish very (6) _____. I (7) _____ I could speak three languages! Now, Uncle Arnold is teaching me to play Spanish folk songs (8) _____ his guitar. I was worried that Uncle Arnold wouldn't be happy in our little town, (9) _____ he has already settled down and has also started a dominoes club every Wednesday night. Uncle Arnold seems to feel right (10) _____ home here.

(5 marks)

E. Comprehension. Read the following passage carefully.

Comics

5 It was something we looked forward to each week. Every Friday we would hurry to the newsagent round the corner and for 15 cents each, my mother would buy *The Beano* for me and *The Dandy* for my sister. We probably did not yet know how to read the speech bubbles – and I secretly suspect that our parents bought them more for themselves than for us – but we loved them too and shared **their** enthusiasm. At bedtime mum would read out the stories, acting out the plots with different voices, squeals and squeaks.

10 Whenever we went to my granny's we'd rush up to the washroom straight to the 'junk trunk' which was a box full of **odds and ends** that had belonged to my mother and aunt when they were young. Our favourite treasure was the *June and School Friend* comics' collection, with comic strip stories about Zanna, The Silent 3, and so many others.

15 With their simple stories of good versus evil, comic book characters such as Superman, Batman and Spiderman are now popular as film characters. However, few youngsters nowadays realise that **these heroes** first appeared in comics.

Collecting comics is nowadays big business. Hundreds of old comics change hands every day at car boot fairs and jumble sales, and collectors buy and sell many thousands more at auctions and through internet sites.

20 True collectors of comics do not just buy them to make a profit. They admire the look and feel of the drawings. They love the stories – the tales of adventure, the search for lost treasure... Many famous authors wrote for comic books – Arthur Conan Doyle, Jules Verne, and Talbot



Baines Read, for example, all wrote their first stories for comics.

25 You can read a modern comic from cover to cover in ten minutes, but the old comics provide hours of entertainment. These comics gave a child the chance to curl up in front of the fire or sit in the garden and for an hour or two one could be a pirate in the southern oceans, an explorer in the jungle, or a highwayman like Dick Turpin riding on Black Bess into the sunset.

30 The first comics were for boys and started to appear and grew in popularity between 1830 and 1840, as the number of people who could read started to grow in Britain. Moreover, as paper became cheaper and printing technology improved, newspaper **vendors** sold the comics for just a penny each.

35 At first, very few of the stories were original. Most were simply versions of the stories that were popular at the time. However, the quality of the comics improved and by the early 1900s new comics, like *The Rainbow* for younger readers, entered the market. These told their stories in 'comic strip' format with a lot of colour. As competition in the market increased, comics started to give away free gifts with their first issues. Today, these are very rare and are also collectors' items.

Although comics were still popular in the 1960s and 1970s, teenage readers began to move towards glossy magazines. Radio and TV eventually killed off the comic as a popular form of entertainment.

40 Comics are no longer popular but the passion for collecting them will last forever. So, if you find any old comics hidden away, do not throw them out for recycling. Check the covers for the date when they were published. If you are looking at anything published before 1960 carefully store the comics away. One day they may be worth a fortune. And even if not, you will certainly enjoy the wonderful stories that you will be able to read there.

Adapted extracts from the articles 'Crash! Boom! Bang! Inside the world of comics' by Kristina Chetcuti and 'Collecting Old Comics' by Rory Gear.

Answer the following questions.

1. Put a tick (✓) in the correct box according to whether the statement is TRUE (T) or FALSE (F). **3 marks []**

- | | T | F |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|
| a. The author's parents enjoyed reading the comics. | | |
| b. Zanna, Superman and Spiderman are all comic book characters. | | |
| c. Arthur Conan Doyle and Jules Verne wrote stories for comics. | | |
| d. Modern comics have more material to read than old comics. | | |
| e. The first comics were for boys. | | |
| f. The first comics contained some stories that had never been read before. | | |

2. Mention **four** places from where you can buy old comics. **2 marks []**

- a. _____ c. _____
b. _____ d. _____

3. Give **two** reasons why collectors buy old comics. **2 marks** []

- a. _____
- b. _____

4. Mention **six** different adventure stories you could read in old comics. **3 marks** []

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

5. Why did comics become popular in the 1830s? **2 marks** []

- a. _____
- b. _____

6. In what **two** ways was *The Rainbow* different from the earlier 19th century comics? **2 marks** []

- a. _____
- b. _____

7. Apart from comics, what do collectors also collect, according to the article? **1 mark** []

8. Why did comics become less popular? **1 mark** []

9. Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage. **3 marks** []

- a. junk (line 9): _____
- b. odds and ends (line 10): _____
- c. vendors (line 29): _____

10. What do the following words refer to in the text? **1 mark** []

- a. their (line 6): _____
- b. these heroes (line 15): _____

(20 marks)

F. Literature

Answer all Sections.

SECTION 1 - PROSE/DRAMA

- a. Choose **two** of the novels/short stories/plays you read in class this year.

What are the titles of the novels/short stories/plays?

Book 1 - Title: _____

Book 2 - Title: _____

- b. Describe a minor character (i.e. a character that is **not** the protagonist) in each of the two books mentioned above. 8 marks []

Book 1 - Character's Name: _____

Book 2 - Character's Name: _____

- c. Which of the books mentioned above would you recommend to a friend? Give **two** reasons for your answer. 2 marks []

(10 marks)

SECTION 2 – POETRY: Answer all the questions.

1. Unprepared Poem: ‘Road Up’ by Norman Nicholson

	What’s wrong with the road? Why all this hush? – They’ve given an anaesthetic* In the lunch-hour rush.	10	Surgeons in shirt-sleeves Bend over the patient, Intent on a major Operation.
5	They’ve shaved off the tarmac With a pneumatic drill, And bandaged the traffic To a dead standstill.	15	Don’t dare sneeze! Don’t dare shout! The road is having Its appendix out.

* An anaesthetic is a drug which makes a person lose consciousness or causes loss of feeling to a part of a person’s body.

- a. Tick the correct answer. ½ mark []

The poet is

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | i. describing an operation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ii. writing a humorous poem. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | iii. telling us to be silent. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | iv. making fun of doctors. |

- b. Give the rhyming pattern of the first stanza. ½ mark []

- c. (i) Find and quote **two** figures of speech in the second stanza. 1 mark []

1. _____

2. _____

- (ii) Choose **one** of the above figures of speech and explain what the poet means.

1 mark []

- d. Who are the ‘Surgeons in shirt-sleeves’ and who is the ‘patient’ in lines 9-10?

1 mark []

- e. “The road is having/ Its appendix out.” (lines 15 – 16) What do you think the poet is describing in the last two lines of the poem? 1 mark []
