

Class Number

Candidate's Name

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**MID YEAR EXAMINATION  
SECONDARY ONE EXPRESS**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**1127/2**

**(Paper 2) Language Use and Comprehension**  
*ONLY*

**8 May 2006**

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.  
No additional materials are required

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**TIME** 1 hour 40 minutes

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Write your name, Class and Index Number in the spaces at the top of this page and in the spaces provided on the separate answer paper.

Answer all questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided on the Question Paper.

Hand in the Question Paper and the Insert separately.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

The total marks for this paper is 50.

The insert contains the comprehension passages for Section 2.

This question paper consists of 6 printed pages.

Set by: Wong GK

[Turn over

**SECTION 1 [10MARKS]**

**Fill in each blank with a suitable word.**

**Write each answer in the space provided in the passage.**

As the plane circled over the airport, everyone \_\_\_\_\_ [1] that something was wrong. The plane was moving unsteadily \_\_\_\_\_ [2] the air, and although the \_\_\_\_\_ [3] Had fastened their seat belts, they were suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ [4] forward. At that moment, the air-hostess \_\_\_\_\_ [5]. She looked very pale, but was quite \_\_\_\_\_ [6]. Speaking quickly but almost in a whisper, she informed \_\_\_\_\_ [7] that the pilot had fainted and asked if any of the passengers knew anything about machines or at least how to \_\_\_\_\_ [8] a car. After a moment's \_\_\_\_\_ [9], a man got up and followed the \_\_\_\_\_ [10] into the pilot's cabin.

**Section 2 [40 marks]**

**Questions 1 –7 are from Passage A**

**From paragraph 1**

1 (a) Give one word or a short phrase to describe the driver who had given Hari a lift in the bullock cart [1]

(b) Give one piece of evidence to support your description [2]

2. What does the man with the bullock cart use the whip for? [1]

**From paragraphs 2**

3 "He sat clutching the sides and pushed his feet against the ledge." (line 11-12)

Explain clearly why Hari clutched the sides and pushed his feet against the ledge. [2]

**From paragraph 3**

- 4 (a) Explain, in your own words, what was it that '*astonished*' Hari when he was at Rewas [2]

- (b) From the description of the fishing boats as they "*bobbed up and down wildly*", what is the condition of the sea. [1]

**From paragraph 5**

- 5 "... *all the boats had been loaded and were setting out like a shoal of dolphins over the waves.*" (line 33-34)  
What does the author want to convey by comparing the boats to "*a shoal of dolphins*"? [2]

**From paragraph 6**

- 6 Explain, in your own words, why no one paid any attention to Hari when he was in the boat. [2]

- 7 (a) Give three reasons that caused Hari to leave Thul. [3]

- (b) What did Hari hope to achieve by leaving Thul [1]

**From paragraph 7**

- 8 *“Was he really ready for that? He hesitated. Then he looked back over his shoulder at the flat marshy coast of Rewas, too far for him to reach. Putting his head down on his knees, he closed his eyes in despair.”*  
(line48-51)

(a) What was in Hari’s mind when “he looked back over his shoulder” [1]

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(b) Explain how he felt after looking back. [1]

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(c) Why did he feel this way? [2]

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**From paragraph 8**

- 9 Why was Hari unable to quench his thirst even though his throat was dry? [2]

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**From paragraph 10**

- 10 *“He would have liked to stand and stare as he disembarked from the boat at the docks . . .”*

Give two reasons why Hari did not stop “to stand and stare” although he would have liked to do that. [2]

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- 11 For each of the following words, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) that has the same meaning that the word has in the passage. [5]

**From passage A**

- (a) stiff (line 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) hailed (line 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) lurched (line 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) edged (line 23) \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) strenuous (line 56) \_\_\_\_\_

**Use material only from Passage B**

- 12 The passage describes what the author and his family went through on the last day, before the fall of Singapore in World War Two.

Fill in the events on what the author did and what he experienced on the afternoon of February 11 in the table below. Write in complete sentence. [10]

What the author did

What the author experienced

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**MID-YEAR EXAMINATION  
SECONDARY ONE EXPRESS**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**1127/2**

**Paper 2 Language Use and Comprehension**

**8 May 2006**

Insert

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TIME 1 hour 40 minutes

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

The insert contains the comprehension passages.

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This question paper consists of 4 printed pages.

Set by: Wong GK

Turn over

**Passage A**

- 1 Hari felt stiff from his night on the bare boards of the bullock cart. He had hoped to catch a bus to Rewas and had spent an hour standing on the highway by Thul, alone in the dark, before he realised that the last bus to Rewas have gone. So he hailed a bullock cart and asked for a lift which he was given. 5
- 2 Hari then climbed into the cart silently. It was completely bare, not even a sack on the creaking, sliding boards. As the bullock cart lurched forwards, he too lurched forwards, then backwards and, as the cart began to rumble on, he was pitched from side to side, getting rubbed and sore from the uneven boards which were not even smooth but splintered and full of knobs and knots. He sat clutching the sides and pushed his feet against the ledge. After a while, Hari lay down and slept. 10
- 3 Now that he was let down at the Rewas pier, he was astonished to find it teeming with people. He had not thought so many would be going to Bombay. He had thought he was doing something terribly adventurous -- in fact, he found himself trembling with excitement and fear -- but here were men and boys of all ages and sizes, dressed in their cleanest clothes, calling and laughing and shouting as they crowded the length of the pier that led to the coffee-coloured sea where fishing boats bobbed up and down wildly, waiting to be loaded. 15 20
- 4 Hari edged his way past the counter that sold tickets for the ferry, the fruit stall where people were buying bananas and sweet limes for the journey, to the edge of the pier and the head of the stairs. He hesitated -- it was a long time since he had been in a boat. But the next moment, he found that men on either side of him pushed into him so that he was almost lifted off his feet and set down in one of the waiting boats. 25
- 5 By the time the sun was up, turning the dull sea into peacock blue and emerald green and lighting up the city of Bombay on the far shore like a white castle made of sand, or salt, blinding against the hot blue sky, all the boats had been loaded and were setting out like a shoal of dolphins over the waves. 30
- 6 Hari who had bought neither tea or fruit at the pier nor food from home in the night, sat so quietly on the floor of the boat that no one paid him any attention at all. Moreover, there was no one else from Thul in his boat; it was full of strangers from other villages along the coast, and he sat listening to them, feeling very tired, hot and thirsty, and very afraid of the journey he had undertaken without thinking at all, simply because he had been upset and angry and simply could not bear to live another day of poverty in Thul. The time for change had come, he felt. He had to make the break he had been thinking about for so long. But had he done the wrong thing? 35 40

- 7 Of course there was no question of turning back. Having taken the step, there was no way he could back out of it short of leaping into the sea and swimming home. Once in Bombay. He would have to stay, work and earn a living. Was he really ready for that? He hesitated. Then he looked back over his shoulder at the flat marshy coast of Rewas, too far for him to reach. Putting his head down on his knees, he closed his eyes in despair. 45 50
- 8 "Look at that boy," someone said. "Whose son is he? Have you nothing to eat, son? Here, take this," and he was handed some food. He took it although his throat was so dry he thought he could not possibly chew or swallow it, but to be polite he bit into it and it gave him a little nourishment and strength 55
- 9 He needed that for it was the most strenuous day of his life
- 10 After some time, as he looked ahead, he was silenced by awe when he saw the city of Bombay looming over their boats and the oily green waves. He would have liked to stand and stare as he disembarked from the boat at the docks, aching and stiff from the long ride in the jam-packed boat, but there was no time, no leisure for that. His fellow passengers were pushing and shoving because they were in turn being pushed and shoved by the Bombay crowds that thronged the docks – people in a hurry to get something done, so many people in such a great hurry as the villagers had never seen before. 60 65

*Adapted from The Village By the Sea by Anita Desai*

### Passage B

- 1 On the afternoon of February 11, 1942, my wife, daughter, sister, an old maidservant and I loaded up in one small car and proceeded towards Tan Teck Seng Hospital, about two-and-a-half miles away. While we were going through the hospital grounds, the air raid sirens wailed and soon after came the loud roar of enemy planes and the rapid rattle of their guns. We stopped the car and dashed into a low building nearby for cover. It was the outdoor clinic of the hospital. There, together with other refugees, we squatted on the floor with no more protection than a tiled roof and wooden walls. The air raid lasted some time, and as we sat there, huddled together miserably with our bundles of belongings around us, I remembered a picture I had seen of the refugees in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. 5 10



- 2 As soon as the air raid was over, we went to the home of a doctor inside the hospital ground. Japanese guns were shelling British positions near the hospital and some shells fell within the hospital area. Now and again, Japanese planes roared overhead, spraying suspected British hideouts with bullets. That night most of us had very little sleep. We huddled together under two wooden tables with two mattresses on top, in the hope that they would give us some protection against shrapnel. 15 20
- 3 Throughout the night the shelling and bombing continued with increasing intensity. We could follow the sound of the shells from the time they were fired to the time they crashed on or near their targets. We were in the line of fire, but the targets fortunately were behind the hospital. We went through that sleepless and miserable night wondering if we would ever see daylight again. Any one of those shells could have hit the flimsy house. 25
- 4 It was now February 12, 1942, only three days away from the traditional Chinese New Year. But nobody looked forward to celebrating the occasion. We just hoped that we would not be among the next batch of casualties. We heard too that Japanese soldiers had reached the reservoir, barely a mile away from us. The shelling continued into the thirteenth day of February. 30
- 5 On the morning of February 14, we were shocked to see a large number of British soldiers with rifles and trucks. They began digging trenches along the road. Later one of them asked us, "Why are you still here?" They knew that once the Japanese launched their next assault, we would be caught in the crossfire. We faced almost certain death by remaining where we were. It was a desperate situation but we saw no better alternative. Then the Japanese planes flew low and machine-gunned the British soldiers hiding in the trenches. We were lucky to escape unscathed. On Sunday, February 15, we found that the Japanese had cut off our water supply. Late in the afternoon, there was a sudden slackening of the enemy gunfire. The Japanese planes also seemed to have decided to give us a little rest. We wondered why. We observed that the British soldiers outside our house were talking agitatedly among themselves. 35 40 45
- 6 Then a neighbour in the back lane shouted, "The British have surrendered! Come out. It's safe now." We rushed into the back lane and saw others there. Excited and relieved, we were now concerned about the fate of the British soldiers. 50

*Adapted from Extraordinary Adventures of an Ordinary Man by Thio Chian Bee*

Class

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Candidate's Name

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**MID YEAR EXAMINATION  
SECONDARY ONE EXPRESS**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**1187/2**

**Paper 2 Language Use and Comprehension**

**May 2006**

Candidates answer on the Question Paper  
No additional materials are required

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**TIME** 1 hour 40 minutes

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

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Answer all questions.

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Hand in the Question Paper and the Insert separately.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question

The total marks for this paper is 50.

The insert contains the comprehension passages for Section 2.

**Marking Scheme**

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This question paper consists of 6 printed pages.

**SECTION 1 [10MARKS]**

**Fill in each blank with a suitable word.**

**Write each answer in the space provided in the passage.**

As the plane circled over the airport, everyone knew/sensed/felt/noticed [1] that something was wrong. The plane was moving unsteadily in [2] the air, and although the passengers [3] had fastened their seat belts, they were suddenly jerked/pushed/thrown [4] forward. At that moment, the air-hostess appeared/came/arrived/spoke [5]. She looked very pale, but was quite calm/steady [6]. Speaking quickly but almost in a whisper, she informed us [7] that the pilot had fainted and asked if any of the passengers knew anything about machines or at least how to drive/operate/control [8] a car. After a moment's wait/silence/hesitate/thought [9], a man got up and followed the air-hostess [10] into the pilot's cabin.

**Section 2 [40 marks]**

**Questions 1 –7 are from Passage A**

**From paragraph 1**

- 1 (a) Give one word or a short phrase to describe the driver who had given Hari a lift in the bullock cart [1]  
Driver was kind/helpful
- (b) Give one piece of evidence to support your description [2]  
The driver gave Hari a lift and did not charge the author for it.
2. What does the man with the bullock cart use the whip for? [1]  
To drive the bull in order to make it go faster.

**From paragraphs 2**

- 3 *"He sat clutching the sides and pushed his feet against the ledge."* (line 11-13)  
Explain clearly why Hari clutched the sides and pushed his feet against the ledge. [2]

To ensure that he would not lurch forward or from side to side.  
To prevent himself from rubbing too much on the rough boards.

HYSS/MY 2006/Sec 1E English Paper 2-QP

**From paragraph 3**

- 4 (a) Explain, in your own words, what was it that 'astonished' Hari when he was at Rewas [2]

Hari was shocked to see so many people/surprised so many were going to Bombay.

- (b) From the description of the fishing boats as they "bobbed up and down wildly", what can you tell of the condition of the sea? [1]

The sea was very rough/choppy.

**From paragraph 5**

- 5 "... all the boats had been loaded and were setting out like a shoal of dolphins over the waves." (line 33-34)  
What does the author want to convey by comparing the boats to "a shoal of dolphins"?

[2]

The boats were moving out together.

**From paragraph 6**

- 6 Explain, in your own words, why no one paid any attention to Hari when he was in the boat [2]

He did not know anyone in the boat and he did not make any noise as he sat there almost unnoticed.

- 7 (a) Give three reasons that caused Hari to leave Thul. [3]

1. He acted impulsively as he was upset and angry.
2. He could not bear to continue living in poverty.
3. He felt it was time to make a change.

- (b) What did Hari hope to achieve by leaving Thul. [1]

He hoped to improve his quality of life/find a job/acquire wealth.

**From paragraph 7**

- 8 "Was he really ready for that? He hesitated. Then he looked back over his shoulder at the flat marshy coast of Rewas, too far for him to reach. Putting his head down on his knees, he closed his eyes in despair."  
(line 48-51)

(a) What was in Hari's mind when "he looked back over his shoulder" [1]

He wondered if he could change his mind. (Accept any sensible answer)

(b) Explain how he felt after looking back. [1]

He felt depressed/regret/fearful of the unknown

(c) Why did he feel this way? [2]

It was too far for him to turn back/He was not sure if he's ready to go to Bombay. (Accept any sensible answer)

**From paragraph 8**

9 Why was Hari unable to quench his thirst even though his throat was dry? [2]

He did not bring any food from home and he did not buy anything from the pier either./He had no money to buy a drink.

**From paragraph 10**

10 "He would have liked to stand and stare as he disembarked from the boat at the docks..."

Give two reasons why Hari did not stop "to stand and stare" although he would have liked to do that. [2]

He did not have any time for that and he was being pushed forward.

11 For each of the following words, give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) that has the same meaning that the word has in the passage [5]

**From passage A**

(a) stiff (line 1) rigid/ unable to bend easily

(b) hailed (line 4) called out to

(c) lurched (line 8) moved with irregular sudden movements/jerked

(d) edged (line 23) moved slowly

(e) strenuous (line 56) tiring

**Use material only from Passage B**

12 The passage describes what the author and his family went through on the last days, before the fall of Singapore in World War Two.

Fill in the events on **what the author did** and **what he experienced** on the afternoon of February 11 in the table below. Write in complete sentence. [10]

**What the author did**

The author and his family headed to Tan Tock Seng Hospital

They went through the hospital grounds.

When the air sirens were sounded they ran into the clinic outside the hospital for cover.

Throughout the air raid, they crouched on the floor, crowding uncomfortably together.

After the raid they went to the doctor's home.

As the air attack continued into the hospital compound, they squeezed together under the cover of two wooden tables.

**What the author experienced**

The author heard air raid sirens.

There was continuous firing of guns.

They felt like refugees in hiding, seeking cover from the gunfire.

They experienced the constant fear that they may not survive.

Do not penalise for lifting.