

Name: ..... Register no: ..... Class: .....



# NGEE ANN SECONDARY SCHOOL

*Building Character* ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ *Expanding Minds* ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ *Shaping Lives*

## Mid-Year Examination 2005

### Secondary One Express

*Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School  
Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School  
Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School  
Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School  
Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School*

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

Friday  
21 Apr 2006

Duration:  
1 h 45 min

Additional Materials  
Nil

### Instructions to Candidates:

- 1) Write your name, register number and class at the top of this page.
- 2) There are two parts to this paper: Part I and Part II.
  - (a) Answer only ONE question from Part I.
  - (b) Answer the compulsory question in Part II.
- 3) Hand in Parts I and II separately.

After checking of answer scripts		
Checked by	Signature	Date
Teacher		
Student		

**DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE OVER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.**

This Question Paper Consists of 3 Pages (including the cover page)

**Part I: Free-Writing (30 marks)**

Write a composition of at least 250 words on ONE of the following topics.

You are advised to spend about 60 minutes on this part of the paper.

1. I really tried!
2. Write about an unlucky incident you were involved in that turned out to be a blessing in disguise.
3. A holiday unlike any other.
4. Love.
5. A time I was devastated.

**Part II: Situational Writing (30 marks)**

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes and write between 200 to 250 words on this part of the paper. Begin your answer on a new sheet of paper

You should read the information carefully and plan your answer before beginning to write.

You have just entered Nassian Secondary School and are applying to go into a Co-Curricular Activity (CCA). Your cousin, Kumuda, a secondary three student, also from Nassian Secondary School, is very interested in helping you choose your CCA.

Your cousin has identified three CCAs which suit your outgoing personality and asked you to make a choice. The details of the three CCAs are given below:

CCA	Details
Volleyball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excellent performance at zonal and national schools volleyball championships</li> <li>▪ Best volleyball coach in Singapore</li> <li>▪ Training conducted thrice a week</li> <li>▪ Group Study Programme (GSP) for players who have difficulty coping with their studies</li> </ul>
Girls' / Boys' Brigade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exposure to challenging environment to develop discipline, leadership qualities and strong character</li> <li>▪ Activities like overseas adventure training camps and national day parades</li> <li>▪ Shooting, campcraft and fieldcooking competitions</li> <li>▪ Training conducted twice a week</li> </ul>
Dance - International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Newly set up</li> <li>▪ Experienced instructor who helped to bring many schools to win gold and gold with honour awards at Singapore Youth Festival</li> <li>▪ Learn different types of dances (modern jazz, hip hop, traditional dances and so on)</li> <li>▪ Training conducted once a week at Nassian East Community Dance Studio</li> </ul>

Write a letter to your cousin, thanking him for showing interest in the CCA that you will select. Tell him which CCA you have chosen and explain in detail your reasons for doing so.

Set your letter out correctly, in clear accurate English, and use an affectionate tone which will show him how much you appreciate his interest.

-End of Paper-

Name: ..... Register no: ..... Class: .....



# NGEE ANN SECONDARY SCHOOL

*Building Character* ➔ ➔ ➔ ➔ ➔ *Expanding Minds* ➔ ➔ ➔ ➔ ➔ *Shaping Lives*

## Mid-Year Examination 2006

### Secondary One Express

*Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School  
Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School  
Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School  
Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School  
Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School  
Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School Ngee Ann Secondary School*

### English Language

Friday  
21 April 2006

Duration:  
1 hr 40 min

#### Additional Materials

None.

#### Instructions to Candidates:

1. Write your name, register number and class at the top of this page.
2. Answer ALL questions in ink.
3. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

After checking of answer scripts		
Checked by	Signature	Date
Student		

**DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE OVER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.**

This Question Paper Consists of 12 Pages (including cover page)

## SECTION A: LANGUAGE AND GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

### Part 1 Editing [10m]

Underline 10 grammatical, spelling and/or punctuation errors (excluding the first error given to you) in the passage below and write the correct answer above the error.

#### **"Godzilla" Fossils Reveals Real-Life Sea Monster**

Scientists

Scientists have discovered the fossil skull of a 135-million-year-old "sea monster" and nickname it Godzilla. The large skull was found in southern Argentina in an area that is once part of the Pacific Ocean.

The creature, named *Dakosaurus andiniensi*, is an entirely new kind of ancient crocodile. Scientists believe that the giant animal belongs to the crocodyliforms (crock-oh-DILL-uh-forms), a group of animals that include today's crocodiles and their extinct relatives.

Unlike today's crocodiles, "Godzilla" lived entirely in the water. It measured 13 feet (4 metres) from nose to tail. Instead of legs, it has four paddle-like limbs, used mostly to keep it stable. A fish-like tail propelled the beast through the water.

What made Godzilla especially unusual was its snout and teeth. Until now, every known marine crocodilian (crock-oh-DILL-yin) had a head of one basic type, with a long snout and many sharp, identical teeth. But Godzilla had a short, high snout and teeth that were large and jagged, like a land reptiles.

The animal's unusual features suggest that it had completely different feeding habits from its relatives. While other marine crocodilians fed on small fish, Godzilla hunts for marine reptiles and other large sea creatures, using its jagged teeth to bite and cut its prey.

"Presumably it moved its head mainly up and down rather than sweeping it from side to side, like fish-eating crocodilians," said James Clark, a dinosaur expert at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

"It is more like a meat-eating dinosaur than like a marine crocodilian," Clark said.

*(Article by Stefan Lovgren, National Geographic Kids News, November 22, 2005)*

### Part 2 Cloze Passage [10m]

Fill in each blank with an appropriate word only. Write your answers in the blanks provided.

#### Dinosaurs – A Modern Myth

They are so old that they are found 1. \_\_\_\_\_ fossils encased in rocks whose radioactivity needs to be 2. \_\_\_\_\_ to find out just how ancient they are. 3. \_\_\_\_\_ this, our understanding of dinosaurs has expanded and developed over the recent years.

We know dinosaurs existed over 100 million years ago. As the Earth grew warmer and the large expanses of water began to 4. \_\_\_\_\_ up, most of the animals living at that time began to spend more time on land. Reptiles replaced amphibians and, like enormous lizards, some towered fifty or more feet into the air. The majority grew independent of water and their young were born in eggs, covered in a hard protective shell. But of all creatures, the dinosaur must have been the 5. \_\_\_\_\_ terrifying.

The Age of Reptiles 6. \_\_\_\_\_ with a volcanic upheaval. Certain small hair-covered creatures which had laid eggs survived and these became the first mammals. However, dinosaurs died out, about 65 million years ago, yet today, they have never

been more 7. .... Exhibitions on the creatures abound, as do toys and other memorabilia. They even have their own fan clubs and magazines. What is the extraordinary appeal of dinosaurs?

One specialist attributes it to the fact that they are "big, mean and dead". From a child's perspective, a major part of the 8. .... is that nobody can touch them the way the big animals of our time – whales and elephants – have been hunted as dinosaurs are already dead. For the 9. .... reason, they cannot harm anybody. It is unsurprising that while their appeal cuts across all 10. .... the most devoted of dinosaur enthusiasts are older children. Too old to believe in storybook monsters, they have a worthy substitute in ferocious dinosaurs.

**SECTION B: COMPREHENSION [40 MARKS]**

Read Passage A & Passage B carefully and then answer all the questions which follow.

**PASSAGE A****Archaeologists Explore Cold War Nuclear Test Site**

- 1 Bright yellow radiation suits are not standard-issue attire for archaeologists. Nor is a Geiger counter. But these precautions are sometimes required for the researchers exploring the eerie A-bomb rubble and ghost towns left over from Cold War blasts at the Nevada Test Site on 1,375 square miles of desert 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas. 5
- 2 From 1951 until a test moratorium in 1992, 928 nuclear devices were exploded at the Nevada site. Aboveground tests were allowed until 1963, and night explosions were visible all the way to Las Vegas.
- 3 **Cold War Hot Zone Worth Preserving** 10  
 "The Nevada Test Site was one of the battlefields of the Cold War," said Troy Wade, who spent 31 years with the programme, starting as an explosives engineer and retiring as an assistant secretary of Energy for Defense Programmes at the United States Department of Energy (DOE). "Just as artifacts from a World War II battlefield are worth preserving, so are these." 15
- 4 "I'm one of the diminishing number of people who saw atmospheric tests," Wade added. "It's hard to describe the feeling of awe, when you see blinding light, feel the intense heat, and brace against the shock wave—it was very intense and very scary." 20
- 5 The unnatural desert landscape is littered with mock towns, bridges, bomb shelters, bank vaults, underground parking structures, empty animal pens, and railroads, which were exposed to atomic blasts to determine what could survive a nuclear attack.
- 6 The DOE and the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in Las Vegas have sponsored an archaeological mission to survey and discover structures that are worthy of preservation. To date seven sites have received this "historic place" status, with many more *pending*. 25
- 7 Though one might expect the government to have extensive documentation of this site, the only way to find what lies here is to look, said Colleen Beck, an archaeologist at DRI. 30



- 8 "There are many things that exist in the plans but were never built and vice versa," said Beck. For example, archaeological surveys reveal crumpled aluminum shelters and animal pens that were not included in original plans. 35
- 9 **Twisted Relics**
- Aboveground testing was *confined* to three areas—Frenchmen Flat, Yucca Flat, and Pahute and Rainier Mesas, where the archaeologists do most of their work.
- 10 When determining whether something is worthy of being deemed an historic site, the more destruction that occurred, the better, said Bill Johnson, an archaeological team leader from DRI. "The more damage, the greater its integrity—it actually looks as though it was subjected to a nuclear weapon." 40
- 11 At Yucca Flat, a 213-metre tower that once stood at Ground Zero holding a bomb is now a gnarled, twisted mass of huge beams and steel cables covered in glass formed from molten sand. 45
- 12 "These structures convey fear—frightening times, terrifying power," said Johnson.
- 13 "There is a mystique to the Atomic Age, and Bill's work creates a link between the mythology and the physical remains," said historian, Mandy Whorton. 50
- 14 **Ghost Towns, X-Files, and Lunar Landscape**
- Johnson's colleague Beck ventured into a huge structure known as the Reactor Maintenance Assembly and Disassembly building, where scientists worked to develop nuclear rocket engines. 55
- 15 "The building was filled with water and there was no electricity—it was my most 'X-files'-like moment," Beck said. Wrapped in bright yellow suits and armed with flashlights and Geiger counters, "we walked through mini hot cells and tracks that had been used to move radioactive material around." 60
- 16 At Yucca Flat, Johnson has explored an Atomic Age ghost town—the disintegrating skeletal remains of a Japanese village. The village was never subjected to a nuclear explosion; instead a bare nuclear reactor spewed radiation into these houses to help determine the exposure levels of Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors. Scientists used the dosage information for medical studies and treatment regimens. 65
- 17 When the testing moved underground in 1963, the programme became more secretive, said Beck. But the results of the

subterranean programme could not be completely hidden. An aerial view of the Site reveals a cratered surface caused by underground explosions. The landscape is so moonlike that one crater was actually used to train astronauts for moon walks. 70

(Adapted Article by Bijal P. Trivedi,  
National Geographic Today, July 15, 2002)

## PASSAGE B

*This passage is a diary entry by a girl who thought she was a lone survivor of a nuclear blast. She encounters Mr Loomis who enters her homeland from the wastes and ruins beyond her farm which has remained untouched by the harmful effects of nuclear radiation.*

1 *May 25th*

It may be that he has made a mistake. I am not sure. And if it was a mistake, I don't know how bad. It worries me, because I suppose I could have stopped him, though I don't know how. Not without showing myself. 5

2 When I came out of the cave this morning, very carefully, on hands and knees, keeping my head down, he was already awake, though the sun was barely up. He was folding his tent; he put in it back into the wagon, and then several things happened quickly.

3 First, somewhere out behind the chicken yard one of the hens cackled. It had laid an egg, of course. Almost immediately, a rooster crowed. And from the distance, as if answering, one of the cows *mooed*, a real **bellow**, long and loud. He dropped a pan he was holding and jumped up, listening. He looked *amazed*, as if he could not believe it. He probably had not heard an animal sound for more than a year. 10 15

4 He stood there for a minute, just listening, staring and thinking. After that he got quite busy. He pulled out his radiation counter again – the small one – and looked at it. He was still wearing his plastic suit, though without the helmet. Now he pulled at some kind of fastening on the cuffs, and removed the glove-parts that had covered his hands. He reached further into his wagon and took out another gun, a big one. It looked like an army gun, a carbine I think, with the square magazine sticking out from the bottom. He looked at it but put it back and got the smaller gun from the tent. The other was a .22 like mine, only bolt-action and mine is a pump. He carried it towards the chicken yard. 20 25

5 The chickens weren't in the chicken yard, of course, because I had shut the gate when I chased them out. But some of them, at least, had stayed around it – I knew they would, because that's where I feed them. I couldn't see him back there, because there were some big bushes

- (lilac and forsythia) between the house and the fence. But in a minute I heard the rifle crack, and a couple of minutes after that he came back carrying a dead chicken. One of my chickens! 30
- 6 I could hardly blame him, of course. I don't know what kind of food he carries in that wagon, but whatever it is I'm sure there is no fresh meat or fresh anything. So I can understand how the thought of chicken would make him hungry. (In a few days, I expect, I'll be feeling the same way.) But shooting is not the acceptable method of killing a tame chicken. I eat them myself, as we always did, and I have not yet fired a shot from any of my guns, not once since the war. 35
- 7 He put the chicken down on top of the wagon, and then without waiting to pluck or clean it, started out immediately down the road in the direction of the church and the store -- and the cows. He took the smaller rifle with him; also the glass tube. 40
- 8 For the first day, at least, I thought I had better keep him in sight as much as I could -- until I get to know something about his habits. So again I went along a path I know in the woods, about two-thirds of the way up the hillside. That way I could watch him closer up, better than from the cave, where the road disappears for stretches when the trees grow near it. I took my binoculars and my own rifle. 45
- 9 He saw the cows right away, as soon as he got past the barn and the fence. They were off by the pond, in the far field. My father used to grow oats there, but luckily that spring he had rotated it to fescue. They were grazing there quietly, with the calf between them; they were not fenced in but as I thought they would, they had stayed near home. When he came towards them, a stranger, they ran off, though not very far. Cows can tell people apart all right, though it's true they don't care much. 50 55
- 10 He started to follow them, then changed his mind and walked to the edge of the pond. He stared into the water, first a few feet away then, obviously very interested, kneeling down with his face close to the surface. I could tell. He was looking at the minnows -- they are always some up near the edge. He took his glass counter and held it close to the water; finally he stuck one end of it in the water. He put out his hand, cupped some and tasted it. It tastes fine; I know, I drink it all the time, though I get it from the brook at the other end. You could tell he felt like cheering. 60 65

(Excerpt from *Z for Zachariah* by Robert C. O'Brien)

Answer all the following questions.

**NOTE: When a question asks you to use your own words, YOU MUST NOT COPY THE WORDS IN THE PASSAGE IN YOUR ANSWER.**

**From Passage A:**

Match statements 1 to 5 to a particular paragraph in the passage. [5m]

- 1 The archaeological work provides a sense of reality to an otherwise mysterious period in history ( )
- 2 The best way to experience the test sites is to explore on sight and not depend on government blueprints. ( )
- 3 It is worthwhile to save these historic sites. ( )
- 4 Scientists used their findings to determine medical steps and treatment routines for potential nuclear radiation exposure. ( )
- 5 Preventions must be taken when in these test sites. ( )

For questions 6 to 10, choose the correct option (A, B, C or D) and write your answer in the brackets provided. [5m]

From Paragraph 2

6. Why were there no more nuclear tests conducted at the Nevada site after 1992?
- A) The explosions at night disturbed cities too much with their flashes of light.
  - B) There was an agreement to stop the testing for a period of time.
  - C) The tests were being conducted underground.
  - D) The site had reached its limit on the number of tests that could be conducted. ( )

From Paragraph 5

7. Why was the desert landscape described as "unnatural" (line 21)?
- A) It is unnatural to expose whole cities to nuclear explosions.
  - B) It is unnatural to have so much litter in a desert.
  - C) It is unnatural to find that hardly anyone survived the blasts.
  - D) It is unnatural to find such eerie imitations of a real city in a desert. ( )

From Paragraph 10

8. "...the more destruction that occurred, the better..." (line 41)  
Why was this better?
- A) It made it easier to deem it as a historic site.
  - B) It made it easier to determine the authenticity of its involvement in the blast.
  - C) It made it easier to guess how long ago the blast occurred.
  - D) It made it easier to show the explosive power of the nuclear blast. ( )

From Paragraph 11

9. What is meant by the term "Ground Zero" (line 45)?
- A) It is the area that is at the same level as the surface of the ground.
  - B) It is the area that has little or no radiation from the nuclear blasts.
  - C) It is the location where the nuclear weapon is detonated.
  - D) It is the location of the destroyed remains of any tall building. ( )

From Paragraph 15

10. *The X-files* is a television crime series that explored supernatural and paranormal cases. Why do you think Beck referred to his experience as an "X-files'-like moment" (line 58)?
- A) He was investigating a supernatural case.
  - B) The mini hot cells and tracks reminded him of a scene from the show.
  - C) The wet and dark conditions made the scene appear sinister and other-worldly.
  - D) His attire and equipment made him look the part of a special investigator. ( )

From Paragraph 17

11. **In your own words**, explain how it was possible from an aerial view to tell that they were still doing the tests underground. [1m]

---



---

**From Passage B:**

From Paragraph 2

12. Why was the writer moving so carefully when she came out of the cave that morning? [1m]

---



---

From Paragraph 4

13. Give one observation that tells you that the place was safe from nuclear radiation. [1m]

---



---

14. What was a possible first thought that came to the man's head before he "got quite busy" (line 17)? [1m]

---



---

From Paragraph 6

15. "But shooting is not the acceptable method of killing a tame chicken." (line 37)  
Why do you think shooting is not an acceptable method of killing a tame chicken?

[1m]

---

---

From Paragraph 8

16. Why did the writer feel that she had better keep the man in sight as much as possible for the first day?

[1m]

---

---

17. Why do you think she brought her rifle and binoculars along?

[2m]

---

---

From Paragraph 9

18. "Cows can tell people apart all right, though it's true they don't care much." (lines 55-56) Explain in your own words how the writer came to this conclusion. [2m]

---

---

19. Explain in NOT more than 7 words, the meaning of each word as it is used in Passage A and B. [5m]

Passage A:

(a) brace (Paragraph 4): \_\_\_\_\_

(b) pending (Paragraph 6): \_\_\_\_\_

(c) confined (Paragraph 9): \_\_\_\_\_

Passage B:

(d) bellow (Paragraph 3): \_\_\_\_\_

(e) amazed (Paragraph 3): \_\_\_\_\_

**From Passage B**

**20. Summary**

[15m]

Write a brief journal entry as the man, Mr Loomis, who is recording what he did that day as the writer was observing him, using material from paragraphs 3-10.

Your summary, which must be in **continuous** writing, must **NOT** be more than **100** words, **excluding** the words given below. Begin and end your summary as follows:

25<sup>th</sup> May

When I heard the wondrous sounds of live farm animals...

Handwriting practice lines for the summary.

... I was ecstatic when I discovered that the water was safe to consume!

Time: 1700 hrs. Loomis

( \_\_\_\_\_ words)

**Ngee Ann Secondary School  
Mid Year Examination 2006  
Secondary One Express  
English Language  
Paper 2**

- 1) 5
- 2) 7
- 3) 3
- 4) 16
- 5) 1
- 6) A
- 7) D
- 8) A
- 9) A
- 10) D

- 11) From an aerial view, the site showed that here were cracked grounds caused by underground explosions.
- 12) There was a stranger standing outside the cave and she did not want to alert him.
- 13) The man took out his radiation counter to check if the place was safe and after doing so, he took off his protection suit.
- 14) He might be thinking whether the place was safe to rest.
- 15) The chicken would not have struggled so much since it was tame and shooting it is a cruel way to kill it since it is so.
- 16) She felt that she should get to know about his way of life first.
- 17) She wanted to be able to observe the man from a distance using a pair of binoculars and should the man pose any threat, she could use the rifle to protect herself.
- 18) The cows ran away when they saw the man, a stranger, approached them but they did not do anything to defend themselves from the man.
- 19a) brace: support
- 19b) pending: awaiting
- 19c) confined: restricted
- 19d) bellow: shout
- 19e) amazed: astonished



20)

- Listened intently as I had not heard an animal noise for very long.
- Took out my small radiation counter to check if the place was safe and removed my gloves after that.
- Took my smaller rifle and killed one of the chickens around the chicken yard to eat.
- Decided to look for other food and took my smaller rifle and glass tube.
- Wanted to kill the cows but decided otherwise and went to the pond.
- Drank the pond's water after noticing some minnows up near the edge of the pond.