



**Section One [30 marks]**

Write a composition on ONE of the following topics.

You are advised to write between 300 and 350 words for this section.

At the head of your composition, write the number of the topic you have chosen.

1. Write about an enjoyable day that you spent with your family.
2. Teamwork.
3. 'More teenagers are staying out late at night.' What do you think are their reasons for such behaviour?
4. Describe a miserable day when everything went wrong.
5. Write about a major school event. Describe the planning, your contributions and feelings for this event.

**Section Two [30 marks]**

Begin your answer on a fresh page.

You are advised to write between 250 and 300 words for this section.

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

You have just been on a 3 day 2 night organized holiday with a group. You bought a resort package from a reputable travel agency and despite the advertisement, the resort you were staying in was very inadequate.

You are required to write a letter of complaint to the General Manager of the travel agency. The address is:

The General Manager  
Best Travel Agency  
26, Pickering Street  
Singapore 650026

Below are a list of points to include in the letter of complaint

Hotel Crystal Regency

As advertised	As experienced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative will fetch from airport to resort</li> <li>• Full air-conditioning and lighting</li> <li>• Attractive restaurant with excellent service</li> <li>• Swimming pool, tennis courts and golf</li> <li>• Dancing every night till 11:00 p.m.</li> <li>• Facilities for young children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No representative. Took a taxi to resort at own expense</li> <li>• Air-conditioning and lights were not working</li> <li>• Poor service in restaurant and terrible food</li> <li>• Swimming pool was being repaired and no access to game areas</li> <li>• Noise from the discotheque around the corner, beyond 10:30 p.m. kept you awake</li> <li>• Hardly any facility</li> </ul>

Remember the purpose of this letter is to make **others aware of your unpleasant experiences at the resort** and to **provide some possible solutions or practical advice to the problems that you have highlighted.**

Using the above notes and adding other relevant details, write a **letter of complaint** to the travel agency. Your letter must **highlight the seriousness of this incident** and **show how they can overcome these problems.** You must also include the **subject** of the letter.

Your letter must be in clear, accurate English and in a tone that is appropriate to the purpose and to the reader.



TEMASEK SECONDARY SCHOOL  
MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2006  
1127 ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2

TIME: 1hr 40min

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## SECONDARY TWO EXPRESS

### ANSWER PAPER

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Answer all questions.
2. The **INSERT** contains the comprehension passages.
3. The number of marks are given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part of a question.
4. You are to hand in the answers to **Passage A, Passage B and Summary SEPARATELY.**
5. Write your answers in the spaces provided in the different sections of this Answer Paper.
6. Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the paper.
7. This paper is 50 marks in total.

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This Answer Paper consists of 9 printed pages (including this cover page).

Additional Materials Provided - INSERT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Read Passage A and Passage B in the insert and then answer the questions that follow below.

You are recommended to answer the questions in the order set.

Mistakes in spelling, grammar and punctuation may be penalised in any part of the paper.

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

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**Passage A**

*From paragraphs 1, 2 and 3*

1. How did the Brownsville school district solve Raul's need for an air-conditioned study environment? [2.0]

*From paragraphs 8 and 9*

2. Which phrase in the passage tells you that Raul is able to communicate with his classmates though he is inside the plexiglass box? [1.0]

3. Why was Raul's mother both thrilled and upset? [1.0]
- .....
- .....

*From paragraph 10*

4. **In your own words**, explain the Espinos' case to the Federal Court. [1m]

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*From paragraphs 11-13*

5. Bestalo refused the offer to pay for air conditioning on the grounds of discrimination. Explain the contradiction in his attitude. [1m]

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6. Explain **in your own words** why the Brownsville school district cannot afford to air condition Raul's classroom. [2m]

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**Passage B**

*From paragraph 1*

7. The writer says she 'hated every minute of it' (lines 1 - 2).  
(a) What does 'it' refer to? [1m]

.....  
.....

(b) Give one reason why she felt this way. [1m]

.....  
.....

8. Luckily, the writer found 'allies among the other school girls ...' (line 6).  
Explain in your own words the 2 reasons why the writer regarded the girls as such. [2m]

.....  
.....

9. In your own words, what are the 2 characteristics of 'bush heaters'? [2m]

.....  
.....  
.....

From paragraph 2

10. '... the two worlds seemed very far apart' (lines 14 - 15)

(a) Which two places was the writer referring to? [1m]

.....  
.....

(b) Give one reason for this feeling of distance between the two places.  
Explain this **In your own words**. [1m]

.....  
.....

11(a) What means of transport was the 'Midnight Horror'? [1m]

.....  
.....

(b) Explain **in your own words** in what ways was this nickname appropriate? [2m]

.....  
.....

(c) Why was its arrival particularly welcome in the winter? [1m]

.....  
.....



- (d) Give two reasons why the writer did not look forward to alighting at her station and subsequently travelling on the Inverell mail bus. [2m]

.....

.....

.....

*From paragraph 4*

- 12(a) Give one piece of evidence to show that Happy was a concerned and caring bus driver despite his appearance. [1m]

.....

.....

- (b) 'On one terrible occasion, he offered to build and light a fire for me. In front of all those people!' (lines 47 - 48)

What does the above statement tell you of the writer's personality? [1m]

.....

*From paragraph 5*

- 13 Based on what is written in this paragraph, write down an adjective to describe the writer's family. [1m]

.....

.....

*From Passages A and B*

14. For each of the following words, give a word or a short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning as the word has in the passage. {5m}

**From Passage A:**

1. swelter (line 1)

2. discrimination  
(line 40)

**From Passage B:**

3. heralded (line 24)

4. intertwined (line 25)

5. tactfully (line 52)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Summary

Passage B deals with Judith Wallace's reaction to her experience travelling from her boarding school in town to home in the outback (vast areas of farmland and scrub).

Using your own words as far as possible, give a concise account of Judith's typical journey home to Ilparran in midwinter, from the time she left boarding school at midnight to the time her father arrived in his car to take her home. [20m]

USE ONLY THE MATERIAL FROM LINES 16 TO 55.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than 120 words, including the 10 words given below.

Begin your summary as follows:

*Judith usually left for the station at about midnight. However,*



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SECONDARY TWO EXPRESS

INSERT

This insert contains the **Comprehension Passages**

This INSERT consists of 5 printed pages (including this cover page).

-End of Answer Paper-

Read Passage A and Passage B and then answer the questions which are printed in the question paper.

Passage A

- 1 BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) - School bells and the swelter of a waning Texas summer will greet children in Brownsville when they resume classes in a few weeks, but Raul Espino Jr. hopes that will not mean another semester of peering at his classmates from inside a plexiglass box that protects him from the heat. 5
- 2 The 7-year-old's parents asked a federal judge this week to order their son's entire classroom air-conditioned to free him from the transparent cubicle. An auto accident when he was an infant left the boy a paraplegic and his body unable to control its temperature.
- 3 None of the Brownsville Intermediate District's 28 primary or junior high schools, which open Aug. 25, have air conditioning. The district's solution to Raul's problem was to put him in the box. 10
- 4 U.S. District Judge Filemon Vela said he would decide by Aug. 15 whether to grant the request from Ana and Raul Espino.
- 5 "Other alternatives have not been considered," Vela said. "We may be able to find a solution with the present setting." 15
- 6 The accident damaged the hypothalamus gland in Raul's brain that controls the body's temperature and some movement. He is confined to a wheelchair and must stay in an environment between 72 and 78 degrees 20
- 7 Doctors say the injury did not affect his intelligence, and teachers call him an above average student
- 8 When he transferred last year from a school for the handicapped to Egly Elementary School, the box with a portable air conditioning unit was built for him to use when temperatures climbed above 78 degrees. A two way sound system was installed so he could converse with his teachers and classmates. 25
- 9 Mrs. Espino testified on Monday that she was overjoyed to hear her son would be with normal children last school year, but then she became dismayed to learn that he would be confined to the cubicle. 30
- 10 After failing to persuade the Texas Education Agency and the state Board of Education to order classroom air conditioning, the Espinos took their case to federal court, arguing that the district is violating a law that requires handicapped children to be educated in the "least restrictive environment". 35
- 11 Local Superintendent Raul Besteio testified that he decided to build the box instead of air conditioning the room for fear of jealousy among

other parents and teachers. Besteio said he turned down a woman from Pennsylvania who offered to pay for air conditioning because that would have been "discrimination".

40

12 The district, with a relatively low tax base in the Rio Grande Valley, cannot afford to air condition the classroom, he said.

13 No estimates of the cost of air conditioning were available, but based on costs at the three high schools in the 28,000-student district, it could come to \$5,700 a room.

45

*Taken from Reader's Choice International Edition Book 1.  
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Passage B

- 1 I was sent to boarding school when I was ten, and hated every minute of it. The worst of it was being imprisoned, in corridors and classrooms and bleak dormitories and concrete yards, where no one was allowed to step outside the school gates or faced the pain of expulsion. I learnt fear and hate for the first time towards what seemed an alien and unfriendly authority. But I found allies among the other girls, many of whom were in the same situation as I was, coming as they did from properties in northern New South Wales and Queensland that were even larger and more isolated than Ipparran. "Bush heifers," my father used to call us, for we were wild and shy, and resented being cooped up and herded together in a few dreary acres. 5 10
  
- 2 The school had one long winter and one long summer holiday every year, as well as a week in spring and autumn. Home was only eighty miles away, but getting there was such a complicated business that the two worlds seemed very far apart. In midwinter the journey home was particularly dramatic for we travelled at night in the bitter cold. We left our beds at midnight to catch the 'Midnight Horror', the nickname for the rickety old Brisbane Express, which left at 2.30 am and arrived at my hometown at 5 am, if it was on time, which it seldom was. We often had more than an hour's wait on the icy platform, unheated and blacked out because of the war. We did not mind: it all added to the drama. The longer we waited, the colder we got, the more exciting was the appearance of the two pinpricks of light on the railway track that heralded the arrival of the train. We slept fitfully in the carriages, our limbs intertwined in affectionate heaps in the tiny, tight dog-boxes as excitement gave way to drowsiness. I had to disentangle myself from the Queenslanders and get off alone at our unlit station, groggy with sleep and half sick with excitement, and board the Inverell mail bus. I was always the only schoolgirl on it and the only passenger not going all the way to Inverell, which was enough to make me self-conscious. 15 20 25 30
  
- 3 Our bus driver, called Happy because he never smiled, had to put my suitcases in a special place by themselves, because I was let down before all the others, and I felt I was being a nuisance. He let me off at the Ipparran turn off, five miles from home and about half way to Inverell and this must have been on my Father's instructions because I would much rather have been put down at the small wooden bungalow that was the Matheson Post office, only half a mile further from home up the road. In midwinter the temperature was below freezing, with a heavy frost on the ground or sometimes light snow, and unless the bus was late, it would still be dark. 35 40
  
- 4 Father was never there. I would not have minded if Happy had been more casual about it, if he had dropped me and my suitcases by the side of the road and just driven off. But he always kept the whole busload of people waiting while he gazed anxiously up the road for the headlights of Father's car. He asked me if I was warm enough and even gave my ice-cold, gloveless hands a good rub between his huge ones. On one terrible occasion, he offered to build and light a fire for me. In 45



front of all those people! Fortunately he must have heard the anguish in my voice as I assured him that I did not need it, because he did not insist. As soon as the bus went, I left my cases by the side of the road and set off for the Post Office, where even at 6 am I got a sympathetic and factfully casual welcome. I telephoned Father, and then sat waiting for him on the edge of a battered old plush armchair in a room exactly like the living room of the McDonald's house. I began to feel on home territory at last.

5 I always intended to be cross with Father, but when he arrived all my anger vanished and all I could think of was how good it was to see him, and how wonderful was the ride back through the valley to our house, where breakfast would be ready with hot porridge and cold thick cream on the table and the kitchen warm from the woodstove and smiles and hugs and kisses from Mum and Gil and Bet. And, anyway, he always arrived just as the warm winter sunshine started to pour down the hillside and the magpies started to sing and the whole valley seemed to glow with happiness.

*Memories of a Country Childhood by Judith Wallace*

From Passage A

*From paragraphs 1, 2 and 3*

1. How did the Brownsville school district solve Raul's need for an air-conditioned study environment? [2m]  
it provided a transparent air-conditioned cubicle / box for Raul [1m] and the box was placed in his classroom. [1m]

*From paragraphs 8 and 9*

2. Which phrase in the passage tells you that Raul is able to communicate with his classmates though he is inside the plexiglass box? [1m]  
A two-way sound system
3. Why was Raul's mother both thrilled and upset? [1m]  
Thrilled that her son would be studying with normal children but upset as her son would be confined to the cubicle.

*From paragraph 10*

4. In your own words, explain the Espinos' case to the Federal Court. [1m]  
District has broken ('violated') a law that mandates / makes compulsory ('requires') handicapped children to be educated in a more open ('least restrictive') environment.

*From paragraphs 11-13*

5. Besteio refused the offer to pay for air-conditioning on the grounds of discrimination. Explain the contradiction in his attitude. [1m]  
He discriminates handicapped Paul by putting him in a box.
6. Explain in your own words why the Brownsville school district cannot afford to air condition Raul's classroom. [2m]  
Not many people there pay taxes [1m], thus they do not have enough funds to air condition Raul's classroom. [1m]

Passage B

*From paragraph 1*

7. The writer says she 'hated every minute of it' (lines 1 - 2).
- (a) What does 'it' refer to?  
It refers to her stay at the boarding school. [1m]
- (b) Give one reason why she felt this way. [1m]
- She felt that she was being locked up / as if she was in prison
  - She was not allowed to leave school
  - She saw authority / teachers as unfriendly / mean
8. Luckily, the writer found 'allies among the other school girls ...' (line 6)  
Explain in your own words the 2 reasons why the writer regarded the girls as such. [2m]
- All, like her, hated staying in a boarding school.  
All came from huge ('large') and remote / secluded ('isolated') communities.
9. In your own words, what are the 2 characteristics of 'bush heifers'? [2m]
- They hated being confined to a small area.  
They were unrestrained ('wild') and modest ('shy').

*From paragraph 2*

10. '... the two worlds seemed very far apart' (lines 14 - 15).
- (a) Which two places was the writer referring to? [1m]
- Her home and boarding school
- (b) Give one reason for this feeling of distance between the two places.  
Explain this in your own words. [1m]
- Journey home from boarding school was very tedious / difficult / troublesome and tough especially in midwinter.
- 11(a) What means of transport was the 'Midnight Horror'? [1m]
- Express train

- (b) Explain in your own words in what ways was this nickname appropriate? [2m]

Waiting in the dark and in the cold [1m] on the platform for a train that was supposed to arrive at 2.30 am but hardly [1m] was truly a nightmare / horror.

- (c) Why was its arrival particularly welcome in the winter? [1m]

The girls felt really cold on the platform, thus they could not wait for the train to arrive as they would be warm once in the train.

- (d) Give two reasons why the writer did not look forward to alighting at her station and subsequently travelling on the Inverell mail bus. [2m]

She was the only schoolgirl on the Inverell mail bus.  
She was the only passenger who was going to alight halfway and not at Inverell.

*From paragraph 4*

- 12(a) Give one piece of evidence to show that Happy was a concerned and caring bus driver despite his appearance. [1m]

He kept everyone on his bus waiting while he looked out for the writer's father's car. /

He rubbed the writer's hands with his own to keep her warm. /

He offered to build and make a fire for the writer while she waited for her father.

- (b) "On one terrible occasion, he offered to build and light a fire for me. In front of all these people!" (lines 47 - 48)

What does the above statement tell you of the writer's personality? [1m]

She does not want / like to be fussed about in front of other people.  
She is shy / self-conscious.

*From paragraph 5*

13. Based on what is written in this paragraph, write down an adjective to describe the writer's family. [1m]

Loving / Warm

*From Passages A and B*

14. For each of the following words, give a **word** or a **short phrase** (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning as the word has in the passage. [5m]

From Passage A:	
1. swelter (line 1)	extreme / intense heat
2. discrimination (line 40)	unfair / unequal treatment
From Passage B:	
3. heralded (line 24)	indicated / signalled
4. intertwined (line 25)	went over and under
5. tactfully (line 52)	considerately / diplomatically

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**15. Summary**

Passage B deals with Judith Wallace's reaction to her experience travelling from her boarding school in town to home in the outback (vast areas of farmland and scrub).

Using your own words as far as possible, give a concise account of Judith's typical journey home to Ilparran in midwinter, from the time she left boarding school at midnight to the time her father arrived in his car to take her home. [20m]

**USE ONLY THE MATERIAL FROM LINES 16 TO 55.**

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than **120** words, including the **10** words given below.

Begin your summary as follows:

*Judith usually left for the station at about midnight. However,*

1. She would board the train at 2.30 am or later
2. after waiting for over an hour
3. on the cold and dark platform
4. She would sleep snugly in the train
5. with her friends.
6. Then she would alight alone at her station
7. and board the mail bus heading for Inverell.
8. Halfway, she would be dropped off at the Ilparran junction
9. as directed by her father
10. The bus driver usually waited with her and her suitcases by the roadside
11. until her father came
12. while trying to keep her warm.

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13. If her father was late, she would walk to the Post Office without her suitcases
14. to call her father
15. And wait for him there.

(120words)

Content: 10 marks  
Language: 10 marks

-End of Answer Paper-