



WHITLEY SECONDARY SCHOOL

A Caring and Learning Community

MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2006

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Paper 1

LEVEL : SECONDARY TWO EXPRESS

DATE : 27 APRIL 2006

DURATION : 1hr 30 min
Time : 0745- 0915

MARKS: 60

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

1	Write in dark blue or black pen on the answer paper provided.
2	Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.
3	Write your name, class and index number in the spaces provided on the Answer Paper.
4	Answer both Section One and Section Two .
5	Write your answers on the separate answer paper provided.
6	Submit Section One and Section Two separately

This Question Paper consists of 2 pages

Section One [30 marks]

You are advised to write between 250 and 300 words on one of the following topics.

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

The hottest day ever.

Which events in the history of your country interest you most, and why?

Young people have more problems than adults. Do you agree?

Describe an adventurous holiday undertaken with a group of friends.

Happy memories.

Section Two [30 marks]

Begin your answer on a fresh page.

You are advised to write between 150 and 200 words for this section.

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

During a school holiday you made friends with a Canadian student who was visiting Singapore for a short time. You arranged to meet her at the airport, to say goodbye, on the day she was returning to Canada.

Unfortunately, you were delayed on your way to the airport, and by the time you got there, her plane had left.

Write a letter to your friend

apologising for your failure to say goodbye

explaining the reasons you were delayed

saying how much you enjoyed her stay

talk about one or more particularly memorable places the two of you visited

Read Passages A and B and then answer the questions which are printed in the Question Paper.

Passage A

There are very few things more vulnerable than a six-week-old kitten. He didn't act **vulnerable**. He scrambled, he clawed, he nudged; he took over my apartment. Most of all, he took over me.

His first sneak attack in this regard came in the middle of the night.

We weren't sure whether Norton should sleep on the bed. We didn't know if he'd wriggle around all night, keeping us awake. We also didn't know if he'd even want to sleep with us. Maybe we were too huge and frightening. So we decided to leave it up to him.

His first night, we heard him sliding around the living-room floor as we were falling off to sleep. It seemed as if he'd made his own choice – he'd find his own bed. Fine with me. No problem. Everyone knew cats weren't as affectionate as dogs, anyway. I awoke in the morning, as usual, a few minutes before Cindy. With my eyes half open, I listened for the sounds of a small cat at play. Nothing. A bit worried, I strained to listen more carefully. It seemed natural that a new-born kitten should be awake causing trouble. Still nothing.

Then I felt a very light stirring from my pillow and I rolled my eyes to get a look. What I saw was a small, grey ball of fluff, comfortably resting under my cheek and neck. He was awake, his eyes wide open, but he wasn't moving. Not an inch. He was staring straight at me, waiting for me to make my first move.

Without lifting my head, I slowly twisted my left arm, bringing it up so I could pet him. With two fingers, I stroked the top of his head, rubbing between his eyes down to his nose. He **shifted** ever so slightly, stretching his neck so I could scratch his chin. We stayed like that for several minutes, the cat stretched out luxuriously, the owner scratching away.

I felt pretty good.

He'd chosen me to sleep with. Not just the bed. Me. Not Cindy. Me.

It was embarrassing how good it felt.

I swivelled round to glance at Cindy. She was awake now, too, watching us and smiling.

He never, ever, woke me up. Never, ever, meowed for breakfast. He would stay quietly in bed until I was awake, wait until his morning petting, then he'd get up and join me for breakfast in the kitchen – one black coffee, one chicken and kidney in cream sauce deluxe.

Passage B

It was a tiny movement that drew their eyes to the hanging box. Kino and Juana froze in their positions. Down the rope that hung the baby's box from the roof support a scorpion moved slowly. Kino's hand leaped to catch it, but it fell past his fingers, fell on the baby's shoulder, landed and struck. Then, snarling, Kino had it, had it in his fingers, rubbing it to a paste in his hands. He threw it down and beat it into the earth with his fist, and Coyotito screamed with pain in his box. But Kino beat and stamped the enemy until it was only a fragment and a moist place in the dirt. But Juana had the baby in her arms now. She found the puncture with redness starting from it already. She put her lips over the puncture and sucked hard and spat and sucked again while Coyotito screamed. Kino hovered; he was helpless, he was in the way. 5 10

The screams of the baby brought the neighbours. Out of their brush houses they poured – Kino's brother Juan Tomas and his fat wife Apolonia and their four children crowded in the door and blocked the entrance. And those in front passed the word back to those behind – "Scorpion. The baby has been stung." Juana stopped sucking the puncture for a moment. The little hole was slightly enlarged and its edges whitened from the sucking, but the red swelling extended farther around in a hard mound. And all of these people knew about the scorpion. An adult might be very ill from the sting, but a baby could easily die from the poison. First, they knew would come swelling and fever and tightened throat, and then cramps in the stomach, and then Coyotito might die if enough of the poison had gone in. But the stinging pain of the bite was going away. Coyotito's screams turned to moans. 15 20

Kino had often wondered at the iron in his patient, fragile wife. She, who was so obedient and respectful and cheerful and patient, could bear physical pain with hardly a cry. She could stand fatigue and hunger almost better than Kino himself. Now she did a most surprising thing. "The doctor," she said. "Go get the doctor." The word passed out among the neighbours where they stood close-packed in the little yard behind the brush fence. And they repeated among themselves: "Juana wants the doctor." A wonderful thing, a memorable thing, to want the doctor. To get him would be a remarkable thing. The doctor never came to the cluster of brush houses. Why should he, when he had more than he could do to take care of the rich people who lived in the stone and plaster houses of the town? "He would not come," the people in the yard said, and the thought got into Kino. "The doctor would not come," Kino said to Juana. 25 30

She looked up at him, her eyes as cold as the eyes of a lioness. This was Juana's first baby – this was nearly everything there was in Juana's world. And Kino saw her determination. "Then we will go to him," Juana said, and with one hand she arranged her dark-blue shawl over her head and made one end of it a sling to hold the moaning baby and made of the other end of it a shade to protect him from the light. And the people in the door pushed against those behind to let her through. Kino followed her. They went out of the gate to the rutted path and the neighbours followed them. 35 40

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

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

Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar 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.

From Passage A:

From paragraph 1:

Why did the author say that his kitten "didn't act vulnerable"? (lines 1-2) [1]

a) Explain in your own words what the author means by "he took over me." (line 3) [1]

b) "So we decided to leave it up to him." (line 7) What did they decide to leave up to the kitten? [1]

c) How did the author show that he was worried about his cat? [1]

From Paragraph 2:

a) Why do you think the author felt "pretty good"? (line 25) [1]

b) What pleased the author about the cat's behaviour? [1]

From Passage B:

From paragraph 1:

a) Why was Kino "snarling"? (line 4) [1]

b) Give one detail that indicates that Kino's living conditions were very poor. [1]

a) Describe the difference in behaviour between Kino and Juana after the scorpion had stung their child. [2]

b) "She put her lips over the puncture and sucked hard and spat" (line 9) In your own words explain what Juana was trying to do. [1]

From paragraph 2:

Explain what the sentence "And all of these people knew about the scorpion" (line 18) hints to us about the likely outcome of this tragedy. [2]

From paragraph 3:

- 8 From the first three lines of this paragraph, pick out an example of Juana's 'iron' in her character. [1]
- 9(a) Why was it a "wonderful thing" (line 29) for Juana to ask for the doctor? [1]
- (b) "The doctor would not come." (line 33) Explain what Kino was trying to tell his wife. [2]

From paragraph 4:

- 10 What eventually made Kino follow Juana to meet the doctor? [1]
- 11 Why did none of the neighbours help Kino and Juana? [2]

From Passages A and B:

- 12 For each of the following words or phrases, give **one** word or short phrase (of not more than **seven** words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

From Passage A:

1. vulnerable (line 2)
2. shifted (line 22)

From Passage B:

3. hovered (line 10)
4. fragile (line 23)
5. arranged (line 38) [5]

- 13 **Passage B** describes a number of actions which display Kino and Juana's love for their baby.

Using your own words as far as possible, summarise these actions.

USE THE MATERIAL IN PASSAGE B FROM LINE 1 TO LINE 42

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing(not note form), must not be more than 150 words (not counting the words given to help you to begin.)

Begin your summary as follows:

Kino grabbed the scorpion and snarling he [25]

End of Paper

Setter: Satvinder Kaur

English Language
Mid-Year Examination 2006
Secondary 2 Express
ANSWER SCHEME

- He was moving about the house confidently and happily as though he was a grown-up and did not need any form of supervision. [1]
- 6 (a) He made all the decisions regarding himself and the author left it to him to decide. [1]
- b) They let him decide where and when he would like to sleep. [1]
- 7 The first thing he did when he woke up was to listen very hard for the sounds of a cat at play. [1]
- (a) The author was pleased/ delighted that the cat had chosen to sleep by him, not just on the bed but also in preference to Cindy. [1]
- b) The cat never ever woke him up or meowed for his breakfast but instead would stay quietly in bed waiting for the author to wake up. [1]
- (a) It was because he was angry with the scorpion for having bitten his son. [1]
- b) The reference to the earth and dirt floor. [1]
- (a) Kino was very physical and violent. He beat the scorpion to pulp with his bare hands, Juana was very sensible and practical. She cradled the baby in her arms and worked hard at removing the poison. [2]
- (b) She was trying desperately to suck out the poison before it travelled into the blood and cause poisoning. [1]
- 7 That even for an adult it was difficult to survive the sting of the scorpion what more a baby. There was no chance of survival. [2]
- 8 She could bear physical pain with hardly a cry. [1]
- 9 (a) It was because it was unknown for the poor people to call for the doctor. [1]
- (b) He was reminding her that they were poor and had no choice but to rely on fate to save their baby as the doctor only attends to the rich and never before to the poor. [2]
- 10 It was her determination and strong will/ desire to save her baby that compelled him to match this strength. She was not going to give up and leave it to fate. [1]
- 11 It was because they too were equally poor and helpless in the face of such a tragedy. All they could do was stand by and watch the events unfold. [2]
- 12 1. unprotected, open to attack

2. moved
3. hung around protectively
4. delicate
5. neatened/ tidied

13. Summary

Kino grabbed the scorpion and snarling he

1. rubbed it to a paste in his hands.
2. He then threw it down and beat it into the earth with his fist.
3. As Coyolito screamed in pain, Kino beat and stamped the enemy until it was only a fragment and a moist place in the dirt.
4. Juana carried the baby in her arms,
5. She found the bite which was swelling and turning red.
6. She put her lips over the puncture, sucked hard and spat continuously.
7. Kino hovered around mother and child.
8. looking on helplessly and anxiously
9. Juana surprisingly out of desperation asked for the doctor.
10. This was impossible since the doctor never came to the brush houses to help the poor.
11. Juana looked at her husband pleadingly.
12. Kino saw her determination to save their first baby and only child.
13. Juana stood up in hope and determination.
14. She prepared herself to go to the doctor.
15. Kino and villagers followed her.

Content:	/15
Style :	/10
Total :	/25

The End