



南 华 中 学

NAN HUA HIGH SCHOOL

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2007

Subject : English Language
Paper : 1127/01
Level : Secondary Four Special/ Express
Date : 30 August 2007
Duration : 1 hour 45 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, class and index number on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen, on both sides of the paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer both **Section One** and **Section Two**.

Write your answers on the separate Answer Paper provided.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

This paper consists of 3 printed pages.

Section One [30 marks]

You are advised to write between 350 to 500 words on one of the following topics.

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

1. Describe an experience at a local fun fair on a weekend night.
2. "The pursuit of happiness is a hopeless endeavour." Do you agree?
3. Write about how a tragedy changed a person drastically.
4. "Patriotism is a dead trait in today's global world." What are your views?
5. Creation.

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Section Two [30 marks]

Begin your answer on a fresh page.

You are advised to write **between 250 and 350 words** for this section.

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

There have been reports that some graduating students of your school are very upset about having to perform for the school's Gala Concert in September because the Preliminary Examination is drawing near. The school would like to make a decision in consultation with its students on whether the practice should continue in future. As the President of the Student Council, you have been asked to find out the general opinion among the student population.

View A	View B
All graduating students should be allowed to stop attending Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) to concentrate on their studies.	All graduating students should persevere and treat performing for the Gala Concert as a fitting finish to their service with their CCA.
The school has always taught students to prioritise and in this case, priority should be given to studying for the O level examination.	Education is not just about studying; it is about prioritization of studies, CCA and personal life. Graduating students need to learn this.
The school should consider the views of the students when feedback is given and act on it.	The school has made clear its stand and rationale for ensuring that graduating students do their part for the school and support their juniors in this grand event. That in itself is an adequate reply.
Students are not slaves to the school and cannot be expected to merely bring glory to it. They should concentrate on preparing for their future as well.	Students are constantly given much help in their studies and their future is certainly taken into account. They should unite with the rest of the school in making the Gala Concert a success.
It is pointless to force the graduating students to perform for the Gala Concert as many of them will not have the heart to do it well.	Students should learn to respect authority, have the discipline to do what is required and be mature enough to perform the assigned task well.

Write a report for the Principal on whether graduating students should be involved in school activities near their national exams, giving the reasons for your choice. Set your report out correctly, in clear and accurate English.



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PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2007

Subject : English Language
Paper : 1127/02
Level : Secondary Four Special / Express
Date : 13 September 2007
Duration : 1 hour 40 minutes

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains the comprehension passages.

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

Passage A

- 1 Meet Peter. Peter is a 79-year-old English retiree. Back in World War Two, he served as a radar technician. He is now an international star. One year ago, this would not have been possible, but the world has changed. In the past twelve months, thousands of ordinary people have become famous. The rules are different now, and one website changed them: YouTube. 5
- 2 It has been an interesting year in technology. Nintendo invented a video game you control with a magic wand, a Silicon Valley company began selling an electric car that accelerates like a Ferrari and a robot learned to ride a bicycle. Yet only YouTube created a new way for millions of people to entertain, educate, shock and rock on a scale we have never seen before. That is why it is TIME's Invention of the Year for 2006. 10
- 3 We know that Steve Chen, Chad Hurley and Jawed Karim started YouTube but who exactly invented it? At a dinner party in 2004, they started talking about how easy it was to share photos with your friends online but what a pain it was to do the same thing with video, so they did something about it. They put together a simple routine for taking videos in any format and making them play in pretty much any Web browser on any computer. Then they built a kind of virtual video village, a website where people could post their own videos and watch, rate, comment on, search for and tag other people's videos. Voilà: YouTube. 15
- 4 However, even though they built it, they did not really understand it. They thought they had built a useful tool for people to share their travel videos or people might use it to pitch auction items on eBay. They had no idea. They had opened a portal into another dimension. The minute people saw YouTube, they did its creators a huge favour: they hijacked it. Instead of posting their home movies, they posted their stand-up routines and drunken ramblings, uploaded their backyard science projects, their delivery-room footage and their guitar solos, promulgated conspiracy theories and poured out their most intimate and embarrassing secrets. 20 25
- 5 YouTube's creators had stumbled onto the intersection of three revolutions. First, the revolution in video production made possible by cheap camcorders and easy-to-use video software. Second, the social revolution dubbed Web 2.0 that is exemplified by sites like MySpace, Wikipedia and Flickr – hybrids that are not just useful tools but also thriving communities for interaction among users. The third revolution is a cultural one. Consumers are impatient with the mainstream media. People want unfiltered video from Iraq, Lebanon and Darfur – not from journalists but from soldiers who fight there and people who live and die there. The videos may not be slick but they are real. 30 35

(Adapted from 'The People's Network' by Lev Grossman, TIME Asia)

Passage B

- 1 Bill Gates' life is a classic American riches-to-even-more-riches story. Growing up the son of a successful attorney, he was a curious **fusion** of nerd and bad boy. He was a straight-arrow student but it was never enough to be the best. He had to push everything a little too far – he wanted to win the game and break the rules at the same time to show he was even smarter than the one who wrote the rules. 5
- 2 In high school, Gates and Paul Allen, with whom he would later co-found Microsoft, shared similar interests. Later in their lives at Harvard, they realized that there was a bigger game going on, even bigger than Harvard. "We'd agreed the microprocessor was going to change the world," Gates remembers. "It was so weird that people didn't see that." 10
- 3 Being the power nerd that he is, Gates' social skills are not all that great. He may omit to shake your hand when you meet him. His voice has one setting: high and loud. He still has that much remarked-upon habit of rocking back and forth while he is thinking, and he sometimes jumps up, rather startlingly, to pace while he is talking. 15
- 4 However, there is a warmth to Gates and a weird but **genuine** charm. It is always a pleasure to interview him not because he is a good talker but because he is not. He cannot help answering your questions seriously and literally. There are tales, probably true, of his brutally breaking down employees in meetings. He likes the truth, and he likes things to be clear. 20
- 5 It is typical for Gates to take an engineer's approach – a literal, analytical, hacker's approach – to everything, whether it is an engineering problem or not. This is not always the best approach. On the one hand, it has worked out pretty well for making software. On the other hand, look at Gates' haircut. Consider that software again and you will find that though Microsoft makes efficient 25 business tools, it has never enjoyed the same reputation for simplicity and elegance as, say, Apple's. For all his drive and intelligence, Gates does not see things with an artist's eye for those human intangibles.
- 6 It will therefore be interesting to watch Gates try his Vulcan approach on challenges like curing AIDS and fixing America's public schools. In July 2008, 30 his primary focus will become the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which he and his wife founded to address health and education issues.
- 7 Gates refers to his philanthropic work as "solving inequity", as if it were a long-division problem. When Gates looks at the world, a world in which millions of preventable deaths occur each year, he sees an irrational, inefficient and broken 35 system, an application that needs to be debugged. "We had just assumed that if millions of children were dying and they could be saved, the world would make it a priority to discover and deliver the medicine to save them," he said. "But it did not." Sickness, death, ignorance and illiteracy – those are the problems that need nerds. That is where Gates 30 needs to be and that is where he is going. 40

(Adapted from 'Bill Gates Goes Back to School' by Lev Grossman, TIME Asia)



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PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2007

Subject : **English Language**
Paper : **1127/02**
Level : **Secondary Four Special / Express**
Date : **13 September 2007**
Duration : **1 hour 40 minutes**

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the Answer Paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Write your name and class in the spaces provided on the Answer Paper.

Answer **all** questions.

Leave a space of **one** line between your answers to **each** part of a question, e.g. between **4(a)** and **4(b)**.

Leave a space of at least **three** lines after your completed answer to each **whole** question.

Write your answers on the separate Answer Paper provided.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

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

The insert contains the comprehension passages.

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

Read Passage A and Passage B in the insert 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:

- 1 “One year ago, **this** would not have been possible,…” (lines 2-3). [1]
What does ‘this’ refer to?

From paragraph 2:

- 2 What reason does the writer give to justify the choice of YouTube as TIME’s [1]
Invention of the Year for 2006?

From paragraph 3:

- 3 Explain fully the initial goal Chen, Hurley and Karim wanted to achieve when [1]
they started building YouTube.

From paragraph 4:

- 4 “However, even though they built it, they did not really understand it.” (line 20) [2]
Why does the writer say that the creators of YouTube did not understand what they built?

From paragraph 5:

- 5 What led to the revolution in video production? [1]

- 6 Describe, in **your own words**, what the websites that exemplify the social [2]
revolution are like.

- 7 **In your own words**, explain fully why consumers are impatient with the [2]
mainstream media.

From Passage B:

From paragraph 2:

- 8 Explain, in **your own words**, what the writer means by “the bigger game” (line [1]
8)

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From paragraph 3:

- 9 Name **two** pieces of evidence that the writer gives to show that Gates' social skills are "not all that great" (line 11). [2]

From paragraph 4:

- 10 (a) Explain fully the following sentence in **your own words**, paying close attention to the **underlined words/phrase**. [2]

"There are tales, probably true, of his brutally breaking down employees in meetings." (lines 18-19)

- (b) Suggest, from what you learnt from this paragraph, **one thing** Gates might have done to break down employees. [1]

From paragraph 5:

- 11 According to the writer, in what way is Microsoft not doing as well as Apple? [1]

From paragraph 6:

- 12 What does the phrase, "primary focus" (line 31), tell you about Gates' plans for his charity work in **comparison** to those for his business in July 2008? [1]

Paragraph 7

- 13 Why does the world appear to be a system that is irrational to Gates? [2]

From Passage A and Passage B:

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

From Passage A:

1. pitch (line 22)
2. intimate (line 27)
3. exemplified (line 32)

From Passage B:

4. fusion (line 2)
5. genuine (line 16)

[5]

15 From Passage B:

Using **your own words as far as possible**, summarise the positive traits Bill Gates possesses that make him successful, and the areas he needs to improve in.

USE THE MATERIAL IN PASSAGE B FROM LINE 1 TO LINE 28.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than 150 words (not counting the words given to help you begin). Begin your summary as follows:

Bill Gates possesses several positive traits that make him successful ...

[25]

- End of Paper -

Answer Sheets

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Passage A

- Q1. The 'this' refers to Peter's transformation into an international star.
- Q2. The writer feels that YouTube's achievement outshone the other entries as it had changed the lives of millions of people, on a scale unlike any other invention.
- Q3. Their initial goal the trio wanted to achieve was to allow friends to be able to post, search, share, rate and comment on each other's homemade videos on a convenient virtual platform.
- Q4. The writer says that the creators did not really understand it as they did not realize that their initial goal of enabling home video sharing had actually morphed into a social platform where anyone and everyone can post and view each others' 'interesting' videos that otherwise will not be able to be aired through any other avenue.
- Q5. The availability of cheap camcorders and simple-to-use video software to the masses led the revolution in video production.
- Q6. These websites not only allowed video sharing like YouTube, it allowed file/photo sharing and more importantly allowed interaction amongst its users.
- Q7. Consumers are impatient with mainstream media as it will take a long time for the footage to reach them. On top of that, the footage will have to take time for editing and filtering before being broadcasted, something viewers do not want as they prefer 'real' footage that reflected the truth and not fanciful, time-wasting edited footage.

Passage B

- Q8. The writer means that though performing and 'winning' their peers in Harvard was their current game, there was a larger avenue of competition and playing field outside in the real world which will prove to be more challenging than any other 'game', which was to be able to lead and leverage on the advent of the microprocessor.
- Q9. Gates might not shake one's hand on meeting him and he speaks with no voice variation, but instead speaks loudly and with a high pitch.

- Q10. The sentence meant that there were probable tales that Gates' employees were not be able to take his forceful, blunt and demanding dressing downs in order to attain high standards from them.
- Q11. Gates might have interrogated his employees for the truth that he needed to reflect on the company's actual progress and not just glorified untruths.
- Q12. Gates plans to make his charity work in America the main focus of his time and efforts and leave the main business running to his partners.
- Q13. He feels it that way as though there were scores of ill people in the world waiting to be saved and treated, yet no help was available to address that issue and deaths result. Gates was frustrated that such atrocities existed.
- Q14. i) Promote and advertise
 ii) Very private
 iii) Illustrated through example
 iv) Blending
 v) Real

Q13. Points Should Include:

Positive Traits:

- Competitive and wanting to do his best and win the rest all the time
- Possessed foresight for opportunity
- Genuine personality with nothing to hide
- Demanded the truth and clarity from his employees
- Takes on a straight-forward, no frills and analytical approach to problem addressing and solving
- Addresses problems efficiently

Areas Of Improvement:

- Social etiquette and social behavior
- Speaking and expressive verbal skills
- May get too demanding to his employees in his pursuit for perfection
- Should develop an eye of human intangibles such as form instead of just pure function