

TAO NAN SCHOOL

PRIMARY 6 ENGLISH LANGUAGE MID-YEAR EXAMINATION – 2008

PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)

Name: _____ ()

Date: 6 May 2008

Class: Primary 6 _____

Time: 8.00 – 9.50 a.m.

Total Time For Booklets A and B: 1 hour 50 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Follow all instructions carefully.

Answer all questions.

BOOKLET A

	SCORE	MARKS
BOOKLET A		30
BOOKLET B		65
TOTAL		95

Parent's Signature: _____

Section A (5x1m)

Graphic Stimulus

Study the following text and then answer questions 1 to 5.

Maths Connect

Another quality publication from Maths House Educational Services.

Dear Parents,

Maths Connect is a set of 4 Mathematics magazines which comes with a free games CD. These magazines have been published by Maths House Educational Services which has been inspiring countless students for over 15 years. The contents of the four books which make up the set are as follows:

Book 1 : Maths and Thinking Stories

This book aims to show you that Maths is all around you and is not simply a subject you take in school. Join us on an adventure where Maths will get you out of sticky situations.

Book 2 : Know Your School Work

The problem sums in this book will help you to gauge how well you have learnt Maths in school.

Book 3 : Challenging Activities

Packed with interesting and challenging puzzles, it is a book your whole family will love!

Book 4 : A Taste of the Maths Olympiad

This book consists of three papers. The problems are challenging and will require the use of various strategies. You will get a taste of the type of questions commonly tested in an examination. You will also be able to learn many strategies which you may find useful even for your regular school work. Solutions and answers are provided.

For more enquiries, call 6486421 or log on to www.mathsconnect.com

To Order :

Bulk Order through the school using your Edusave Account

Mail Order using the order form below.

For individual orders, we will deliver the magazine to your local address.

Do not remit cash.

Major credit cards accepted.

Make cheques payable to Maths Connect.

Come down to our office to pay by cash.

Maths Connect	Price	Quantity	Amount
Primary 1 & 2	\$13		
Primary 3 & 4	\$13		
Primary 5 & 6	\$13		

Name: _____ (In full)

School: _____

Home Address: _____

Contact Number : _____

For each question from 1 to 5, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the OAS.

1. Jack places an order for Maths Connect with his school. He will be able to pay using _____.

- (1) cash
- (2) a cheque
- (3) a credit card
- (4) his Edusave account

2. Sarah's mother loves solving challenging puzzles. She will enjoy _____ the most.

- Book 1
- Book 2
- Book 3
- Book 4

3. Ali wants to excel in Mathematics in the coming examination. Which book will best help him prepare for the Mathematics paper?

- (1) Challenging Activities
- (2) Know Your School Work
- (3) Maths and Thinking Stories
- (4) A Taste of the Maths Olympiad

4. Pupils who want to improve their Mathematics skills might want to buy Maths Connect because _____.

- (1) Mathematics problems are presented in an interesting manner
- (2) the book comes with a complimentary Mathematical games CD
- (3) there are challenging puzzles for the whole family to do together
- (4) the company has been inspiring countless students for more than a decade

5. Which one of the following statements is false?

- The CD is available for sale.
- Not all credit cards are accepted by Maths House.
- To get more information, one can visit the website.
- The books are tailored to different groups of pupils.

Section B (7x1m)

Grammar

For each question from 6 to 12, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the OAS.

6. The girls _____ dresses have to be altered must stay back after this rehearsal.

- (1) who
- (2) whom
- (3) which
- (4) whose

7. Mandy _____ on her comfortable bed and rested after completing her project.

- (1) lie
- (2) lay
- (3) lain
- (4) laid

8. My father is taking Jane and _____ to the park tomorrow. Do you want to join us?

- (1) I
- (2) me
- (3) him
- (4) her

9. Since last month, the police officers _____ the whole area for clues pertaining to the escape of the fugitive.

- (1) had searched
- (2) were searching
- (3) will be searching
- (4) have been searching

10. What a shame! _____ of them has the courage to admit that they are in the wrong.

- (1) All
- (2) Both
- (3) Each
- (4) None

11. The number of motorists caught speeding last month _____ rising so drastically that immediate actions had to be taken by the authorities.

- ① is
- ② are
- ③ was
- ④ were

12. The presenter could not put his ideas _____ clearly as he was uncertain of the facts.

- ① up
- ② about
- ③ across
- ④ towards

Section C (3x1m)

Punctuation

For each question from 13 to 15, choose the correct punctuation to complete the passage. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the OAS.

An air stewardess announced nervously during a flight, (13) "We're really sorry, ladies and gentlemen but something embarrassing has happened. We do not have enough meals for all of you."

When the angry muttering died down, the air stewardess spoke again, (14) "However, we've managed to find some light refreshments. You'll be served some apples, oranges, bananas and grapes," she said apologetically.

"What nonsense (15)" a passenger cried out.

13. (1) [, "] comma and inverted commas
(2) [. "] full stop and inverted commas
(3) [? "] question mark and inverted commas
(4) [! "] exclamation mark and inverted commas
14. (1) [,] comma
(2) [.] full stop
(3) [?] question mark
(4) [!] exclamation mark
15. (1) [,] comma
(2) [.] full stop
(3) [?] question mark
(4) [!] exclamation mark

Section D (5x1m)

Vocabulary

For each question from 16 to 20, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the OAS.

16. A beautiful _____ of flowers was placed around Ahmad's neck as he was the hundredth guest on the Singapore Flyer.
- (1) stalk
 - (2) bunch
 - (3) garland
 - (4) bouquet
17. The duty manager apologised to the _____ guests who complained about the unfortunate ~~false~~ alarm at three in the morning.
- (1) irate
 - (2) anxious
 - (3) confused
 - (4) dumbfounded
18. The renowned lawyer _____ the documents for irregularities.
- (1) probed
 - (2) surveyed
 - (3) monitored
 - (4) scrutinised
19. Why are you so _____? You do not seem to have heard a word that I have said.
- (1) ecstatic
 - (2) occupied
 - (3) distracted
 - (4) complacent
20. The burglars must have entered through the window as the front gate has not been _____.
- (1) broken into
 - (2) triggered off
 - (3) tampered with
 - (4) knocked down

Section E (5x1m)

Vocabulary Cloze

For each question from 21 to 25, choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined words. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the OAS.

It was exactly nine in the morning and Judge Hee was getting ready to face the public. As a preceding judge, he had to remain (21) neutral even though the witnesses might be overly emotional. At times, even the most docile witnesses might grow violent and they would have to be (22) shown the door. As a judge, he had to (23) draw out the exact sequence of events from unresponsive witnesses who did not want to answer the questions posed by the lawyers. He might even have to interrupt witnesses should they pass (24) scornful remarks or relay a (25) fictitious account of the incident.

21. (1) upright
 (2) impartial
 (3) balanced
 (4) legitimate
22. (1) denied entry
 (2) told to leave
 (3) made to stand outside
 (4) asked to sit near the door
23. (1) elicit
 (2) extort
 (3) illustrate
 (4) describe
24. (1) cold
 (2) derisive
 (3) arrogant
 (4) unflattering
25. (1) false
 (2) surreal
 (3) flippant
 (4) counterfeit

Section F (5x1m)

Comprehension MCQ

Read the passage below and answer questions 26 to 30.

Pierre awoke to a world which composed of his raft, the sky and the vastness of the Atlantic. He inspected the raft which was a rudimentary wooden affair, made up of planks crudely nailed together. It was designed to sustain life for a few days and had a few items lashed to its side – a large canister of water, some biscuits, a few flares and a torch. The raft lacked any means of propulsion. It was merely a platform on which castaways would drift until they were picked up or perished. 5

Pierre realised that it might be weeks or even months before he was rescued. Luckily, he had the presence of mind to supplement his rations from the first day of the ordeal and prepare himself for the lean days ahead. 10

Pierre overcame his water problem by using his lifejacket as a rain collector. He also drank small doses of seawater as he knew that it would not be harmful should it be consumed in small amounts.

It took him longer to solve the food problem. The sea was a source of plenty but he had neither line nor net. He took a piece of rope and laboriously removed strand after strand. He then twisted the strands together until it reached a suitable length. For the hook, he cannibalised his torch. For the bait, he used biscuits. When it was ready, he prayed that it was strong enough before dropping it into the water. Very soon, he had his first fish. Eating it posed a problem as he had no knife. However, he managed to make a cutting tool using materials that he had found. With this, he cut out the liver, the most nutritious part and consumed it. 20

Encouraged by his first successful attempt, Pierre decided to catch a shark. First, he caught a seagull and used it as bait. Not long after lowering his line into the water, a shark made for it. Thus, the battle for strength between the shark and the castaway began. After some time the shark weakened and was drawn up to the side of the raft where Pierre battered it to death with his water canister. Then, he cut it open and ate its liver. He did not eat the rest of the shark but wondered what it tasted like. 25 30

His most fearful moment during his ordeal came not when he had the encounter with the shark nor was it caused by foul weather. It came in the form of a fellow human being. One day, a German submarine surfaced a short distance away and Pierre assumed that his final hour had come. Miraculously, he was not spotted and after a while, the enemy boat returned to the deep. 35

At last, his saga on the raft ended when Pierre spied a South American fishing boat from a distance. He waved his arms wildly. Luckily, the fishermen took him on board. Later, he arrived at a small fishing village where he was able to walk ashore unaided, something that castaways adrift for much shorter periods were usually unable to do. 40

26. Which word from the first paragraph tells you that the raft was made with little skill?

- (1) affair
- (2) lashed
- (3) crudely
- (4) inspected

27. The word 'rations' in Line 10 refers to _____.

- (1) Pierre's presence of mind
- (2) the items tied to one side of the raft
- (3) the first fish which Pierre had caught
- (4) the small doses of seawater which Pierre drank

28. The word 'castaway' in Line 27 refers to _____.

- (1) Pierre
- (2) the raft
- (3) the shark
- (4) the seagull

29. The most dangerous moment of the ordeal came when _____.

- (1) Pierre had to battle the shark
- (2) Pierre drank too much seawater
- (3) the South American fishing boat spotted him
- (4) the German submarine surfaced near the raft

30. Which of the following statements is true?

- (1) Pierre perished in the Atlantic Ocean.
- (2) Pierre demonstrated resilience throughout the ordeal.
- (3) Pierre managed to manoeuvre the raft using the motor.
- (4) Pierre had to resort to cannibalism to survive on the raft.

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Name: _____ () Date: 6 May 2008

Class: Primary 6 _____ Time: 8.00 a.m. – 9.50 a.m.

Total Time For Booklets A and B: 1 hour 50 minutes

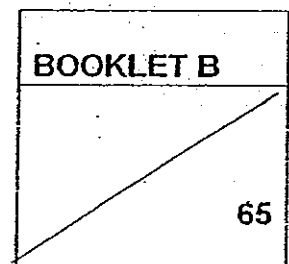
INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Follow all instructions carefully.

Answer all questions.

Write your answers in this booklet.



Parent's Signature
Date:

Section G (10 x 1m)

Grammar Cloze

There are 10 blanks, numbered 31 to 40, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted to avoid confusion during marking.

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

~~(A)~~ a
~~(B)~~ for
~~(C)~~ out

~~(D)~~ to
~~(E)~~ from
~~(F)~~ the

~~(G)~~ of
~~(H)~~ it
~~(J)~~ they

~~(K)~~ all
~~(L)~~ but
~~(M)~~ and

~~(N)~~ was
~~(P)~~ were
~~(Q)~~ that

As it turned out, I had broken fifteen bones, which was a record for the spinal ward. _____ I could think about was the pain and more to the

(31)

point, escaping it. Painkillers were, of course, a blessing – but

_____ could only mute the agony, not eliminate it altogether. There

(32)

_____ also countless routines and rules in the hospital that added

(33)

to my frustration. I was given needles to stop my blood from clotting

_____ I was constantly flipped in my bed, like a steak on a

(34)

barbecue. Each time, my skin would rupture, my body would scream

_____ Another little part _____ my spirit would

(35)

(36)

diminish.

In so many ways, I felt like a candle burnt down _____ the

(37)

wick. Just weeks earlier, I had been _____ fit, healthy, strong

(38)

and independent young man _____ I had become so helpless that

(39)

I could not even wash myself. When I got hit by that truck, I was struck by a

situation which I would never have chosen _____ myself.

(40)

Nonetheless, I had to brace myself and hoped for a speedy recovery.

Section H (10 x 1m)

Editing for Spelling and Grammar

Correct each word in bold for spelling and each underlined word for grammar. Write the correct word in the relevant box.

(41)

After Kim's birth, doctors labelled him a "retard". They advise his parents to put him in ⁹

home. Instead, they took him home and introduced him to books.

(42)

When Kim was three years old, he asked his father what "confidancial" meant. Fran

(43)

jokingly told him to look it to in the dictionary.

(44)

(45)

"He wouldn't walk," said Fran. So Kim putting his head down and crawled towards the

desk, pulled himself up and about thirty seconds later said 'I've found it.' At four and a half,

(46)

he had memmerise the first eight volumes of a set of encyclopaedias.

(47)

Recently, it was discovered that each of his eyes could read a saperate

(48)

paperback page simultaneously. He was also apzorbing every word in about ten seconds

(49)

and he never forget what he had read.

Kim is not autistic but developmentally disabled. He is a mega-savant who

(50)

possesses remarkable xpertiz in up to at least fifteen different subjects. No one in the

world is thought to possess a brain as extraordinary as Kim's.

Section I (15 x 1m)

Comprehension Cloze

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

Cheetahs are in trouble. Just about one hundred years _____, (51)
they roamed Asia. Today, they are almost _____ on the continent (52)
except for about one hundred left in Iran. Their numbers in Africa are also on the
_____, with an estimated population of only twelve thousand left in (53)
the wild.

Swift, slender and long-legged, the cheetah is a picture of elegance.
_____ big cats such as lions, tigers, leopards and jaguars, cheetahs (54)
cannot withdraw their claws completely and they cannot roar. Cheetahs are so distinct that
scientists decided to classify them in a category of their _____. (55)

Cheetahs have two very distinct black lines on their _____. (56)
These lines, known as 'tear lines', are located just beneath the eyes. They function like
sunglasses to _____ the eyes of a cheetah from the sun's rays and cut (57)
down _____ from the sun's ray during a hunt. To hunt, cheetahs get as (58)
close as _____ to potential prey and then suddenly burst into speed. (59)

During a _____, they are able to sprint at a top (60)
_____ of 112km/h. Despite their speed, cheetahs are not among the (61)
_____ formidable hunters. Cheetahs' hunts often fail because the cats (62)
_____ out easily. During a high-speed chase, their body temperature (63)
_____ rapidly and they have to stop in less than a minute or risk (64)
death. Thus, cheetahs must catch their prey within a short _____ of no (65)
more than four hundred metres. Beyond this, they have to give up their chase.

Section J (5 x 2 m)

Synthesis

For each of the questions 66 to 70, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the words(s) provided. Your answers must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

66. My classmates agreed that skating is more enjoyable than jogging.

_____ would rather

67. Mrs Chew switched to skimmed milk and used less oil. She lost four kilogrammes.

By switching to _____

68. The two girls, as well as their mother, do not want to take part in the contest.

_____ nor

69. "You swim well. You'll definitely win the competition tomorrow," Mr Tay told me.

Mr Tay told me that _____

70. The floods were caused by the continuous downpour.

The cause _____

Section K (10 x 2m)

Comprehension Open

Read the passage below and answer questions 71 to 80.

"Look at this, John. Should we be so close to the mountains?" Panchito elbowed me from the window seat. I was sitting next to him as our twin engine aircraft bounced and slid in the turbulence. We had joked about how we were flying over the Andes on such an unlucky day – Friday the 13th.

We were flying in thick clouds but through the breaks, I saw a massive wall of rock and snow. Then, as the plane bobbed roughly, I noticed that the swaying tip of the wing was no more than eight metres from the slopes of the mountain. The engine screamed as **the pilots tried to climb** above the mountain. There was a terrible howl of metal grinding. I saw open sky above me, clouds swirling in the aisle and frigid air blasted my face. There was no time to make sense out of it, no time to pray or to feel fear. I was hurled with incredible force from my seat to the front of the plane, where I descended into complete darkness and silence. 5 10

I was unconscious, my face covered in blood and black bruises and my head swollen to the size of a basketball. The battered aircraft had come to rest at about 3600 metres on an ice-crusting mountain. Thirteen passengers died and the rest who survived were badly wounded. 15

"Where is my mother?" I asked.

"John, you must be strong. Your mother is dead. There is more, Panchito is dead too. Your sister is over there. She is hurt very badly," Roberto said.

Panic and grief exploded in my heart but a lucid, detached voice said, "Do not cry. Tears waste salt. You will need salt to survive." I was astounded. "I've lost my mother, I'm stranded, I'm freezing, my sister may be dying, my skull is in pieces. I should not cry?" I heard the voice again – "Do not cry. Look forward. Think clearly. You will survive." 20

We pooled the little food we had and melted snow for drinking water. When we had finally nibbled the food down to nothing, there was no food left. I saw many friends growing thin and drawn. In desperation, we ate strips of leather torn from our luggage. 25

It was late afternoon when my gaze fell on the leg wound of a boy near me. Then I met the gaze of some others who had also been staring. In shame, we read one another's thoughts and glanced away. However, something happened. I had recognised human flesh as food. It represented our only hope of survival. We called a meeting and discussed the issue. 30

"We're starving," Roberto began to speak. "Unless we eat some protein soon, we will die." 35

The discussion continued for hours but no one tried to talk us out of the idea. In silence, we realised that we had reached a consensus. After all that, the grisly logistic had to be faced. As Roberto was out at the frosty graves, the sound of helicopters could be heard.

"We don't have to embark on the taboo anymore!" Roberto yelled to the rest. 40

Adapted from Reader's Digest

ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES

71. Who is the writer?

72. Where were John and Panchito?

73. Explain clearly what the phrase "the pilots tried to climb" means.

74. What does "it" in line 10 refer to?

75. Which four-word phrase in paragraph 2 tells us that the writer was thrown off by an unbelievable power?

76. Why was John filled with panic and grief?

77. What did John and the other survivors do when there was no more food left?

78. From line 36 - 37, why did none of the survivors "talk them out of the idea"?

79. What was the common decision which the writer and the survivors had arrived at?

80. What made Roberto abandon his task? Why do you think so?

END OF PAPER

Tao Nan Primary School

Primary 6 English SA1 Exam (2008)

Answer Keys

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
4	3	4	4	1	4	2	2	4	4
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
3	3	1	2	4	3	1	4	3	3
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30
2	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	4	2
Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34	Q35	Q36	Q37	Q38	Q39	Q40
K	J	P	M	C	G	D	A	L	B

- | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 41. advised | 42. confidential | 43. up | 44. couldn't | 45. put |
| 46. memorized | 47. separate | 48. absorbing | 49. forgot | 50. expertise |
| 51. ago | 52. extinct | 53. decrease | 54. Unlike | 55. own |
| 56. faces | 57. protect | 58. glare | 59. possible | 60. chase |
| 61. speed | 62. most | 63. tire | 64. increases | 65. distance |

66. My classmates would rather skate than jog.
67. By switching to skimmed milk and using less oil, Mrs. Chew lost four kilogram's.
68. Neither the two girls nor their mother wants to take to part in the contest.
69. Mr Tay told me that swam well and that I would definitely win the competition the next day.
70. The cause of the floods was the continuous downpour.
71. He is John who was a passenger on board a plane which crashed, killing his mother and wounding his sister.
72. They were flying over the Andes in an aircraft.
73. It means that the pilots tried to make their plane gain altitude.
75. It is "hurled with incredible force".
76. His mother and Panchito had died in the crash and his sister was wounded very badly.
77. They ate strips of leather torn from their luggage.
78. They rehashed that they were staring and had to eat some protein soon in order to like.
79. It was that they were going to eat the dead bodies.
80. He probably thought that the helicopters were there to rescue the passengers.