

SX1

SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL  
FIRST SEMESTRAL ASSESSMENT 2017  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
PRIMARY SIX

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

Date: 3 May 2017

Class:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2  
(BOOKLET A)

**Total time for Booklets A and B: 1 hour 50 minutes**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- 1 Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
- 2 Follow all instructions carefully.
- 3 Answer all questions.
- 4 Shade your answers on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS) provided.

For each question from 1 to 10, shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (10 marks)

1 The Health Promotion Board and the Ministry of Education \_\_\_\_\_ pupils to refrain from eating deep fried food as it is bad for their health.

- (1) encourage
- (2) encourages
- (3) had encouraged
- (4) was encouraging

2 All the equipment and furniture in this factory \_\_\_\_\_ purchased by the company last December.

- (1) is
- (2) are
- (3) was
- (4) were

3 Mr Lim ran towards his house when he heard his wife \_\_\_\_\_ for help.

- (1) scream
- (2) screams
- (3) screamed
- (4) had screamed

4 I had scarcely walked through my bedroom door \_\_\_\_\_ I received a call and had to run right back out into the living room again.

- (1) but
- (2) and
- (3) that
- (4) when

5 "Has anyone \_\_\_\_\_ from this packet of food? It has been here since yesterday!" our class monitor asked the class.

- (1) eat
- (2) ate
- (3) eats
- (4) eaten

6. "As a tour guide, I always ensure that I recommend the best route to the tourists so that they can go \_\_\_\_\_ Singapore and visit most of the tourist attractions," said Mr Lim to the younger tour guides.
- (1) in
  - (2) near
  - (3) across
  - (4) around
7. Except for Tom, all the children wanted to go home so he had to go back to school all by \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) itself
  - (2) himself
  - (3) yourself
  - (4) themselves
8. "Meet me after school. I would like to give you \_\_\_\_\_ advice for the competition," said Mrs Lim, my gymnastics coach.
- (1) little
  - (2) much
  - (3) some
  - (4) a few
9. Recently, there has been a spike in crimes in this area. What puzzled the investigators most \_\_\_\_\_ that no clues were left by the perpetrators.
- (1) is
  - (2) are
  - (3) were
  - (4) have been
10. James and John do not have enough money to pay for the taxi fare, \_\_\_\_\_ they?
- (1) do
  - (2) does
  - (3) don't
  - (4) didn't

For each question from 11 to 15, shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

- 11 The police officer received a \_\_\_\_\_ from an anonymous caller who told him that a major crime was going to happen.
- (1) clue
  - (2) tip-off
  - (3) survey
  - (4) notification
- 12 After seeking legal advice from several lawyers, the family of the boy who had an unsuccessful operation decided to sue the surgeon for \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) malfunction
  - (2) malpractice
  - (3) malformation
  - (4) maladministration
- 13 John spends his money \_\_\_\_\_ as he is saving up to get married and buy a house.
- (1) sparingly
  - (2) carelessly
  - (3) frivolously
  - (4) extravagantly
- 14 The old lady struggled clumsily to wrestle her suitcase off the train onto the platform. Instead of offering help, she could hear some fellow passengers \_\_\_\_\_ her weak efforts.
- (1) deriding
  - (2) deferring
  - (3) defaming
  - (4) deporting
- 15 I find violence \_\_\_\_\_, thus I do not watch action or crime shows.
- (1) felicitous
  - (2) unseemly
  - (3) abhorrent
  - (4) dishonourable

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**GO TO THE NEXT PAGE** 

For each question from 16 to 20, choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined word(s). Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

KidZania is one of the attractions in Sentosa. It gives children between the ages of three and seventeen the chance to take on the roles of grown-ups. The setting is a kid-sized, interactive indoor theme park complete with a working economy. KidZania's brick-paved streets are lined with buildings whose storefronts bear the logos of recognisable brands such as Sony and McDonald's.

(16)

(17)

(18)

Unlike Disney's magical kingdom parks that promise fantasy and wish fulfilment, KidsZania is proudly a municipality where the children have to adhere to the guidelines of the theme park. Upon arriving at KidsZania, children receive a cheque for 50 KidZos which can be deposited into a bank and accessed with a realistic-looking debit card. The children earn a salary for participating in an activity such as assembling a car, moving furniture or putting out a fire with real water. The whole idea of KidsZania is to allow children to experience the real world in a fun setting.

(19)

(20)

Adapted from 'When I Grow Up', by Rebecca Mead, Readers' Digest

16. (1) make  
(2) accept  
(3) imitate  
(4) assume
- 17 (1) bullish  
(2) excessive  
(3) functioning  
(4) progressive

- 18 (1) alike  
(2) familiar  
(3) sophisticated  
(3) unceremonious

- 19 (1) rules  
(2) controls  
(3) arrangements  
(4) authorisations

- 20 (1) reparation  
(2) repayment  
(3) remuneration  
(4) reimbursement

Study this brochure carefully and then answer Questions 21 to 28.

# Learning Carnival

Brought to you by Association of English Educators

Come join us at our inaugural Learning Carnival! For this Learning Carnival, we have amassed the best in the field just for you! With dozens of booths showcasing the best learning methods and enrichment materials, you will definitely find something suitable for you! In addition, we will have a lot of fun activities in store!



There will also be hourly talks by Lisa Chen, the author of 'Seriously Good English'. She will be sharing the secrets of learning English that will make you a pro in no time!

Spencer Lee, a teacher with more than 25 years of experience, will share with you the techniques that help students score in their English examinations!



Take a hands-on approach at all booths with enrichment materials!



Visitors can also try their hand at various puzzles and games!

Booth participants include:

- Learning is FUN materials
- NLP Learning
- Information ROCKS Encyclopaedia
- Earth-Shaker materials
- Mind Development Bookstore

GOODIE BAGS FOR THE FIRST 100 VISITORS!



Sunday, 5 November 2017  
9am-9pm  
Singapore Expo Hall 4

Log on to [LearningCarnivalSg.com](http://LearningCarnivalSg.com) for more information!



*Testimonials for 'Information ROCKS Encyclopaedia':*



"When I bought this set of encyclopedia for my daughter, I was not sure if she would like it. I know that if she finds it boring, she won't read it at all. Then it would be a waste of money! Thankfully, she loved it!"

– Mrs Lee

"I love my 'Information Rocks Encyclopedia'! It is such a good read! The pictures are very vivid and eye-catching, the articles are very easy to understand."

– Olivia Lee, 11



"My general knowledge has improved so much!"

– Kavitha Samy, 12

"I used to have problems writing about other countries and cultures. Now that I know so much more, I am writing better compositions!"

– Muthu Samy, 10



"I bought this for our class library. Most of my students disliked reading and would rather play computer games than read. After I added this to the library, I was pleasantly surprised. They were not only reading it, they were also talking about what they had read during class discussions!"

– Mrs Oh, English Language Teacher

"We like to read and discuss the things that we have learnt from this encyclopedia. It is very interesting to read and we have a lot of fun sharing what we have learnt!"

– Shane, student

"Thanks to this encyclopedia, I am no longer an ignoramus!"

– Elijah, student

"Our elder daughter, Sally, is 8 and she can read this by herself. However, I like to read it with her so that I can elaborate further and let her learn more about the things included in this encyclopedia."

– Mr Jensen, father



For each question from 21 to 28, write your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) in the brackets provided. (8 marks)

21. How many times has the Learning Carnival been organised previously?

- (1) None
- (2) Once
- (3) Twice
- (4) Thrice

22. Who is Spencer Lee? He is \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) the father of Olivia Lee
- (2) the author of 'Seriously Good English'
- (3) a teacher with many years of experience
- (4) the developer of 'Learning is FUN' materials

23. Which statement about the Learning Carnival is true?

- (1) It will be held on a weekday.
- (2) There are five booth participants.
- (3) All visitors will receive goodie bags.
- (4) It will be held at Singapore Expo Hall 4.

24. I can find out more about the Learning Carnival by \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) calling up Lisa Chen
- (2) visiting [www.LearningCarnivalSg.com](http://www.LearningCarnivalSg.com)
- (3) reading 'Information ROCKS Encyclopedia'
- (4) registering at the Association of English Educators

25. What was Mrs Lee's worry when she bought the encyclopedia?  
She was worried that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) Olivia would read it too often
- (2) the pictures would be too vivid
- (3) Olivia would find it uninteresting
- (4) the content would be too difficult to understand

26. What contributed to Muthu's improved performance in composition writing?

- (1) His father taught him.
- (2) He is taking writing lessons.
- (3) His parents had taken him on trips to other countries.
- (4) He has learnt more about other countries and cultures.

27. What change did Mrs Oh see in her pupils after she had added the encyclopedia to her class library? They \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) began to read more
- (2) starting acing their writing examinations
- (3) started to blog about what they had learnt
- (4) shared what they had learnt during assembly talks

28. Why does Mr Jensen read the encyclopedia together with Sally?

- (1) He enjoys spending time with her.
- (2) She cannot read independently yet.
- (3) He is able to explain more about the content to her.
- (4) She likes to look at the pictures and ask questions about them.

(Go on to Booklet B)



SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL  
FIRST SEMESTRAL ASSESSMENT 2017  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
PRIMARY SIX

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

Date: 3 May 2017

Class: Primary 6 SY

Parent's Signature:  
\_\_\_\_\_

	Marks Obtained	Highest Possible Marks
Booklet A		28
Booklet B		67
Sub-total		95

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2

(BOOKLET B)

Total time for Booklets A and B: 1 hour 50 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- 1 Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
- 2 Follow all instructions carefully.
- 3 Answer all questions.
- 4 Write your answers in this booklet.

There are 10 blanks, numbered 29 to 38, 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. (10 marks)

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

- |              |          |          |          |           |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| (A) although | (D) down | (G) have | (K) or   | (N) the   |
| (B) below    | (E) each | (H) in   | (L) out  | (P) which |
| (C) could    | (F) had  | (J) on   | (M) over | (Q) would |

Joss sticks have been an integral part of Chinese and Indian culture, associated mainly with prayer. In the past, there was another use for them: to tell \_\_\_\_\_ time. In ancient China, *yi zhu xiang*, \_\_\_\_\_ the burning of one stick, was used often to measure time, followed by *liang zhu xiang* - the burning of two sticks. Referring to the time it takes to burn \_\_\_\_\_ a joss stick, the measurements were initially inaccurate.

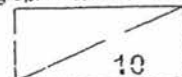
As time passed, incense makers standardised joss sticks for \_\_\_\_\_ to take a specific time to burn out. Even-spaced markings would be made \_\_\_\_\_ the joss sticks to calculate intervals of time and when the incense burned past a mark, the Chinese knew that a fixed duration had passed. For example, for a five-minute joss stick, the second mark out of five marks \_\_\_\_\_ indicate the passing of two minutes.

Subsequently, the Chinese improved on this further by inventing the incense clock. Suspended horizontally \_\_\_\_\_ a tray, weights would be placed at set intervals so that when a marked section of the joss stick got burnt out, the weight hanging on that mark would fall on the gong below the device, indicating the passing of an interval of time.

Today, the incense clock and the incense timekeeping method \_\_\_\_\_ been phased out in favour of more accurate and efficient timekeeping devices such as mechanical and quartz watches.

A reminder of one of China's older legacies \_\_\_\_\_ has withstood the test to time, replicas of the incense clocks - \_\_\_\_\_ not in effective use - still remain on display today in more traditional homes as well as museums. Clearly, the joss stick remains an icon in the eyes of not only the Chinese but the modern world as well.

Adapted from *The Joss Stick in Asian Geograph.* - Issue 3: 2012



Each of the underlined words contains either a spelling or grammatical error. Write the correct word in each of the boxes. (12 marks)

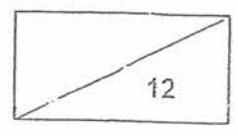
Caterpillar locomotion may seem like a simple matter of putting one set of feet in front of the other but it turns out there is more. So discovered a group of scientists which (39)   
(40)   
used konventionel video and synchronised X-ray to observe a tobacco hawkmoth caterpillar (41)  (42)   
as it strolled above a treadmill. They found that its gut, a tube that extends the entyre (43)   
length of the body attached only at the ends, shortens and lengthens rhythm, at times (44)   
advancing up to a full sagmant ahead of the body. (45)

"As soon as the caterpillar begin to crawl, we saw these tremendous internal (46)   
movements occurring that we did not antiseperate," said lead study author Michael Simon. (47)

The scientists are unsure what purpurs the gut's undulating motion serves, though (48)   
they believe it may help make locomotion more efficient or it may assists in digestion. After (49)   
all, as Simon noted, the caterpillar is an "eating machine" whose primary function is to (50)   
consume food or prepare to pupate.

The findings could aid in the design of soft-body robots for use in search-and-rescue operations. In such operations, it is crucial not to disturb collapsed structures.

Adapted from *Caterpillar Motion* in Discovery Channel Magazine, November 2010



Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

(15 marks)

The Chinese have been wielding chopsticks since at least 1200 BC and by AD 500, these utensils had swept the Asian continent from Vietnam to Japan. From their \_\_\_\_\_ (51) beginnings as cooking utensils to paper-wrapped bamboo sets at the sushi counter, there is \_\_\_\_\_ (52) to chopsticks than meets the eye.

The fabled ruins of Yin, in Henan province, provided not only the \_\_\_\_\_ (53) examples of Chinese writing but also the first known chopsticks – bronze sets found in tombs at the site. Capable of reaching deep \_\_\_\_\_ (54) boiling pots of water or oil, early chopsticks were used mainly for cooking. It was not until AD 400 that people began eating with these \_\_\_\_\_ (55). This happened when a population boom across China sapped resources and, left with no other choice, cooks were \_\_\_\_\_ (56) to develop cost-saving habits. For one, \_\_\_\_\_ (57) began chopping food into smaller pieces that required less cooking fuel – and happened to be perfect for the tweezers-like grip of chopsticks.

As food became bite-sized, knives became more or less obsolete. Their \_\_\_\_\_ (58) – and chopsticks' ascent – also came courtesy of Confucius. As a vegetarian, he believed that \_\_\_\_\_ (59) knives at the dinner table would remind eaters of the slaughterhouse. He also thought that the knives' sharp points evoked violence and warfare, killing the happy and contented \_\_\_\_\_ (60) that should reign during meals. Thanks in part to his teachings, chopstick use quickly became widespread \_\_\_\_\_ (61) Asia.

Different cultures \_\_\_\_\_ (62) different chopstick styles. Perhaps in a nod to Confucius, the Chinese \_\_\_\_\_ (63) to use chopsticks that featured a blunt rather than pointed end. In Japan, chopsticks were 8 inches long for men \_\_\_\_\_ (64) 7 inches long for women. In 1978, the Japanese became the first to create the now-ubiquitous disposable set, \_\_\_\_\_ (65) made of bamboo or wood. Wealthy diners could eat with ivory, jade, coral, brass or agate versions, while the most privileged used silver sets.

Adapted from *Hungry History* in <http://www.cambridgeblog.org>



For each of the questions from 66 to 70, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s). (10 marks)

66 Mr Vellu did not have his hearing aid. He could not hear the news on the radio.

\_\_\_\_\_ without  
\_\_\_\_\_.

67 Adam wrote his name on his worksheets. He submitted them to his teacher.

Having \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

68 Mr Hamdan told his pupils that he would get a severe allergic reaction each time he consumed prawns.

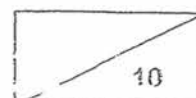
"\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_" Mr Hamdan told his pupils.

69 Oliver is extremely curious. He often lands himself into trouble.

Oliver's \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

70 Rita is modest about her achievements. That sets her apart from the other candidates.

Rita's \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.





During the March holidays, Mahesh amped up his training routine by climbing the stairs in doubles. I was tasked with timing him at the peak – the twenty-fifth floor landing. Although I hated to admit it, his stamina was increasing. There were some days when he arrived at the top barely breathless, although his face was always red and his shirt soaked with sweat.

One day, I suggested that he probably took the lift for the first ten floors. I did not actually believe it but his reaction was worth it. Eyes wide with indignation, he screeched, "I didn't!" His voice echoed across the corridor. The door to one of the flats flew open and an elderly man poked his head out. He shooed us away with his hands and ducked behind the door. When he appeared again, he was carrying a straw broom and sweeping it vehemently in our direction. Mahesh and I giggled and bolted down the stairs to our home.

Our laughter came to an abrupt halt when we noticed our father's shoes outside our flat. We opened the door to find him on the phone in the living room, his anger just barely contained. "You need to give me a concrete reason for rejecting the visa. I won't get off the phone until you do." I knew that the rejection was from England because a week before, Canada and the United States had both said 'no'. England had not been his first choice – cities like New York and Toronto were more promising to him – and this made the rejection sting even harder. Our mother emerged from the kitchen and directed us to our room with her finger over her lips. Passing her, I noticed dark rings under her eyes.

When school started again, the days crawled slowly in the glaring white heat. Our HDB estate chugged along like fine machinery. For a few weeks, the void deck of Block 537 was inaccessible because it hosted two Chinese funerals, then a Malay wedding and then a *pasar malam*. Mum smiled at the orderliness of the night market's arrangements – leaflets announcing its arrival were slipped under our door. "They're advertising a market," she said delightedly. "In India, these things just happen." The cheer in her voice was false; we could all recognise the weariness that underlined her words. Every laugh was an effort towards convincing our father to accept Singapore as our final destination. They argued constantly behind shut doors, which was no longer forbidden.

Mahesh continued to climb the stairs. His calves became defined and his gaze purposeful. He fell asleep early every night and woke with a spring that I resented, since my adjustment to waking was always gradual and torturous. Then, one afternoon, our mother received a phone call from Mahesh's form teacher. He was doing poorly in all his subjects, she said. He needed to apply himself more. "He's applying himself to an important goal at the moment and when he becomes the first Singaporean to climb Everest, you will all see," our mother informed her. She hung up and burst into tears.

I was surprised that our mother had already considered ourselves Singaporeans.



71 When did Mahesh begin to train harder? [1m]

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72 Write the four-word phrase in the first paragraph that tells us that Mahesh's training was paying off. [1m]

73 Look at the table below. What do the words in the left column refer to in the passage? Write your answers in the column on the right. The first one has been done for you. [3m]

Word from the passage	What the word refers to
he (line 3)	Mahesh
peak (line 2)	
it (line 21)	
goal (line 32)	

74 Choose words from Paragraphs 2 and 3 which have similar meanings to the words below. [3m]

displeasure	
forcefully	
hurt	



- 75 Based on the story, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so. [3m]

	True / False	Reason
Mahesh never had to try hard during his training routines.		
The narrator and her brother stopped their ruckus in the corridor immediately after their neighbour signalled to them to quieten down.		
The narrator and her brother did not expect their father to be home that afternoon.		

- 76 The narrator's mother is stressed by the ongoing attempts to move the family to another country. List two pieces of evidence from the story. [2m]

i. \_\_\_\_\_

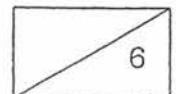
ii. \_\_\_\_\_

- 77 Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the story. [1m]

\_\_\_\_\_ The narrator's mother told them to go to their room.

\_\_\_\_\_ The narrator's father was unsuccessful in his applications for a visa to Canada and the United States.

\_\_\_\_\_ The narrator suggested to Mahesh that he had taken the lift.



78 Referring to Paragraphs 3 and 4, explain fully the cause of the narrator's mother's "weariness" (line 25). [2m]

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79 Based on the story, state the corresponding effect for each of the causes listed in the table below. [2m]

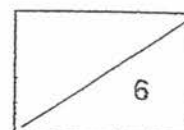
Cause	Effect
The narrator's father was unsuccessful in his visa application for England.	
Mahesh continued with his training after the school holidays.	

80 How did the narrator react to her mother's identifying themselves as Singaporeans? Describe her mother's action that led the narrator to this conclusion. [2m]

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End of Paper







YEAR : 2017  
 LEVEL : PRIMARY 6  
 SCHOOL : SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL  
 SUBJECT : ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
 TERM : SEMESTRAL ASSESSMENT (1)

**SECTION A**

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
1	4	1	4	4	4	2	3	1	1
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
2	2	1	1	3	4	3	2	1	3
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28		
1	3	4	2	3	4	1	3		

**SECTION B**

Q29	Q30	Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34
N	K	L	E	J	Q
Q35	Q36	Q37	Q38		
M	G	P	A		

Q39	Q40	Q41	Q42	Q43	Q44
who	conventional	on	entire	rhythmically	segment
Q45	Q46	Q47	Q48	Q49	Q50
began	anticipate	purpose	assist	function	and

Q51	Q52	Q53	Q54	Q55
humble	more	first	into	utensils
Q56	Q57	Q58	Q59	Q60
forced	cooks	decline	sharp	spirits
Q61	Q62	Q63	Q64	Q65
in	have	decided	and	mostly

Q66. Mr. Vellu could not hear the news on the radio without his hearing aid.

Q67. Having written his name on his worksheets, Adam submitted them to his teacher.



SCGS STA

- Q68. "I will get a severe allergic reaction each time I consume prawns," Mr. Hamdan told his pupils.
- Q69. Oliver's extreme curiousness often lands him into trouble.
- Q70. Rita's modesty about her achievements sets her apart from the other candidate.
- Q71. He began to train harder during the March holidays.
- Q72. his stamina was increasing

Q73.

Peak (line 2)	(the twenty-fifth floor landing.)
It (line 21)	(the void deck of block 537.)
goal (line 32)	Mahesh as the first Singaporean to climb Everest.

Q74.

displeasure	indignation
forcefully	vehemently
Hurt	sting

Q75.

False	When he arrived at the twenty-fifth floor landing, he was always full of sweat and his face will be red.
False	They stopped and headed home after he carried a straw broom and swept it in their direction.
True	Their laughter stopped abruptly when they noticed their father's shoes.

- Q76. (i) She had dark rings under her eyes.  
(ii) She had weariness that underlined her words.
- Q77. (i) 3 (ii) 1 (iii) 2
- Q78. The narrator's mother tried to convince the narrator's father that Singapore should be their final destination.
- Q79. (i) The narrator's father's anger was barely contained.  
(ii) He was doing poorly in his subjects.
- Q80. The narrator was surprised as their mother told the teacher that Mahesh's goal was to be the first Singaporean to climb Everest.

