

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION ONE (2012)  
PRIMARY SIX  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)  
BOOKLET A

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

Class: Primary Six \_\_\_\_\_

10 May 2012

30 Questions  
(30 Marks)

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.





This booklet consists of 9 printed pages excluding the cover page.

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

# U Life Cooking Challenge

When you cook as a family, you learn to love one another too. Discover the ultimate recipes of love in this unique family cook-off. Sign up and showcase your favourite family recipe now!

Prizes	
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	\$3500 cash and prizes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	\$2500 cash and prizes
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	\$1500 cash and prizes
4 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Prize	\$500 cash and prizes

Criteria	Team of maximum 4 family members (at least 1 must be aged 50 years and above), comprising Singaporeans and Permanent Residents only.
What to submit	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>①</p> <p>A photo of the team</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>②</p> <p>A photo of your entry dish</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>③</p> <p>Original recipe</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>④</p> <p>Short write-up on why this is a favourite family dish</p> </div> </div>
To register or find out more	<p>Download form from <a href="http://www.life.sg">www.life.sg</a> and mail to:            NUC Club,            1 Pasir Ris,            S123456</p> <p>Call 1234 1111 or email: <a href="mailto:events@life.com.sg">events@life.com.sg</a> for more information. Closing date for registration: 15 May 2012</p>

Organised by:



Official Cookware:



Sponsored by:



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 Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

1. The main purpose of organising the Cooking Challenge is to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) discover new recipes
  - (2) promote family bonding
  - (3) give away cash and attractive prizes
  - (4) gather a team of friends who like cooking
  
2. Who are eligible to participate in the Cooking Challenge?
  - (1) A few good friends
  - (2) Singaporeans only
  - (3) Three family members
  - (4) Anyone interested in cooking
  
3. To participate, you must \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) download the recipe of your dish
  - (2) gather your team for a group photo
  - (3) provide a sample dish for the judges
  - (4) explain how the dish is cooked in a write-up
  
4. To register for the challenge, you must \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) call in advance
  - (2) send the form by post
  - (3) email the form to NUC Club
  - (4) email the form to [events@life.com.sg](mailto:events@life.com.sg)
  
5. Which of the following statements is not true?
  - (1) You must register before 15 May 2012.
  - (2) The Cooking Challenge is funded by Kopitiam.
  - (3) The Cooking Challenge is presented by U Life.
  - (4) Participants will be using Tefel and Coring cookware in the Cooking Challenge.

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 Optical Answer Sheet. (7 marks)

6. Let's have nasi lemak for breakfast, \_\_\_\_\_ we?
- (1) will
  - (2) can
  - (3) shall
  - (4) must
7. "Mrs Tan, come quickly!" shouted Fatimah, "Oliver \_\_\_\_\_ into the pond!"
- (1) falls
  - (2) falling
  - (3) has fallen
  - (4) had fallen
8. Javier is very timid. He usually yields \_\_\_\_\_ the class bully's unreasonable demands.
- (1) at
  - (2) to
  - (3) with
  - (4) from
9. Ravi, with \_\_\_\_\_ I am going to the tennis court, is a skilled player.
- (1) that
  - (2) who
  - (3) which
  - (4) whom
10. Had John \_\_\_\_\_ on time for all the meetings, I would have considered him for the promotion.
- (1) come
  - (2) came
  - (3) comes
  - (4) coming

11. Neither the Tans nor our family \_\_\_\_\_ a Country Club membership.

- (1) own
- (2) owns
- (3) is owning
- (4) are owning

12. John was certain he saw Tom \_\_\_\_\_ to the principal.

- (1) speak
- (2) spoke
- (3) speaks
- (4) had spoken

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 Optical Answer Sheet. (3 marks)

The Blue Ribbon initiative is part of the larger smoke (13) free movement that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has embarked on. Singapore is the first country in the region to adopt this initiative on a nationwide scale.

"While Singapore has one of the lowest smoking prevalence in the world, recent trends suggest a rise in the number of smokers although the vast majority of Singaporeans are non-smokers (14) said Dr Amy Khor, Minister of State for Health.

In addition to providing signages, posters and banners to distinguish them as health promoting premises (15) Health Promotion Board's health ambassadors, who are trained to help smokers quit smoking, will also be deployed at various community touchpoints island-wide.

Adapted from: <http://www.todayonline.com/Singapore/EDC120305-0000038>

13. (1) [ : ] colon  
(2) [ , ] comma  
(3) [ - ] hyphen  
(4) [ ; ] semi-colon
14. (1) [ " ] inverted commas  
(2) [ . " ] full stop and inverted commas  
(3) [ " , ] inverted commas and comma  
(4) [ , " ] comma and inverted commas
15. (1) [ : ] colon  
(2) [ , ] comma  
(3) [ . ] full stop  
(4) [ - ] hyphen

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 Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

16. Despite the efforts of the medical team to bring the child out of her coma, her condition remains \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) stable
  - (2) consistent
  - (3) dangerous
  - (4) unchanged
17. The Peace Corps sends volunteers to improve the living standards of \_\_\_\_\_ parts of the world.
- (1) immaterial
  - (2) impervious
  - (3) immaculate
  - (4) impoverished
18. The pregnant lady has an \_\_\_\_\_ appetite for chocolate ice-cream. She has a tub every day.
- (1) insatiable
  - (2) inseparable
  - (3) instrumental
  - (4) insubstantial
19. In order to run enrichment programmes in schools, they need to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the Ministry of Education.
- (1) encoded
  - (2) enclosed
  - (3) endowed
  - (4) endorsed
20. You will need to read \_\_\_\_\_ if you want to score good grades in your oral examination.
- (1) explicitly
  - (2) explosively
  - (3) expansively
  - (4) expressively

For each question from 21 to 25, choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined word(s). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

Twenty years ago, kids in school had never even heard of the internet. Now, you cannot find (21) one person in your school who has not at least heard of it. In fact, many of us use it on a regular basis and even have access to it from our homes!

The net in "internet" (22) stands for network. A network is two or more computers (23) linked up together so that information can be sent from one computer to another. The internet is a (24) vast resource for all types of information. You may enjoy using it to do research or communicate with friends. Information is accessed through web pages that one creates and posts. However, since anyone can put anything on the internet, you have to be careful and use your best (25) judgement and a little common sense! Just because you read something on a piece of paper someone sticks on a bulletin board does not mean it is correct.

Adapted from: [http://education.jlab.org/reading/internet\\_safety.html](http://education.jlab.org/reading/internet_safety.html)

21. (1) sole  
(2) solo  
(3) solitary  
(4) singular
22. (1) implies  
(2) suggests  
(3) represents  
(4) symbolises
23. (1) fixed  
(2) joined  
(3) bonded  
(4) connected
24. (1) titanic  
(2) cosmic  
(3) diminutive  
(4) immeasurable
25. (1) verdict  
(2) decree  
(3) judiciousness  
(4) perceptiveness



Read the passage below and answer questions 26 to 30.

Jokia was born around 1960 in a village along the border of Thailand and Burma. She was rescued by Lek in 1999. Jokia's story is one of the saddest stories of all the elephants residing at Elephant Nature Park (ENP).

During her younger years, Jokia worked in the logging trade to support the family who owned her. However, in 1989, the logging ban in Thailand left Jokia and many other elephants unemployed. The owners were left with no source of income. The expense of owning a large animal with a huge appetite was more than they could afford. Eventually the family sold her to an illegal logging camp. It was there that Jokia's tragedy would unfold.

Jokia became pregnant. She was forced to work her entire pregnancy. While pulling a large log uphill, wearing heavy logging chains, she gave birth to her baby. It rolled down the hill behind her. She was not allowed to stop working to tend to her newborn, to see if it was alive or not. By the time the mahout returned to the baby, it was dead.

After that, Jokia refused to work. She was depressed and heartbroken. The mahout used physical threats but still she refused. Finally the mahout used his slingshot and shot rocks at her repeatedly until she was blinded in one eye. Jokia became resentful and dangerous. She worked for a few more weeks until her sadness and anger overcame her again. She hit her owner. The owner, who had no sympathy for Jokia, soon became impatient and decided a completely blind elephant might be more submissive. He shot her remaining eye with a bow and arrow.

Once completely blind, she was forced back to work but the owner's idea backfired. Jokia became very stubborn. She would swing her trunk at people and not respond to commands. She did not trust anyone and did not feel confident with her surroundings.

When Lek first came across Jokia, she was on a train. She heard an elephant, roaring and trumpeting in pain and anger. She followed the noise and saw a man beating Jokia very badly. Her body was covered with infected wounds and scars from past beatings. She had tears running down from her blinded eye and empty socket. Lek could not believe the condition of the blind elephant. Lek tracked down the owner, who eventually agreed to sell Jokia.

When Jokia finally made it to her first home with ENP, Elephant Haven, she seemed to know her life had changed forever. After an adjustment period,

Jokia grew accustomed to her new surroundings and finally made friends with Mae Perm. Although Jokia will always be in a dark world, she has a best friend to protect and guide her. Now the two girls are inseparable.

Adapted from: *Elephant Nature Foundation*, date unavailable

For each question from 26 to 30, 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 Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

26. Jokia's original owners sold her to an illegal logging camp because \_\_\_\_\_

- (1) Jokia had become pregnant
- (2) they did not have the means to keep Jokia
- (3) Jokia had to work in the camp to support them
- (4) the logging ban in Thailand left Jokia unemployed

27. The word 'that' in line 15 refers to \_\_\_\_\_

- (1) Jokia's pregnancy
- (2) the death of the baby elephant
- (3) the mahout returning to the baby
- (4) being forced to wear heavy logging chains

28. What was the main reason for Jokia's owner to have caused her to become completely blind by shooting her with a bow and arrow? He \_\_\_\_\_

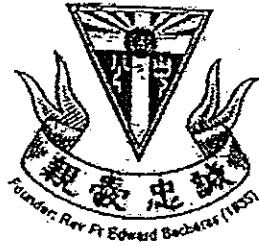
- (1) had no sympathy for Jokia
- (2) wanted Jokia to be obedient
- (3) felt that Jokia had become dangerous
- (4) wanted to get back at Jokia for hitting him

29. What evidence best supports the fact that Jokia had become very stubborn? Jokia \_\_\_\_\_

- (1) did not trust anyone
- (2) was weary of her surroundings
- (3) would swing her trunk at people
- (4) would not respond to commands

30. Why is Elephant Nature Park Jokia's "first home" (line 33)?

- (1) Jokia found a friend at the park.
- (2) The Elephant Nature Park will not sell Jokia.
- (3) The Elephant Nature Park is a sanctuary for Jokia.
- (4) Jokia grew accustomed to her new surroundings at the park.



CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION ONE (2012)  
PRIMARY SIX  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)  
BOOKLET B

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

Class: Primary Six \_\_\_\_\_

10 May 2012

50 Questions  
(65 Marks)

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

Components	Marks
Booklet A	30
Booklet B	65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95</b>

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

**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.

This booklet consists of 7 printed pages excluding the cover page.

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 in order to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

**EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.**

(A) a	(D) are	(G) in	(K) out	(N) were
(B) an	(E) at	(H) of	(L) should	(P) with
(C) and	(F) however	(J) or	(M) upon	(Q) would

Terrible things may happen sometimes in your life. However, (31) \_\_\_\_\_ close examination you may see (32) \_\_\_\_\_ "silver lining". There is an old Norwegian story about a fisherman who went (33) \_\_\_\_\_ to sea with his two sons. The day was very good as they had achieved a large catch that (34) \_\_\_\_\_ make anyone proud. Then, a fierce storm suddenly appeared and they could no longer see the shoreline. The boat rocked (35) \_\_\_\_\_ creaked violently and the three men thought they would lose their lives. If that was not bad enough, they lost their sense (36) \_\_\_\_\_ direction and feared they would be lost at sea.

Unknown to the fisherman, a fire had started at his home at about the same time. It destroyed every possession he had! The fisherman and his sons eventually found their bearings and (37) \_\_\_\_\_ able to bring their boat safely ashore. When the men reached the dock, the fisherman's wife was waiting to meet him (38) \_\_\_\_\_ the tragic news. She uttered while crying, "Karl, a fire has destroyed everything. We have nothing left!"

The fisherman, (39) \_\_\_\_\_ appeared to be unmoved by her news. He replied, "A couple of hours ago, the boys and I thought we would die (40) \_\_\_\_\_ sea. We were in despair and losing hope. Then I saw a dim yellow glow in the distance. We rowed towards it desperately. The same fire that destroyed our home saved our lives!"

Correct each word in **bold** for spelling and each underlined word for grammar. Write the correct word in the relevant box. (10 marks)

You carry around a mass of wrinkly material in your head that controls every

41.

single thing you will ever do. From enable you to think and feel emotions to

42.

controlling every breath – this **fentaestik** control centre is your brain.

43.

Your brain is more powerful and fast than a supercomputer. For instance,

your kitten is on the kitchen counter. She is about to step onto a hot stove and you

have only seconds to act. Accessing the signals coming from your eyes, your brain

44.

45.

quickly calculated at what speed you will need to dive to **intesept** her. Then it orders

46.

your muscles to do so. No computer can come close to your brain's **awsom** ability to

47.

download, process and react at the flood of information coming from your eyes and

48.

other **sensoree** organs.

49.

Your brain contains about 100 billion **mycroskopik** cells called neurons.

50.

Believe it or not, the activity in your brain never stopping. Your neurons create and

send more messages than all the phones in the entire world.

Adapted from: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

Fill in the blanks with the most suitable answer. (15 marks)

When we are young, we learn that tigers and sharks are dangerous animals. We might be (51) \_\_\_\_\_ of them because they are big and powerful. As we get older, however, we learn that sometimes the (52) \_\_\_\_\_ dangerous animals are also the smallest animals. In fact, the animal that kills the most people every year is one that you (53) \_\_\_\_\_ probably killed yourself many times - the mosquito.

While it (54) \_\_\_\_\_ seem that all mosquitoes are biters, this is not actually the case. Male mosquitoes feed on nectar. On the other hand, (55) \_\_\_\_\_ mosquitoes feed on animal blood. They need this blood to live and produce eggs. When a female mosquito (56) \_\_\_\_\_ a human being, it transmits a small amount of saliva (57) \_\_\_\_\_ the blood. This saliva may or may not contain a deadly disease. The result of the bite can be as minor as an itchy bump or as (58) \_\_\_\_\_ as death. As a mosquito can bite many people in the course of its (59) \_\_\_\_\_, it can carry diseases from one person to another very easily. Two of the most deadly diseases (60) \_\_\_\_\_ by mosquitoes are malaria and yellow fever.

Many scientists are working on safer and better ways to kill mosquitoes but so far, there is no sure way to (61) \_\_\_\_\_ everyone from their deadly bites. Mosquito nets can be placed (62) \_\_\_\_\_ beds to protect people against being bitten. These nets help people stay safe at night but they do not (63) \_\_\_\_\_ any mosquitoes. Mosquitoes have many natural (64) \_\_\_\_\_ such as bats and dragonflies. Bringing more of these animals into places (65) \_\_\_\_\_ mosquitoes live might help to cut down the amount of mosquitoes in that area. This is a natural solution, but it does not always work.

Adapted from: <http://englishforeveryone.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. "Did you attend the prayer session yesterday?" my mother asked.

My mother asked me \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

67. All the boys are expected to bring their thermometers to school tomorrow.

Every \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

68. Jon cheated in the examination. It was very silly of him.

\_\_\_\_\_ to  
\_\_\_\_\_

69. I was miserable when my dog died. Ahmad comforted me.

Sensing \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

70. My mother scolded me. My siblings scolded me too.

Not only \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage below and answer questions 71 to 80. (20 marks)

I stood there in amazement. A tingle surged throughout my whole body. It was a rush of excitement I had never felt before in my life. When my eyes hit her angelic little body, they froze and I could not think of or acknowledge anything else around me. The world seemed to stop, hold its place in time, just for that perfect moment. While she slept, I stared at this precious little angel. My hands quivered as I slowly reached down to touch her little fingers and feel the softness of her skin. I ran the tips of my fingers very gently across her smooth face and right away, I fell in love. Then my brother said, "I can wake her up so you can hold her." I was ecstatic. I was finally going to meet her! As I held her, she reached out and grabbed my hand with her chubby little fingers. I stared into her gorgeous blue eyes and knew at that instant that I would love and cherish her forever with all my heart.

I remember it as clear as day. It had been a fairly normal week and a routine average day. It was a Friday and I was driving home from school in my trusty Toyota. I was getting into the dreaded mental set of the performance that I would be playing that night. I had to play in the band and it was my first performance on stage. During the whole ride to my house I thought about the performance and hoped and prayed that we would not make fools of ourselves. Before I knew it, I was already home. I remember thinking that it felt like the shortest drive ever. Little did I know that there would be a huge surprise waiting for me when I got home.

I pulled into the driveway of my house and parked my car. I grabbed my coat and bag and opened the door. When I got out, I instantly began to smell the sweet aroma of the long, rose bushes making its way out of our fence and into our driveway. I was so captivated by the breeze and the beautiful smell of autumn in the air that I did not even know that I was at the door. As I snapped back to reality, I looked up and I was standing at my doorway. I lifted the door handle and before I knew it, I was inside. Inside my house, I sat down on the step and began to take my shoes off as I had done every day when I got home from school.

Everything seemed normal the dogs barked at me and the TV was blaring. When my brother, Travis, heard me come in, he rushed out of the kitchen. He stood there staring at me. I remember the glow in his eyes and the look of pride written across his face. He had the biggest smile - it went from ear to ear showing teeth and everything. Another vivid thing that I will never forget was that he was holding a metal spoon. I breathed in deeply and all I could smell was the delicious scent of cabbage and bacon cooking just on the other side of the wall. Travis always cooks cabbage and bacon on special occasions. It was out of the ordinary for him to



be cooking it as an afternoon snack that particular day. I slowly walked up the stairs and all I could remember thinking was, "What's going on?"

When I got to the top of the stairs, everything seemed to stop and I was **caught up in the moment**. Slow motion set in as I began to walk toward my couch and I saw the infant carrier. That was the moment I met my new baby niece, Sophie. She was dressed in a beautiful pale pink dress trimmed in lace. The lace was woven so perfectly and smoothly that it was like the garment of an angel.

40

That beautiful day that I met baby Sophie was the start of a brand new **beginning** for me. From that day on, I have become an auntie. Now I know the meaning of the saying, "One need not look towards the heavens to find an angel for I have one here before me."

45

Adapted from: *My Baby Niece*. (2012). <http://www.123helpme.com>

**ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.**

71. In line 3, explain why the narrator froze

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72. What did baby Sophie do to show that she responded to the narrator's touch?

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73. Which 3-word phrase in the passage tells us that the narrator considers her niece to be of great importance to her?

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74. Provide 2 examples from the passage to illustrate the narrator's routine average day as mentioned in lines 12-13.

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75. Explain clearly why the narrator was not looking forward to performing in the band.

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76. What did the narrator mean when she said that her drive home 'felt like the shortest drive ever' (line 18)?

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77. What does 'its' in line 22 refer to?

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78. What made the narrator feel that something was 'going on' in line 37?

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79. Why was the narrator "caught up in the moment" (line 39) when she reached the top of the stairs?

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80. In your own words, explain what the narrator means by 'the start of a brand new beginning for me' in lines 43-44.

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**END OF PAPER**

Catholic High School  
Preliminary Examination One (2012)  
Answer Key for P6 English Language

1)	2	6)	3	11)	2	16)	4	21)	1	26)	2
2)	3	7)	3	12)	1	17)	4	22)	3	26)	2
3)	2	8)	2	13)	3	18)	1	23)	4	28)	2
4)	2	9)	4	14)	4	19)	4	24)	4	29)	4
5)	1	10)	1	15)	2	20)	4	25)	3	30)	3

31)	M	33)	K	35)	C	37)	N	39)	F
32)	A	34)	Q	36)	H	38)	P	40)	E

41)	enabling	46)	awesome
42)	fantastic	47)	to
43)	faster	48)	sensory
44)	calculates	49)	microscopic
45)	intercept	50)	stops

51)	scared
52)	most
53)	have
54)	may
55)	female
56)	bites
57)	into
58)	severe
59)	cycle
60)	transmitted
61)	protect
62)	around
63)	kill
64)	predators
65)	where

66. My mother asked me if I had attended the prayer session the previous day.

67. Every boy is expected to bring his thermometer to school tomorrow.

68. It was very silly of Jon to have cheated in the examination.

69. Sensing my misery when my dog died, Ahmad comforted me.

70. Not only did my mother scold me but my siblings also scolded me.

71. In line 3, explain why the narrator 'froze'.

The narrator was excited to meet her niece for the very first time.

72. What did baby Sophie do to show that she responded to the narrator's touch?

She reached out and grabbed the narrator's hand with her chubby little fingers.

73. Which 3-word phrase in the passage tells us that the narrator considers her niece to be of great importance to her?

The three word phrase is "precious little angel".

74. Provide 2 examples from the passage to illustrate the narrator's routine average day as mentioned in lines 12-13.

The narrator was driving home from school in her trusty Toyota and when she was inside her house, she sat down on the step and began to take her shoes off as she had done every day when she got home from school.

75. Explain clearly why the narrator was not looking forward to performing in the band.

The narrator was performing on stage for the very first time and she was afraid of making a fool of herself.

76. What did the narrator mean when she said that her drive home 'felt like the shortest drive ever' (line 18)?

The narrator was preoccupied with many thoughts and did not keep track of time.

77. What does "its" in line 22 refer to?

It refers to sweet aroma of the long, rose bushes making its way out of their fence and into the driveway.

78. What made the narrator feel that something was "going on" in line 37?

Her brother always cooked cabbage and bacon on special occasions and it was out of the ordinary for him to be cooking it as an afternoon snack that particular day.

79. Why was the narrator "caught up in the moment" (line 39) when she reached the top of the stairs?

The narrator was surprised to meet her new baby niece.

80. In your own words, explain what the narrator means by "the start of a brand new beginning for me" in lines 43-44.

She was an auntie for the first time and the arrival of her niece broke the routine life of hers thus making it a fresh start.