

METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL (PRIMARY)

Founded in 1887



CONTINUAL ASSESSMENT 2011 PRIMARY 4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Total Time: 1 h 15 minutes

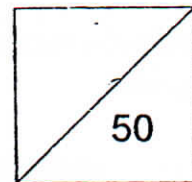
INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
Follow all instructions carefully.
Answer all questions.

Name: _____ ()

Class: Primary 4. _____

Date: 23 February 2011



This booklet consists of 14 printed pages including this page.

Section A: Vocabulary (6 marks)

For each question from 1 to 6, 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.

- 1 Sulin enjoys her work as a _____ in the Singapore Art Museum. She is in charge of the objects and works of art in the museum.
- (1) butler
 - (2) porter
 - (3) curator
 - (4) sculptor
- 2 I was extremely elated to spot a _____ of geese from the bridge.
- (1) pod
 - (2) flock
 - (3) herd
 - (4) gaggle
- 3 The news is true. I got it straight from the _____.
- (1) bull's eye
 - (2) lion's share
 - (3) hornet's nest
 - (4) horse's mouth
- 4 Everyone rushed to the old man's aid when he _____ drunkenly to his feet.
- (1) strolled
 - (2) stomped
 - (3) staggered
 - (4) swaggered

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5 June is full of energy and everyone is attracted to her _____ personality.

- (1) vicious
- (2) cautious
- (3) vivacious
- (4) ambitious

6 Zainal shouted _____ for help when she saw the fierce dog approaching her.

- (1) desperately
- (2) depressingly
- (3) dependently
- (4) despondently

Section B: Grammar (6 marks)

For each question from 7 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 "Look! There _____ a stud of horses in the stable," exclaimed Tommy.

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

8 "I found out yesterday that every girl in the class _____ how to play the piano. They are indeed very talented!" the teacher announced to the parents.

- (1) know
- (2) knew
- (3) knows
- (4) will know

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- 9 My parents are so busy that they _____ spend time with me.
- (1) hardly
 - (2) initially
 - (3) frequently
 - (4) eventually
- 10 "There isn't _____ food left but you can still join us at the table," Regina said.
- (1) any
 - (2) little
 - (3) many
 - (4) some
- 11 My favourite dish, fish and chips, _____ just as delicious each time I go to the restaurant.
- (1) taste
 - (2) tastes
 - (3) tasted
 - (4) tasting
- 12 The enthusiastic artist did not rest but continued working _____ he completed his work.
- (1) until
 - (2) when
 - (3) unless
 - (4) otherwise

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Section C: Comprehension (10 marks)

Read the passage below and answer questions 13 to 17.

Cats are a group of carnivorous mammals that includes both large wild cats like lions and tigers, and small ones like the domestic cats that many people keep as pets. Cats have fur coats that can be long or short, and come in various colours and many striking patterns. Most breeds have a long tail, which is an extension of the spine. Cats often use their tails to steady themselves. 5

Cats have strong teeth and sharp claws that they can extend or retract as and when needed. Cats have excellent eyesight and triangular ears that are very sensitive to sound. In the wild, cats are predators and great hunters. They feed on birds, mice and even snakes. They are very agile and can move around quickly, hence easily catching their prey by surprise. 10

At home, cats are much more tame and gentle. Cats make excellent pets as they are easily **domesticated**. They are able to adjust quickly to small households because of their size and agility.

The earliest record of the domestication of the cat dated around 3 500 years ago in ancient Egypt, when cats were believed to be sacred. However, the actual domestication of cats came about when it was noticed that cats kept the Egyptian's grain houses free of mice and other rodents. In other cultures, cats have been associated with witches and the black cat has always been regarded as unlucky. 15 20

In reality, cats are playful companions for the people who keep them. Cats are very clean animals, bathing themselves frequently with their rough, pink tongues. They communicate by mewing, calling out and purring – a soft vibration of the vocal cords when the cat is happy or content. No one is really sure why cats purr. One theory is that cats purr to communicate with their kittens softly in the wild so that predators cannot hear them. 25

When kittens are born, they are completely helpless for the first few weeks. They are blind and deaf at first, and must rely on their mothers for protection and food. After a few weeks, the kittens grow and begin to play with each other. Playtime helps cats be more alert and nimble, which are skills required for successful hunting. This playfulness, along with a tendency to be very affectionate and loving, is what draws people to keep cats as house pets. 30

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For each question from 13 to 17, 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.

13 Cats use their tails for _____.

- (1) hunting
- (2) attacking
- (3) grooming
- (4) balancing

14 The word "domesticated" (line 13) in the passage suggests that cats _____.

- (1) like to live indoors
- (2) are tame and gentle
- (3) are flexible and small
- (4) can be trained to live with people

15 The Egyptians were the first to keep cats as pets because they _____.

- (1) could get rid of pests
- (2) were good companions
- (3) were linked with witches
- (4) were considered to be spiritual creatures

16 Playtime is important for cats as it develops their _____.

- (1) agility
- (2) vocal cords
- (3) independence
- (4) sense of hearing

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17 Which one of the following statements is **true**?

- (1) Cats can only hunt in the wild.
- (2) Tigers are not considered as cats.
- (3) Cats catch their prey easily because of a good sense of hearing.
- (4) People keep cats as pets because they are devoted to their owners.

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Section D: Vocabulary Cloze (4 marks)

Read the passage carefully. Choose the correct word from the words given in the box and write its letter (A to H) in each blank. **USE EACH LETTER ONCE ONLY.**

(A) crammed	(B) cosy	(C) spreading	(D) sprawling
(E) taken	(F) whirl wind	(G) whisked	(H) wind

18 February 2011

Dear Diary,

I am so excited. The whole week has been a _____ of activities and I
(18)

have been so busy! The moment I arrived at Heathrow Airport in London, I was

_____ off by Danny's mother to the hostel at Kingston College.
(19)

We drove past miles of _____ fields before I got to Kingston College.
(20)

The scenery is so different from what I see in Singapore where there are many buildings. Kingston College is a really huge place! It takes me twenty minutes just to get from my hostel room to the main building itself! Luckily, I have another week to get used to it before I start lessons.

As for my room, it is small but _____. I have yet to finish decorating it,
(21)

but I did finish unpacking my luggage and arranging all my books on the shelves.

Although the week has been so exhausting, it is also the happiest part of the week as I have made new friends. Everyone here is really friendly, especially Josh and Matthew.

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Section E: Grammar Cloze (4 marks)

Read the passage carefully. Choose the correct word from the words given in the box and write its letter (A to F) in each blank. **USE EACH LETTER ONCE ONLY.**

(A) play
(D) played

(B) plays
(E) had played

(C) has been playing
(F) will be playing

Joan likes music very much. She persuaded her parents to let her take piano lessons. She hopes to be able to play the piano very soon.

Today is Joan's first piano lesson. Her teacher is Mrs Tan. Mrs Tan _____ the piano for more than a decade. She had performed in
(22)

many concerts when she was younger. Mrs Tan also invited Joan to a musical concert next Sunday at the Esplanade, where she _____
(23)

Mrs Tan tells Joan that if she _____ on the piano every day, she
(24)

will improve quickly. When Mrs Tan was Joan's age, she _____ the
(25)

piano regularly because she enjoyed it very much. Joan was inspired by Mrs Tan and decided to put in her best effort.

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Section F: Synthesis (2 marks)

For each of the questions 26 to 27, 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).

- 26 Jane still went to school the next day. Jane was sick.

Although _____

- 27 He can take care of the children. He has gone on the excursion with the children.

_____ that _____

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Section G: Vocabulary Cloze (8 marks)

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

In every period of history, there are different diseases and illnesses that plague people. Today, people _____ from illnesses like cancer, heart problems and diabetes. Illnesses that were fatal in the _____, like tuberculosis, are now preventable.

_____ (28)
 _____ (29)
 Immunisations are given to children at birth to prevent them from getting these illnesses.

Medical technology is more sophisticated today _____ not in the past. Many diseases could not be cured then. The Black Death is an infamous period in history. During the 14th century, millions of people around the world succumbed to a disease that killed them within days. The disease _____ all the organs in a person's body. It spread quickly from one person to another and whole towns and cities were wiped out. The disease spread like wildfire.

Later, scientists realised that the disease _____ caused by a bacteria that was carried by fleas. These fleas resided in rodents, especially rats, and also in blankets and clothing. When rodents raided houses _____ search of food, they carried the disease with them.

_____ (32)
 _____ (33)
 _____ (34)
 _____ (34)
 were a haven for rats, thus causing the disease to be even more rampant.

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Fleas were also attracted to people as many of them did not bathe and were unhygienic. They did not do so as they felt that bathing was dangerous.

Many people were ignorant during that time. However, just as fast as it started, the disease stopped suddenly. Till this day, no one _____
(35)
the reason for this, but some feel that it was due to a huge fire that killed all the infected fleas, rodents and people in the area.

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Section H: Comprehension (10 marks)

Read the passage carefully and answer questions 36 to 40.

Alligator was not a very beautiful dog to look at and the light showed numerous old wounds where the hair would not grow. He was afraid of nothing on the face of the earth or under it. He hated all dogs and had a marked dislike to visitors, especially his owner, Mrs Potts', family. Hence, they seldom called. He hated snakes and has killed many but he would be bitten 5
someday and die. Any snake that came in his way ended up being killed.

It was near daylight. The room was very hot because of the fire. Alligator watched the wall from time to time. Suddenly, he became tense and alert. He drew himself a few inches nearer to the partition and a thrill ran through his body. The hair on the back of his neck began to bristle and the 10
battle-light burnt in his yellow eyes. Mrs Potts knew what this meant and she laid her hand on the club. An evil pair of small, bright, bead-like eyes glistened at one of these holes. The black snake came out slowly and moved its head up and down. **Alligator lay still.**

The snake came out a few inches more. Mrs Potts lifted her club and 15
the snake, as though suddenly aware of danger, stuck its head through the crack on the other side of the slab and hurried to get its tail round ^{it} him. Alligator sprang and his jaws came together with a snap. He missed as his nose was large and the snake's body was slithering between the slabs. He snapped again as the tail came round. He had the snake now in ^{his} its mouth and 20
tugged at it. "Thud, thud!" came Mrs Pott's club. The head rose to dart about but Alligator had his enemy close to its neck. "Thud, thud!" the snake's back was broken in several places. "Thud, thud!" its head was crushed.

Mrs Potts lifted the mangled reptile on the point of her stick and threw it into the fire and watched the snake burn. Alligator watched too. Mrs Potts 25
laid her hand on Alligator's head and all the fierce, angry light died out of his yellow eyes.

Adapted from "The Drover's Wife"

39

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ALL SENTENCES MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

36 From the first paragraph, what were three things that Alligator disliked?

37 What was the reason why Mrs Potts had few visitors?

38 Why did "Alligator lay still" as mentioned in line 14?

39 Explain clearly how the snake was killed by Mrs Potts.

40 How did Mrs Potts calm Alligator down after the snake was killed?

End of paper



ANSWER SHEET

EXAM PAPER 2011

SCHOOL : MGS
SUBJECT : PRIMARY 4 ENGLISH

TERM : CA1

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17
3	4	4	3	3	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	4	4	1	1	4

Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25
F	G	D	B	C	F	B	D

- 26) Although Jane was sick, she still went to school the next day.
- 27) He has gone on the excursion with the children so that he can take care of them.
- 28) suffer 29) past 30) but 31) affected 32) was
- 33) in 34) Moreover 35) knows
- 36) He disliked snakes, dogs and visitors.
- 37) They were frightened of Alligator as he disliked visitors.
- 38) He did not want to alarm/frighten/alert the snake as he wanted to catch it.
- 39) She used her dub to break the snake's back and crush its head.
- 40) She laid her hand on Alligator's hand to calm him down.