

**PAYA LEBAR METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL (PRIMARY)**

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2009**

**PRIMARY SIX**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)**

**BOOKLET A**

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

CLASS : PR 6 \_\_\_\_\_

DATE : 2 August 2009

Total Time All Sections: 1h 50 min

**INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PUPILS**

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

FOLLOW ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS

	Marks Obtained	/	Maximum Marks
BOOKLET A	)	/	30
BOOKLET B		/	65
TOTAL		/	95

PARENT'S SIGNATURE : \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION A: GRAPHIC STIMULUS (5 x 1 = 5 marks)**

Study the following advertisement and answer questions 1 to 5.

# CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH OUR Feathered Friends

Hey kids, April 22 is Earth Day and it's time to learn how you can help to save our planet. Pick up tips to protect Mother Nature and engage in eco-friendly activities. Flap on today, the celebration is just starting!

## Every Day Can Be Earth Day!

- Tip 1: Prevent waste before it is produced.  
Eg. Avoid using disposable paper plates & plastic ware.
- Tip 2: Find new uses for objects that have outgrown their original use.  
Eg. Line pet litter with old newspapers.
- Tip 3: Buy products that have recycled content in their packaging.  
Eg. Check labels before purchasing products.
- Tip 4: Be a Wildlife Reserve volunteer ranger and do your part for wildlife conservation.

## Bird of the Month Secretary Bird

### Appearance

Instantly recognizable by a crest of quill-like feathers on its eagle-like head, with a hooked beak and legs that resemble a crane's.

### Habitat

Non-migratory in nature, endemic to South Africa. Commonly found in open grasslands and savannas of the sub-Sahara.

### Fun Fact

The crest of long quill-like feathers lends the bird the appearance of a secretary with quills tucked behind his ear, a practice of 19<sup>th</sup> century secretaries.

## Earth Day Art Competition

Show your love for Mother Nature the artistic way. You could be one of the lucky winners to walk away with a Bird Park Hamper worth \$100.

Date: 19 Apr 2009, Sun

Time: 9.45 – 11 a.m.

Venue: Pools Amphitheatre

Art paper will be provided. Participants are required to bring their own colouring materials.

## Feather Run 2009

Come join us for an adrenaline-filled event!

Date: 19 Apr 2009, Sun

Time: 8.00 – 10 a.m.

Due to overwhelming response, registration has been extended!

## Have A Flap-bulous Secretary's Day

April 22 is also Secretary's Day and we are calling all secretaries and administrative professionals! From 20-26 April, enjoy 30% off admission tickets, 20% off a Secretary's Day 3-course set meal and 20% off housebrand retail merchandise!  
\*Terms & Conditions apply.

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.

1. All participants in the Earth Day Art Competition can \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) volunteer to be a ranger and conserve wildlife
  - (2) show their love for the Bird Park in an artistic way
  - (3) get a Bird Park hamper worth a hundred dollars
  - (4) express how they can save Earth in a creative manner
  
2. 'Every Day Can Be Earth Day' aims to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) persuade people to be thrifty
  - (2) promote wildlife conservation
  - (3) get people to engage in eco-friendly activities
  - (4) advise people to do their part in conservation and recycling
  
3. Participants of Feather Run 2009 \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) would get excited during the walk
  - (2) can expect a big crowd at this year's event
  - (3) should sign up early to avoid the crowd
  - (4) get to compete with a variety of flightless birds
  
4. Administrative personnel can enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ on 22 April.
  - (1) a 'flap-bulous' free day
  - (2) discounted admission tickets
  - (3) a 30% discount on a 3-course set meal
  - (4) exclusive offers on all items in the retail shops
  
5. Which one of the following statements is true?
  - (1) Secretary Birds are common throughout Africa.
  - (2) Secretary Birds migrate and head north during winter.
  - (3) Secretary Birds have quill-like feathers on their eagle-like heads.
  - (4) Secretary Birds have feathers that were used by 19<sup>th</sup> century secretaries.

**Section B: GRAMMAR (7 x 1 = 7 marks)**

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.

6. Can you tell me \_\_\_\_\_ the agenda for today's discussion is?
- (1) what
  - (2) when
  - (3) whom
  - (4) which
7. My parents are very receptive \_\_\_\_\_ the idea of spending Christmas at the North Pole.
- (1) at
  - (2) of
  - (3) on
  - (4) to
8. If it \_\_\_\_\_ there, we will have a great time riding on the sleigh.
- (1) snow
  - (2) snows
  - (3) snowed
  - (4) were snowing
9. "Shh... the results \_\_\_\_\_ over the radio right now," cried Father.
- (1) are announcing
  - (2) have announced
  - (3) are being announced
  - (4) have been announced
10. \_\_\_\_\_ was he a good player, he was also good-looking.
- (1) Neither
  - (2) Besides
  - (3) Not only
  - (4) Even though

11. Everyone at home, except Mummy, \_\_\_\_\_ thrilled about our pet arriving next week.

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

12. She really detests housework, \_\_\_\_\_ she?

- (1) does
- (2) didn't
- (3) would
- (4) doesn't

**Section E: VOCABULARY CLOZE (5 x 1 = 5 marks)**

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 Optical Answer Sheet.

A big greyish, rounded bulk, the size perhaps, of a bear, was rising slowly and (21) painfully out of the cylinder. As it (22) bulged up and caught the light, it glistened like wet leather. Two large dark-coloured eyes were regarding me steadfastly. It was rounded, and had, one might say, a face. There was a mouth under the eyes, the brim of which shook and dropped saliva. The body heaved and throbbed.

Those who have never seen a Martian, can (23) scarcely imagine the strange horror of their appearance. The peculiar V-shaped mouth with its pointed upper lip, the absence of brow ridges and a chin beneath the wedge-like lower lip, the noisy breathing of the lungs in a strange atmosphere, the (24) evident heaviness and painfulness of movement – above all, the extraordinary intensity of the immense eyes – ended in an effect (25) akin to nausea.

*Adapted from The War of the Worlds by HG Wells*

21. (1) easily  
(2) vigorously  
(3) effortlessly  
(4) laboriously
22. (1) knotted  
(2) swelled  
(3) cropped  
(4) depressed
23. (1) likely  
(2) really  
(3) hardly  
(4) usually
24. (1) obscure  
(2) ambiguous  
(3) unapparent  
(4) unmistakable
25. (1) equal  
(2) similar  
(3) unparallel  
(4) incomparable

**Section F: COMPREHENSION (5 x 1 = 5 marks)**

Read the passage below and answer questions 26 to 30.

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.

It was a mostly sunny Friday afternoon with billowy clouds floating by. I was golfing in Durham with four of my co-workers. We were on the fifth hole when it started to drizzle. We decided to get under a shelter to wait it out. We were standing there, just kind of harassing each other the way we always did, just talking nonsense. I remember the air had a sweet ozone smell to it. That was the last thing I recalled before the strike.

When the bolt hit me, I was absolutely frozen, just as cold as I have ever been in my entire life, but then part of me was incredibly hot, too. I saw these red flashing lights, and I kept thinking, "It's a fire truck! It's a fire truck!" Then there was the most incredible noise that I had ever heard. The sound was so loud that I honestly could not hear anything. Evidently, it was so loud that it blew the cilia in the ear completely flat.

I felt as if I had been slammed between two dumpsters. It was like every case of the flu you have ever had, at one time. My arms and my legs and my hands all felt as if they weighed 5000 pounds. Every bit of my body was just in absolute pain. It was such a dull ache, and so sharp at the same time; it was like everything from a migraine to a hangover to needles being stuck in every millimetre of your body. My hair hurt, my eyelashes hurt; I could feel it when my hair moved, when the wind blew across me.

The lightning bolt had gone down along a tree next to us, taken off some branches on its way, and then hit the overhang of the shelter, putting a huge hole in it. Then it went through Terry. He was struck through the top of his head, and it came out his knee. It killed him immediately. Then it shot out from the ground and hit the rest of us. It went through me and left an exit wound in my head that needed eight staples.

Now I have a hard time with addition and subtraction. I can handle some fairly complex math involving trigonometry and calculus, but do not ask me to add. The doctors say there is nothing wrong with me, but I know there is. Figuring out how to fix it, that is about like shooting mosquitoes with a shotgun.

*Adapted from What It Feels Like...edited by A.J. Jacobs*

26. A lightning strike seemed unlikely that afternoon as the weather condition was \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) clear
  - (2) overcast
  - (3) breezy and hazy
  - (4) windy and cloudy
27. The writer and his friends sought shelter to avoid the \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) drizzle
  - (2) red flashing lights
  - (3) sweet ozone smell
  - (4) thunder and lightning
28. The writer was \_\_\_\_\_ by the resounding noise when he was struck by the bolt of lightning.
- (1) frozen
  - (2) deafened
  - (3) heated up
  - (4) thrown off
29. The word 'it' in line 17 refers to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) wind that blew into the writer
  - (2) lightning that had struck the writer
  - (3) pain in the writer's hair and eyelashes
  - (4) migraine that the writer was experiencing
30. Which one of these statements is **true**?
- (1) The lightning bolt killed Terry instantaneously.
  - (2) Only the writer and Terry were struck by lightning.
  - (3) The doctors could not solve the complex mathematical problems.
  - (4) The writer could perform all mathematical tasks after the incident.

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**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2009**

**PRIMARY SIX**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)**

**BOOKLET B**

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

CLASS : PR 6 \_\_\_\_\_

DATE : 26 August 2009

Total Time All Sections: 1h 50 min

**INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PUPILS**

**DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.**

**FOLLOW ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.**

**ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS**

**BLANK**

**PAGE**

**Section G (10 marks)**

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) them  | (D) since | (G) who | (K) into     | (N) despite |
| (B) how   | (E) an    | (H) if  | (L) although | (P) however |
| (C) where | (F) is    | (J) a   | (M) of       | (Q) are     |

Imagine putting together the world's largest jigsaw puzzle. This is what scientists \_\_\_\_\_/reassemble the fossil bones of dinosaurs must do when they want  
(31)

to find out what the creatures looked like. Fossilized bones are embedded in solid rock.

The first thing scientists must do is to get the bones out of the rocks ~~without~~ damaging \_\_\_\_\_. This task requires enormous patience.  
(32)

\_\_\_\_\_ hammers, drills and chisels are commonly used in  
(33)

breaking up the rocks, sound waves can also be used. Sometimes each set of the fossilized skeletons \_\_\_\_\_ preserved in its original position. This position  
(34)

shows scientists exactly \_\_\_\_\_ to reassemble it. At other times, it becomes a guessing  
(35)

game to decide what goes \_\_\_\_\_ when various parts of a dinosaur fossil are missing.  
(36)

\_\_\_\_\_ the difficulty of the task, the scientists persevere.  
(37)

\_\_\_\_\_ particularly exciting find occurred in 1978 when fossilized dinosaur eggs,  
(38)

babies and several nests were found. The dinosaur nests were not made of sticks and straw.

\_\_\_\_\_ dinosaurs were land animals, their nests were made of dirt hollowed out  
(39)

\_\_\_\_\_ a bowl shape. The nest found was three-feet deep and held about twenty eggs.  
(40)



**Section H (10 marks)**

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

41.

It was an innocent dinner date with some old friends for Mr Ong. Little did he known

42.

of the traumatic **expirense** that was awaiting him. After dinner, Mr Ong strolled

43.

to the carpark to **ritreev** his car. He noticed a man behaving suspiciously

44.

45.

nearby. Although, before Mr Ong could do anything, he saw the man entered his

car. Undeterred, Mr Ong threw himself on the car bonnet as it drove past and

46.

hung on. **Apearantly** aware that Mr Ong was clinging onto the bonnet of the car, the car

47.

thief tried manoeuvring the car about to shake him out. Finally, Mr Ong rolled off as the

48.

man stepped on the **axcalerator** and sped off.

49.

Luckily for Mr Ong, a passer-by who had **witnused** the unnerving incident came to

50.

his assitant. The police was informed and their investigation led to the arrest of the culprit

within twenty four hours.

**Section I (15 marks)**

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

Contrary to common belief, Orville and Wilbur Wright were not the first to launch the earliest successful flight into the air.

About 120 years (51) them, two French brothers, Etienne and Joseph Montgolfier, did exactly that in 1783. Indeed, some people must (52) thought the two to be full of hot air when they (53) their plan to send a sheep, a duck and a rooster into the sky.

The two paper-makers had recognized the simple principle of aeronautics that hot air trapped inside a lightweight vessel (54) the vessel to rise. They made a series of huge round paper balloons with a fire pot hung in a basket beneath each one (55) heat the air. At that time, the king of France had decreed that no human being could ride in the Montgolfier's balloon, so the first passengers were (56). The flight went perfectly.

Early balloons had a couple of disadvantages. First, it was impossible to control (57) direction. A balloon's flight path was determined by the direction the (58) was blowing. To solve this (59), motors were attached to the balloons. The motors turned small propellers (60) gave pilots some ability to steer the balloon.

\_\_\_\_\_, the round shape of a balloon did not work well for directional flight.  
(61)

As a \_\_\_\_\_, engineers developed a huge craft called a dirigible. The dirigible was  
(62)

\_\_\_\_\_ like a stubby pencil. Unlike the earlier ones, these new balloons could be  
(63)

\_\_\_\_\_ Unfortunately, they could function safely only in nearly windless conditions.  
(64)

Eventually the internal-combustion gasoline engine was \_\_\_\_\_. It was only  
(65)  
with this invention that balloons could consistently be navigated.

*Houghton Muffin Theme 6 New Frontiers: Oceans and Space*



**Section J (10 marks)**

For each of the questions 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. The pianist is very talented. The soloist is also very talented.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

67. First, Johnny took his bath. Then, he did his homework.

\_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

68. The culprit was punished by the law for his offence. He did not repent.

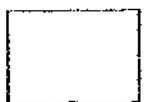
Despite \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

69. All of the female participants have completed their part of the race.

Each of the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

70. Eric gave up car racing because his mother disapproved of the dangerous sport.

If it had not been for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Section K (20 marks)**

Read the passage below and answer questions 71 to 80.

We walked onwards, higher up the side of the hill. At last, the boy stopped and said he had seen the snake nearby. We dumped our equipment and each of us took a different path through the bush searching for the creature. It seemed a hopeless task. With the tangle of creepers around the branches of the trees, I could not have seen the snake even if it was in front of my eyes.

5

Suddenly, I heard the old man calling excitedly. I rushed to him quickly. He was standing at the foot of a tree and pointing towards the branches above. A giant snake was looped over one of the branches about thirty feet above the ground. This complicated things for me. My 'snake-catching instruction manual' had no mention of how to deal with giant snakes when they were in trees.

10

Making a quick decision, I swung myself up the tree with my chopping knife. Bracing my back against the trunk behind me, I faced the branch around which the snake had coiled itself. Then with hurried blows of my knife, I began cutting through the base of the branch.

As the branch shook beneath my knife the snake lifted its head towards me and hissed. One of its coils began slithering smoothly over the branch in my direction. I knew I had to redouble my efforts. The branch creaked and slowly hinged downwards. With a final blow, it fell clear, carrying the python with it. The snake landed with a crash close by the boy and the old man.

15

"Mendjalankan!" I roared frantically to them. However, they just looked blankly at me. There was a clump of bamboo nearby. I saw the snake sliding towards it. We would never catch it if it succeeded in hiding itself among the massive bases of the bamboo stems. Incensed at the thought of losing the snake, I yelled at my two helpers again. Instead of helping me, they scrambled to help Charles, the cameraman, with his equipment.

20

Desperately I jumped to the ground, seized a sack and ran after the snake. It was so intent on reaching the bamboo that it took no notice of me. I reached it just as its head entered the bamboo. Snatching its tail, I jerked it backwards and threw the sack over its head.

25

"Hoop-la!" shouted Charles from behind his camera.

30

Gripping the snake by the scruff of its neck with one hand and grabbing its tail with my other hand, I stood up in triumph. It was at this moment that the boy at last decided to come to my aid. He arrived just in time to receive a jet of fluid all over his sarong. The old man sat down and laughed until tears ran down his cheeks. His laughter was infectious. With the task completed, the absurdity of the whole situation finally hit me. I could not help but join in the merry laughter.

35

*Adapted from an extract from Zoo Quest For A Dragon by David Attenborough*

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

Class: P6 \_\_\_\_\_



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

71. What was the writer doing in the jungle?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

72. Explain clearly what had caused the writer to say that "It seemed a hopeless task" (line 4).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

73. Explain fully what "This" in line 8 refers to.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

74. According to paragraph 3, how did the writer intend to capture the snake?

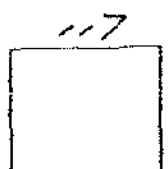
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

75. Why did the writer have to "redouble" his "efforts" in lines 16-17?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



76. What word in paragraph 5 best showed that the writer was seething with anger?

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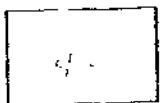
77. In reference to the whole passage, who do the 'we' in paragraph 1 refer to?

78. Explain clearly what had caused the writer to shout to his helpers a second time in paragraph 5.

79. Which two actions of the helpers showed that they did not understand the writer?

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80. In what way had the writer's feeling about the task changed by the end of the passage?



END OF PAPER

# ANSWER SHEET

## EXAM PAPER 2009

SCHOOL : PAYA LEBAR MGS PRIMARY  
SUBJECT : PRIMARY 6 ENGLISH

TERM : SA2

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1.	4	6.	1	11.	1	16.	1	21.	4	26.	1
2.	4	7.	4	12.	4	17.	2	22.	2	27.	1
3.	2	8.	2	13.	2	18.	3	23.	3	28.	2
4.	2	9.	3	14.	3	19.	4	24.	4	29.	3
5.	3	10.	3	15.	3	20.	1	25.	2	30.	1

31.G      32.A      33.L      34.F      35.B      36.C

37.N      38.J      39.D      40.K      41.kno

42.experience      43.retrieve      44.however

45.enter      46.Apparently      47.off

48. accelerator      49.witnessed      50.assistance

51.before      52.have      53.announced

54.allows      55.to      56.animals

57.their      58.wind      59.problem

60.that

61.secondly

62.result

63.shaped

64. navigated

65.invented

66.Both the pianist and the soloist are very talented.

67.Johnny did his homework after he had taken his bath.

68.Despite being punished by the law for his offence, the culprit did not repent.

69.Each of the female participant has completed her part of the race.

70.if it had not been for his mother's disapproval of car racing, Eric would not have given up the dangerous sport.

71.He was trying to catching a snake.

72.It seemed like a hopeless task because the thick vegetation hid the snake from sight.

73."This"refer to the fact that the snake being on a tree.

74.He intended to chop off the branch the snake was on.

75.It knew the snake was moving towards him.

76.The word is "increased"

77."We" refers to the writer, the two helpers and Charles.

**78.The snake was escaping.**

**79.When the writers called to them, they looked blankly at him.When the writer called them the second time, they helped Charles with his equipment.**

**80.He was at first uptight but later amused.**

**-- end ---**