



RAFFLES GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

SEMESTRAL EXAMINATION (1)

2011

Name: _____ () Class: P6 _____

Your Score Out of 98 ⁹³ marks		
	Class	Level
Highest score		
Average score		
Parent's Signature		

5 May 2011

English Language

ATT : 1h 50 min

BOOKLET A

Instructions to Pupils

1. Write your Name, Class and Index No. in the spaces above.
2. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
3. Follow all instructions carefully.
4. Answer all questions.
5. Shade your answers in the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS) provided.

Section A : Graphic Stimulus (5 marks)

Study the poster below carefully and then answer questions 1 to 5.

The National Science Museum (NSM): Looking for enthusiastic and committed volunteers



Are you at least 18 years old? If so, join our family of volunteers. You can gain valuable hands-on experience and skills through a variety of roles.

Currently, we need volunteers in the following 3 departments:

Gallery Tour

- Daily short tours designed to introduce visitors to a gallery
- Each tour will last between 30 and 40 minutes
- Need volunteers to commit 1 to 2 hours every 2 weeks for at least 1 year; extensive training given to volunteers

School Events

- School Event Facilitators help the Learning Department to conduct shows and talks for students, parents and teachers
- Need volunteers who can help out during the school holiday periods and/or on the last Friday of each month

Behind the Scenes

- Volunteers perform essential tasks from preserving existing collections to cataloguing brand new collections
- Need volunteers who can give a regular commitment of 1 day every week for about 3 to 6 months

How do I become a volunteer?

We receive applications all year round. Please download our registration form from <http://www.nsm.org.sg> and email it to our Volunteer Development Executive (email: volunteer_dev@nsm.org.sg). You will be contacted by one of our staff when we receive your application. You may call 63451234 for further enquiries.



Volunteers' Family Day (VFD)

It's a day organised annually by volunteers for volunteers and their families only in recognition of their voluntary work.

Highlights of VFD 2011: a Treasure Hunt competition, a Fun Science workshop and a picnic; free goodie bags for children and adults.

Volunteers have to log in to access their accounts for more information.

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. Siti is an eighteen-year-old student who is ~~free only during the school holidays~~. In which department is she able to offer her help during her ~~one-month school holiday~~?
 - (1) Gallery Tour
 - (2) School Events
 - (3) Behind the Scenes
 - (4) Gallery Tour, School Events and Behind the Scenes

2. A School Event Facilitator will help to _____.
 - (1) organise gallery tours
 - (2) conduct the Fun Science workshop
 - (3) organise a treasure hunt competition
 - (4) conduct talks for parents, students and teachers

3. How will volunteers learn more about the Volunteers' Family Day?
 - (1) They will be informed via email.
 - (2) They will receive a letter through the mail.
 - (3) They have to log in to access their accounts.
 - (4) There will be more information in the next newsletter.

4. Based on the poster, which one of the following statements is ~~not true~~?
 - (1) NSM rewards its volunteers in various ways.
 - (2) Volunteers can be younger than 16 years old.
 - (3) Volunteering at NSM provides a rich learning experience.
 - (4) NSM reminds interested applicants on the need to be committed.

5. The recruitment of volunteers will take place _____.
 - (1) anytime of the year
 - (2) at the end of the year
 - (3) in the middle of the year
 - (4) at the beginning of the year

Section B : Grammar Discrete (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. All except Jane _____ present this morning. We carried out the meeting without her.

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

7. Seething _____ anger, she threw a shoe at him.

- (1) up
- (2) for
- (3) with
- (4) through

8. She asked us if she could go to the zoo with Mother and _____.

- (1) I
- (2) me
- (3) mine
- (4) myself

9. Henry is good _____ mastering foreign languages.

- (1) at
- (2) for
- (3) with
- (4) from

10. I have _____ my briefcase on my desk to remind me that I have work to finish.

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

11. There is _____ milk than juice in the refrigerator.

- (1) less
- (2) little
- (3) least
- (4) fewer

12. Neither John nor his friends _____ where the book is hidden.

- (1) know
- (2) knows
- (3) has known
- (4) have known

Section C : Punctuation(3 marks)

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.

The boys ran up the slope eagerly to view the crown of the majestic sun rising slowly above the clouds.

"Hurry up (13) ~~the~~ grandmother bellowed

"Beautiful (14) the elderly lady ~~asked~~ her grandsons to find out if they liked the way Mother Nature had painted the sky (15)

"Yes, and magical," the older boy responded.

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

Section D: Vocabulary (5 marks)

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.

16. Human rights activists called on the government to _____ the use of violence on the innocent refugees.
- (1) seize
 - (2) solemnise
 - (3) denounce
 - (4) pronounce

17. Through the fog, we were barely able to _____ the approaching figure.

- (1) feature
- (2) discern
- (3) foresee
- (4) accentuate

18. We invited Jill to our party, but she _____ for so long that we realised she was rather fickle.

- (1) lived it up
- (2) bit the bullet
- (3) blew hot and cold
- (4) reinvented the wheel

19. It was such an _____ comment that it could not possibly hurt his feelings.

- (1) insolent
- (2) indelible
- (3) indignant
- (4) innocuous

20. We must thank him as his alertness helped to _____ some dire consequences this time.

- (1) avert
- (2) divert
- (3) revert
- (4) convert

Section E: Vocabulary Cloze (5 marks)

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

Nowadays, many teenagers are addicted to video games. The telltale signs are obvious: teens holing up in their rooms, ignoring friends, family, even food and a shower, while grades plummet and aggression soars.

(21)
(22)
The culprit is not alcohol or drugs. It is video games. Some doctors contend that it can be as powerfully addictive as heroin.

(23)
The danger of gaming, compared with other forms of addiction, is that a person can get far too immersed in the virtual world and, as a result, not realise he or she has a problem. If the gaming addiction persists into adulthood, it may jeopardise the person's relationships and health.

21. (1) evident
(2) ominous
(3) numerous
(4) ambiguous

22. (1) decline
(2) stabilise
(3) improve
(4) fluctuate

23. (1) argue
(2) hesitate
(3) disagree
(4) compromise

24. (1) dazed
(2) excited
(3) involved
(4) delirious

25. (1) repair
(2) destroy
(3) nurture
(4) threaten

Section F : Comprehension MCQ (5 marks)

Read the passage below and answer questions 26 to 30.

<p>Metro Manila alone has about 85,000 street children. Street children eke out a living on the streets by weaving through traffic to beg or to sell cigarettes and candies to drivers and commuters. Others help commuters park and offer to "watch your car" for loose change.</p>	
<p>Their meagre earnings are primarily spent on food, but extra money is sometimes wasted on vices like gambling, drinking alcohol or sniffing glue.</p>	5
<p>In order to help these children spend wisely and teach them how to save with meaningful goals in mind, Childhope has started the Financial Education Programme (FEP). It targets those within the 14 to 18 age bracket. Later, it lowered its scope to include 12-year-olds to accommodate interested younger children.</p>	
<p>Sometimes, the problem is not about not knowing how to save. "They may not know there is an economic crisis going on in the world, but they definitely feel the surge in prices of food and basic goods. They had a hard time saving in 2009," explains Darwin Anolin, coordinator of Childhope's FEP.</p>	10
<p>At the end of each day, street children turn over their savings to area-based street educators, who record all the transactions. To withdraw money, the children have to submit in writing the amount they need and the reason for the planned withdrawal. Those who can maintain good records or have the highest savings each week are given incentives in the form of clothes or basic supplies.</p>	15
<p>"The programme is good because our money's not just lying around where we or anyone else can easily get it," says Adan. For Adan, his savings are a measure of his financial independence. He is not obligated to give money to his parents, but does so voluntarily while still keeping something for himself.</p>	20
<p>Teaching street children to save for the rainy days is just the first step. Childhope also helps beneficiaries of the FEP to find a more stable source of income instead of what they are doing on the streets. Vocational courses in cosmetology, reflexology and restaurant services are offered to street children who consistently save to move them away from a hand-to-mouth existence. Anolin says one former street child who has graduated from the course has been able to set up her own small burger stand business.</p>	25
<p>Since starting the programme in 1997, Childhope has helped 90 children manage their own finances. There are currently 50 active savers who deposit an average of 20 pesos each day.</p>	30
<p>(Adapted from "Street Kids Learn to Save in Times of Crisis", by Kara Santos)</p>	

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.

26. According to the passage, many street children found it difficult to save in 2009 because _____.
- (1) their money was stolen by others
 - (2) they spent all their money on vices
 - (3) prices of basic necessities increased
 - (4) they were not allowed to sell cigarettes and candies
27. The phrase "hand-to-mouth existence" (line 26 - 27) means _____.
- (1) being unemployed
 - (2) living in unhygienic conditions
 - (3) making a living from manual labour
 - (4) having enough for one's immediate needs only
28. Which of the following sentences best shows that Childhope's Financial Education Programme (FEP) has achieved much success?
- (1) It has helped 90 children to manage their own finances.
 - (2) It hired Darwiri Anotiri as the programme coordinator.
 - (3) It lowered its participants' entry age limit from 14 to 12.
 - (4) It has helped a former street child to set up a burger stall.
29. The youngsters in Childhope's FEP are motivated to save as much as possible because they _____.
- (1) will be disciplined if they do not do so
 - (2) need the money to further their education
 - (3) will be rewarded if they have the highest savings each week
 - (4) have been told to give some of their savings to their parents
30. Childhope's FEP helps youngsters to get a more stable source of income by _____.
- (1) offering jobs to them
 - (2) donating a small sum of money to them regularly
 - (3) providing training to equip them with some useful job skills
 - (4) not allowing them to withdraw much money from their savings accounts

BOOKLET B

Name: _____ ()

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Section G : Structural Cloze (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) are	(D) for	(G) of	(K) out	(N) was
(B) down	(E) have	(H) on	(L) those	(P) when
(C) even	(F) in	(J) or	(M) to	(Q) who

Passengers on board a Singapore Airlines flight that was delayed _____ more than
(31)
34 hours in New York, has finally touched _____ in Singapore.
(32)

Families were anxiously waiting for their loved ones who were grounded at New York's JFK
airport for more than a day because _____ snow storms and they were jubilant
(33)
_____ finally be reunited with them. Singapore Airlines could not confirm the
(34)
number of affected passengers.

The airline said _____ affected by the delay were provided with food and
(35)
accommodation.

Passengers _____ spoke to Channel News Asia recalled their long wait at JFK
(36)
airport. "We were stuck _____ the airport for fourteen hours in JFK. There was
(37)
no food and none of the cafes _____ open for us to buy food. We were just
(38)
waiting and we did not know _____ the flight was going to be. Everyone was
(39)
miserable. We were just sitting there," said a passenger.

Another flight, SQ 21, is scheduled to arrive early _____ Thursday morning
(40)
at either 7.17am or 7.37am.

Adapted from <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/>

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Section H: Editing for Spelling and Grammar (10 marks)

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

There is something special about peering beneath the bottom of the world. When Antarctica's summer
41 42
diving season began in September, the sun has been largely absent for six months and the water, **vertuérly**
43
free of phytoplankton, has become as clear as any in the world. Visibility is measured not in feet and in ~~football~~
44 45
fields. "There was no **viszual** awareness of there being water," says my diving **coleegue**, Peter Brueggeman.
46
"It was like suspended at **space**, as if we were birds flying around in a big room." It felt as cold as outer space
47
too. With it's **freezjng** point lowered by salt, the seawater is as cold as it can get, at -2 degrees Celsius. It is
48
an equipment-breaking, head-numbing reminder that this is a **treacherers** realm. The crystalline ceiling
49
and **Invizebel** water make this diving spot to be one of the most beautiful. It is only here that you can orbit an
50
electric-blue iceberg while being serenading by the eerie trills of Weddel seals. Indeed, these seas are full of
surprises.

Adapted from "Under Antarctic Ice," Norbert Wu, National Geographic February 1999, 90

Section I: Comprehension Cloze (15 marks)

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

In the mid 1940's, the young ambitious duo, Ruth and Elliot Handler, owned a company that made wooden picture frames. Elliot and his partner, Harold Mattson, built the samples and Ruth was in _____ of marketing them. Soon, Elliot began to use the scraps of wood from picture frames
(51)

to make doll furniture. This was the beginning of their toy business. In 1945, they formed a company that would be _____ for the most popular and successful doll ever created. This company would be named
(52)

Mattel. Mattel continued to _____ from a very profitable business into a corporate giant.
(53)

About a decade later, while visiting Switzerland, Ruth Handler purchased a German Lilli doll, a shapely, pretty fashion doll first made in 1955. She was originally fashioned _____ a famous German
(54)

cartoon character. Lilli was made of hard plastic with molded-on shoes and earrings. There was a large wardrobe available for this doll and dressing her up was fun and exciting. Lilli was the doll that would _____ Ruth Handler to design the Barbie doll. Ruth knew what she wanted Barbie to
(55)

_____ like. With the help of her technicians and engineers at Mattel, Barbie was born. Ruth
(56)

then hired Charlotte Johnson, a fashion designer, to _____ Barbie's wardrobe.
(57)

It was in 1958 that the patent for Barbie was obtained. This would be a fashion doll _____
(58)
any of her time. She would be long limbed, shapely and beautiful and only 28 centimetres _____
(59)

Paper fashion dolls of the times would give _____ to a three dimensional beauty with a
(60)
wardrobe of unsurpassed quality. Ruth and Elliot would _____ their new fashion doll after their
(61)

own daughter, Barbie, and her boyfriend, Ken, would be named after their son, Ken.

In March of 1959, Barbie doll made her way to the New York Toy Show and received a cool reception from the toy buyers. She was viewed _____ risky to buyers since she was not the typical style
(62)

selling baby doll of the times. However, _____ seeing Barbie on store shelves, the public
(63)

decided differently. By 1960, the orders started pouring in to Mattel. Within ten years, the public purchased \$500 million _____ of Barbie products. Barbie is a reflection of the history of fashion since her
(64)

introduction to the toy market. Barbie has a universal _____ and collectors of all ages enjoy time spent and memories made with their dolls.
(65)

Adapted from <http://www.dolls4play.com/barbiehistory.html>

Section J: Transformation / Synthesis (5 x 2 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).

66. She goes for her morning swim even if the weather is very cold.

However _____

67. He attended the meeting despite being unwell.

Although _____

68. I was amazed when the magician pulled a rabbit out of the hat.

To _____

69. He embezzled the funds as he was too greedy.

Driven _____

70. The flights will be cancelled if they do not clear the snow in time.

_____ unless _____

Section K: Comprehension Open-Ended

Read the passage below and answer questions 71 to 80.

(20 marks)

Not long ago, I spent the morning having coffee with Kanzi. It was not my idea; Kanzi invited me, though he did so in his customary clipped way. Kanzi was ~~a fellow of few words~~ – about four hundred by formal count, though he probably knew a dozen more. He had a perfectly serviceable voice – very clear, very expressive and very, very loud. However, ~~it~~ was not especially good for forming words which is the way of things when you are a bonobo, a close cousin of the chimpanzee.

5

However, Kanzi was ~~talkative~~ all the same. For much of his day, he kept a sort of a ~~glossary~~ at hand. It comprised three laminated, placemat-like sheets filled with hundreds of colourful symbols that represented all the words he had been taught by his minders or picked up on his own. He could build thoughts and sentences, even conjugate, all by pointing. The sheets included not just easy nouns and verbs like “ball” and “run”, but also concept words such as “from” and “later” and grammatical elements such as – *ing* and –*ed* endings signifying tenses. He was also able to build new ideas from old ones. For instance, to request for pizza which was not yet on the word list, Kanzi would point “bread”, “cheese” and “tomato”.

10

Kanzi certainly knew the value of breaking the ice before getting down to business. Hence he pointed to the coffee icon on his glossary and then pointed to me. He then swept his arms wider, taking in primatologist, Sue, and lab supervisor, Tyler. Quickly, Tyler fetched four cups of coffee, took one to Kanzi in his patio enclosure on the other side of a window and then rejoined us. Kanzi gulped down his cup of coffee and since our voices were picked up by microphones, he listened as we talked.

15

“We told him that a ~~visitor~~ was coming. He’s been excited but he was stubborn this morning and we couldn’t get him to come out to the yard. Instead, he pointed to the glossary for ‘green’, ‘yellow’ and ‘watermelon’. Hence, we had to negotiate a piece of honeydew melon in exchange,” Sue told me.

20

All the same, Kanzi was not interested in saying much that day, preferring to run and leap, displaying his physical prowess instead. “Ball”, he tapped on one of his glossary sheets when he finished his coffee. “Tell him you’ll get it for him,” Sue instructed me and then showed me where the necessary symbols were on the sheet I had in hand. “Yes-I-will-chase-the-ball-for-you,” I pointed at the symbols slowly. It took me a while to find the ball down the hall and when I finally returned, Sue picked up the ball and asked him verbally, “Are you ready to play?” Kanzi looked at us balefully. “Past ready,” he pointed.

25

The non-profit Great Ape Trust was home to seven bonobos, including Kanzi’s baby son, Teco. Kanzi was by no means the first ape to have been taught language. The famous Koko, Washoe and others came before him. Just as human mothers take babies on walks and chatter to them about what they see even though the child does not yet understand, so too do the scientists at the Trust narrate the lives of the bonobos. With this total immersion, the apes are learning to communicate better, faster and with greater complexity.

30

Adapted from Time Magazine, 16 August 2010

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ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

71. Who was Kanzi?

72. What does the word "it" in line 4 refer to?

73. In what way was Kanzi "a fellow of few words" (line 2) and "talkative" (line 6) at the same time?

74. How did Kanzi help the writer to get over the initial shyness during the meeting?

75. Who was the "visitor" mentioned in line 19?

76. How do we know that Kanzi understood verbal human language?

77. Which word from the passage has the same meaning as "innovative"?

78. Why did Kanzi have to point at 'green', 'yellow' and "watermelon" to ask for a piece of honeydew melon as a reward?

79. Which 5-word phrase in the passage tells us that Kanzi was able to learn the meaning of words without any help?

80. What did the scientists at the Trust do to immerse the apes in spoken language?

----- End of Paper -----

Setters:
Ms Ho Hsien Lin
Miss Pek Xueyan
Mdm Wirda Sukor

ANSWER SHEET

EXAM PAPER 2011

**SCHOOL : RAFFLES GIRLS' PRIMARY
SUBJECT : PRIMARY 6 ENGLISH**

TERM : SA1

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

Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30	Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34
3	4	1	1	1	1	3	4	3	4	1	3	3	D	B	G	M

Q35	Q36	Q37	Q38	Q39	Q40
L	Q	F	N	P	H

- 41)begins 42)virtually 43)but 44)visual 45)colleague
 46)in 47)its 48)treacherous 49)invisible 50)serenaded
 51)charge 52)responsible 53)grow 54)after 55)inspire
 56)look 57)design 58)unlike/surpassing 59)tall 60)way
 61)name 62)as 63)upon 64)worth 65)appeal
 66)However cold the weather is, she goes for her morning swim.
 67)Although he was unwell, he attended the meeting.
 68)To my amazement, the magician pulled a rabbit out of the hat.
 69)Driven by greediness, he embezzled the funds.
 70)The flights will be cancelled unless they clear the snow in time.
 71)Kanzi was a bonobo, a close cousin of the chimpanzee.
 72)It refers to Kanzi's perfectly serviceable voice that was very clear, very expressive and very, very loud.
 73)He only knew about four hundred words and always had his glossary in his hands so that he could communicate.
 74)Kanzi helped the writer to get over the initial shyness during the meeting by knowing the value of breaking the ice and indicated that he wanted to have coffee with the writer, primatologist sue and lab supervisor Tyler.
 75)The "visitor "was the writer.
 76)When Sue picked up the ball and questioned Kanzi verbally if he was read to play he answered by looking at her and the writer balefully and pointed on the glossary that he was past ready.
 77)The word is "negotiate".
 78)The words "honeydew melon" were not on his word list yet and these words describe a honeydew melon.
 79)The phrase is "picked up on his own".
 80)They took the baby apes on walks and talked to then about what they saw.

Suggested Answers

- 41. begins
- 42. virtually
- 43. but
- 44. visual
- 45. colleague
- 46. in
- 47. its
- 48. treacherous
- 49. invisible
- 50. serenaded

- 51. charge
- 52. known/famous/~~recognised~~/well-known/responsible/
renowned/ remembered
- 53. grow/flourished/prosper/progress/transform/morph/
develop/evolve
- 54. after
- 55. inspire / lead
- 56. look / be
- 57. design / create
- 58. unlike / surpassing
- 59. tall
- 60. way
- 61. name
- 62. as
- 63. upon/on/after
- 64. worth
- 65. appeal / charm

- 66. However cold the weather is, she goes for her morning swim.
- 67. Although he was unwell, he attended the meeting.
- 68. To my amazement, the magician pulled a rabbit out of the hat.
- 69. Driven by (his) greed/greediness, he embezzled the funds.
- 70. The flights will be cancelled unless they clear the snow in time.

- 71. He was a bonobo / chimpanzee.
- 72. It refers to Kanzi's voice.
- 73. He only ~~knew about~~ four hundred words and he always had his glossary in his hands so that he could communicate with the people whenever he wanted to.
- 74. He invited the writer for a cup of coffee.
- 75. It was the writer.
- 76. Sue gave Kanzi a piece of honeydew as he had requested. OR
Sue asked him a question verbally and he was able to respond to it.
- 78. The words 'honeydew melon' were not on his word list yet and those words describe a piece of honeydew melon.
- 79. The phrase is "picked up on his own".
- 80. They took the baby apes on walks and talked to them about what they had seen.

Note: baby ≠ baby ape