



**Section A**

[15 marks]

[Time suggested : 25 minutes]

*Questions 1 to 8 are based on the given stimuli. Study the information carefully and choose the best answer.*

**The Light Between Oceans**

The adaptation of M.L Steadman's novel of the same name is heart-breaking story of love and sacrifice. Tom Sherbourne (Michael Fassbender) is the lighthouse keeper on remote Jonus Rock, which is half a day's journey from the mainland. There, he and his young bride Isabel (Alicia Vikander) live a quiet life, isolated from the rest of the world. Years later, having suffered several miscarriages and grieving a stillbirth, Isabel hears the cries of 'a gift from God'. A boat has been washed up on shore and in it are a dead man and a baby girl. Isabel convinces Tom against his better judgement to raise the baby as their own. The consequences of this decision test their love and morality.

1. Based on the drama excerpt above, what can you conclude?
  - A. Isabel gave birth to a baby girl on the Island
  - B. Isabel's decision affected the couple's life
  - C. Tom and his wife enjoyed living in the mainland
  - D. Tom decided to raise the baby girl

I was telling a friend a story about a crew of a tanker being held hostage by some pirates and for the life of me, I couldn't remember how it ended. I recalled some details for I read a 3000-word magazine article just a few weeks ago. But try as I might, I could not summon the information I wanted. I pondered on my deteriorating memory. My age is an accomplice, but I know the real culprits are the devices that have replaced books and papers in my life.

2. Which of the following expressions is not related to the writer's feeling of inadequacy about his memory?

- A. 'for the life of me'
- B. 'my deteriorating memory'
- C. 'recalled some details'
- D. 'could not summon the information'

The Antarctic Peninsula is warming five times faster than the average rate of global warming. 26 years ago, sea ice or ice formed from sea water covered 40% more area off the West Antarctic Peninsula than it does. The decrease of land under ice has led to a decrease in the number of Krill, the main source of food for Chinstrap penguins, which have decreased by as much as 30% to 66% in some colonies. Less food has made it more difficult for the young to survive.

3. According to the extract, all statements below are **not true except**

- A. sea ice covers less land in the Antarctic region now than 26 years ago.
- B. sea ice has killed krill which is food for Chinstrap penguins.
- C. more ice covers more West Antarctic land now than 26 years ago.
- D. more sea ice on land has led to lesser Chinstrap penguins in the Antarctic Peninsula

*Questions 4 and 5 are based on the following extract*

**Statistics of Reading in Malaysia**

A survey conducted in 2016 revealed that Malaysians read an average of two books each year. The survey results of 50000 Malaysians from all walks of life show that the reading habit is on the decline. Malaysians do not seem to pick up the reading habit. The results also demonstrate that the most preferred reading material is newspapers. 77.7% of the respondents like to read newspapers. This is followed by magazines (3.5%), books (3%), comics (1.6%) and other reading materials (15%).

**Reasons cited for not reading**

Other interests – 60%  
No leisure time – 15.2%  
No interest in reading – 13.5%

4. According to the survey, the most common excuse for not reading is Malaysians
- A. are busy with work
  - B. find reading not interesting
  - C. prefer other forms of leisure
  - D. are too preoccupied with their daily lives
5. Which of the following has the **closest meaning** to the word 'preferred' in the survey?
- A. interesting
  - B. favourable
  - C. appropriate
  - D. comprehensible

**EASY HERBS**

Herbs are the easiest way to lift the taste of your food and add an injection of vitamin-filled freshness:

➤ **BASIL**

Basil is easily grown from seed, but you can buy pots crowded with seedlings for fresh picking. You can just harvest all the leaves and buy another pot but you can also keep the plant alive for many months.

➤ **MINT**

Mint is a wonder in summer drinks, and there are dozens of varieties to choose from. Most are strong growers, large pots are ideal to contain their vigorous roots.

➤ **CORIANDER**

Coriander can enhance the dish taste but you'll need to keep it in a cool and shady position and water regularly. Once it starts forming flower heads, let it go and just harvest all the seed.

➤ **THYME**

Thyme makes a pretty patch of small ground cover and also perfect in containers. It is evergreen in winter and the flowers open in spring and summer.

6. Which word has the same meaning as 'addition'?

- A. Versatile
- B. Injection
- C. Vigorous
- D. Evergreen

*Questions 7 and 8 are based on the following extract*

CUPID, THE 2-LEGGED PUPPY

By Lakshine Sathiyathanum

Feb. 9, 2017 CANADA- Born without front legs, a puppy in Toronto was tied up in a bag and left to die in a trash bin at just a few weeks old. Thankfully, someone passing by heard his whines. He was brought in to the Dog Recuers Inc, who decided to call him Cupid – thanks to his heart-shaped nose. They gave Cupid plenty of TLC, made sure he was well-fed, and set to work on helping him to recover. They noticed that his tail was disfigured and that his missing paws made it incredibly difficult for him to stand, walk. The Dog Rescuers worked with Paws Ability to fit Cupid with brand new prosthetic front legs, made just for him. Cupid’s new legs are two aluminium pieces covered with leather and lined with soft fabric, that fit close to his body with a special suspension vest. For now, they’re fitted with special ski-style feet that work as training wheels to help Cupid learn how to walk. He’ll need to work on building the muscles in his back leg as well as his core, and will need to break out of his habit of resting on his back legs and leaning backwards. Slowly, he’s making progress. Cupid’s currently living in a foster home while he gets used to his new legs.

Adapted from: Human Interest News-Posted on February 13, 2017

7. From the newspaper report, we can **conclude** that Cupid

- A. is left at the Rescue Center
- B. is a brand of new prosthetic front legs
- C. is lucky to get a second chance in its life
- D. is rescued by the Dog Rescuers

8. Which lesson **best** described the newspaper report?

- A. Every cloud has a silver lining
- B. An apple a day keeps the doctor away
- C. Take a dog for a companion and a stick in your hand
- D. When the going gets tough, the tough gets going

**Question 9 to 15** are based on the following passage. Choose the **best answer** to fill in each blank.

**ASIMO – Honda’s humanoid robot**

It walks and runs, even up and down stairs. It can open a bottle \_\_ 9 \_\_ serve a drink and politely try to shake hands with a stranger.

“Hello, New York! Thank You for coming today!” the little guy chirped in English, the recorded voice of a teenage boy. Resembling a tiny astronaut, Asimo- \_\_10\_\_ in a white suit and helmet – stands at 1.3m tall and weighs in at 50 kg. Asimo- short for Advanced Step In Innovative Mobility- was \_\_11\_\_ to help people – potentially in cases of reduced mobility.

The first model \_\_12\_\_ unveiled in year 2000 after 14 years of research during which scientists studied human movements in an effort to replicate them. The latest demonstration highlighted the robot’s increased flexibility and balance- as well as sign language abilities. It \_\_13\_\_ now also run at a speed of 9 km/h.

Researchers think that one day it could help the elderly – say by getting a snack or turning the lights off – when \_\_14\_\_ ability to get around is reduced.

Asimo was designed to help those in society who need assistance and Honda believes that these improvements in Asimo will bring them another step closer to their ultimate goal of being able to help \_\_15\_\_ kinds of people in need.

- 9 A. with  
B. between  
C. and  
D. but

- 12 A. is  
B. are  
C. was  
D. were

- 15 A. few  
B. little  
C. must  
D. all

- 10 A. builded  
B. decked  
C. soothing  
D. tining

- 13 A. could  
B. can  
C. should  
D. must

- 11 A. designed  
B. designing  
C. design  
D. designs

- 14 A. they  
B. them  
C. their  
D. themselves

**Section B**

[10 marks]

[Time suggested: 25 minutes]

**Questions 16-25**

Read the text (article) below and answer the questions that follow.

**What is Acid Reflux?**

Our stomach is a highly acidic place. Parietal cells in the stomach wall produce hydrochloric acid, a strong acid with a pH of 1.5 to 3, to break down the food we consume. This acid is so concentrated that if you were to place a drop on a piece of wood, it would eat right through it.

Then, there is a muscular ring, called the esophageal sphincter muscle, which lies between the end of the esophagus (the food pipe which transports food from our mouth down to our stomach) and the beginning of the stomach. It acts as a valve to keep stomach acid in the stomach. However, due to the effects of certain foods and lifestyle factors, this muscle may sometimes not function well enough to prevent gastric acid from flowing up into the esophagus. When this happens, it causes burning pain as the acid erodes the esophageal wall. This is known as acid reflux or heartburn.

A recent survey conducted by the National Heartburn Alliance in the US revealed that 92 percent of frequent heartburn sufferers point to food as the primary cause of digestive discomfort. The key to preventing acid reflux is to minimize or avoid ingestion of certain foods including:

**Chocolate** - Bad news for chocolate lovers. Chocolate seems to cause more reflux than any other food due to its caffeine, cocoa and high fat content.

**Coffee and Tea** -high levels of caffeine in coffee and tea lead to increased secretion of gastric acid in stomach which may cause acid reflux.

**Carbonated drinks** - Soft drink, energy drinks or carbonated water such as Perrier increase pressure levels in the stomach, which in turn increases the acidic response.

**Mint** - Peppermint relaxes the sphincter muscle allowing stomach acids to flow back into the esophagus.

**Prevention Method**

***Lose weight if you are obese*** – Obesity is the leading cause of acid reflux as extra stomach fat places pressure on your abdomen, pushing gastric juices up into your esophagus.

***Do not smoke*** – nicotine has a relaxing effect on the esophagus sphincter muscle and interferes with the process of saliva effectively clearing acid out of the esophagus.

***Avoid tight clothing at abdominal area*** – Snug clothing puts pressure on the stomach and worsen the discomfort and pain.

**Questions 16 – 19**

Using the information from the text (article), complete the table below.

<b>Acid reflux</b>	
Acidic pH scale	16. _____
Effect of acid on wood	17. _____
Muscular ring	Esophageal sphincter muscle
Causes	18. _____
	19. _____

**Question 20 – 25**

Based on the information in the text (article) , fill in the dialogue with the suitable answer. Use **not more than three words**.

**Doctor:** Good morning, how can I help you?

**Patient:** Morning doctor, I'm not feeling well and always get heartburn. How can this happen doctor?

**Doctor:** Actually, there is a muscular ring, called the esophageal sphincter muscle, which lies between the end of the (20) \_\_\_\_\_ and the beginning of the stomach. It acts as a valve to keep stomach acid in the stomach. However, due to the effects of certain foods and lifestyle factors, this muscle may sometimes not function well enough to (21) \_\_\_\_\_ from flowing up into the esophagus

**Patient:** Is there any food that I should avoid to prevent heartburn?

**Doctor:** Yes, of course. Food is the primary causes of digestive discomfort. So, you should avoid chocolate because it seem to cause (22) \_\_\_\_\_ than any other food. Other foods you should avoid are coffee and tea, carbonated drinks and mint.

**Patient:** Oh no! I'm a coffeholic, no wonder the pain keeps repeating. Doctor, is it true that I should lose some weight as a prevention method? I've heard that (23) \_\_\_\_\_ is the leading cause of acid reflux.

**Doctor:** Exactly! Nicotine also one of the factors of acid reflux, so (24) \_\_\_\_\_ and you should avoid tight clothing at (25) \_\_\_\_\_ since it puts pressure on stomach and worsen the discomfort and pain.

**Patient:** Okay, thank you doctor.

**Section C**

[25marks]

[Time suggested: 50 minutes]

**Questions 26 – 31** are based on the following passage.

- 1 The year I turned 30, my friend Erin and I decided to hike part of Newfoundland's East Coast Trail -215 kilometres between Caphayden and St.John's. Neither of us had gone on a hiking trip longer than five days and now we were in for 14, but we were excited.
- 2 Nature! Strength! Perseverance! Character! Our hike would end up giving me all those things in cruel abundance, but there was one-take home I didn't anticipate: proof of the astonishing kindness of strangers. Over our first two days, we covered less than 30 kilometres, most of it in the rain. What had been a gentle mist when we started evolved into a downpour by the second day. Nothing dried overnight, everything was sodden. The trails were rugged, with muddy patches so deep that stepping in the wrong place meant mud to mid-calf --which is to say over and into your boots. We squelched with every step. 5 10
- 3 The East Coast Trail isn't one uninterrupted wilderness trek but a series of trails stitched between communities along the province's eastern side. You end up pounding a considerable amount of pavement too. On our second day, as we emerged from one trail looking like cats left in the rain, a woman and her parents making their way from car to house caught sight of us and took pity, "Would you like to come in for a cup of tea"? Jenny asked. 15
- 4 It was too good to pass up. We hurried to the cottage, where we stripped off as much of our soaked gear as possible, so as not to defile their lovely home. We talked about the hike, where we were from and learned more about our hosts- Jenny, and her parents who'd come to visit. Tea turned into an offer of a shower. The hot shower turned into an offer of a hearty brunch. After brunch, rocks were heated in the oven to dry out boots and our sodden clothes got a warm tumble in the dryer. But the rain still sheeted down. *Soon enough, it was Happy Hour:* we lounged on couches, listening to the CBC, flipping through books and speaking casually. 20 25
- 5 When the rain didn't relent and calls to the woman in town who rented a spare room went unanswered, we were encouraged to stay. "Surely you can't go back out in that and camp," they said. "You'll be soaked again in no time". And so Erin and I enjoyed a beautiful dinner too, before retiring to twin beds. That night I had no nightmares of our tent being blown off a cliff. That night I slept soundly. 30

- 6 The next morning Jenny made us breakfast, packed us breakfast, packed us plum and oatmeal for the road, then drove us through town. We said a fond goodbye and tackled the next 23 kilometres of hilly terrain with new energy – it was one of our most challenging segments of the trip. As we hiked through evergreens so thick, we couldn’t see the ground at our feet, we rehashed details of the day before, trying to hang onto our good fortune just a little longer. **35**
  
- 7 Back in civilization, we texted Jenny telling her we’d made it –maybe because of her. The hardest hiking days had come after we’d met her, when the trails were in the worst shape, and when the finish line was unfathomably far off. What if we’d not had a chance to rest, to dry out, to refuel with real food? What if we hadn’t been reminded of human goodness? We’d wanted to immerse ourselves in nature, and when the fog of exhaustion and discomfort occasionally cleared (and the actual fog, too) we savoured it. But of all the sights of the trip, I remember that warm glow inside Jenny’s cottage as the most beautiful. **40**
  
- 8 I knew the trip would change me: I’d get tougher, and I’d have new faith in myself. But I didn’t expect this trek to teach me about kindness, about generosity; to help me break down that city –bred barrier of distrust towards strangers. Turned out I needed to travel to a remote place to remind myself of the beauty of human connection. **45**
  
- 8 I knew the trip would change me: I’d get tougher, and I’d have new faith in myself. But I didn’t expect this trek to teach me about kindness, about generosity; to help me break down that city –bred barrier of distrust towards strangers. Turned out I needed to travel to a remote place to remind myself of the beauty of human connection. **50**

26. From paragraph 1, why did the writer and her friend feel excited about her hiking trip this time?

..... [1 mark]

27 a) From paragraph 2, what was the benefit of the hike up that the writer did not expect?

..... [1 mark]

b) From paragraph 2, state two-challenges faced by the writer and her friend?

i) ..... [1 mark]

ii) ..... [1mark]

28 a) From paragraph 3, why did the writer and her friend squelched with every step?

..... [1 mark]

b) From paragraph 4, “*Soon enough it was Happy Hour.*” State ONE activity that the writer and her friend did during the “Happy Hour”

..... [1 mark]

29 a) From paragraph 5, why did Jenny and her parents prevent the writer and her friend from going out and camp?

.....[1 mark]

b) From paragraph 6, why did the writer describe the hike as one of the most challenging segments of the trip?

.....[1 mark]

30. **Travelling together** can remind a person of the beauty of the human connection. Suggest another activity that can make a person appreciate human connection. Give a reason

Activity: .....[1 mark]

Reason: .....[1 mark]

.....





**Section D**

[20 marks]

[Time suggested: 35 minutes]

32. *Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.*

**A Poison Tree**

I was angry with my friend:  
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.  
I was angry with my foe:  
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

And I watered it in fears,  
Night and morning with my tears;  
And I sunned it with smiles,  
And with soft deceitful wiles.

And it grew both day and night,  
Till it bore an apple bright;  
And my foe beheld it shine,  
And he knew it was mine,

And into my garden stole  
When the night had veiled the pole:  
In the morning glad I see  
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.

**William Blake**

a) In stanza 1, what happened to the persona when he did not express his anger?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1mark

b) Which word in stanza 2 has the same meaning as “dishonest”?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1mark







**FOR SECTION A**

Blacken only **ONE** space for each question. If you wish to change your answer, erase the blackened mark that you have made. Then blacken the space for the new answer

EXAMPLE:



- 1 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 2 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 3 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 4 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 5 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 6 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 7 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 8 (A) (B) (C) (D)

- 9 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 10 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 11 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 12 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 13 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 14 (A) (B) (C) (D)  
 15 (A) (B) (C) (D)

For examiner's use		
Examiner's Code		
Section	Marks	
A	15	
B	10	
C	25	
D	20	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	

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