

SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL (PRIMARY)

FIRST SEMESTRAL ASSESSMENT 2009

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PRIMARY SIX

Name: _____ ()

Date: _____

Class: Primary 6 SY/C/G/S/P

Parent's Signature: _____

PAPER 1

1 hour 10 minutes

55 marks

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

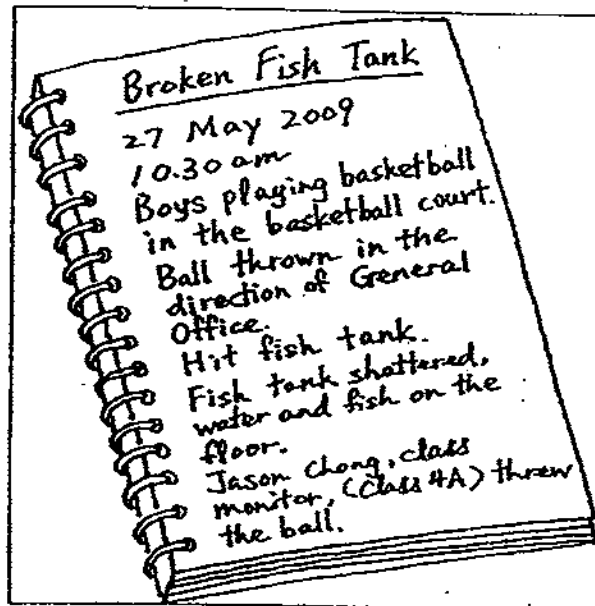
There are two parts to this paper: Part 1 and Part 2.

Answer the question in Part 1 and one question from Part 2.

Write your answers in the Answer Booklet.

Part 1: Situational Writing (15 Marks)

Below is a page of your notebook.



Your Task

You and two other prefects saw a boy throwing a basketball in the direction of the fish tank which was in front of the General Office. The fish tank broke. You immediately took down some details of the incident.

You informed the Discipline Master of the incident and he asked you to write a report of what you had witnessed.

You are to refer to the given notes.

In your report, include the following information:

- the date and time of the incident
- what the boys were doing before the incident
- two details about the culprit
- what the boy did when he realized that he had broken the fish tank

You may re-order the points. You should write in complete sentences.

Part 2: Continuous Writing (40 marks)

There are two questions in Part 2.
Answer only one of them.

(2) Write a story based on the picture below. Your story should be at least 150 words long.



For your story, make use of the points below. You may reorder the points. You may include other relevant points.

- what the man was doing outside the flat
- what the boy did
- what happened in the end

(3) You woke up late one morning and rushed out of the house to catch your school bus. In your haste, you had forgotten to lock the main door behind you. When you realised it, your bus was at the entrance of your school. No one was home as your parents had gone to work before you.

Based on the above situation, write a composition of at least 150 words:

In your composition, make use of the points below:

- how you felt when you realised that you had forgotten to lock the door.
- what you did ✓
- what happened in the end

You may reorder the points. You may also include other relevant points.

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Name: _____ ()

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PAPER 2
BOOKLET A

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.

Read the advertisement carefully and then answer questions 1 to 5.

Mr and Mrs Wong Ah Tee

and

Mr and Mrs Johnny Ngo

warmly invite

Mr and Mrs Joseph Chow

.....
to a dinner celebration
on the joyous occasion of the marriage of
their second son Jason Wong
&
their youngest daughter Miss Cheryl Ngo



On Sunday 21st June 2008
at The Ballroom
The Salusbury Hotel
1, Salusbury Square
S 320456

Cocktails will be served from 7.00pm
Dinner will commence at 7.30pm sharp

Please respond by 30th May 2008
Susanna Lim, Wedding Coordinator: 9336 7755
Or email Jason at Jaswong@hotmail.com
And Cheryl at cherylingo@gmail.com

Acknowledgements: Our heartfelt thanks for your honoured presence and well-wishes in making this day a truly memorable one.

Your punctuality is greatly appreciated.

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 invitation is for _____.
 - 1) a birthday party
 - 2) a wedding dinner
 - 3) a wedding anniversary dinner
 - 4) graduation ceremony cum dinner

2. The wedding dinner is not hosted by _____.
 - 1) Mr Johnny Ngo
 - 2) Mr Jason Wong
 - 3) Mr Joseph Chow
 - 4) Mr Wong Ah Tee

3. Guests who arrive before 7.30pm _____.
 - 1) will be served dinner only
 - 2) will be served cocktails only
 - 3) will be served western cuisine
 - 4) will be served both cocktails and dinner

4. To confirm their attendance, Mr and Mrs Chow should NOT _____.
 - 1) email Jason
 - 2) email Cheryl
 - 3) call The Salusbury Hotel
 - 4) call the wedding coordinator

5. The hosts thank their guests for their _____.
 - 1) presence and help
 - 2) assistance and gifts
 - 3) assistance and cards
 - 4) presence and well-wishes

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. Many of the houses in the Bukit Antara-Bangsa area _____ to a heap of rubble after the landslide.
- 1) reduced
 - 2) are reduced
 - 3) had reduced
 - 4) have been reduced
7. He survived the accident but his car was damaged _____ repair.
- 1) on
 - 2) over
 - 3) within
 - 4) beyond
8. Mr Kumar was afraid to complain about the noise _____ he annoyed the neighbours.
- 1) as
 - 2) lest
 - 3) while
 - 4) before
9. The rain had begun to _____ when we arrived at the school gate.
- 1) ease in
 - 2) ease by
 - 3) ease off
 - 4) ease over
10. The government officials watched the earthquake victims _____ the food packages when they arrived at the Red Cross relief centre last Friday.
- 1) receive
 - 2) received
 - 3) has received
 - 4) have received

11. Mrs Chan made her sons clean up the mess in their bedroom _____

- 1) herself
- 2) himself
- 3) ourselves
- 4) themselves

12. Situated just north of the San Francisco waterfront, Alcatraz _____ first used as a fort and later converted to a maximum security prison in 1934.

- 1) be
- 2) is
- 3) was
- 4) were

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)

A couple was shown into the dentist's office (13) where the husband made it abundantly clear that he was in a big hurry. "No fancy stuff, Doctor," he ordered (14)

"No gas, no needles or any of that stuff. Just pull the tooth and get it over with (15)

"I wish more of my patients were as stoic as you," said the dentist admiringly. The gentleman turned to his wife. "Show him your tooth, Honey...."

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

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. Mr. Williams has just _____ three additional administrative officers to help with the paper work.

- engaged
- chartered
- dismissed
- implicated

17. Baby Rolly heard the rustle of biscuit wrappers and looked at his father _____

- slightly
- decisively
- judiciously
- expectantly

18. The writer George Bernard Shaw was a/an _____ vegetarian. He was a vegetarian for more than sixty-seven years.

- staunch
- hesitant
- insufficient
- substantial

19. A _____ of spectators gathered round the players after their victorious win against the visiting team.

- 1) bevy
- 2) chest
- 3) throng
- 4) school

20. The recipe for beef stew has a number of different _____

- 1) parts
- 2) additives
- 3) ingredients
- 4) components

For each question from 21 to 25, choose a suitable word to replace the underlined words. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

In a few minutes, the scene changed again. The surface grew smoother, and the whirlpools, spreading out to a great distance, (21) combined to give birth to another. Suddenly, very suddenly, this could be (22) clearly seen in an immense circle more than a mile across. The (23) edge of the whirlpool was represented by a broad belt of white water.

The centre itself, as far as it was possible to see, was a smooth, (24) shining, ink-black wall of water, sloping at about forty-five degrees to the horizon. Round and round it flew, sending out to the winds a frightening voice, half cry, half thunder, like nothing ever heard on earth.

The rock on which we were sitting (25) trembled to its base. I threw myself flat on my face, and held tightly to the stone.

Adapted from "Tales of Mystery and Imagination" by Edgar Allan Poe

21. 1) dipped
2) copied
3) mingled
4) appeared
22. 1) calmly
2) vaguely
3) distinctly
4) mysteriously
23. ~~1)~~ middle
~~2)~~ interior
~~3)~~ surface
~~4)~~ boundary
24. 1) vibrant
2) obscure
3) gleaming
4) impenetrable
25. 1) ticked
2) surged
3) quivered
4) vanquished

Read the passage carefully and answer questions 26 to 30.

Suddenly the snow around Sills began to move. He knew immediately he was in a bad situation, at risk of careening down the rocky *gully. He had time to yell to a teammate to spot him, and to remove one ski and his backpack so he could better stay on top of the tumbling snow.

Tossed like a rag doll, back to front, head over heels, he plummeted down 5 the slope towards the cliff. Horrified and helpless, the others were sure they were watching his death.

Then miraculously, he was able to jam in his elbows and stop. He had travelled some 150 metres at breakneck speed down the slope but was uninjured. Down at Theta Lake, they watched the avalanche crash over the cliff 10 into the snow field, carrying an odd object- they later realized it was Sill's ski.

Without equipment and seriously rattled, Sills stayed at a ridge by the gully to help the ropes team find the route down. The other five carried on blasting down to Theta Lake, near where Morley was trapped and waiting to be air-lifted.

Jones and Ferguson were the first to respond to the call for help. When 15 they found the badly injured Morley, they wrapped him in a special bag to keep him warm. They also stayed the night with him. Morley recalled the faces of the avalanche technicians, tasked with blowing off the avalanches for the rescue, suddenly looming over him. "Hi," they said. "So you're the guy." And then they disappeared back up the mountain, taking off their skis and kicking a stair-like 20 boot track back up to the rest of the advance camp.

Morley's spirits were sinking as the day wore on. In pain, wrapped up like a mummy on his back, he was desperately hoping to get out. He dreaded another night in the confined space of the snow cave. For hours, he kept hearing a helicopter in the distance, but it never came. 25

* A deep ditch or channel cut in the earth by running water after a prolonged downpour.

Adapted from "So You're the Guy," Reader's Digest, Sept 2008

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. What was the bad situation that Sills was in?
- 1) He had lost one of his skis.
 - 2) He had careened down the rocky gully.
 - 3) He was likely to be caught in an avalanche.
 - 4) He could no longer support the weight of his backpack.
27. Who does the phrase "horrified and helpless" in line 6 refer to?
- 1) It refers to Sills.
 - 2) It refers to the rag doll
 - 3) It refers to Morley's rescuers.
 - 4) It refers to Sills' team-mates in the advance team.
28. Which of the following about Sills is true?
- 1) He was badly injured.
 - 2) He carried on blasting down to Theta Lake.
 - 3) He was able to jam in his elbow to stop the fall.
 - 4) He watched the avalanche crash over the cliff into the snowfield.
29. What kept Morley alive while he was trapped in the ice cave?
- 1) Jones and Ferguson stayed the night with him.
 - 2) Jones and Ferguson wrapped him in a hypothermia bag.
 - 3) Jones and Ferguson blew off the avalanches for the rescue.
 - 4) Jones and Ferguson kicked a stair-like boot track for the advance camp.
30. Which of the following is NOT a reason for Morley's sinking spirits?
- 1) He was feeling lonely.
 - 2) He heard a helicopter in the distance but it never came.
 - 3) He was desperately hoping to get out of the snow cave.
 - 4) He was in pain and wrapped up like a mummy on his back.

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Name: _____ ()

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Parent's Signature: _____

Booklet A	
Booklet B	
Sub-total	

PAPER 2

BOOKLET B

50 questions

65 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.

Write your answers in this booklet.

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) below	(Q) by	(G) with	(K) of	(N) through
(B) between	(E) despite	(H) but	(L) before	(R) that
(C) are	(F) beneath	(J) in	(M) to	(O) would

The cornea is the transparent film that covers the eye, protecting the iris and pupil. A soft contact lens hugs the cornea tightly, allowing very little air to pass _____ to the eye. Some wearers who use disposable contact lenses still make the mistake of wearing them even when they sleep, _____ advice from opticians.

Complications due _____ contact lens wear affect roughly 4% of contact lens wearers each year. Problems associated _____ contact lens wear may affect the eyelid, the various layers of the cornea, and even the tear film _____ covers the outer surface of the eye. Sore eyes and blurred vision _____ the first signs that something is seriously wrong. Unless the lens is removed immediately, infection may set in _____ it. This could lead to the formation of an eye ulcer and eventual blindness.

Hard lenses are different, as they do not cling to the eye like their softer cousins _____ move around as the eye moves. This floods the eye with tears and also allows it to breathe. Sufferers _____ eye ulcers are, sadly, usually young people who do not want to be seen wearing glasses and who find hard lenses uncomfortable. Sensible young people will put their eyesight _____ their vanity. They should either use contact lenses sensibly or stick to wearing glasses.

Adapted from <http://www.thelancet.com/journals>

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

Thomas Edison lit up the world with his invention of the electric light bulb. Without him, the world might still be in a dark age. However, the electric (41) light was not his sole invention. The world's greatest inventor also invent the motion picture camera, and over 1200 other things. About every two weeks, (42) he created something new, and mostly of his inventions centred on practical (43) everyday appliances.

Thomas Edison moved to Port Huron, Michigan, when he was seven (44) years old. **Suprsingly**, he attended school for only two months. His mother, a (45) former teacher, teach him a few things, but Thomas was mostly self- (46) educated. He was inquisitive of his surroundings; and his natural curjousity (47) led him to start experiments at a young age with electrical and mechanical things at home.

When he was twelve years old, he got his job. He became a (48) newspaper carrier on a train that ran from Port Huron and Detroit. He set up a (49) (50) labouratory in a baggage car of the train so that he could konthew with his experiments in his spare time.

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

(15 marks)

Roger Bannister remembers that running had always been important to him: 'As a boy I just ran everywhere - never because it was an end in itself, but because it was _____ for me to run than to walk. My walk was ungainly, as though I had springs in my knees. I always felt _____ to see or do something new, and running saves time'. When he went to Oxford University, he discovered that running was an ideal way of relaxing. He found that he was _____ at it and began to take it more and more seriously.

Until 1954 it was thought that no man could run one mile in less than four minutes. The greatest runner of each generation had set up new _____ for this distance, but the time of four minutes was _____ to be beyond the limit of human endurance. As years went by, the record came closer and closer to four minutes and the young English runner began to believe that he might break this almost _____ barrier. He saw this time for the distance as a _____ and was determined to succeed where so many others had _____.

Fortunately, there were two students who _____ him by running both with him and against him in races before the _____ on the four minute mile was made. For this attempt they were running _____ him. It _____ a cold afternoon at the Oxford track on May 6th 1954 when Bannister knew he had a real chance. It was important that there should not be too much wind for this could make running _____. For an athlete to run such a race as this, his mind must be as _____ as his body. Bannister had been training hard but the weather conditions were a _____ worry to him. He alone had to decide whether to try for the record.

Adapted from 'We were there' by Godfrey Cauter

For each of the items 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 Jane was trying to get the boy out of the pool. She lost her grip on the boy's hand.

_____ when

67 People accept the truth of my story. It is unlikely I will come out of hiding.

Unless _____

68 Jenna did well in her English test. Her mother was proud of her.

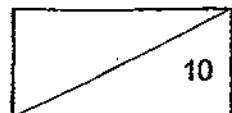
Jenna's mother was _____

69 My father was caught in the traffic jam. He was late for work yesterday.

_____ after

70 Amy rushed out of the library. She did not take her books.

_____ without



Read the passage below and answer questions 71 to 80.

(20 marks)

When I was a child my mother's grasp of Thai was poor. I hated it when neighbours and the local shopkeepers ~~made fun of the way she spoke. However, my mother was never ashamed of her accent.~~ The truth is – she had no choice; if she were to live in Thai society, she had to speak Thai.

5

My mother learnt to speak Thai when I began learning to read and write. She was quick to take advantage of my new knowledge, and I was tired of her incessant demands. She often had me read the newspapers to her. She wanted me to explain what each picture in my textbooks was about. I had to read our mail aloud for her. My misery doubled whenever an official letter came. I could read it, but being just in third grade, ~~I did not understand any of it.~~ Our neighbours could not help us because, back then, many Thais were no more literate than my mother. The worst times, however, happened when we watched a foreign movie. I was forever answering her questions, "What did she say?" "What are they talking about?" Of course, she could not read the Thai subtitles.

10

15

One day, when I was still in primary school, ~~she began to learn how to read Thai using my old notebooks and readers.~~ Rather than feeling proud of her, I became more bitter. I was effectively her teacher. She was 36 years old; I was not even ten. ~~She always had so many questions about the language.~~ She studied after dinner as I did my homework. Together we sat at the dining table, the toxic smoke from the mosquito repellent made our heads spin. My mother read my old books, spelling aloud for me any words she did not understand. Sometimes she spelled the words incorrectly and I had to get up from my work and look at the words for myself. I gave the pronunciation and meaning of the words and she jotted them down. Soon, my old textbooks were full of her notes.

20

25

Now, looking back on those study sessions, I see a highly productive way to learn. Teaching her Thai gave her a tool she would be able to use for the rest of her life. In return, ~~I learned more about the Chinese language than I ever expected.~~ (I had to explain Thai's finer points in her mother tongue). There were other perks too. As we worked through a Thai translation of Aesop's Fables, ~~she would relate similar Chinese tales to me.~~ I was also introduced to many other Chinese proverbs and teachings. ~~Indeed, she went out of her way to find new stories about her home and traditions, and I did not grow up ignorant of Chinese culture.~~

30

35

Now I realise how much I gained from those evenings at the dining table. However, back then, all I could see was wasted time. Helping my mother took me away from my own work. Her intrusions were exasperating. However, she never became upset with me or perhaps at that time in my life, I just never cared to notice. I do remember her sitting ~~unmoved as her only daughter griped and grumbled, and then continued with her questions as determined as ever.~~

40

For my mother, the ability to read Thai opened a whole new world. She now teaches my children and watches over them with a sure hand.

45

She has translated her past difficulties into indispensable lessons for her grandchildren. Listening to her teach my children Thai, I smile and reflect on the hot, sticky nights we spent together, studying Thai.

Extract from *'My Mother, My Teacher'*, Readers' Digest

ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

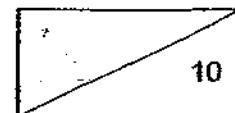
71 Which two-word phrase tells you that the shopkeepers and neighbours made unkind remarks about the author's mother?

72 What was the reason for these unkind remarks?

73 Explain clearly why the author's "misery doubled whenever an official letter came". (lines 10-11)

74 Why was the author "more bitter" (line 19) when her mother began learning to read Thai?

75 What were two ways in which the author's mother learnt to read Thai?



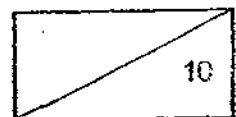
76 Which sentence in Paragraph 3 shows that the author's mother was hardworking?

77 The author's mother was a Chinese. Give one evidence from paragraph 4 that supports this.

78 What was the author's mother's attitude towards the learning of Thai?

79 The author mentioned that 'There were other perks too.' (line 32). List two other perks.

80 Explain clearly how the author's attitude towards the Thai lessons had changed.





ANSWER SHEET

EXAM PAPER 2009

SCHOOL : SCGS PRIMARY SCHOOL
SUBJECT : PRIMARY 6 ENGLISH

TERM : SA 1



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

Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30	Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34
1	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	1	3	2	1	N	E	M	G

Q35	Q36	Q37	Q38	Q39	Q40
P	C	F	H	K	L

41)invented 42)most 43)appliances 44)surprisingly

45)taught 46)curiosity 47)experimenting 48)between

49)laboratory 50)continue 51)faster 52)drawn

53)good 54)records 55)thought 56)impossible

57)goal 58)failed 59)helped 60)record

61)against 62)was 63)hard 64)strong 65)big

66)Jane was trying to get the boy out of the pool when she lost her grip on his hand.

67)Unless people accept the truth of my story, it is unlikely that I will come out of hiding.

68) Jenna's mother was proud of as she done well in her English test.

69) My father was late for work yesterday after being caught in the traffic jam.

70) Amy rushed out of the library without taking her books.

71) The two-word phrase is "made fun".

72) The author's mother's accent was different from the Thai people.

73) The author had to read the mail aloud to her but she could not understand the contents of the letter.

74) The author had to teach her mother Thai.

75) She read and used the author's old books and jotted down pronunciation of any words she did not understand.

76) The sentence is "Soon, my old textbooks were full of her notes."

77) Her mother's mother tongue was the Chinese language.

78) She was determined and unmoved. When her daughter complained.

79) The author learnt some Chinese tales and Chinese proverbs.

80) The author went from being irritated to understanding how valuable the Thai lessons were.

