

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL

SEPTEMBER 2012 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Language	TOTAL
PAPER NUMBER:	I - Part 2	
DATE:	4 th September 2012	
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	

1. Complete the following article by forming ONE word from the one in brackets. The first one has been worked out for you. (5 marks)

Socializing Online

Social networking sites, chat rooms, virtual worlds and blogs are how teenagers ⁽⁰⁾ socialize (**society**) online. It is very important that teenagers learn how to navigate these spaces ⁽¹⁾ _____ (**safe**). Among the pitfalls that come with online socializing are sharing too much ⁽²⁾ _____ (**inform**) or posting comments, photos or videos that can damage a reputation or hurt someone's feelings. Applying real-world ⁽³⁾ _____ (**judge**) can help minimize those risks. A child's profile may be seen by a wider audience than most parents or their children are ⁽⁴⁾ _____ (**comfort**) with, even if ⁽⁵⁾ _____ (**private**) settings are high. Children should be ⁽⁶⁾ _____ (**courage**) to think about the language they use online. Texting may seem fast and ⁽⁷⁾ _____ (**person**), yet they must never be ⁽⁸⁾ _____ (**polite**). Parents should know what their children are up to online and if they are concerned about their children's online ⁽⁹⁾ _____ (**behave**), they should take ⁽¹⁰⁾ _____ (**prevent**) action immediately.

2. Punctuate the following dialogue. Rewrite the dialogue in the space provided. (5 marks)

shall i book two seats for the new play alice asked her husband

youd better or we wont make it replied her husband

let me get on with it then said alice

3. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form. The first one has been worked out for you.**(10 marks)**

Rob Spence ⁽⁰⁾ is **(be)** a well-known Canadian documentary maker. He ⁽¹⁾ _____ **(always love)** science fiction so much, that when he ⁽²⁾ _____ **(lose)** his eye six years ago, he took inspiration from some of his heroes. There ⁽³⁾ _____ **(be)** so many characters in pop culture and science fiction that have a camera eye. With the help of a former satellite company employee, he ⁽⁴⁾ _____ **(develop)** a camera which fits into his eye socket. The original damage to his right eye ⁽⁵⁾ _____ **(come)** from an accident when he ⁽⁶⁾ _____ **(be)** just nine years old. He ⁽⁷⁾ _____ **(visit)** his grandfather in Northern Ireland and he damaged his eye in a shooting incident. Gradually all vision in that eye ⁽⁸⁾ _____ **(lose)**. So, surgeons recommended its removal to prevent any deterioration in the other eye. If he ⁽⁹⁾ _____ **(not invent)** his camera eye, he ⁽¹⁰⁾ _____ **(not be)** able to transmit live video pictures to a wireless monitor and produce very realistic documentaries.

**4. Complete the dialogue with a suitable question tag. The first one has been done for you.****(5 marks)****Michael:** I'm so clever, ⁽⁰⁾ aren't I?**Sarah:** You do look so pleased, ⁽¹⁾ _____ Why?**Michael:** I managed to make Mr Smith forget all about my assignment, ⁽²⁾ _____**Sarah:** Oh well, I bet you'll regret it.**Michael:** Don't be such a spoilsport, ⁽³⁾ _____**Sarah:** You're not serious, ⁽⁴⁾ _____**Michael:** And I bet you're jealous too, ⁽⁵⁾ _____

5. Insert ONE word in each blank. The first one has been worked out for you. (5 marks)*Airport Parking*

Parking spaces tend to fill ⁽⁰⁾ up fast during the peak holiday ⁽¹⁾ _____. A business traveller's favourite parking ⁽²⁾ _____ might not be available, forcing an uncomfortable change ⁽³⁾ _____ routine. Leisure travellers hoping to reduce trip costs might have to park in distant parking spaces and slog through rain ⁽⁴⁾ _____ wind, loaded down ⁽⁵⁾ _____ luggage, to catch a crowded airport shuttle. But asking friends or family to ⁽⁶⁾ _____ you up or ⁽⁷⁾ _____ you off is asking a lot during the holidays, ⁽⁸⁾ _____ roadways to and from airports are clogged. So, avoid the parking mess altogether and take a taxi, hire a car or ⁽⁹⁾ _____ public transport ⁽¹⁰⁾ _____ the airport.

6. Complete the situation with a linking word or phrase. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)

Janet decided to go on a camping holiday ⁽⁰⁾ because she had enjoyed herself so much the year before. After much persuasion, her friend Sue agreed to join her. ⁽¹⁾ _____ they set about making a list of plans: ⁽²⁾ _____, they had to decide on which days to book their holiday; ⁽³⁾ _____ they had to choose from a list of appropriate campsites, and ⁽⁴⁾ _____ what clothes to pack for the trip. ⁽⁵⁾ _____ it was a lot of hard work, it was fun too. Finally, the time to depart arrived. Full of excitement, Janet and Sue set off on their adventure.

7. Fill in with the correct form of five phrasal verbs from the ones below: (5 marks)

give up, give away, give off, cut up, cut out, cut down on, hit off, hit out, hit on, fall for, fall apart, fall off, hold on, hold out, hold down

Rick didn't quite ⁽¹⁾ _____ it _____ with Ms Brown, his new manager. He felt he was ⁽²⁾ _____ because he was very unhappy with the new restrictions she had imposed. One restriction was the smoking ban anywhere on the premises. Unfortunately, Rick had not been able to ⁽³⁾ _____ his smoking. He was determined to ⁽⁴⁾ _____ his habit. He might succeed, but he didn't ⁽⁵⁾ _____ much hope.

8. Finish rewriting the sentences in such a way that the meaning remains the same. (5 marks)

Example: I've never met a smarter woman.
She's the smartest woman I've ever met.

1. Paul was punished because he uploaded those photos on Facebook.

If Paul _____

2. In fact his mother wanted to know why he had behaved like that.

His mother asked him, _____

3. "I didn't stop to think and I acted rashly," he replied.

He replied that _____

4. No sooner had he stopped speaking than the telephone rang.

As soon as _____

5. The Principal informed Paul's mother that her son was being suspended from school for a month.

Paul's mother _____

9. Complete the opening paragraphs of two short stories by filling in the blanks with ONE word that best completes each expression. (5 marks)

a. Andrea had ⁽¹⁾ _____ the joke too far. She didn't want to cause any more ⁽²⁾ _____, so she decided to ⁽³⁾ _____ an end to the ridiculous situation. She had witnessed her friend's embarrassment when everyone had ⁽⁴⁾ _____ out laughing at her. Andrea made a clean ⁽⁵⁾ _____ of it and told her friends everything.

b. Marion was determined to follow in her father's ⁽¹⁾ _____ and become a distinguished criminal lawyer. She was in seventh ⁽²⁾ _____ when she learnt that she had earned a distinction in her final examinations. However, she could not ⁽³⁾ _____ on her laurels but had to continue working hard as a junior lawyer in her father's firm where she started learning the ⁽⁴⁾ _____ of law practice. Marion was afraid that she might have committed herself to more than she had ⁽⁵⁾ _____ for.

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL

SEPTEMBER 2012 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Language
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB – Question 1
DATE:	4 th September 2012
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

WRITING TASK

(40 MARKS)

You are advised to:

- pay attention to vocabulary, grammar, paragraphing, layout, spelling, and punctuation.
- keep your writing to the number of words indicated.

Write between 180 and 200 words on ONE of the following tasks.

1. Write a short story for an online writing contest. You are to include the following in your story, in any order you wish:

<i>at the crack of dawn</i>	<i>young lady with dark sunglasses</i>
<i>ferry boat</i>	<i>a dry cough</i>
2. ‘Parents always know what’s best for their children.’ Write an article for your school magazine in which you express your views.
3. Write an email to your cousin Tom (tom.davey@worldweb.net) in the UK, to invite him to attend a talent show in which you are taking part.
You are Nicky Galea and your email address is ngalea@global.net

Start your email like this:

To:	
From:	
Subject:	

Writing task no.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

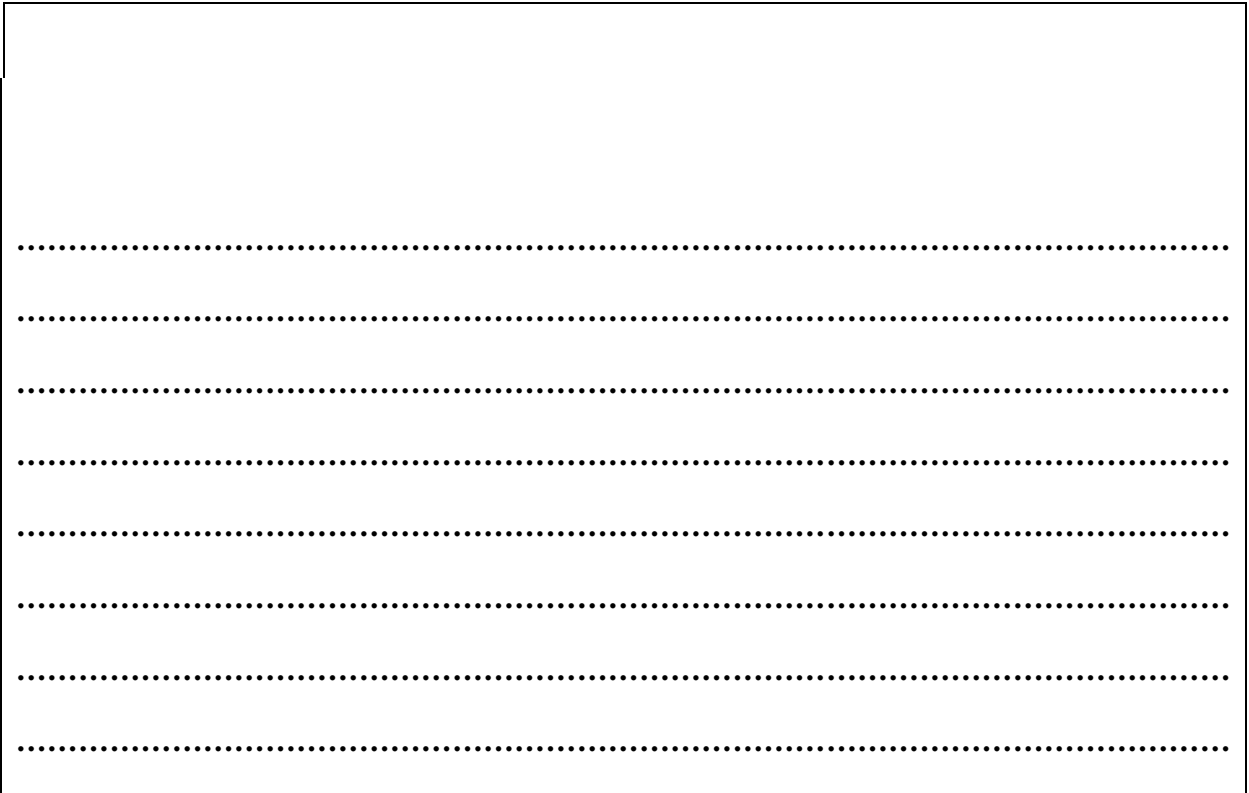
.....

.....

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

A large rectangular box containing 20 horizontal dotted lines, intended for writing.

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

A large rectangular box with a solid black border. Inside the box, there are ten horizontal dotted lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for writing or planning.

USE THIS SPACE TO PLAN YOUR WRITING

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL

SEPTEMBER 2012 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Language	TOTAL
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB – Question 2	
DATE:	4 th September 2012	
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	

READING COMPREHENSION

(50 MARKS)

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

(25 marks)

PASSAGE 1

There's some dispute about who it was that suggested that a week on a narrowboat would be a great last family holiday, in which three generations could literally "pull together" in a watery idyll. The general consensus is that it was me and I can't deny that I've always had a vague enthusiasm for a boat holiday.

- 5 Size, or the lack of **it**, is the key factor. Odd, I suppose, that we should have been surprised by this problem: they are, after all, called narrowboats. And yet, everybody said the same thing, "It looked far bigger on the website." It was only when three families all started to try to unpack their cars and stow **their** possessions at the same time that they discovered that if two into one won't go, then three into one certainly won't.
- 10 The fact is, traffic can only go in one direction on a narrowboat. There are no passing places, unless you hurl yourself onto your bed or fold yourself into a cupboard.

- I suppose you need some idea of the family tree to understand this better. Well, there's my wife and me, plus son and daughter, their partners and children. The ten of us get on pretty well, but as with any family, there are points of tension. I'll not be titillating **you** with the nature of these
- 15 tensions – I have to live with this lot for years to come. Suffice to say that when you are forced to live in such close proximity, from time to time **they** come to the surface. Going to your room and slamming the door was not an option: there were no rooms, and no doors.

- It's at around this point in all my holidays that I remember – far too late – just how antipathetic I am to the whole concept of vacations. When I stop to think about it, **they** contain so many of the
- 20 elements in life I hate, from the requirement to enjoy yourself ("I've spent all this money, therefore I'm having a good time") to the absence of all the things you hold dear, such as your books and those clothes that are too bulky to pack. Out go the familiar routines and structures ... And if that makes me sound like a boring old control freak, then so be it! Me and millions of others too, I suspect.

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

25 The problem is, of course, that we spend far too much time arranging the holiday, and not nearly
 enough visualising **it**. There's so much to be done: all that stuff that is so very much like work
 that we feel comfortable doing it – organizing tickets, transfers, flight schedules,
 accommodation, car hire. They are all comforting administrative jobs that make it feel as if we're
 30 planning. But we're not: if we really were, we'd be sitting alone in a quiet corner imagining what
 it'll be like to be with the people we're going with for 24 hours a day; what we're going to do
 after the first few hours of novelty have worn off; how we are going to get excited about one
 more meal out, one more temple, one more shop, one more photograph ...

It's my contention that the contentedly busy – a phrase I prefer to workaholic – probably
 shouldn't go on holiday at all. Holidays are for the bored, and writers have always known that.

QUESTIONS

1. In which of the following would you expect to find the passage? Underline the correct answer. (1 mark)

- (a) A travel brochure
- (b) A book about narrowboats
- (c) A travel magazine

2. In your own words, give **two reasons** why the writer recommended a holiday on a narrow boat. (2 marks)

(i).....

(ii).....

3. Which **two separate words** found between lines 1 and 4 suggest that the writer imagined the holiday was going to be perfect? (1 mark)

(i)..... (ii).....

4. Give **two ways** in which size, as mentioned in line 5, proved to be a problem for the family on holiday. (2 marks)

(i).....

(ii).....

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

5. Where do you think the writer booked the holiday? Give a reason for your answer. (2 marks)

.....
.....

6. What does the writer mean by *family tree* in line 12? (1 mark)

.....
.....

7. In your own words explain what was the problem for the writer with ten people living *in such close proximity* (line 16). (2 marks)

.....
.....

8. Give **four reasons** why the writer does not like holidays. (4 marks)

- (i).....
- (ii).....
- (iii).....
- (iv).....

9. In your own words explain why the writer, between lines 25 and 32, believes that not enough planning actually takes place before holidays. (3 marks)

.....
.....
.....

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

10. According to the writer what **four things** do people typically do when on holiday abroad? (2 marks)

- (i)..... (ii).....
- (iii)..... (iv).....

11. Explain what the writer means when he states that *the contentedly busy ... probably shouldn't go on holiday at all* (lines 33–34)? (2 marks)

.....
.....

12. What do the following words refer to in the passage? (3 marks)

- (i) it (line 5).....
- (ii) their (line 8).....
- (iii) you (line 14).....
- (iv) they (line 16).....
- (v) they (line 19).....
- (vi) it (line 26).....



Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

PASSAGE 2

Pupils of St Matthew’s RC High in Moston begin their school day with early-morning sessions of an ancient Chinese martial art. Arms stretched, knees bent, and pouncing, they look like an army of mini-ninjas.

5 This must definitely be better than going straight into maths. A bit of chanting and a few shouts help get the kids into the swing of things, and beaming smiles with a spot of giggling, show that they are enjoying themselves.

Jack Smith, 14, says, “It’s good fun. It’s quite energetic and it wakes me up. It’s a good start to the day.”

10 Jill Luanga, 12, adds, “I’ve always wanted to learn about martial arts and I think it’s good to experience other cultures. Doing this makes me feel alive.”

The school began Tai Chi classes at the start of term, following a trip to a twinned school in China earlier this year, brought about through a main international cultural relations organisation, the British Council.

15 Manchester based Chinese teachers, Lily Li and Ivy Li are tasked with leading the half-hour sessions. Lily says, “Tai Chi is good for getting oxygen and blood round the body. It gets the muscles moving and it’s good for harmony.”

20 Tai Chi is designed to blend the body, mind and spirit into one, and is used for meditation, strength and exercise, as well as self-defence. It has been practised for thousands of years in China, and each day still, millions of Chinese people perform the moves before work or school – usually outdoors.

At St Matthew’s, the session begins with marching and counting up to ten in Mandarin, followed by stretching the arms in front and upwards, a forward stride, and moving on to sideways arm and leg stretches. This is followed by a ready-to-fight stance, a forward arm push, then a twist round into bent knees and ends with a side kick.

25 Teacher Claire Raynes, who has led the links with China, says she is pleased with how the children have reacted to the new start to their day.

30 “Once there, I found it interesting to see how the Chinese school did things and our pupils have really taken it on board too. The aspect of doing a fun exercise gets them going and makes them alert and ready for learning. As well as helping improve their health with exercise, it means they’re more in tune for doing general lessons. And it gives them a desire to learn about other aspects of Chinese culture too.”

She adds, “Most of them love it, and although we’ve only been doing it for a few weeks, you can see on their faces that they’re happy to come and do this.”

QUESTIONS

1. In what **two ways** can the writer tell that the children are enjoying their Tai Chi session at the beginning of the school day? (1 mark)

i.....

ii.

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

2. Between lines 4 and 10 find **four reasons** why the pupils at St. Matthew's enjoy Tai Chi. (4 marks)

- (i).....
- (ii).....
- (iii).....
- (iv).....

3. In what **two ways** is Tai Chi good for the body? (2 marks)

- (i).....
- (ii).....

4. What led pupils at St Matthew's to start practising Tai Chi? (1 mark)

.....
.....

5. Give **four uses** of Tai Chi mentioned between lines 17 and 20. (2 marks)

- (i).....
- (ii).....
- (iii).....
- (iv).....

6. List **eight moves** involved in a typical Tai Chi session. (4 marks)

- (i).....
- (ii).....
- (iii).....
- (iv).....

- (v).....
- (vi).....
- (vii).....
- (viii).....

7. In what **two ways** does Tai Chi help students with their schooling? (2 marks)

- (i).....
- (ii).....

8. Are the following sentences **True** or **False**? Give reasons for your answers. (6 marks)

(a) Tai Chi is practised only by males.

(_____) because.....

(b) Each Tai Chi session at St Matthew’s RC High in Moston lasts one hour.

(_____) because.....

(c) A large number of children in China perform Tai Chi moves before school.

(_____) because.....

(d) During the Tai Chi sessions at St Matthew’s only English is used.

(_____) because.....

(e) Claire Raynes has been to China.

(_____) because.....

(f) Tai Chi has been practised at St Matthew’s for a year.

(_____) because.....

