

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

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL**

**SEPTEMBER 2013 SESSION**

SUBJECT:	English Language	<b>TOTAL</b>
PAPER NUMBER:	I - Part 2: Language Use	
DATE:	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2013	
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	

**1. Fill in each blank with ONE suitable PREPOSITION. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)**

Almost one (0) *in* five smokers who have tried to kick the habit failed (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 24 hours and more than half lasted less than a week, according to a poll (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 6,200 smokers which was carried out (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Professor Wilson from the University of Ohio (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a period of six months. But despite the repeated failures, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ those interviewed there are many who think (6) \_\_\_\_\_ giving up every day, according (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the survey. (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the study, participants were encouraged to talk to healthcare workers (9) \_\_\_\_\_ how they plan to quit. Even a brief conversation (10) \_\_\_\_\_ their healthcare professional can increase their chances of success by up to four times.

**2. Fill in the blanks with the COMPARATIVE or SUPERLATIVE form of the words in brackets. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)**

Claire is the (0) *most amazing* (**amazing**) girl I have ever met. I think she has the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (**good**) voice in the choir. Her solo performance is the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (**beautiful**) interpretation I have ever heard. It is also the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (**sad**) song of them all and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (**difficult**) to sing than the other songs.

Claire is a very friendly person but her brother Pete is even (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (**friendly**) and (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (**cheerful**). Pete is not a very good singer but their (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (**old**) brother Joe is even (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (**bad**). Joe is the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (**quiet**) boy I have ever met, but his singing voice is much (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (**loud**) than that of his siblings.

**3. Underline the best answer from the options in brackets.****(5 marks)**

I wasn't very well last week. I spent (1) (**most, many, plenty**) of the day in bed. My mother cooked (2) (**little, some, much**) chicken soup, but I ate very (3) (**much, plenty, little**) of it as I wasn't hungry. The family doctor told me I had to drink (4) (**much, many, plenty**) of water and also have (5) (**some, a lot, much**) of rest. My friend phoned me but she didn't have (6) (**much, many, some**) time to talk. She told me that she had a (7) (**little, few, lot**) problems at work, but at least she had the support of (8) (**most, several, many**) of her family. I asked her if she had (9) (**much, plenty, any**) books she could lend me and she said she had (10) (**many, few, none**) interesting ones.

**4. Fill in the blanks with the OPPOSITES of the words in brackets. The first one has been done for you. Use ONE word only.****(5 marks)**

The final event was the race, which was a total (0) success (**failure**). The road to the finish line was (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (**crooked**) and a little (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (**smooth**). It was the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (**insolent**) boy who lived in the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (**neat**) house at the end of the street who won the race. He was presented with a medal and a wreath made of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (**natural**) flowers. Although his achievement was considered to be (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (**small**), on the podium the boy appeared very (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (**proud**). Seeing tears in his eyes the other children started (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (**booing**). His parents were (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (**disappointed**) with this. They decided to celebrate by going on a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (**lengthy**) holiday.

**5. Fill in the blanks to form COMPOUND words. The first one has been done for you.****(5 marks)**

(0) Every **body** was buying the appliance, but then it was quickly (1) with \_\_\_\_\_ from the shops because it was dangerous as the wiring was faulty. The manufacturers apologised for not having (2) fore \_\_\_\_\_ the problem. The appliance has now been modified and comes with a (3) life \_\_\_\_\_ guarantee. This new version is advertised on (4) bill \_\_\_\_\_ all over the place. Its components are now all safe because they are (5) fire \_\_\_\_\_ and have (6) with \_\_\_\_\_ very rigorous tests. It comes at a cheaper price, so it is affordable to those who have to live on a (7) shoe \_\_\_\_\_. It is packed in an attractive (8) card \_\_\_\_\_ box. It is hoped that the appliance will now make a huge (9) come \_\_\_\_\_ and become part of our (10) every \_\_\_\_\_ life.

**6. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the VERBS in brackets. The first one has been done for you. (10 marks)**

A new discovery (0) raises (**raise**) concerns about the effects of climate change on the South Pole. Temperatures in the western part of Antarctica (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (**rise**) almost twice as fast as previously believed, and this is adding to fears that continued thaws (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (**cause**) sea levels to rise even more in the future. Six months ago, Professor Tromnich (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (**lead**) a research team to the heart of West Antarctica, and they (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (**find**) that nearly one third of temperature observations (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (**miss**) for 60 years due to limited resources. They went over the outpost's findings since it opened in 1957, reassessing previous predictions. A considerable increase in temperature (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (**add**) to worries that huge blocks of ice could slide into the ocean, causing the surrounding seas (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (**rise**). So far, several ice blocks (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (**collapse**) around the Antarctic Peninsula. Professor Tromnich said, "The region could make an even bigger contribution to sea level rise than it (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (**do**) so far." Some scientists believe that by the end of the next century, sea levels (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (**rise**) by about one metre.

**7. Complete the following article by forming ONE word from the one in brackets. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)**

Every August, Paris all but shuts down as city (0) dwellers (**dwell**) escape to the countryside or coast in search of fun. In 2002 the mayor came up with a new way of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (**entertain**) residents stuck in the hot capital by (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (**temporary**) installing Paris-Plage, an artificial beach along the Seine. It has since become an annual (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (**fix**), and is repeated in other (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (**locate**) around the city. The idea spread to Britain, first appearing at east London's Truman Brewery in 2007 before popping up all over the city, most (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (**note**) at the Southbank Centre. This year there is Rainbow Park, a multi-coloured sand (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (**install**) that is part of the Centre's Festival of the World. Last week, the Roundhouse Arts Venue in north London unveiled Camden Beach, transforming its outdoor terrace into a seaside destination filled with sand, deckchairs, palm trees and parasols. This involved a lot of (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (**organise**) but it became an immediate (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (**attract**). Rain can be the cause of (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (**disrupt**) but the English are (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (**remarkable**) resourceful. They just duck inside.

**8. Fill in each blank with ONE suitable word. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)**

The best way to remember (0) large numbers of passwords is to (1)\_\_\_\_\_ a system to compartmentalise them. Think of a story – say, a situation or an (2)\_\_\_\_\_ that is unforgettable – and come up with three or more words to describe it. For example, you were at an (3)\_\_\_\_\_ concert and there was a (4)\_\_\_\_\_ downpour. This caused (5)\_\_\_\_\_ throughout the area. You (6)\_\_\_\_\_ face down in the water and (7)\_\_\_\_\_ your cell phone in the process. Your password can then be ‘Raincellconcert’. Now (8)\_\_\_\_\_ that password on all of your social networking (9)\_\_\_\_\_, but add a code to it. For Facebook, the code could be ‘Red’, so your password (10)\_\_\_\_\_ ‘RaincellconcertRed’.

**9. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one as in the example. (5 marks)**

0. Someone heard noises in the building.  
 Noises were heard in the building.

1. The police caught the thief who had stolen the painting from the museum.

The thief \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The painting was stolen because it had not been well guarded.

If the painting \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

3. “We are appealing to anyone with information on the theft to come forward,” the sergeant said.

The sergeant said that \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

4. The damage caused to the painting will not affect its value if it can be restored.

As long \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

5. How had the thief entered the building?

In \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_?

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD  
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL****SEPTEMBER 2013 SESSION**

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SUBJECT:	<b>English Language</b>
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB – Question 1
DATE:	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2013
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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**WRITING TASK****(40 MARKS)****Write between 180 and 200 words on ONE of the following tasks:****You are advised to:**

- **pay attention to vocabulary, grammar, paragraphing, layout, spelling and punctuation;**
- **keep your writing to the number of words indicated. You will be penalised if you write less than 180 and more than 200 words.**

1. Write a short story entitled ‘The Attack’ which will be published on the school website.
2. You were outside a club when a fire broke out causing a lot of damage. Write an article for your local youth club magazine describing what you saw and your feelings at that moment.
3. You are Pat Falzon and you live at 22, Seaview Street, Rabat, RBT 3142. You are the class prefect. Write a letter to the Head of School, Dr G. Briffa, to apologise for the bad behaviour of your classmates during a school outing. The school address is St Dominic School, Rock Street, Rabat, RBT 1143.

Writing task no. ....

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

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL**

**SEPTEMBER 2013 SESSION**

SUBJECT:	<b>English Language</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB – Question 2	
DATE:	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2013	
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	

**READING COMPREHENSION**

**(50 MARKS)**

**PASSAGE 1**

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

**(27 marks)**

**Like Mother, Like Daughter**

*When Sue Watt decided to take her 74-year-old mother to Africa for the very first time, she didn't just want her to see it for herself, she also wanted her to feel its majesty. Here is the story of their journey to South Luangwa National Park in Zambia.*

5 Still half-asleep just after dawn, I stood on the banks of the Luangwa River not quite believing my eyes. My 74-year-old mother was flying past me in a microlight, just metres above the water where crocodiles were bathing. Crouched behind the pilot, she was far too nervous to wave. But I swear I could see her glowing with delight, wide-eyed at the beauty unfurling beneath her. On landing, she beamed at me like an excited child. "That was fantastic! You really see the scale of the park, how the river dominates **it**. We saw everything: giraffe, elephant, buffalo, crocodile," she ecstatically  
10 exclaimed.

With its tradition of walking safaris and night drives, South Luangwa National Park seemed the perfect destination for Mum's first trip to Africa. I had been slightly concerned prior to **our** departure, as Mum's experience of Africa had been gained only through television documentaries. How would day-to-day reality compare? I needn't have worried. Minutes into our first wildlife drive  
15 she spotted a young elephant. Clutching my hand, she stared in disbelief at the infant hiding under trees a few paces away. As the tears welled up she whispered, "I never thought we'd get so close to **them**."

That first drive passed in a dream for Mum. Luangwa's wildlife, which includes 60 mammal species and 400 types of birds, was clearly out to impress her. Two graceful giraffes tenderly greeted each other by curving their necks into a perfect heart. Two lions, lying motionless in the shade, replete  
20 from a buffalo they'd shared for breakfast, even added some comedy value, as did one elephant who played the fool by dancing and reversing his way towards the river.

I wanted Mum to experience Africa's village life as well, to meet the people who call this place home. When I expressed this desire to my tour guide he informed me of Kawaza Village, a  
25 community tourism project just outside the park which offers guests overnight accommodation living alongside local people. Worried **this** might be a bit extreme for Mum, I chose a day visit instead.

“Why aren’t we staying here tonight?” she asked, surprising me once again. I felt a twinge of regret at my earlier decision. **It** was a different world to ours, with mud-and-thatch houses, dirt roads, no electricity or running water, yet Mum was overwhelmed by the warm welcome we received.

30 Mum soon grew fond of safari life, with its gentle morning walks, its afternoons lazing by the river and its leisurely night drives after sunset. Mum isn’t normally an adventurous soul, but she fell in love with Africa, just as I’d hoped she would. She can’t wait to get back **there**, and I can’t wait to take her.

1. Underline the **most appropriate** answer. (1 mark)  
This passage is most likely taken from:

- (i) A travel agency brochure
- (ii) A leaflet about Africa
- (iii) A travel magazine
- (iv) A nature website

2. **In your own words**, explain the **two** reasons why Sue Watt decided to take her mother to Africa. (2 marks)

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

3. Why does the writer state, *not quite believing my eyes* (lines 4-5)? (2 marks)

.....  
.....

4. Find **four** separate words between lines 4 and 10 which indicate Sue’s mother’s excitement. (2 marks)

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

5. **In your own words**, explain what preoccupied Sue Watt before their departure for Africa. (2 marks)

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6. Write down a part-sentence of **not more than five words** that shows that Sue’s mother got emotional during the drive. (1 mark)

.....

7. Why do you think Sue’s mother clutched her daughter’s hand in line 15? (1 mark)

.....

8. **In your own words**, give **three** ways in which Luangwa’s wildlife went *out to impress her* (line 19). (3 marks)

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

9. List **four** facts about South Luangwa National Park that are found between lines 1 and 22 of the passage. (2 marks)

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

10. **In your own words**, explain why the writer did not choose an overnight stay in Kawaza. (1 mark)

.....

.....

11. Explain why the writer *felt a twinge of regret* (line 27). (1 mark)

.....

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

(i) it (line 9)..... (ii) our (line 12).....

(iii) them (line 17)..... (iv) this (line 26).....

(v) it (line 28)..... (vi) there (line 32).....

13. List **four** activities the writer’s mother carried out during her holiday. (2 marks)

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

14. List **four** part-sentences, of **not more than 5 words each**, found between lines 28 and 33 that show that the writer’s mother enjoyed her holiday. (2 marks)

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

15. Give one reason why you think Sue Watt chose the title *Like Mother, Like Daughter* for this extract. (2 marks)

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Passage 1

### PASSAGE 2

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (23 marks)**

Glossy exercise machines are cropping up in parks, near the brightly-coloured swings and slides for children. What is behind this trend?

5 Outdoor gyms — or adult playgrounds — have been growing in popularity in recent years. The Great Outdoor Gym Company (GOGC) was one of the earliest companies to specialise in providing the equipment in the UK after they drew inspiration from the Chinese government which was installing outdoor gym equipment in parks.

“Cost and accessibility are the two main barriers for people wanting to exercise,” says Charlotte Tarrant of GOGC. “Adult playgrounds remove these barriers and that’s why their popularity has grown.”

10 Adult playgrounds are a classic example of the “nudge” thinking that has infiltrated governments on both sides of the Atlantic. The “nudge” is something that is intended to gently guide us into the right direction whether that’s for our own good or not or to improve society. “Nudging never involves making anyone do anything they do not want to do, nor does it involve telling people what to do,” says Richard Thaler, who co-wrote *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and*

15 *Happiness*. “People don’t like being told what to do and so often don’t respond well to advice even if it is well-intended.”

20 The idea of outdoor gyms is to place them in people’s way. They are often installed next to children’s playgrounds, thus encouraging parents to use the fitness equipment while their children play. Even for those without children, placing them in parks and other open spaces that people cut across on the way to the shops or work is the essence of the “nudge”. Putting them in the way has the potential to create regular users.

“My nudge philosophy is ‘make it easy,’” adds Thaler. “Meaning — if you want to encourage people to do something like exercise, remove as many obstacles as you can to that happening. If an outdoor gym does that, then it’s great.”

25 Elderly users are particularly targeted by some of the adult playgrounds, but most have users of all ages. Margot Bloom, 42, for instance, found herself using her local adult playground in Southampton. “In the summer, the adult playground becomes a bit of a social event with everyone helping each other. I’m not fond of indoor gyms or their prices.”

30 The sterile conditions of gyms, not to mention the fear of embarrassment they can instil in those wanting to get fit, is an obstacle for many.

But as personal trainer Darren Putt observes, there isn’t the same association with outdoor gyms. “Play, by definition, is characterised by child-like activities, fun and spontaneity and therefore requires no planning or organisation.”

35 “Lately we have seen the launch of the green energy gym,” says Tarrant. “People create electricity by working out so, as they pedal away on the bike, they can see the energy they are creating and it’s used to light up the fitness zone at night and can even power local buildings.”

1a. Underline the best title for this passage.

(1 mark)

- (i) The End of the Indoor Gym                      (ii) Importance of Physical Exercise
- (iii) The Rise of the Outdoor Gym                (iv) Gyms and the Elderly

1b. Give a reason for your answer.

(1 mark)

.....

2. Explain the meaning of *cropping up* (line 1) as used in the passage.

(1 mark)

.....

3. Which **two** separate adjectives found between lines 1 and 6 show that the recreational equipment in the parks is not dull?

(1 mark)

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

4a. **In your own words** explain what *nudging* (line 12) is. (2 marks)

.....

.....

4b. **In your own words** explain how *nudging* is being applied to outdoor gyms. (2 marks)

.....

.....

5. Fill in the table below with information taken from the passage. (2 marks)

Areas where outdoor gyms are installed	Whom they are targeted at
(i)	(i)
(ii)	(ii)

6. Between lines 1 and 24 find **single** words that match the following meanings as used in the passage. (3 marks)

- (i) craze..... (ii) setting up.....
- (iii) obstacles..... (iv) make better.....
- (v) capability..... (vi) belief.....

7. Give **four** reasons from the passage why people may decide NOT to attend an indoor gym. (2 marks)

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

8. Give **four** reasons from the passage why people enjoy going to outdoor gyms. (2 marks)

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

9. What is a *green energy gym* (line 34)?

(2 marks)

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

10. Are the following statements **True** or **False**? Circle True for the correct ones and False for the incorrect ones. Give a reason for each of your answers.

(4 marks)

(i) GOGC was the only company that provided the equipment for outdoor gyms in the UK.

(True/False) because.....

(ii) Nudge thinking is not exclusive to the UK.

(True/False) because.....

(iii) People do not follow advice because they know that the reasons behind that advice are not genuine.

(True/False) because.....

(iv) All adult playgrounds target the elderly.

(True/False) because.....

Passage 2

*Please turn the page.*

**WRITING TASK**

**(10 MARKS)**

You are Chris Borg. Write **an email of between 50 and 60** words to your aunt Chiara, a mother of two young children. In your email encourage her to join you at an outdoor gym which has just opened in your locality. **Do not write more than 60 words.**

Writing
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<b>From:</b>	chrisborg1997@wmail.com
<b>To:</b>	chiaracachia@cmail.co.uk
<b>Subject:</b>	Outdoor Gym

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