

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

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL

SEPTEMBER 2014 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Language	TOTAL
PAPER NUMBER:	I – Part 2: Language Use	
DATE:	2 nd September 2014	
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	

LANGUAGE USE

(50 MARKS)

- 1. Write the opposite of words (1) to (10) in the extract by adding ONE of the prefixes in the table below to each word. You can use some prefixes more than once. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)**

mis- dis- im- in- il- un- ir-
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The lawyer we went to was quite (0) *im*patient and (1) _____ organised and his manner was rather (2) _____ formal. His handwriting was (3) _____ legible, so I (4) _____ understood what he had written. He explained that the woman was very (5) _____ reliable, and that the statement she had given was (6) _____ relevant. She was (7) _____ honest, and her arguments were (8) _____ rational. She was also very (9) _____ polite and her actions were (10) _____ legal.

- 2. Underline the phrasal verb that best fits the context from the options in brackets. (5 marks)**

The UK government is (1) (**drawing up, drawing out, drawing in**) a plan to allow bank customers to pay cheques into their account by taking photos on their smartphones. This will mean (2) (**doing with, doing away with, doing in**) the paper version. Problems with the banks on this issue have now been (3) (**put down, broken down, ironed out**) and banks now agree that the new transfer method will be more convenient and will help to (4) (**turn off, call off, clamp down on**) forgeries. People are going into bank branches less and less, as they now (5) (**rely on, turn on, put on**) mobile banking. However, all customers will still be able to (6) (**carry on, carry out, pay by**) depositing cheques by posting them to their bank, or by visiting their bank directly. The government firmly believes that (7) (**taking off, embarking on, bringing up**) this plan will promote the continuing use of cheques. The UK government was originally planning to (8) (**get rid of, turn off, carry out**) all cheque payments by 2018 at the latest, but it has now (9) (**put up with, put down, put off**) this plan after (10) (**coming up, coming down, taking off**) against public opposition.

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

A new stage play based on Harry Potter's early years is expected to make an (0) appearance (**appear**) by 2015. JK Rowling, who wrote the seven hugely successful *Harry Potter* books, will co-produce the play in (1) _____ (**collaborate**) with a playwright to help script it. The (2) _____ (**create**) minds who will be heading up the project have a wealth of experience. According to an (3) _____ (**announce**), they will be telling "the previously untold story of Harry Potter's early years as an orphan and outcast". *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, the first book in Rowling's (4) _____ (**globe**) bestselling series, introduces Potter when he is 10 years old and living in the cupboard under the stairs in the home of his (5) _____ (**aggression**) and (6) _____ (**disagree**) uncle and aunt. He is rescued and whisked away to Hogwarts, the boarding school for witches and wizards, but readers have little (7) _____ (**know**) about what actually happened in the (8) _____ (**intervene**) years between this and when Lord Voldemort killed Potter's parents. Warner Bros. will be involved in this (9) _____ (**drama**). Rowling has said that the project had the (10) _____ (**sensitive**) appropriate for bringing Harry's story to the stage.

4. Fill in each blank with a suitable link word or phrase from the box. The first one has been done for you. Use each link word or phrase you choose only once. (5 marks)

moreover, while, although, when, in fact, because, but, whereas, as well as,
in addition, however, and, furthermore, despite, such as

There are many board games on the market (0) although finding the right one may be difficult at first. (1) _____ the attraction of computer games, board games are still a great means of family entertainment. (2) _____, they help improve memory and verbal and mathematical skills. They help bring people together (3) _____ give families a chance to spend time together. (4) _____, many games help develop new skills and concepts (5) _____ grouping, counting and number and shape recognition. (6) _____, letter recognition and reading, (7) _____ visual perception and colour recognition are enhanced while playing certain types of board games. (8) _____, games do not need to be too academic for children to learn from them (9) _____ simply playing a game can teach a child to share and communicate. (10) _____, those children who play board games have good social skills.

5. Fill in the blanks with ONE word to complete each idiomatic expression. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)

My mother hit the (0) roof when my brother told her I didn't want to go to university. My brother makes my blood (1) _____ because he cannot keep his mouth shut and is always letting the cat out of the (2) _____. Now my father is on the (3) _____, so I am avoiding him at all costs. It is only once in a blue (4) _____ that he flies off the (5) _____ as he is usually quite a calm person. I have my (6) _____ set on becoming an actor, but my parents and I just cannot see eye to (7) _____ on the issue. They think that I have my head in the (8) _____. I don't know why they are making such a big (9) _____ of it. It is all such a hassle for me and I really hope that we can soon see the (10) _____ at the end of the tunnel.

6. Fill in the blanks by choosing ONE of the modals in the table below and the correct form of the verb in brackets. Use each modal ONLY ONCE. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)

must <u>could</u> should able to may had better need might can

I (0) couldn't walk (**not walk**) very well as I had sprained my ankle a few days before, so unfortunately I was (1) _____ (**not go**) to my friend's birthday party yesterday. This morning I apologised to my friend but she said I (2) _____ (**not worry**) anymore as everyone had understood. I (3) _____ (**go**) to hospital yesterday but I really didn't feel like leaving home. My doctor told me to go today and I suppose I (4) _____ (**follow**) her advice. I (5) _____ (**not tell**) my parents about it, however, as they will worry.

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

Pets bring out (0) feelings of joy in most of us. While some people like to (1) _____ dogs as pets, others may have a (2) _____ for cats or birds. People all over the world have been (3) _____ to give a home to all sorts of pets, from fish to turtles and even snakes. Pets have the (4) _____ to make us feel good and this is also the reason why they are (5) _____ by doctors. Having a pet means a lot of love and affection is exchanged (6) _____ the owner and the pet. For the elderly, having an animal at home also (7) _____ keep loneliness at bay. Some pets, like dogs, make their owners feel (8) _____ as they have an instinct that (9) _____ them of danger, and many pets have (10) _____ their owners from disasters.

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

‘Selfie’ (0) is (be) a popular term for a self-portrait photograph which is uploaded to a social media website. Last year the Oxford Dictionary (1) _____ (name) ‘selfie’ as the Word of the Year. The Word of the Year award (2) _____ (celebrate) the inventiveness of English speakers. At the moment the Oxford Dictionary (3) _____ (use) a research programme (4) _____ (track) new words. The word ‘selfie’ was traced back to 2002, when an Australian man posted a picture of severe injuries to his face. He said that he (5) _____ (trip) over some steps. He called his photo a selfie. By 2012, the media (6) _____ (use) the word widely. Since then it (7) _____ (increase) in popularity throughout the English-speaking world, helped by pictures such as one of the Pope with teenagers that (8) _____ (go) viral last December. ‘Selfie’ (9) _____ (add) to the Oxford Dictionary Online in August but is not yet in the print version although it (10) _____ (be) in the future. □

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

0. Sally’s clothes are made by her mother.
Sally’s mother makes her clothes.

1. Sally’s clothes aren’t as smart as Mary’s.

Mary’s _____

2. I didn’t realise who Mary was until I had been speaking to her for half an hour.

Only after _____

3. A famous designer makes her clothes.

She has _____

4. Today she is wearing casual clothes, which is unusual for her.

She doesn’t _____

5. “Let’s go and ask her why she is not wearing a suit,” Peter told me.

Peter suggested _____



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SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL

SEPTEMBER 2014 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Language
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB – Question 1
DATE:	2 nd September 2014
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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 or more than 200 words.**

1. Write a short story entitled ‘An incident that taught me an important lesson about life’ which will be published on the school website.
2. You are Chris (chris@dmail.com). Write an email to your friend Kim (kim.borg@dmail.com) asking for help in organising a day’s farewell activity for a group of foreign students who have been on an exchange visit at your school.

Start your email like this:

To:	
From:	
Subject:	

3. You have just returned home from a week’s summer camp at a hotel or at a camping site organised by the Youth Centre of your town or village. The organiser has asked you to write a report on the programme, the accommodation and facilities, and to include suggestions for future camps. Write your report.

USE THIS SPACE TO PLAN YOUR WRITING

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SEPTEMBER 2014 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Language	TOTAL
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB – Question 2	
DATE:	2 nd September 2014	
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.

(26 marks)

For a complete sub-continent novice, the prospect of travelling to South India was intimidating: the heat, the noise, the sheer colour of the place. I opted for a group tour (with local guides) because my time was limited and I wanted a planned itinerary that would take in major sights. Suresh Moni, our guide, described it as “a perfect starter South Indian trip”.

5 Our first outing was a tour of the stunning temples, carved shrines and caves of Mamallapuram, a Unesco world heritage site. For the first few days we visited many of the temples for which the region is renowned and marvelled at the fabulously detailed carvings and scale of these well-preserved ancient sites.

10 We moved around a lot on this trip – no more than two nights anywhere. One of the highlights was a journey by train from Chennai to Mysore. The railway station in Chennai was electrifying – porters in turbans piled our luggage high on wooden trolleys and we fought our way through the carpet of sleeping, eating, chattering crowds who covered most of the available floor space, to begin a truly fantastic journey.

15 You’re never alone in India – wherever you look, at whatever time of day, in however rural a landscape, you always see people. From the window we could see crouching figures picking crops, peering, washing, waving. We passed junctions where jostling crowds on foot, on bikes, wait to cross.

20 Mysore, “city of palaces”, is more majestic than Chennai, with wide airy boulevards. At the busy central market, full of flowers, fruit, vegetables and jewellery, I asked Suresh about the cows which seemed to wander free. They are sacred animals here, and so get away with backing into you and taking the occasional nip.

In the fabulous hill towns of Coonoor and Ooty the air was much cooler. The Gateway Hotel in Coonoor was my favourite on the trip – a real old colonial-style beauty.

25 The scenery was amazing – high, sloping tea plantations so verdant they look almost fake. The tram that runs to Ooty was a particular delight. I got an open-sided window seat, which was how I ended up being interviewed by a local TV news team.

30

After Kochi and an overnight stay on one of the stately houseboats that drift along the magnificent Keralan lagoons and lakes, we reached our last port of call. Varkala is on the west coast where the tropical scenery is breathtaking. The locals on the beach – both men and women – were fully clothed and it was so hot and the sun so strong that this seemed only sensible. We were definitely in a ‘resort’, which was a first: the shops, bars and restaurants were full of westerners, a gentle reminder that our return flight to London was almost upon us.

QUESTIONS ON PASSAGE 1

1. Underline the **most appropriate title** for this passage. (1 mark)

- (i) An unforgettable tour of India
- (ii) The colours of India
- (iii) A first-timer’s tour of South India
- (iv) The people of South India

2a. What word found between lines 1 and 8 shows that the writer was at first anxious about her trip? (1 mark)

.....

2b. What **two** words found between lines 1 and 8 show that the writer had never visited this part of the world before? (1 mark)

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

3. **In your own words**, give **two** reasons why the writer decided not to travel alone. (2 marks)

(i)

(ii)

4. Explain the meaning of *electrifying* (line 10) as used in the passage. (1 mark)

.....

5. Why does the writer use the word *carpet* in line 11? (2 marks)

.....
.....

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

6. For what reason does the writer mention *crouching figures picking crops, peering, washing, waving* (lines 15–16) and *jostling crowds* (line 16)? (2 marks)

.....

7. Write down **six** different single-word adjectives that the writer uses for each of the following which show that she was impressed by: (3 marks)

	ADJECTIVE USED
(i) Mamallapuram	
(ii) the train journey from Chennai to Mysore	
(iii) Mysore	
(iv) the hill towns of Coonoor and Ooty	
(v) the houseboat	
(vi) Varkala	

.....

8. Explain the meaning of the following as used in the passage: (3 marks)

(i) *scale* (line 7)..... (ii) *jostling* (line 16).....

(iii) *fake* (line 23).....

9. Why were the locals on the beaches in Varkala fully dressed? (1 mark)

.....

10. **In your own words**, explain in what way the resort mentioned in line 28 was *a first* (line 30). (2 marks)

.....

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

11a. How did the writer travel to South India? (½ mark)

.....

11b. From where did she travel? (½ mark)

.....

12. List **six** different activities the writer did during her tour. (6 marks)

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(iv)

(v)

(vi)

Passage 1

PASSAGE 2

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (24 marks)

Australians have an ingrained reluctance to eat their national emblem, but a number of chefs are now championing kangaroo meat as an alternative to beef and pork.

5 The glass cabinets of Dean Cooper’s butcher’s shop in Adelaide are stacked with leg roasts and steaks as you might expect. But unlike any other butcher in Australia, or indeed the world, Dean Cooper only sells kangaroo meat. It’s a healthy meat, he tells me: low in saturated fats, full of iron, free-range and organic. And if you don’t overcook **it**, he says, it’s magnificently tender. For one of his regular customers, Carol, “kangaroo meat is beautiful, it just melts in your mouth.”

Like other foreign cooks visiting Australia, I was dying to try some of the country’s unique local ingredients, and none of **them** more than kangaroo. On a previous visit to the country I’d been

10 impressed by local chefs’ commitment to sourcing the finest produce and this time I wanted to see how they cooked one of **their** most distinctive native ingredients. And I knew that kangaroo meat had much to recommend it from an environmental point of view.

15 Kangaroos produce far less of the greenhouse gas methane than the cattle brought over by European settlers, and their jumping feet don’t damage the fragile Australian topsoil like the hard hooves of cows and sheep. Although kangaroos are a protected species, there are so many of them that they are widely regarded as pests, and they are hunted by professional shooters according to a strict quota system.

20 Surprisingly, however, most Australians refuse to eat **it**. On my first days in Adelaide, I scoured restaurant menus in vain for kangaroo dishes. The only place I found it served was at a riverside restaurant that specialises in indigenous ingredients. As head chef Nick Filsell admits, many of the restaurant’s customers are tourists and other out-of-town visitors. “Most local people wouldn’t have it at home.”

25 Most Australians I talk to in Adelaide and Sydney say they feel funny about eating kangaroo. “After all,” one woman explains, “it’s our national emblem.” Almost everyone I speak to mentions what they called “the Skippy factor” — a reference to the TV series, *Skippy the Bush Kangaroo*, which encouraged Australians to see kangaroos as far too adorable to cook.

Celebrated chef Neil Perry tells me some people consider kangaroo meat unsanitary. “People think of kangaroos being hit by cars and lying on dusty roads in the baking sun.” Animal rights activists have also stirred up anxiety about killing female kangaroos that might have joeys (baby kangaroos) in **their** pouches.

30 A few pioneering chefs, though, are trying to revive interest among the Australians in eating kangaroo, or at least its cousin, the wallaby. One of **them**, Kylie Kwong, is passionately committed to using indigenous ingredients in her Chinese restaurant. “I think our customers are pleasantly surprised by how good it tastes.” Once I have tasted it, I cannot agree more.

QUESTIONS ON PASSAGE 2

1a. Where is this passage most likely taken from? Underline the most appropriate answer. (1 mark)

- (i) A travel agency brochure
- (ii) A website promoting Australia
- (iii) An animal encyclopaedia
- (iv) A food and culture magazine

1b. Give a reason for your answer.

(1 mark)

.....

2a. Underline the most appropriate answer. The writer is: (1 mark)

- (i) in favour of eating kangaroo meat.
- (ii) against eating kangaroo meat.
- (iii) neutral — that is, neither in favour nor against eating kangaroo meat.

2b. Give a reason for your answer.

.....

3. Between lines 1 and 16 find **single** words that match the following meanings as used in the text. (3 marks)

(i) inbuilt (ii) unwillingness.....

(iii) promoting (iv) wonderfully.....

(v) best (vi) delicate

4. **In your own words**, explain why kangaroos are hunted. (2 marks)

.....
.....

5. What is meant by a *strict quota system* (line 16) ? (1 mark)

.....

6. Write **two** words, found between lines 8 and 21 of the text, that have the same meaning as *local*. (1 mark)

(i) (ii).....

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

(i) it (line 6)..... (ii) them (line 9).....

(iii) their (line 11)..... (iv) it (line 17).....

(v) their (line 28)..... (vi) them (line 31).....

8. 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) Dean Cooper sells kangaroo meat together with beef and pork.

(True/False) because.....

(ii) The writer works in catering.

(True/False) because.....

(iii) The writer visited Australia more than once.

(True/False) because.....

(iv) The Australians are interested in eating wallaby meat.

(True/False) because.....

9. List **six** reasons why the writer thinks kangaroo meat should be recommended. (3 marks)

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(iv)

(v)

(vi)

10. **In your own words**, give **four** reasons why Australians are reluctant to eat kangaroo meat. (4 marks)

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(iv)

WRITING TASK

(10 MARKS)

Writing

The school administration is organising a Healthy Eating Campaign at school. As President of the Student Council you are asked by the Headteacher to write a short paragraph in the weekly school magazine encouraging students to eat healthy food. Use **between 50 and 60 words**. **You will be penalised if you write less than 50 or more than 60 words.**

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