

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

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL

SEPTEMBER 2015 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Language	TOTAL
PAPER NUMBER:	I – Part 2	
DATE:	1 st September 2015	
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	

LANGUAGE USE

(50 MARKS)

1. Underline the option that best fits the context from the words in the brackets. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)

The new computer game was extremely (0) (**interested / interesting**) and made us both feel very (1) (**excited / exciting**). (2) (**Startled / Startling**) by a sudden loud noise, we dropped the laptop (3) (**belonged / belonging**) to my father. I was very (4) (**annoyed / annoying**). We took it straight to the computer shop and the (5) (**charming / charmed**) man (6) (**worked / working**) there was very helpful. His (7) (**exhausted / exhausting**) technician said that she had had a rather long and (8) (**tired / tiring**) day, but she gave us a (9) (**reassured / reassuring**) smile and soon repaired my father's laptop. I was very (10) (**pleased / pleasing**).

2. Fill in each blank in the following passage with one of the verbs from the box in its appropriate form. You can use each verb more than once. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)

take put get make come go

Last week I (0) came across an advertisement for a weekend break in Sicily. My friend and I decided to go. We (1) _____ it to the airport in record time, although (2) _____ up with my mother's grumbling all the way was annoying. The plane (3) _____ off on time and during the flight I read my book which was so good I couldn't (4) _____ it down. My friend spent the whole time dozing as she was still (5) _____ over the flu. When we arrived I couldn't remember the name of the hotel, but it soon (6) _____ to me. Unfortunately, we had to (7) _____ do with a tiny bathroom as the rooms with larger bathrooms were occupied. In Sicily most of our money (8) _____ on food. We visited some historical places, but the guides spoke so fast we couldn't (9) _____ in all the information. My friend is a little bossy and I had to (10) _____ along with all her suggestions.

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

In the second half of the nineteenth century, increased commercial (0) activity (**active**) on the River Thames in London led to the building of Tower Bridge. Tower Bridge is not a (1) _____ (**tradition**) bridge because it is a moveable and suspension bridge (2) _____ (**combine**). It is close to the Tower of London, from which it takes its name, and has become an (3) _____ (**icon**) symbol of London. Last year, two new glass floor walkways across the bridge were (4) _____ (**veil**). This is (5) _____ (**doubt**) the most significant (6) _____ (**develop**) to The Bridge Experience Exhibition since its (7) _____ (**inaugurate**) in 1982. The walkways are 42 metres above the river and 11.5 metres in (8) _____ (**long**). They (9) _____ (**able**) Londoners and tourists to view London from a whole new angle, providing a (10) _____ (**spectacle**) view of the bridge when it opens to allow river traffic through.

4. Fill in each blank with suitable link words or phrases from the box. The first one has been done for you. Use each link word or phrase ONLY ONCE. Remember to use capital letters where necessary. (5 marks)

<p>probably anyway actually surely however all the same definitely obviously after all apparently personally</p>
--

A: Are you going out tonight?

B: (0) Probably, but I have to finish my homework first.

A: Did you watch the film last night?

B: No, I missed it but (1) _____ it was good.

A: (2) _____, it was very boring.

B: (3) _____, I can't stand romantic films. (4) _____, my parents love them. Are you coming to Sophie's party tomorrow?

A: (5) _____ not. I don't like her very much.

B: But (6) _____ you realise how upset she will be if you do not turn up.

A: (7) _____, I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I don't feel like going.

B: (8) _____, I think you should make an effort. (9) _____, she did give you a present for your birthday.

A: (10) _____, I'll think about it.

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

New software has been installed (0) on the computer that helps Stephen Hawking to speak, doubling the speed (1) _____ which he can speak. Professor Hawking has an illness which prevents him (2) _____ moving and speaking. Experts created the software to provide the professor (3) _____ the technology to allow him to speak by means of a small sensor in his cheek that enables him to type. The new technology, which was embedded (4) _____ his keyboard, predicts whole words. But while most people tend (5) _____ type short messages quickly, Hawking insists (6) _____ writing in long-form, regardless (7) _____ how long it takes. The system was therefore tailored (8) _____ make him faster. This new system coincides (9) _____ the release of a new film (10) _____ Hawking's life.

6. Choose the quantifier that best fits the context from the options in the box. Use each option ONLY ONCE. The first one has been done for you.**(5 marks)**

one	all	much	couple	none	few	any	many	a lot	little	most
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Sir James Dyson is known for his (0) many inventions. He is (1) _____ of Britain's most famous inventors. Today (2) _____ of people own the bagless vacuum cleaner which he invented, but at first (3) _____ people could afford it as it was very expensive. Before he became a successful inventor, Dyson had very (4) _____ money, but now he owns (5) _____ more land than the Queen. He has just spent some of his fortune on a new estate in Lincolnshire and he also owns a (6) _____ of properties abroad. In Britain (7) _____ of the other big landowners have inherited their property, but (8) _____ of Dyson's property was inherited. In fact, (9) _____ his land was bought with the money he made from his inventions. Dyson loves farming, but he is so busy with his inventions that he doesn't have (10) _____ time for it.

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

Cars increasingly (0) rely on technology designed to make (1) _____ easier and safer. But are these improvements (2) _____ less-skilled drivers? We often hear (3) _____ of drivers getting lost (4) _____ their satellite navigation has (5) _____ them astray. Technological (6) _____ like GPS are not only making us worse drivers, but they could (7) _____ be making us stupid. Those drivers who rely (8) _____ on their navigational systems to get to their (9) _____ could be abandoning both spatial awareness and (10) _____ sense.

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

Emperor penguins (0) are (be) shy creatures which retreat when researchers approach them, and this (1) _____ (cause) their heart rates to rise. Now a tiny grey robotic penguin with four thick black wheels (2) _____ (help) scientists (3) _____ (understand) the species' behaviour. The robot (4) _____ (use) in Antarctica since the beginning of this year. To create the successful robot, scientists (5) _____ (endure) a process of trial and error, until they decided to cover it in grey fur. Before this, researchers (6) _____ (try) about five designs made of fibreglass, but these were scaring the real birds. The researchers believe that the adult penguins approached the robot because they (7) _____ (attempt) to find a mate for their chicks and they were listening for a response, but researchers (8) _____ (not programme) the robot to make a sound. "Next time we (9) _____ (make) a robot emitting sounds," one researcher said. If they had done that before, they (10) _____ (have) better results.



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

0. Working the night shift is unavoidable in some jobs.

It is not possible to avoid working the night shift in some jobs.

1. With careful planning, it is possible to work all night and still get enough sleep the next day.

If people _____
_____.

2. A nurse said that he didn't mind working at night as long as he could sleep during the day.

A nurse said, " _____
_____".

3. We do not know if working at night is bad for our health.

Is it _____
_____?

4. It might be possible to drag yourself to the gym at the end of a day's work but it is harder to do this at the end of a night shift.

While you _____
_____.

5. I like night shifts because my workplace is not so busy at that time.

What I _____
_____.



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UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL

SEPTEMBER 2015 SESSION

SUBJECT:	English Language	TOTAL
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB – Question 2	
DATE:	1 st September 2015	
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	

READING COMPREHENSION AND SUMMARY

(50 MARKS)

PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

(26 marks)

There is no better way to experience Africa than covering the ground yourself, getting to touch and smell the land, hearing its sounds and, above all, seeing the animals that live there.

In fact, have you ever had a wild elephant look you in the eye from so close that you feel it reading your mind? In Africa you may, not from behind bars at a zoo, but in the elephant's own space at *her* waterhole, in the middle of the great savannah plains of Botswana.

Waterholes are elephants' most precious possessions, apart, perhaps, from their babies. So here we are, virtually on the edge of this pool of muddy water, with a family of a dozen or so elephants heading straight for us. With their babies. The matriarch detaches herself from the group and begins walking very deliberately towards us, her trunk flicking up and down and her head and ears rolling from side to side – a sure sign that she is unhappy.

“Stay down and stay quiet,” signals our guide Marga. We are crouching on the roofs of our 4X4 vehicles – robust diesel monsters capable of dealing with anything Botswana can throw at them except an African elephant which can flip a Land Cruiser like a pancake. The matriarch walks on, unhurried, as the world's biggest land creature is entitled to be in her own backyard. About 15 metres away she stops and, very deliberately, looks at each of us in turn. Her eyes meet yours and time freezes. Your heart is pumping but inside you somehow feel calm, mesmerised, extraordinarily alive. And very emotional. (It's not just me. Several of our small group later said they found themselves in tears).

Satisfied that we pose no threat, the matriarch rumbles a subsonic message to her extended family and they move towards the water. Like their leader, they amble along in that languid gait that makes them look almost as if they are on wheels. And – here's one of the most endearing traits of elephants – although they can smell the water from miles away, when they get to within 40 metres or so they can no longer contain their excitement. They break ranks and run, like kids trying to beat one another into the summer surf. Their joy is palpable.

25

There is some danger in being so close to them but skilled guides know how to read the body language. The rule is to be cautious, respectful of their space and always to leave yourself an escape route.

As Lawrence Anthony put it in his extraordinary book *The Elephant Whisperer*: “Never approach wild elephants directly. Rather, put yourself in their vicinity and if they want to, they will come closer to you. If not, forget it; they take their imperial status most seriously.”

QUESTIONS ON PASSAGE 1

1. List **four** factors that, according to the writer, enable one to best experience Africa. (2 marks)

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(iv)

2. According to the writer, how is seeing elephants in Africa different from seeing them anywhere else? (1 mark)

.....
.....

3. Write down a part-sentence found between lines 6 and 10 of the passage that means the same as *waterhole* (line 5). (1 mark)

.....

4. List the **three** indications the writer gives of the elephant’s way of showing that it is annoyed. (3 marks)

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

5. Write down a part-sentence of not more than eight words found between lines 11 and 17 of the passage that emphasises an elephant’s enormous strength. (1 mark)

.....

6. What is the writer referring to by the phrase *in her own backyard* (line 14)? (2 marks)

.....

7. Between lines 11 and 23 find: (3 marks)

i. a verb that shows that the writer and the other travellers felt afraid	
ii. an adjective that emphasises the strength of the vehicle they were using	
iii. a noun that stresses the strength of the vehicle they were using	
iv. an adverb that shows that the matriarch was aware of their presence	
v. an adjective that shows that the elephants moved in a very relaxed way	
vi. an adjective that demonstrates that the elephants’ happiness was felt by all	

8. List the **four** effects that the elephant’s proximity has on the writer’s group. (2 marks)

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(iv)

9. How does the matriarch communicate with the rest of the herd? (1 mark)

.....

10a. What does the writer mean by *endearing traits* (line 20)? (2 marks)

.....

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

10b. What endearing trait is the writer referring to in *here's one of the most endearing traits of elephants* (line 20)? (1 mark)

.....

11. *Waterholes are elephants' most precious possessions* (line 6). What fact in the passage proves this? (2 marks)

.....
.....

12. Explain the meaning of *the body language* (line 24). (1 mark)

.....

13. List **four** precautions anyone close to elephants must take. **Use your own words.** (2 marks)

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

.....

14. Explain what the writer means by *they take their imperial status most seriously* (line 28). (2 marks)

.....
.....

Passage 1

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE**PASSAGE 2****Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:****(24 marks)**

Soaked from head to toe and with paint specks on my hands and shoes: this isn't how I usually end up after a run. But then again I have spent the evening with a far-from-ordinary running group.

5 I have run from one part of London to the other and back again, and in between I have been up a ladder with a paint-roller giving a room in a community centre a new lick of paint. On my journey back, the heavens opened leaving me looking like the proverbial drowned rat.

This is my first experience of *Good Gym*, a non-profit organisation founded in 2009, that encourages people to combine exercise with doing something good for the community. Based in Liverpool and London, *Good Gym* supports local projects and **you** can choose from three different programmes.

10 There are group runs, which are great as they give you the opportunity to work with others on doing something good for your area – clearing a community space or distributing flyers. Or, if you'd rather volunteer alone, then you can opt for a "mission", where members are sent on one-off jobs, such as picking something up for an older person. You can also be paired with an isolated older person who becomes your "running coach" and whom you visit regularly.

15 Each group run has a leader and there is always someone at the back and front of each run to make sure that no one is left behind. For the more independent runner this might seem a bit restrictive, but the whole point of *Good Gym* is to talk to your fellow volunteers. I'll happily admit I'm not usually a fan of running and talking at the same time, but in a small group and on a gentle jog, it becomes part of the pleasure. Of course, those who want to can run ahead.

20 So en route, I find out a lot about the other runners and we discuss everything from house prices to sexism in science. The run takes around an hour and a half in total. It's 8km there and back although runs vary and you can choose shorter or longer routes.

25 *Good Gym* is an innovative concept and **one** that has inspired me in my running. When you think about it, running just to keep fit is wasting an opportunity. If you take yourself to a different part of the city, doesn't it make sense to do something with all that energy? *Good Gym* also combines two of the typical vows for self-improvement taken on New Year's Eve – to stay in shape and help others.

30 The organisation's founder, Ivo Gormley, explains: "*Good Gym* makes people feel good about who they are, it makes it easy to do good and helps older people who wouldn't otherwise see anyone." He has also discovered that the charitable element of **this** provides excellent motivation for struggling runners. He came up with the concept after running to visit a family friend who was stuck at home. It's surprising how much impetus comes from knowing that your run has a purpose, and that if you don't do **it** you are letting down not just yourself but others too.

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QUESTIONS ON PASSAGE 2

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

(i) A fitness magazine (ii) A gym brochure (iii) An advertisement in a newspaper

1b. Give a reason for your answer. (1 mark)

.....

2. Write down **two** part-sentences, of not more than six words each, that show that the writer got wet on her run. (1 mark)

(i) (ii).....

3. Why did the writer have paint specks on her hands? (1 mark)

.....

4. List **six** facts about *Good Gym* mentioned between lines 6 and 13 of the passage. (3 marks)

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(iv)

(v)

(vi)

5. Between lines 6 and 25 find **single** words that match the following meanings as used in the text: (3 marks)

(i) established (ii) handing out

(iii) teamed up (iv) lonely

(v) supporter (vi) idea

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

6. What do the following words refer to in the passage? (2 marks)

(i) you (line 8)..... (ii) one (line 22).....

(iii) this (line 28)..... (iv) it (line 30).....

7. 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) The writer has been on runs with *Good Gym* since the New Year.
(True/False) because.....

(ii) Runners always run fast on a group run.
(True/False) because.....

(iii) Group runs are always 8km long.
(True/False) because.....

(iv) Ivo Gormley started *Good Gym* in 2009.
(True/False) because.....

8. In a paragraph of **not more than 60 words** write about the benefits derived from joining *Good Gym* that the writer mentions in the passage. (8 marks)

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Passage 2

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WRITING TASK

(10 MARKS)

You and your friends have just returned home after spending a day doing some voluntary work in a home for the elderly in your neighbourhood. Using **between 50 and 60 words**, write a paragraph about your experience. **You will be penalised if you write less than 50 or more than 60 words.**

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Writing

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MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL****SEPTEMBER 2015 SESSION**

SUBJECT:	English Language
PAPER NUMBER:	IIB – Question 1
DATE:	1 st September 2015
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 layout, paragraphing, vocabulary, grammar, 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 which starts as follows: “I woke up and realised that I had fallen asleep on the bus.”
2. You are Niki (niki@tmail.com) and you have had an argument with your friend Sasha (sasha16@jmail.com). Write an email in which you apologise for what happened.

Start your email like this:

From:	
To:	
Subject:	

3. “Malta is a good place to live in.” Discuss.
4. Write an article for a young people’s magazine entitled “The importance of activities young people can enjoy after work or school hours.”

Writing task no.

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