



**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
**MID-YEAR EXAMINATION (2021)**  
**PRIMARY SIX**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)**  
**BOOKLET A**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Class: Primary 6 \_\_\_\_\_

6 May 2021

28 Questions  
(28 Marks)

Total Time for Booklets A and B: 1 hour 50 minutes

Components		Marks Awarded	Max Marks
Situational Writing			15
Continuous Writing			40
Lang Use & Comprehension	A	28	95
	B	67	
Listening Comprehension			20
Oral	Reading	10	30
	SBC	20	
TOTAL			200
			100

**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.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

This booklet consists of 10 printed pages excluding the cover page.

For each question from 1 to 10, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4) and shade your answer on the Optical Answer Sheet. (10 marks)

1. This is \_\_\_\_\_ cake I have had to date.
  - (1) a delicious
  - (2) a very delicious
  - (3) the most delicious
  - (4) the more delicious
  
2. "He'll be elated when he hears the results, \_\_\_\_\_?" remarked Susan.
  - (1) won't he
  - (2) shan't he
  - (3) hadn't he
  - (4) wouldn't he
  
3. Andy \_\_\_\_\_ ill for some time, is glad to finally be able to go to school again.
  - (1) is
  - (2) was
  - (3) had been
  - (4) having been
  
4. We have gone through this resource several times in detail. \_\_\_\_\_, we will go through it thoroughly again as part of the refresher course.
  - (1) Even so
  - (2) As a result
  - (3) In that case
  - (4) On the other hand
  
5. It was Mr Perry and not Miss Lisa who composed the tune all by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) herself
  - (2) himself
  - (3) ourselves
  - (4) themselves

6. \_\_\_\_\_ speed, Dylan managed to overtake his opponent.
- (1) Gather
  - (2) Gathers
  - (3) Gathered
  - (4) Gathering
7. \_\_\_\_\_ of the guests at the party was given a goodie bag upon arrival.
- (1) All
  - (2) Both
  - (3) Each
  - (4) Some
8. The children do not enjoy playing tennis, but they \_\_\_\_\_ go to the tennis court nearby for a game.
- (1) never
  - (2) hardly
  - (3) seldom
  - (4) occasionally
9. Neither Zhikai nor his cousins \_\_\_\_\_ to school every day.
- (1) walk
  - (2) walks
  - (3) is walking
  - (4) have walked
10. Pupils who did not have access to a digital device in their homes were given the assurance \_\_\_\_\_ help by the school prior to the e-learning exercise.
- (1) to
  - (2) of
  - (3) for
  - (4) with

For each question from 11 to 15, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4) and shade your answer on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

11. Shumei \_\_\_\_\_ her impressive track record by cheating in the examination.
- (1) defaced
  - (2) tarnished
  - (3) smudged
  - (4) disfigured
12. Allowance must be made for human error. Anyone can make mistakes at times as no one is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) infallible
  - (2) invincible
  - (3) incredible
  - (4) indispensable
13. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many companies have incurred huge losses and have had to \_\_\_\_\_ their businesses.
- (1) wind on
  - (2) wind up
  - (3) wind off
  - (4) wind down
14. It was a \_\_\_\_\_ attempt to save the priceless paintings. The fire was too big and everything was eventually burnt to the ground.
- (1) pathetic
  - (2) worthy
  - (3) fruitful
  - (4) futile
15. Allen was very troubled when he read about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the tsunami victims who had to live without basic necessities such as food and clean water.
- (1) dilemma
  - (2) problem
  - (3) chaos
  - (4) plight

For each question from 16 to 20, choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined word(s). Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.  
(5 marks)

I was at my wit's end with my younger brother. Having been deprived of his game consoles and computer time by my parents, his clowning around, in an attempt to entertain

(16)

himself and the family, had started off innocently enough. On and off, he would also plan and

(17)

play a silly prank on me, his primary target. He was not always successful. These bungled

(18)

attempts only spurred him on to torment me more and more and soon things got out of hand.

I was compelled to tell him off point-blank to stop his nonsense. "Surely, he would listen to

(19)

me!" I comforted myself To my shock and horror, he was indifferent to my chiding! I was

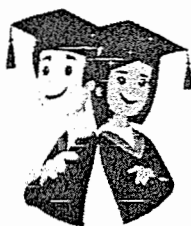
(20)

exasperated and tried to think of what my next course of action should be.

16. (1) vices  
(2) tricks  
(3) antics  
(4) quirks
17. (1) Invariably  
(2) Regularly  
(3) Habitually  
(4) Periodically
18. (1) only  
(2) main  
(3) crucial  
(4) original
19. (1) forced  
(2) obliged  
(3) ordered  
(4) persuaded

20. (1) attack  
(2) advice  
(3) rebuke  
(4) restraint

Study this flyer carefully and then answer questions 21-28.



# The Annual National Spelling Whiz is back!

The National Spelling Whiz 2021 is open to Primary 4, 5 and 6 pupils in Singapore. It aims to help them appreciate the importance of spelling in learning the English language.

In the competition, pupils will use various strategies to spell a plethora of words both familiar and unfamiliar to them.

## FORMAT OF COMPETITION

### Preliminary Round (3 June, 10 a.m. at Expo City)

Participants are required to take a 40-minute written test. A list of 50 words will be read out to them and they have to spell them out on paper. The top 80 participants will move on to the Semi-final round.


### Semi-final Round (10 June, 2 p.m. at Expo City)

The Semi-final round will take place on stage. A pronouncer will read words and participants will take turns to spell them aloud. Each participant is given a time limit of 1 minute to spell each word correctly. Participants who are unable to do so will be eliminated. The elimination process will continue until the top 10 participants emerge. They will compete in the Grand Final.

### Grand Final (22 June, 10 a.m. at University of Singapore)


The format of the Grand Final will be the same as the Semi-final round. Each participant will spell aloud the word given to him. When he is unable to do so, he will be eliminated. This goes on until one speller emerges as the Champion.



Organiser: *Singapore News* 


Sponsors: *Big Bookstore* 

*Expo City* 

*University of Singapore* 



## Great Prizes to be Won!

<b>First Prize:</b>	\$3000 cash prize Big Bookstore vouchers worth \$800 A trophy for the winner's school	
<b>Second Prize:</b>	\$2000 cash prize Big Bookstore vouchers worth \$200	
<b>Third Prize:</b>	\$1000 cash prize Big Bookstore vouchers worth \$100	
<p>*All prize winners will also receive certificates of achievement. *All remaining finalists will receive certificates of participation.</p>		

What teachers and pupils say about the National Spelling Whiz:

*"This competition is a great way to ignite the passion for and interest in spelling. I use spelling games and materials provided by the organiser to help my pupils prepare for the competition. My pupils enjoyed and loved it!"*

Mrs Tan, Teacher of Greenview Primary School

*"I used to hate spelling and found it boring. After taking part in the competition, I realised that spelling is very interesting. During my preparation for the competition, I studied etymology, the origin and history of words, to help me spell better. The ability to spell the words correctly takes hours of repetition and coaching from my English Language teacher. Nevertheless, it is now my newfound love."*

John Lim, 2019 Champion

*"I prepared for the competition by looking through word lists. I am an avid reader and learn new words from books such as the Harry Potter and Percy Jackson series. I've made many new friends through this competition. In the past, I was very shy and had stage fright. Now, I am comfortable on stage."*

Siti, 2020 Champion

### **ELIGIBILITY**

All participants must be nominated and registered by their school. The competition is open to Primary 4 to 6 pupils only.

### **REGISTRATION**

Each school can send in a maximum of 10 pupils. Registration, based on a first-come-first-served basis, is capped at 800 pupils. Schools must register online at [www.singaporenews.com.sg](http://www.singaporenews.com.sg).

Closing date for registration is 10 May 2021.

Please call Mr Jonathan Lim at 6224 5678 for enquiries.



For each question from 21 to 28, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4) and shade your answer on the Optical Answer Sheet. (8 marks)

21. Why is an exclamation mark used in the heading, "The Annual National Spelling Whiz is back!"?
- (1) To emphasise that this is an annual event
  - (2) To convey excitement about the competition
  - (3) To draw attention to the fact that this is a competition
  - (4) To show that the return of the competition is unexpected
22. Which of the following phrases clearly tell you the objective of the competition?
- (1) "use various strategies"
  - (2) "spell a plethora of words"
  - (3) "learning the English language"
  - (4) "appreciate the importance of spelling"
23. Which of the following statements is true of the section "Format of Competition"?
- (1) All three rounds will be held at the same venue.
  - (2) A participant can take his time to spell a word correctly.
  - (3) The format of one of the rounds is different from the other two rounds.
  - (4) Only participants who can spell all 50 words correctly can move on to the Semi-final round.
24. Tom is a finalist moving on to the Grand Final round. If he attains any one of the top 3 positions, he will receive \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) a trophy for his school
  - (2) a certificate of participation
  - (3) a certificate of achievement
  - (4) a minimum cash amount of \$2000

25. John Lim, the 2019 Champion, said “it is now my newfound love”. His newfound love is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) preparing for the competition
  - (2) learning the spelling of words
  - (3) taking part in the spelling competition
  - (4) studying the origin and history of words
26. Siti, the 2020 Champion \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) overcame a difficulty through the competition
  - (2) only reads the Harry Potter and Percy Jackson series
  - (3) said that her social life suffered as a result of the competition
  - (4) did not need to prepare for the competition as she is an avid reader.
27. Why do you think the section “What teachers and pupils say about the National Spelling Whiz” has been included?
- (1) To showcase success stories
  - (2) To show that even champions hate spelling and find it boring,
  - (3) To show that participating in the competition takes gruelling hours of preparation
  - (4) To show that the spelling games and materials provided by the organiser are very enjoyable
28. Bob, a Primary 5 pupil, is interested in taking part in the competition. He should \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) call Mr Jonathan Lim to register
  - (2) form a group of 10 before registering
  - (3) go to the Singapore News website to register
  - (4) indicate his interest to his teacher as early as possible

**GO ON TO BOOKLET B**



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MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2021  
PRIMARY SIX  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)**

**BOOKLET B**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Class: Primary Six \_\_\_\_\_

6 May 2021

52 Questions  
(67 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.

This booklet consists of 8 printed pages excluding the cover page.

There are 10 blanks, numbered 29 to 38, 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) a	(D) as	(G) for	(K) its	(N) the
(B) about	(E) away	(H) in	(L) of	(P) through
(C) across	(F) but	(J) it's	(M) that	(Q) with

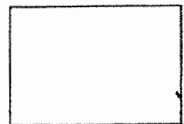
That is the noise of water bottle flipping – a compulsion promoted (29) \_\_\_\_\_ online videos to toss a partially filled plastic bottle with liquid and try to get it to land upright on its base or on (30) \_\_\_\_\_ cap – which has captivated children (31) \_\_\_\_\_ many countries.

Water bottle flipping involves taking a plastic water bottle (32) \_\_\_\_\_ is partially empty and holding it by its neck. Force is applied with a flick, causing the bottom of the bottle to rotate (33) \_\_\_\_\_ from the person throwing it. If performed successfully, the bottle will land upright. The amount of fluid in the bottle greatly influences the success of (34) \_\_\_\_\_ feat and it has been shown that filling (35) \_\_\_\_\_ one-third of the bottle improves the rate of success.

Water bottle flipping became an international trend in 2016. Numerous videos (36) \_\_\_\_\_ people attempting the activity were posted online. As the activity gained popularity over the years, the repetitive thuds of multiple attempts were criticised (37) \_\_\_\_\_ a distraction and a public nuisance. Parents and teachers expressed frustration at the practice, resulting (38) \_\_\_\_\_ water bottle flipping being banned in many schools around the world.

Unfortunately, the obsession with the incessant flipping is not dying out anytime soon.

Adapted from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bottle\\_flipping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bottle_flipping)



Each of the underlined words contains either a spelling or grammatical error. Write the correct word in each of the boxes. (12 marks)

Sam saw a moving shadow. Upon closer inspection, Sam saw a cocoon of a butterfly. Soon, a tiny opening appeared in the cocoon. He was fasinnated by it and watched the butterfly as it struggled to squeeze through the mynuite hole. Then, it seemed to seaze making progress. It appeared as if the butterfly did not have the strength to go any far.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

Eager to help the butterfly, Sam grabbed a pair of scissors and snip off the remain bits of the cocoon. Much to his relief, the butterfly emerged easy.

However, Sam was stupefied. The butterfly had a swollen body and small, shrivelled wings. He continued skrutinaising it, expecting the wings to enlarge but, nothing happened! In fact, the butterfly was never able to fly.

46.

Sam finally realised that the restricting cocoon and the struggle were required for the butterfly to be able to fly. The butterfly had to push its way through the tiny opening to force the floodid from the body into the wings. The emerge from the cocoon is an important process as only by struggling through the opening can the butterfly's wings be ready for flight.

47.

48.

49.

Similarly, sometimes struggles are exactly when we need in our lives. Going through life with no opstuhkles may cripple us. The struggles are needed so that we can emerge ready to fly.

50.

Adapted from <http://www.journeyofhearts.org/kirstimd/bflycocoon.htm>

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

(15 marks)

Not everything that flies in the sky is a bird. More people are now experimenting (51) \_\_\_\_\_ drones for professional and recreational personal use. The term "drone" usually (52) \_\_\_\_\_ to a remotely operated aircraft that often carries sophisticated electronics, including monitoring tools and cameras. Sometimes referred to as an "Unmanned Aerial Vehicle" (UAV), a drone can be as large as an aircraft or as (53) \_\_\_\_\_ as the palm of your hand.

Drones have been used for military applications for many years. However, these crafts have gained (54) \_\_\_\_\_ with the public in recent years as smaller, lighter and more affordable designs are now (55) \_\_\_\_\_ for purchase in the market.

Depending on the style, drones may be used for surveillance, inspection, photography, and other applications. When used in the right situations, drones can yield stunning videos (56) \_\_\_\_\_ places that are difficult or impossible for a human being to reach on foot.

Hobbyists are experimenting more frequently with drones, and as more of these vehicles take to the skies, birds may be (57) \_\_\_\_\_ risk from improper drone use. Wild animals are sensitive about their territory, (58) \_\_\_\_\_ when they are raising their young. Thus, if drones are perceived to be a (59) \_\_\_\_\_ to wild life, these animals may attack the remote vehicles.

Reckless drone owners around the world have also caused a number of near-miss (60) \_\_\_\_\_ while trying to get drone footage of aeroplanes near airports. Police are exploring various (61) \_\_\_\_\_ to bring down errant drones before they (62) \_\_\_\_\_ a fatal air crash. One way is to carry nets through the air to capture unwanted intruders.

Many governments have now posted clear guidelines for drone flight. Most countries do not allow drones to be (63) \_\_\_\_\_ near airports and other sensitive no-fly zones such as important government buildings. There are restrictions as to where and when drones are (64) \_\_\_\_\_ to take pictures and videos in different countries. Other security details differ (65) \_\_\_\_\_ country to country.

If you are keen to try drone photography, make sure you find out more about your country's regulations on the usage of drones.

Adapted from Inspire Magazine 12/13 issue



For each of the questions from 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. Both sisters do not know the way to the office

Neither of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

67. Samuel left all our luggage unattended.

All our luggage \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

68. All his pens were bought from the school bookshop. The black pen was the exception.

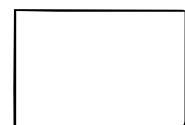
With \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

69. "I became more confused after listening to the talk yesterday," Pete told Jean.

Pete told Jean that \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

70. I was suspicious as Sally was avoiding the subject.

Sally's \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Our teacher had assigned each of us a “secret buddy” for the coming week. She explained that the activity was organised to celebrate Friendship Week. We were asked to write encouraging notes to our assigned buddies and ensure that our identities were not revealed until the end of the week. Our teacher wrote all our names on pieces of paper and threw **them** into a bucket. Then, we closed our eyes and drew the name of the classmate whom we were to secretly befriend and care for over the next five days.

5

Everyone, including me, started turning the assignment into a contest to see whose secret buddy would give the best gift. Instead of encouraging notes, a few secret buddies left gifts like stationery sets, sweets and even money. It seemed that everyone was receiving cool gifts from their buddies. Everyone, except me.

10

My buddy followed the teacher’s directions **without a fault**. I received handmade cards with nice messages, proclaiming that I was one of the nicest pupils in the class. My buddy seemed to think highly of me from the notes that were left, and I should have been pleased. Instead, **it** just made me feel somewhat disappointed.

On the last morning of our assignment, I walked into my classroom and noticed a small box on my desk. At last, my buddy had grasped **the idea** that everyone else had! Not wanting to waste another minute, I ripped open the box and my face fell. The gift was far from what I had expected. It was a used handkerchief with my name sewn on it. Jane, who was sitting near me, giggled and teased me about the “second hand” present I had received. “So cute!” she said, her voice full of sarcasm, “Let me throw it away for you.” Her shrill voice attracted a group of classmates who gathered around my table to laugh at my ‘gift’. My face turned red as I looked at the handkerchief for the last time before it was tossed into the bin.

15

20

I tried to forget about the embarrassing gift, but during recess, Jane started badmouthing my secret buddy and the gift. I quickly joined in. “How lame,” I heard myself saying. “What was my buddy trying to prove by giving me such a stupid gift? I wouldn’t dare to use it.”

25

Jane laughed at my remarks and went for recess, leaving me in the classroom.

As I stood up, I saw Rachel. She walked towards me with tears streaming down her cheeks and whispered, “I’m your secret buddy. I’m sorry about the gift.” Then, she ran out of the classroom. **Her sobs stayed with me long after she had left.**

30

My secret buddy was a girl named Rachel, who came from a poor family. She had been bullied at school by those who felt they were better just because their parents had money. Yet through all the teasing and harassment, Rachel had never harboured a grudge against anyone. She just took it all in her stride.



<p>I was sick to my stomach as my cruel words ran through my mind.</p> <p>It took me a few days, but I finally mustered enough courage to apologise to Rachel. She told me that she had felt bad for not being able to leave any cool gifts for me due to her family's financial situation. Finally, she had taken her one and only handkerchief and stayed up all night to sew my name. She said that she could not wait to get to school that morning to put it on my desk.</p> <p>I had ruined everything for her. Along with my apology, I told her the truth. "I only said those things to be cool, in order to fit in. I didn't know where I belonged," I explained.</p> <p>Rachel looked me in the eye and said that she understood. <b>"We aren't that different from each other, are we?"</b> she smiled. Her simple words, spoken from her heart, found their way straight into mine.</p> <p>After that day, I showed respect and admiration for people like Rachel – people who give from their hearts.</p> <p><i>Adapted from Tears in the Bathroom Stall ~ Cheryl Kremer</i></p>	<p>35</p> <p>40</p> <p>45</p>
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71.

What is expected of a secret buddy for the duration of the activity

a)

(1m)

b)

(1m)

72. How had the assignment turned into a contest? (1m)

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73. Explain how the author's secret buddy carried out her task 'without a fault'? (line 11) (2m)

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74. Look at the table below. What do the words in the left column refer to in the passage? Write your answers in the column on the right. (3m)

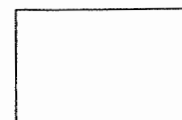
Word(s) from the passage	What the word(s) refer(s) to
them (line 5)	
it (line 14)	
the idea (line 16)	

75. Based on lines 16 – 18, fill in the following table to show the author’s feelings. (2m)

	How did the author feel?
When the author spotted the gift on his desk	
When the author saw what was inside the box	

76. Based on the story, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so. (3m)

Statement	True / False	Reason
Rachel was not accepted by her classmates.		
Rachel overheard the conversation between the author and Jane.		
The author meant it when he said mean things about Rachel’s gift.		



77. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the story. (1m)

\_\_\_\_\_ Jane threw the author's gift away.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jane laughed at the author for the gift he had received.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jane attracted some of her classmates' attention.

78. "Her sobs stayed with me long after she had left." (line 30) How do you think the author felt when he said that? Why do you think he felt that way? (2m)

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79. Which **two** adjectives best describe Rachel's character? Put a tick (✓) in the box beside each of your answers. (2m)

DO NOT TICK MORE THAN TWO BOXES.

friendly	
sincere	
helpful	

loyal	
sociable	
forgiving	

80. "We aren't that different from each other, are we?" (lines 43 - 44) What did Rachel mean when she asked the author that question? (2m)

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END OF PAPER

