

SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL
FIRST SEMESTRAL ASSESSMENT 2021
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PRIMARY SIX

Name : _____ ()

Date: 6 May 2021

Class : Primary 6 SY / C / G / SE / P

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2

BOOKLET A

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
2. Follow all instructions carefully.
3. Answer all questions.
4. Shade your answers on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS) provided.

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 The instructor _____ Nurul met at the workshop turned out to be my aunt.
- (1) which
 - (2) whom
 - (3) whoever
 - (4) whichever
- 2 It was inspiring to see the children in the village so content with the _____ food on their plates.
- (1) few
 - (2) little
 - (3) many
 - (4) much
- 3 "Yan Han's volunteered at the old folks' home before, _____?" asked Rasheed.
- (1) isn't she
 - (2) didn't she
 - (3) hasn't she
 - (4) doesn't she
- 4 When we were young, my sister's ambition might have been to be a nurse but mine _____ to be a teacher.
- (1) is
 - (2) are
 - (3) was
 - (4) were
- 5 By the end of this year, Staff Sergeant Liu _____ in the K9 training unit for thirty years.
- (1) serves
 - (2) is serving
 - (3) has served
 - (4) will have served

- 6 Ming Kang knew that he had to work on being more humble and not think that he was superior _____ everyone else if he wanted to make more friends.
- (1) at
 - (2) in
 - (3) to
 - (4) on
- 7 "_____ to pursue this path if you had known how difficult it was going to be?" the interviewer asked.
- (1) Will you choose
 - (2) Are you choosing
 - (3) Should you choose
 - (4) Would you have chosen
- 8 Devi is a loyal friend. She helped Jasmine _____ confidence and stood by her through thick and thin.
- (1) gain
 - (2) gains
 - (3) gained
 - (4) gaining
- 9 "Thank you. This is _____ than enough," the old man said with tears in his eyes.
- (1) less
 - (2) more
 - (3) fewer
 - (4) greater
- 10 My sister enjoys all forms of exercise _____ long-distance running. You can be certain she will never join a marathon.
- (1) except for
 - (2) in spite of
 - (3) as a result of
 - (4) in addition to

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 Everyone says that Vishal _____ his father in his passion for music and the arts.

- (1) takes in
- (2) takes to
- (3) takes on
- (4) takes after

12 Mrs Lee _____ Macy for handling the difficult situation calmly.

- (1) reprimanded
- (2) complimented
- (3) recommended
- (4) complemented

13 He overstepped his _____ when he shouted rudely at the person-in-charge and insisted on his way.

- (1) rules
- (2) constraints
- (3) boundaries
- (4) parameters

14 The soldiers scrambled to get all sorts of toys to _____ the princess who was in a bad mood.

- (1) anoint
- (2) acclaim
- (3) aggrieve
- (4) appease

15 The looming dark clouds signal that a storm is _____. We should look for shelter immediately.

- (1) eminent
- (2) imminent
- (3) dominant
- (4) prominent

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

Maggie disliked sports. Sports meant one thing – choosing teams. Choosing teams meant that Maggie would be the last choice, as always. Maggie was new. When Ms Jen asked for captain volunteers, the usual hands shot up. Maggie sighed. Glancing around, she noticed that Jasmine looked downcast too. She thought, I'm not the only one. Sometimes Jasmine is chosen last too. She was often picked on due to her small stature. Just then, Maggie had an idea.

Ms Jen asked, "Anyone else would like to volunteer today?" Maggie felt her hand rise slowly. She looked again at Jasmine and took a big breath. The class murmured, sceptical that she was stepping up. "Maggie, you get first pick," said Ms Jen. "Jasmine." The class started chuckling to themselves. Was this a joke? Jasmine had tried to score on the wrong side in previous games. Maggie repeated, "Jasmine." Eyes wide with incredulity, Jasmine took her place beside Maggie. A small smile broke on each of their faces. They both knew what it felt like to be the last choice, but not today.

Adapted from The Champion of Quiet by Tracy Stewart

- 16 (1) primarily
(2) probably
(3) perpetually
(4) periodically
- 17 (1) favoured
(2) victimised
(3) ostracised
(4) designated
- 18 (1) doubtful
(2) cautious
(3) resentful
(4) suspicious
- 19 (1) giggling
(2) cackling
(3) chortling
(4) guffawing
- 20 (1) disgust
(2) disdain
(3) dismay
(4) disbelief

Study this article from a magazine, Pathways, and then answer questions 21 to 28.

Shining the Spotlight on Animal Trainers

Do you know your pets well? Do you know what it means when they make certain sounds or behave in certain ways? Animal trainer, Thomas Chia, has had pets all his life and is convinced that we can gain insight into how animals think by studying how they play. Unlike most other animals, dogs continue playing throughout their lives, regardless of age, and that naturally makes them the best choice for his research.

To begin with, Thomas read everything he could about canines. Besides observing his own dogs play, he took them to various places and filmed them interacting with other dogs. Back home, he repeatedly watched the video recordings in slow motion so that he could analyse their behaviour patterns.

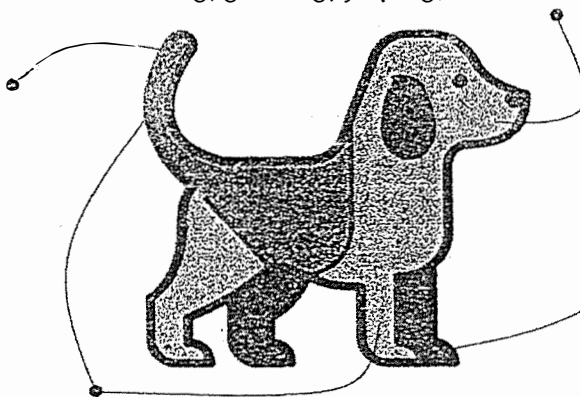
As time went by, Thomas' research showed him that dogs expressed their thoughts and feelings in a number of ways.



Thomas' dogs,
Chief, Lexi and Russ

What dogs do to get different messages across

Dogs wag their tails a little more to the right when they see their owners or something that appeals to them, and a little more to the left when they see unfamiliar yet non-threatening faces and surroundings.



Dogs do not just bark! They also make sounds like growling, moaning, grunting, yelping, and howling to communicate.

Dogs that are already familiar with each other slap their paws down when they meet. This is how they say hello to their friends!

Dogs bend down on their front legs to invite other dogs to play. They usually stick their tails up in the air at the same time!

When the opportunity for you to spend some time with dogs comes up, see if Thomas' deductions can help you understand them better!

What do animal trainers do?

Animal trainers:

- ★ interact with the animals to help them get used to human voice and contact
- ★ teach the animals to respond appropriately to different cues
- ★ ensure that the animals have a proper diet and get adequate exercise
- ★ monitor the animals' health and physical condition in order to recommend medical care when necessary
- ★ develop training programmes to suit the animals' temperaments, aptitudes and mastery of skills



WE NEED MORE ANIMAL TRAINERS!



Do you have a love of animals, patience and good communication skills?
Are you willing to get your hands dirty and do unglamorous work?
Can you perform tasks which may be physically strenuous at times?

In recent years, the number of people keeping pets has steadily increased. Unfortunately, many of these well-intentioned owners do not know how to ensure the well-being of their pets. That is where animal trainers come in!

The Animal Welfare Institute is offering four runs of a free two-day introductory course on animal behaviour to anyone aged 10 and above! If you are interested in finding out more about training animals, please write in to Ms. Paige Hong at paige_hong@awi.sg to sign up for one of the following sessions. Only a limited number of places are available, so hurry!

Run 1 15 and 16 May 2021 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Run 2 29 and 30 May 2021 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Run 3 5 and 6 June 2021 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Run 4 19 and 20 June 2021 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

For more information, please visit the institute's website at www.awi.sg

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 According to Thomas, dogs are the best choice for his research because they _____.

- (1) can gain insight
- (2) make certain sounds
- (3) are unlike most other animals
- (4) continue playing throughout their lives

22 Which of the following did Thomas **not** do as part of his research?

- (1) watch his dogs at play
- (2) read books about dogs
- (3) film his dogs playing with him
- (4) study video recordings of dogs' interactions

23 Dogs slap their paws down when they want to _____.

- (1) ask other dogs to play with them
- (2) greet dogs that they already know
- (3) feel closer to other dogs and get to know them
- (4) make friends with dogs they meet for the first time

24 When developing training programmes, animal trainers will most likely take into account the animals' _____.

- (1) fitness levels
- (2) dietary needs
- (3) natural abilities
- (4) physical appearance

25 What is the purpose of the three questions in the section "We need more animal trainers!"?

- (1) to get readers interested in training animals
- (2) to give readers an idea of what it takes to be an animal trainer
- (3) to check whether the article has inspired the readers to train animals
- (4) to show that the writer of the article wants to know the readers better

- 26 Christopher wants to attend the introductory course before he starts work at noon, but will be overseas in May. Which run should he sign up for?
- (1) Run 1
 - (2) Run 2
 - (3) Run 3
 - (4) Run 4
- 27 Which of the following statements about the course is correct?
- (1) Participants do not need to pay.
 - (2) The course is open to adults only.
 - (3) There will be ample vacancy available.
 - (4) Those who wish to sign up must call Ms Paige Hong.
- 28 What is the main purpose of the article?
- (1) to describe how dogs communicate with one another
 - (2) to provide information about people who train animals
 - (3) to highlight the need to make sure animals are well taken care of
 - (4) to attract attention to the courses run by the Animal Welfare Institute

END OF BOOKLET A

SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL
FIRST SEMESTRAL ASSESSMENT 2021
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PRIMARY SIX

Name: _____ ()

Date: 6 May 2021

Class: Primary 6 SY / C / G / SE / P

Parent's Signature:

	Marks Obtained	Highest Possible Marks
Booklet A		28
Booklet B		67
Sub-total		95

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2

BOOKLET B

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
2. Follow all instructions carefully.
3. Answer all questions.
4. Write your answers in this booklet.

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 to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

- | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| (A) against | (D) from | (G) is | (K) through | (N) whether |
| (B) been | (E) has | (H) than | (L) thus | (P) without |
| (C) but | (F) into | (J) their | (M) where | (Q) your |

Laughter is the best medicine. It draws people together in ways that trigger healthy physical and emotional changes in the body. Laughter lightens _____ burdens, inspires hope and connects you to others. (29)

With so much power to heal and renew, the ability to laugh easily and frequently _____ a tremendous resource for surmounting problems and enhancing your relationships. (30)

As children, we used to laugh hundreds of times a day, _____ as adults, life tends to be more serious and laughter more infrequent, so you should seek out more opportunities for humour and laughter. You can improve your emotional health _____ strengthening your relationships and finding greater happiness. (31) (32)

Did you know that laughter boosts the immune system, _____ improving your resistance to disease? Nothing diffuses anger and conflict faster than a shared laugh. Looking at the lighter side of a situation can put problems _____ perspective and enable you to move on from confrontations _____ holding onto bitterness or resentment. (33) (34) (35)

More _____ just a respite from sadness and pain, laughter gives you the courage and strength to find new sources of meaning and hope. When we laugh, a positive bond is created. This bond acts as a strong buffer _____ stress, disagreements and disappointment. (36) (37)

Laughter is a powerful tool for managing conflict and reducing tension when emotions are running high. _____ with family or friends, you can use humour to communicate in a way that builds up your relationships rather than breaking them down. Start laughing today! (38)

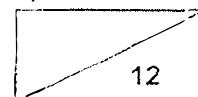
Adapted from helpguide.org/articles/mental-health/laughter

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

Singapore's hawker culture is a source of pride for Singaporeans. It reflects our (39) living herritage and multiculturalism. It is an important part of our daily lives, regardless of age, race or background. Welcome to our community dining rooms where a nation comes (40) together to bond with food such as sizzling satay, spicy crab, fragrant curries and many (41) (42) other dieverse types of dishes. Each hawker boast his or her own family recipe perfected over generations.

(43) As far back as the 1800s the first street hawkers will ply the streets selling quick, affordable meals on street pavements, town squares or parks. Then, they took up the (44) trade to earn a lifelihood. As it required little capital and minimal skill, it was a popular (45) okuppation amongst many early settlers.

(46) Two centuries later, the government has seek to bring hawkers under one roof. In (47) the mornings, seniors gather and read their papers while sips from their saucers. This was (48) an old and ingeenius way to cool down their piping hot drink. During lunchtime in the (49) bustling business district, the hawker centre is alive with the buzz of anticipating from (50) Singapore's hungry workforce. When it comes to hawker cuisine, long cuees are the best testament to the quality of food a stall has to offer. Head down to your nearby hawker centre to have a taste of Singapore's hawker culture!



Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

(15 marks)

For the elderly in Singapore, Covid-19 has caused them to be detached from their normal lives. As they are a vulnerable group, the circuit breaker _____ were particularly strict. Frequently visited public spaces _____ community clubs, markets and hawker centres were shut. Their leisure options at home are _____ to watching the television and listening to the radio, or chatting with their friends on the phone.

The Seniors Go Digital training programme was launched to help the elderly _____ with the challenge. The digital training _____ of communication skills like video calls, connecting to WiFi, and basic cyber security tips. The workshops are run in environments the elderly are _____ with such as community clubs and libraries. They are supported by volunteers who work as digital ambassadors to _____ the elderly one-on-one or in small groups. The elderly often feel assured _____ it was safe and conducive.

Madam Farah is a 60-year-old full-time homemaker. Although she only picked up basic computer skills recently, juggling household chores _____ social media platforms such as Zoom and Instagram has _____ second nature. She admits that seniors like herself may often feel reluctant to step out of their _____ zone. However, she embraced the challenge as she was _____ by curiosity and a desire to learn more. She was also encouraged by the government's efforts to support _____ citizens like her.

Madam Farah uses Instagram _____ to update her posts for her followers and volunteers at the community club, who look forward to her updates every day. They were unable to meet **during** the circuit breaker, but social media _____ them remain connected on a digital level. Digital technology is indeed empowering.

Adapted from <https://govinsider.asia/digital-gov/singapore>

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 Only the twins have not registered for the holiday programme.

Everybody, except the twins, _____

67 The waiter was praised. He was able to handle difficult situations.

_____ due to
his _____

68 "Who drank all the milk in the carton?" Mrs Wong asked her children.

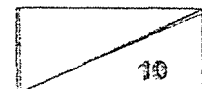
Mrs Wong asked her children who _____

69 Ali is the most hardworking employee in the company.

No employee is more _____

70 Sarah was very reluctant because she had to give her toys away.

It was with great _____



The package was lying by the front door. A nondescript carton without any distinctive features, it was sealed with tape and had their names and address on it – "Mr and Mrs Tan Li Joon, 88 River Street". As per her daily routine, Mrs Tan picked it up and carried it into the house.

That evening, Mrs Tan started to unpack the carton. Curiosity aroused, she showed her husband its contents. Inside it was a push-button unit fastened to a small wooden box. A glass dome covered the button. Mrs Tan tried to lift it off, but it was locked in place. She clicked her tongue in frustration, but then turned the unit over and saw a folded piece of paper taped to the bottom of the box. She pulled it off. The note read: "Mr Soon will call on you at 8:00 p.m."

Mrs Tan placed the carton beside her on the couch. As she expected, the doorbell rang at 8.00 p.m. A man wearing a suit was in the hallway. Mrs Tan held out the box and signalled her disinterest in buying anything. The man's eyes widened and he said, "No, no. I am not a salesman. Let me explain." He reached into his coat pocket and withdrew a small sealed envelope. "Inside here is a key to the bell unit dome. It is linked to our company's computer system. Once you open it and push the button, somewhere in the world, someone you do not know will lose something that they treasure. In return, you will receive a payment of \$10 000."

Mrs Tan stared at the man in disbelief. She shook her head in disapproval and said, "It is wrong to cause people to lose something they treasure and get paid for it. This must be a scam. Or a social experiment. Or a psychological research." She then placed the carton outside the gate and closed the door firmly behind her.

However, her husband had a different perspective on the matter. He said, "Mr Soon has assured us that we will not know who the affected person is. We are in financial difficulties as I am unemployed. We need the money to buy a rice cooker and refrigerator for the family so it is understandable. This is my plan." However, Mrs Tan stood her ground. There was an unspoken tension between them.

That night, her husband brought the carton into the house stealthily and unlocked the dome cover. Taking a deep breath, he pushed the button. The next day, there was a news report about a burglary and the family discovered that the family heirloom, a diamond necklace, had been stolen. At the same time, Mrs Tan received a notification on her phone that a sum of \$10 000 had been transferred to her account. She was furious when she found out what her husband had done. However, he simply said, "Yes, I pushed the button. But the loss suffered by the family is of little consequence. Did you know that the owner of the house is a millionaire?" Without any remorse, he bought the rice cooker and refrigerator that they so badly needed. Seeing the newly bought items, Mrs Tan relented too. For once, there was harmony between the couple.

Mr Tan felt encouraged by his success. One night, he decided to pull the stunt again. He pushed the button again. The next day, there was a news report about a famous athlete losing his Olympic gold medal. The athlete was devastated as he had put in years of blood, sweat and tears. To this, Mr Tan said, "The medal is just a physical reward. His effort and hard work are what count." Feeling unapologetic, Mr Tan then proceeded to buy a motorcycle for himself with the money.

For the third time, Mr Tan pushed the button again. Curiously, although they received the money, this time there was no news report about any missing 'treasure'. That evening, however, Mr Tan could hear Mrs Tan sobbing like her heart would break. His heart ached with regret. She had lost her most treasured item, her diary containing photographs of their young daughter who had passed on the previous year in an accident. Mr Tan knew what that diary had meant to his wife. "The only wish I have now is to turn the clock back," he wept.

Adapted from <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/>

71 From the first paragraph, pick out a word that tells us that the package was ordinary [1m]

72 Why did Mrs Tan click her tongue in frustration in lines 6-7? [2m]

73 Explain clearly why Mr Soon's "eyes widened" (line 11) before he spoke to Mrs Tan. [2m]

74 Based on lines 9-24, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so. [3m]

	True / False	Reason
a) Mrs Tan was not keen to keep the package		
b) Mrs Tan believed that Mr Soon's offer was genuine.		
c) Mr Tan found a way to change his wife's mind about the offer.		



75 Based on lines 16-24, how did Mrs Tan view the use of the button differently from her husband? [2m]

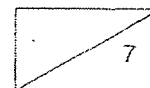
76 Look at the table below. What do the words in the left column refer to in the passage? Write your answers in the column on the right. The first one has been done for you. [3m]

Word(s) from the passage	What the word(s) refer(s) to
her (line 3)	Mrs Tan
a) it (line 8)	
b) my plan (line 23)	
c) the loss (line 30)	

77 From lines 25-38, list two actions Mr Tan did that show that he did not feel guilty about pushing the button. [2m]

i. _____

ii. _____



78 Pick out **two** words from lines 20-33 which signal how the mood in the Tan household had changed after Mr Tan admitted to pushing the button. Each word is found in a separate sentence. [2m]

Before Mr Tan admitted to pushing the button

After Mr Tan admitted to pushing the button

79 Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the story. [1m]

_____ Mrs Tan first learnt that her husband had succumbed to the offer.

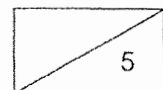
_____ Mr Soon provided details about the offer to Mr and Mrs Tan.

_____ Mr Tan bought a motorcycle for himself.

80 Mr Tan's "heart ached with regret" in line 41.

(a) Apart from the phrase in line 41, pick out a four-word phrase from lines 39-44 that shows that he was regretful. [1m]

(b) What caused him to feel that way? [1m]



END OF PAPER