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Name	Class	Index Number
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**ANG MO KIO SECONDARY SCHOOL  
MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2016  
SECONDARY ONE EXPRESS**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**1128/01**

**Total Mark: 10**

**29 April 2016 / Friday**

**INSERT**

**1 hour 50 minutes**

**Setter: Mrs N Nair**

**Instructions to candidates :**

1. This insert contains Section A.
2. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

This document consists of 2 printed pages, including the cover page.

[Turn over]

## Section A (10marks)

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines about Nek Chand, the creator of a famous garden.

The first and last lines are correct. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines without errors.

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick ( ✓ ) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

Examples:

I arrived to my destination at 2 pm.

The train stopped for a few minutes at a small village.

at \_\_\_\_\_

✓ \_\_\_\_\_

In the early 1960s, Nek Chand, a humble transport official in the Indian city of Chandigarh, began to cleared a little patch of publicly-owned forest reserve to make the small garden area. He set stones around the little clearing and had, after long, sculpted a few figures recycled from materials he found at hand. Gradually Nek Chand's creation developed and grew; soon it covered several acres and comprised hundred of sculptures set in a series of interlinking courtyards. After his normal working day, Chand worked at night, in total secrecy for fear of been discovered by the authorities. When they did discover Chand's garden, local government officials was thrown into turmoil. The creation was complete illegal. It should be demolished. The outcome, although, was to give Nek Chand a salary plus a workforce of fifty labourers to concentrate on his great work known as The Rock Garden of Chandigarh.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_

8 \_\_\_\_\_

9 \_\_\_\_\_

10 \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Class	Index Number
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**ANG MO KIO SECONDARY SCHOOL  
MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2016  
SECONDARY ONE EXPRESS**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
PAPER 1**

**1128/01**

**Total Mark: 60**

**29 April 2016 / Friday**

**Setter: Mrs N Nair**

**1 hour 50 minutes**

**Instructions to candidates :**

- 1. Answer Section B and one question from Section C.**
- 2. For Section B and Section C, write your answers on the writing paper provided.**
- 3. Hand in your answers for Section A, B and C separately.**
- 4. At the end of the examination, submit the question paper.**

This document consists of 4 printed pages, including the cover page.

**[Turn over]**

**Section B (30 marks)**

You are advised to write between **250 and 350 words** for this section.

You should look at the printout of an advertisement on **page 3**, study the information carefully and plan your answer before beginning to write.

A week ago, you chanced upon this advertisement in our local newspaper, The Straits Times. Being a keen sports person and also because you have taken part in The Straits Times Run in 2015, you are interested in participating in the run again this year. You wish to invite a friend who also participated in the same event in 2015 to join you this year.

Write a letter to invite him or her to join you in this year's run.

Your letter should include:

- details of the event, such as date and venue ;
- the category you wish to compete in and why;
- your suggestions on how you both can train and prepare for the event; and
- why you think both of you will enjoy and benefit from this competition.

Write your letter in **clear, accurate** English and in a **welcoming** tone to encourage your friend to join you.

You should use your own words as much as possible.



**THE STRAITS TIMES**  
**RUN IN THE CITY**  
 PRESENTED BY **Panasonic**

**MAY 22, 2016 • F1 PIT BUILDING**

**SIGN UP NOW**

Distance	Loyal Runner Rate (per runner)	OCBC Card Members' Rate (per runner)	Full Rate (per runner)
10 km competitive category	\$30	\$35	\$40
18.45 km competitive category	\$40	\$45	\$50

\* The loyal runner rate applies to any past participants in The Straits Times Run in 2013, 2014 or 2015.

\* OCBC Credit/Debit Card members can enjoy \$5 off the full rates.

**Prizes for Competitive Runners**

18.45 KM Event	10KM Event
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize</b> Panasonic 55 " TV New Balance vouchers  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize</b> Panasonic Steam Oven AIBI Exercise Game Bike	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize</b> Panasonic 50 " TV New Balance vouchers  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize</b> Panasonic Lumix Camera New Balance vouchers

Register at [www.straitstimesrun.com](http://www.straitstimesrun.com)

For enquiries, please call 62485777  
 (Mon – Fri, 10.30am – 5.30pm, except Public Holidays) or  
 email: [info@straitstimesrun.com](mailto:info@straitstimesrun.com)

Attractive goodies from sponsors will be given to the first  
 100 registered participants.

**Section C (30marks)**

Begin your answer on a fresh page.

You are advised to write between 300 and 500 words on one of the following topics.

At the head of your composition, write the **number** of the topic you have chosen.

1. Write about an exciting day you experienced in Ang Mo Kio Secondary School.
2. Write about a day when a stray dog or cat followed you home.
3. Write about an occasion when you helped a handicapped person.
4. Write about a time when you misunderstood your teacher's instructions and you had to face the consequences.

Name	Class	Index Number



**ANG MO KIO SECONDARY SCHOOL  
MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2016  
SECONDARY ONE EXPRESS  
INSERT**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**1128/02**

**PAPER 2**

**3 May 2016 / Tuesday**

**Setter: Mrs N Nair**

**1 hour 50 minutes**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES :**

1. The Insert contains the texts for all the sections.
2. Submit the Insert at the end of the examination.

This document consists of 6 printed pages, including the cover page.

**[Turn over]**

Section A

Text 1

Study the advertisement below and answer Questions 1 – 4 in the Question Paper Booklet.

**THE NEW PAPER / AIBI "GET LEAN, GET STRONG" CHALLENGE 2016**



**the new paper** **AIBI**  
Shape Up Your Life

**Get lean**  
**GET STRONG**  
CHALLENGE • 2016

**Be THE BIGGEST LOSER**  
**To Win More Than**  
**\$20,000 Worth Of Prizes!**

Get the fit body you've always wanted and be rewarded for it! If you are game to undergo an intensive six-month training with AIBI's weight-loss guru David Devito, step forward and tell us why you should be one of the ten to be picked. The participant who sheds the most kilos after the programme will be crowned the winner.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/tnpfit> to submit your entry of less than 300 words on why The New Paper should pick you. Closing date: 15 March 2016.

**Weight-loss guru David Devito has been helping people lose weight for more than six years**

**One of the prizes: TESIS 107 AIBI VIBRO TREAD worth \$4500**

**Terms & Conditions:** Participants must be Singapore citizens or FMs. Staff of SPH, AIBI and The Fitness First, and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate. They must be available for an interview and physical assessment conducted by a panel of judges and fitness professionals from The New Paper, AIBI and The Fitness First between 21 - 24 March (subject to broadcast availability). Participants must read the rules for the challenge between 21 March to 15 September 2016. They must also agree to participate in publicity activities of any form. 10 finalists will be selected and notified by 30 March. Winners of the contest will be decided based on how much weight they lose. Other terms and conditions apply and can be found at <http://fpb.sph.com.sg/contest-terms&conditions>.

Jointly Organised By:   Programme Consultant:  **David Devito**

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## Section B

## Text 2

The text is about Virginia, a child from a poor family before she was sent to live and work for a wealthy family. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5 – 15.

1	Before dawn, I wake up to the sound of creatures scurrying inside the wall near my head. Mice and rats and dogs have burrowed these tunnels through the dried clay, searching for food scraps. I'm always searching for food scraps too. Right now my belly's already rumbling and it's hours till breakfast.	
2	The house is as dark as a cave except for the bits of blue light coming through the holes in the earthen walls. My gaze fixes on a new trail of golden honey oozing from a crack, just within arm's reach. Bees live in there, black bees that sting terribly, but make the best honey in the world. I poke my hand in the crack and scoop out the sticky sweetness and lick it from my finger. It's gritty but good.	5
3	Our guinea pigs are hungry now too, squeaking and dancing around in their corner, waiting for alfafa grass. I can see every corner of our house from my sleeping place on the floor. Mamita (mother) and Papito (father) are snoring under their wool blanket on a bed frame made of scrap wood. My brother and sister are curled up next to me – Hermelinda on the end and Manuelito wedged in the middle – the fleas and bedbugs and lice are crawling wherever they please. My spot against the wall is cosy, the perfect place for licking honey in secret.	10 15
4	Soon Mamita will awaken, standing up and stretching in her white blouse that hangs midway down her thighs. Then yawning, she'll open the door and a rectangle of misty morning light will shine into our house's musty darkness. Then she'll light the cooking fire and we'll all slurp potato soup around the fire pit.	20
5	When people tell Mamita that I am so smart, she snorts, "Humph, she's clever for stealing food, that's about all."	
6	It's true. I do use my wits to fill my belly with fresh cheese or warm rolls. Or to get something I really want, like a pet goat or a pair of shoes. But there's more. I have dreams. Dreams bigger than the mountaintops that poke at the clouds. In the pasture, I always climb my favourite tree and shout to the sheep, "I'm travelling far from here!" and my tree turns into a truck and I ride off to a place where I can eat rice and meat and watermelon everyday.	25
7	After breakfast, I'm in the valley pasturing sheep under a sky the dull grey of cow intestines, when Hermelinda appears on the hill. I squint up at her. The mountains loom behind her, peaks lost in heavy clouds. She waves her little arms at me, the wind whipping her hair in all directions. "Virginia!" she cries in her squeaky toddler voice. "There are mishus at the house. Mamita says to come right away!"	30
8	Mishus are what we call mestizos*. It's a mean word, in the same way their names for us – longos, or dirty Indians – are mean. With my golden goat, Cheeta, at my side, I climb toward home, urging the straggling sheep along with my stick. Feeling suddenly sick, I call out, "Hermelinda, which mishus?"	35

9	<p>"Alfonso and his wife and two others." I stop in my tracks. Alfonso owns the land my family farms. Lately, he and his wife, Mariana, have made a point of talking to me whenever they visit the fields, asking me questions, eyeing me up and down, then murmuring to each other as they walk off, Alfonso is the one who took my cousins, Zoyla and Gregoria, away from their parents two years ago. Zoyla and Gregoria and I used to play market together while we pastured the animals. And then, one day, when they were near my age now – about seven – they left with the mishus. We never heard from them again.</p>	40 45
10	<p>I head up the path, pushing against the crazy wind, kicking at rocks and smacking trees with my stick as I walk. Past the corn and potato fields, my house comes into view, looking small and weak against the mountains towering behind it. I can make out the forms of the mishus sitting on the dirt patio with my parents. My muscles are tensing, the way they do when I see dogs in the distance and I'm not quite sure if they're nice or mean.</p>	50
11	<p>I'm grateful, Cheetah is at my side. Even though she is only a goat, she loves me more than anything in the world. And she'll do anything to protect me. Once, when a vicious dog tried to attack, Cheetah hurled herself in front of me and rose to her hind feet, "Maah, maah!" she bellowed in its face, slashing the air with her front hooves. The dog had never seen such a brazen goat, and it backed away, bewildered. It's good to have someone love you so fiercely. Even if that someone is a goat.</p>	55
12	<p>I rest my hand on her honey brown head and rub her ears, walking slowly, my heart thumping. As I lead the sheep into their pens, I watch the patch of weeds in front of our house where Alfonso sits beside his wife with her ridiculous, huge bun, along with a thin mestizo man. A fat mestiza woman with short hair and a polka-dot dress sits a little off to the side. I take a deep breath, then head toward them, brandishing my stick like a machete. The closer I walk, the hotter my face gets, as though my blood has caught fire.</p>	60 65
13	<p>Mamita is watching the mishus politely as Papito chats with them, his face unusually friendly. As I come closer, Mamita looks up at me and frowns. Her glare orders me to stop swinging my stick and behave. But I look straight ahead ignoring them all and stomp straight into the house.</p> <p><b>Adapted from : Queen of Water by Laura Resau</b></p>	

\* mestizos are rich people of mixed parentage

## Section C

## Text 3

## Houseboats in Australia

The text is about the origins of houseboats in Australia and the pros and cons of their existence. Read it carefully and answer Questions 16 – 24.

1	A narrow lane leads off the road and through a thick forest towards the glittering coast of Sydney harbour. Here, bobbing side-by-side on the gently lapping waters, are three of the last remaining houseboats in Sydney.	
2	These unusual residences –they do not travel on sea and are permanently attached to the shoreline – are in the exclusive suburb of Mosman in north Sydney. Homes here are very expensive and one with a harbour view can add millions of dollars to a home's value. These three houseboats have found a more affordable way to gain a fantastic view.	5
3	They are believed to date back to around the 1910s, and point to a time when local residents were far less wealthy. The harbour was once lined with clusters of houseboats, many of which were first inhabited by people trying to escape homelessness during the Great Depression period from 1929 to 1939.	10
4	The three Mosman houseboats sit in a small inlet called Pearl Bay. In the 1950s, there were twelve of them but only three by the 1980s. Many people in the city appreciate them as curious structures that add to the neighbourhood's character. However, some residents and councillors have long seen them as an eyesore, and have tried to have their licences cancelled.	15
5	The council would have got rid of them all if it could, but to the relief of those who liked them, the New South Wales Maritime Services Board declined to give up its authority over houseboats, and continued to renew existing licences. There is no guarantee that all of the remaining houseboats will continue to have their leases renewed. In 2011, the Mosman council considered a plan to phase out the three houseboats but it received ten public submissions, which argued that the houseboats are part of the rich cultural heritage of Pearl Bay and should be retained.	20 25
6	The state government's reason for wanting to phase out residential houseboats is that it is concerned about the cleanliness of the waterways, particularly if large numbers of people were to swap their homes on land for one on water.	
7	The state allows people to spend twenty-one days at a time on holiday houseboats, something that is popular with tourists, and as weekend getaways for locals. The last three residential houseboats in the harbour are exempted from this rule which was designed to ensure the waterways remain clean and comfortable for the entire boating community.	30
8	From the decks of the houseboats, tourists enjoy an unobstructive view of the harbour and the surrounding leafy coast. Life on a houseboat is also very relaxing.	35

9	Houseboats have proven tempting as a cheap escape from Australia's soaring property prices in recent years, particularly for retirees, with some costing as little as A\$50,000. The stress of receiving electricity bills is removed as the electricity is run from generators which you buy fuel for yourself, allowing you to budget your money. They are equipped with working kitchens and bathrooms but there are typically strict requirements about disposing of dirty water without damaging the environment.	40
10	Some other states in Australia discourage people from living in houseboats on rivers. It may result in an increase in houseboat numbers leading to inaccessibility of important public waterways.	45
11	Houseboat activities may also damage fragile waterbird habitats, obstruct public access along the coast and affect the social values of waterways, such as fishing and recreation.	
12	Mr Heuzenroeder, 60, a retired public servant usually spends a weekend staying on the boat at its mooring. "I like being on the water," he said. "I enjoy the nature and the creatures you see on the bank – the kangaroos, emus, birds, snakes and large lizards. It is very comfortable. You have everything you'd have in a normal house."	50

Name	Class	Index Number
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**ANG MO KIO SECONDARY SCHOOL  
MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2016  
SECONDARY ONE EXPRESS**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
PAPER 2**

**1128/02**

**Total Mark: 50**

**3 May 2016 / Tuesday**

**Setter: Mrs N Nair**

**1 hour 50 minutes**

**Instructions to Candidates :**

1. Answer all questions.
2. Write your answers in the spaces provided in the Question Booklet.  
The Insert contains the texts for all the sections.
2. At the end of the examination, **submit the Question Booklet and the Insert separately.**

This document consists of 7 printed pages, including the cover page.

**[Turn over]**

**Section A (5 marks)**

**Text 1**

Refer to the advertisement (Text 1) on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1 – 4.

- 1 What is the purpose of this advertisement?

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(1)

2. Quote a sentence from the advertisement that explains “**Be THE BIGGEST LOSER To Win.....**”.

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(1)

3. Give two reasons why readers would be interested in this advertisement.

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(2)

4. 'David Devito' is mentioned in the advertisement. What is the intended effect on the readers?

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(1)

## Section B (20marks)

## Text 2

Refer to Text 2 on pages 3 and 4 of the Insert for Questions 5 – 15.

5. Which two expressions in paragraph 1 suggest that Virginia woke up very early that morning?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

6. Why do you think the writer deliberately repeats the use of 'and' in the phrase "the fleas and the bedbugs and lice" (line 15)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

7. **In your own words**, explain why Virginia loves the spot where she sleeps at night.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

8. Do you think good food is plentiful in Virginia's home?  
Support your answer with an expression from paragraph 6.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

9. What does Virginia imagine when she climbs up her favourite tree?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

10. What do the following phrases suggest about the weather condition when Virginia was pasturing the sheep? Fill in the table with your answers.

Details from the passage	Weather condition
"a sky a dull grey of cow intestines"	
"whipping her hair in all directions"	

(2)

11. "When people tell Mamita that I am so smart, she snorts, 'Humph, she's clever for stealing food, that's about all.'" (lines 21-22)  
Does Mamita think that the writer is smart? Give one piece of evidence to support your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

12. What had happened to Zoyla and Gregoria two years ago?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

13. "Once, when a vicious dog tried to attack, Cheetah hurled herself in front of me and rose to her hind feet, 'Maah,maah' she bellowed in its face, slashing the air with her front hooves" (lines 53 - 56)

Identify the words in the given sentence which suggest the following:

i) made a loud noise : \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

ii) hitting in a moving action: \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

14. Referring to paragraph 13, explain **in your own words** how the writer showed her defiance to her mother.

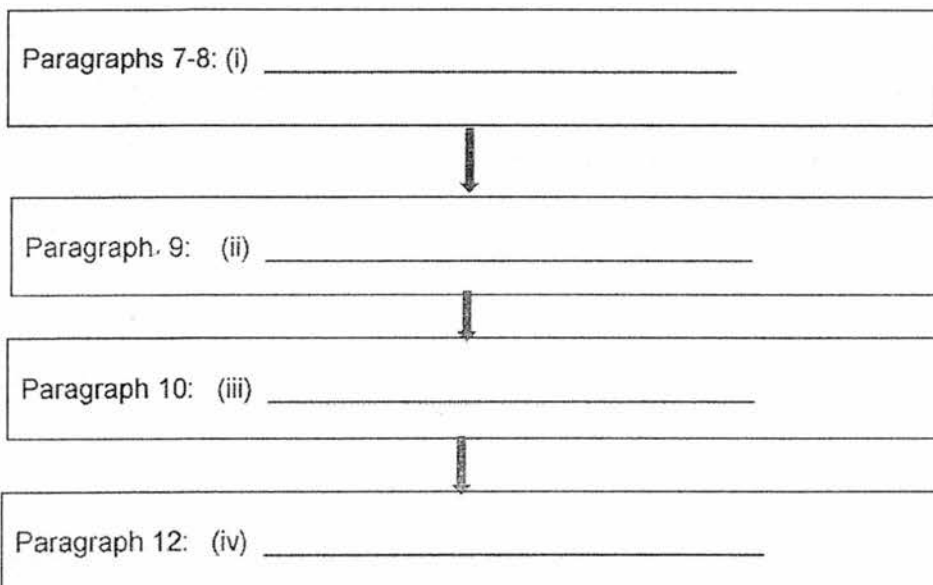
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

15. The text reflects the main feelings of the writer on one day. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box to summarise the main feeling described in each part of the text. There are some extra words in the box you do not need to use.

**Writer's Feelings**

anger	puzzled	dread	jealousy	suspicious	anxiety
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(4)

**Section C (25marks)**

**Text 3**

Refer to Text 3 on pages 5 and 6 of the Insert for Questions 16 – 24

- 16 "Here, bobbing side-by-side on the gently lapping waters, are three of the last remaining houseboats in Sydney." (lines 2-3)

Identify the word in the given sentence which suggest:

i) an up and down movement: \_\_\_\_\_ (1)

17. Explain why the houseboats are referred to as "unusual residences".

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

18. "These three houseboats have found a more affordable way to gain a fantastic view." (lines 7-8)  
Explain how this is so.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

19. Why was Sydney's harbour once lined with clusters of houseboats?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

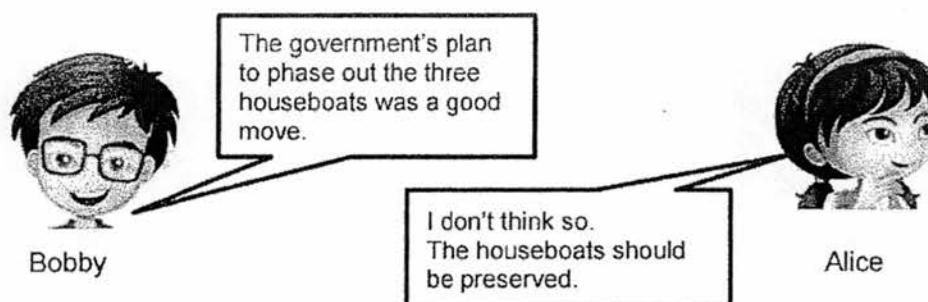
20. Why did some residents and councillors try to get the licences of the houseboats cancelled? **Answer in your own words.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

21. How did the New South Wales Maritime Board contribute to the existence of the houseboats in Sydney?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

22. Here is a part of a conversation between two people, Bobby and Alice, who have read the article.



- i) How would Alice explain her viewpoint with reference to paragraph 5?

---

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(1)

- ii) Identify one example from paragraph 6 that Bobby can give to support his view.

---

---

(1)

23. Why was the 21-day stay restriction on holiday houseboats imposed by the state government?

---

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(1)

24. **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise why people love to stay in houseboats and the problems they bring to the public and environment. (15)

**Use only information from paragraphs 8 – 12.**

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words (not counting the words given to help you begin).





ANSWER KEY

Section A ( Editing ) 10 marks

1. cleared .....clear (tense)
2. the.....a (article)
3. after.....before (preposition)
4. ✓
5. hundred.....hundreds (plural)
6. ✓
7. been.....being (tense)
8. was .....were (subject –verb agreement)
9. complete .....completely (adverb)
- 10 although.....however /though (conjunction)

AMKSSMID-YEAR EXAMINATIONSECONDARY 1 EXPRESS- FREE WRITING MARKERS' REPORT**General Feedback**

- 1) Majority of the students adopted a good structure to the essay, starting with an introduction, body paragraphs and ending with a conclusion.
- 2) A handful of students (an average of 2 per class) omitted writing their questions numbers or wrote the wrong question number. Students should take note of this. A good idea would be to standardise the writing of the question number as several students wrote it in different ways: writing the question as a heading, writing it on the top right and top left corners.  
**Suggestion:** all students to write on top left hand corner of the answer script.

- 3) Several phrases were repeated across the different essay genres such as:
  - a. My jaw dropped
  - b. Stood rooted to the spot
  - c. Apologised/ thanked me profusely
  - d. Walked with a spring in my step/ springs in my steps
  - e. I turned as pale as a ghost
  - f. My heart started thumping at a thousand beats per minute

Though the use of such phrases are good as they suggest a level of vocabulary, the excessive use or inappropriate use of such terms tend to overly exaggerate the situation being described, creating a counter-effect. Students should exercise prudence in the use of such phrases to show a good grasp of the vocabulary.

- 4) Some overly casual/ unacceptable/ colloquial jargon used in the essays at times:
  - a. Chitchatty
  - b. Singlish
  - c. Writing words in capital letters to reemphasise points unnecessarily.
  - d. Using words such as "like" – 'I was, like, upset.' Or "you know"- 'You know, when you fall down...', when not in a dialogue.

Students should remember that this is still a formal essay assignment and they should avoid using such words/ jargons at all.

- 5) Students tended to write in their essay "'How can it be?', I thought to myself..." Though this is an acceptable form of creative writing in a recount/ narrative, however, over use of this technique can be repetitive and frustrating. It does not show the aptitude of the student to describe the scenarios.
- 6) Students need to minimise the grammar errors in their papers. They should check their work before submitting it.

### Specific Question Breakdown

- 1) Write about an exciting day you experienced in AMKSS
  - Students tended to write about one of the following events: Sec 1 Orientation Camp, first day of school or class bonding
  - A significant number of students merely listed the activities that happened that day instead of describing the activities in some detail
  - Majority of the students who wrote about S1OC tended to write about the days leading up to it as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> day when the question clearly stated **write about an exciting day**. A good number of students spent half the essay elaborating about the preparation for the camp and the other half about the camp itself, lending insufficient emphasis to the main day.
  
- 2) Write about a day when a stray dog or cat followed you home
  - a. Students generally harnessed this topic well.
  - b. Students need to be careful with their pronouns for this particular topic. On a few occasions, sentences such as "It wagged his tail" came out across different essays.
  - c. Similar to Qn 1, the essay question states **write about a day**. Students tended to venture above and beyond it, writing about what happened after the incident. Some even talked about a few months beyond.
  - d. For students who did not do as well, they need to focus more on the flow of the essay and making sure that there is no contradiction. For eg: One essay had a story about a stray kitten who followed him home. Only for a few days later for the owner to turn up at their house, saying the kitten had ran away after giving birth.
  
- 3) Write about an occasion when you helped a handicapped person
  - a. By and large, students who wrote this topic handled it averagely well.
  - b. A handful of students did not talk about a handicapped person, but merely spoke of a person who fell, or fainted and then people came to assist him. The question was not answered well in this instance.
  - c. For a number of students, more effort was spent on describing the situation than on the help or aid rendered to the handicapped person. Ample focus has to be given to the assistance. There were a few students who spent 3 paragraphs describing the scenario and only one paragraph describing the aid that was rendered.
  
- 4) Write about a time when you misunderstood your teacher's instructions and you had to face the consequences
  - a. This question was one of the more poorly attempted questions.
  - b. Students were not clear what "misunderstood" meant, as they wrote about a time they misheard, did not hear or were not attentive in class, than a misunderstanding.
  - c. A handful of students did not write the consequences for the misunderstanding. A separate handful of students exaggerated the consequences. It would be good for students to be realistic with the story development, for eg: getting caning because you forgot to do your homework is unrealistic. Getting detention would be a more realistic alternative.
  - d. Students also need to choose realistic instructions to be given by the teacher. For example, no teacher would give the exam scripts to a student to ask them to pass it to another teacher.

English Department

Marker's Report

Paper 1  
Section B

MID YEAR EXAM 2016 SECONDARY 1E

**Task fulfilment:****Format:**

Most candidates observed the proper format required of an informal letter. In a few instances, candidates did not provide the complete recipient details, omitting either the street name or postal code. A handful of candidates even failed to provide the necessary recipient details (e.g. address) and started their letter with salutation.

**Content:**

In attempting this question, most of the candidates scored 5 for task fulfilment as they showed an understanding of the task requirements and attempted to answer the four bullet points in the question.

All the candidates provided important details about the run such as the date and the venue. However, to adequately answer the first bullet point, students should go on to provide other details such as the cost of taking part in the 10km and 18.45km race as well as the website or hotline which could furnish your friend with more information about the race. Most of the candidates read the question carefully and mentioned that both they and their friend are eligible for the loyal runner rate. Candidates who were careless wrote at length the three different rates for the two races, wasting precious time in doing so.

All the candidates stated the race category that they would like to take part in, with many candidates explaining that they would like to join the 18.45km race since they participated in the 10km race last year and would like to challenge their limits this year. There were also quite a number of candidates who explained that they would like to join the 10km run since they would stand a higher chance of winning the race and the attractive prizes. While most candidates encouraged their friend to join the same race category as them, there were also some who left the option open to their friend.

All the candidates attempted to answer how they could prepare for the race with their friend. The better candidates came up with a regular training plan which would slowly increase in intensity, taking into consideration the diet that they have to follow to complement their training regime. The weaker candidates suggested to their friend that they could meet up once before the race to train, showing that they did not take into consideration the long distance of the race and that it would be impossible to train for the race in one session.

Mrs Lee HM

All the candidates explained the benefits of taking part in the race, with the majority of candidates mentioning about the health benefits such as keeping fit and training their endurance level. The more able candidates went on to mention that they would learn certain values such as perseverance and determination, and that preparing for this race would provide them with the opportunity to catch up with their friend.

**Language:**

- A number of candidates used the **contracted forms** in their writing. Even though this is an informal letter task, the use of contracted forms is discouraged. In addition, **informal expressions / slang words** like 'stuff', 'you guys' etc. should not be used.
- Since this is an informal letter, an informal tone is required. Although candidates in majority were able to write in an enthusiastic tone to welcome their pen-friend, some 'sounded' rather formal in using expressions like 'I would like to propose' and 'for your consideration'.
- Proper **paragraphing** is absent in numerous scripts. Some candidates wrote extensively without using any paragraphing convention to help them structure their letter. Some candidates did not use clear line spacing to indicate the start of a new paragraph.

**Section A (5 marks)**

**Text 1**

Refer to the advertisement (Text 1) on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1 – 4.

1. What is the purpose of this advertisement? (1)

**The purpose of this advertisement is to encourage people to participate in the challenge / to take part in the intensive 6-month training with AIBI.**

2. Quote a sentence from the advertisement that explains “Be THE BIGGEST LOSER To Win.....”. (1)

**The sentence is “The participant who sheds the most kilos after the programme will be crowned the winner.”**

3. Give two reasons why readers would be interested in this advertisement? (2)

**They get a fit body (1) and be rewarded for it. (1)**

4. ‘David Devito’ is mentioned in the advertisement. What is the intended effect on the readers? (1)

**Readers will be convinced that the programme will work because David Devito is a weight-loss guru.**

**Section B (20marks)**

**Text 2**

Refer to Text 2 on pages 3 and 4 of the Insert for Questions 5 - 15

5. Which two expressions in paragraph 1 that suggest that Virginia woke up very early that morning.

**“before dawn” (1)**

**“it’s hours till breakfast” (1)**

6. Why do you think the writer deliberately repeats the use of ‘and’ in the phrase “the fleas and the bedbugs and lice” (line 15)? (1)

**The writer wants to show/emphasise that there are many different creatures/insects.**

7. In your own words explain why Virginia loves the spot where she sleeps at night. (2)

The place is comfortable (and warm)(1) and she could get/eat the honey without anyone knowing. (1)

Taboo words: cosy, licking and secret

8. Do you think good food is plentiful in Virginia's home?  
Support your answer with an expression from paragraph 6. (1)

No.

The expression is "I do use my wits to fill my belly with fresh cheese or warm rolls." / "where I can eat rice and meat and watermelon everyday"

9. What does Virginia imagine when she climbs up her favourite tree? (1)

The tree turns into a truck and she rides off to a place (where food is plentiful).

10. What do the following phrases suggest about the weather condition, when Virginia was pasturing the sheep? Fill in the table with your answers.

Details from the passage	Weather condition
"a sky a dull grey of cow intestines"	Overcast sky
"whipping her hair in all directions"	Very windy

(2)

11. "When people tell Mamita that I am so smart, she snorts, 'Humph, she's clever for stealing food, that's about all.'" (lines 21-22)  
Does Mamita think that the writer is smart? Give one piece of evidence to support your answer.

No. (1)

She snorted when others commented that the writer was smart. (1)

12. What had happened to Zoyla and Gregoria two years ago? (1)

Alfonso took them away from their parents / They left with the mishus.

13. "Once, when a vicious dog tried to attack, Cheetah hurled herself in front of me and rose to her hind feet, 'Maah,maah' she bellowed in its face, slashing the air with her front hooves" (lines 53 - 56)

Identify the words in the given sentence which suggest the following:

- i) made a loud noise : bellowed (1)  
ii) hitting in a moving action: slashing (1)

14. Referring to paragraph 13, explain **in your own words** how the writer showed her defiance to her mother.

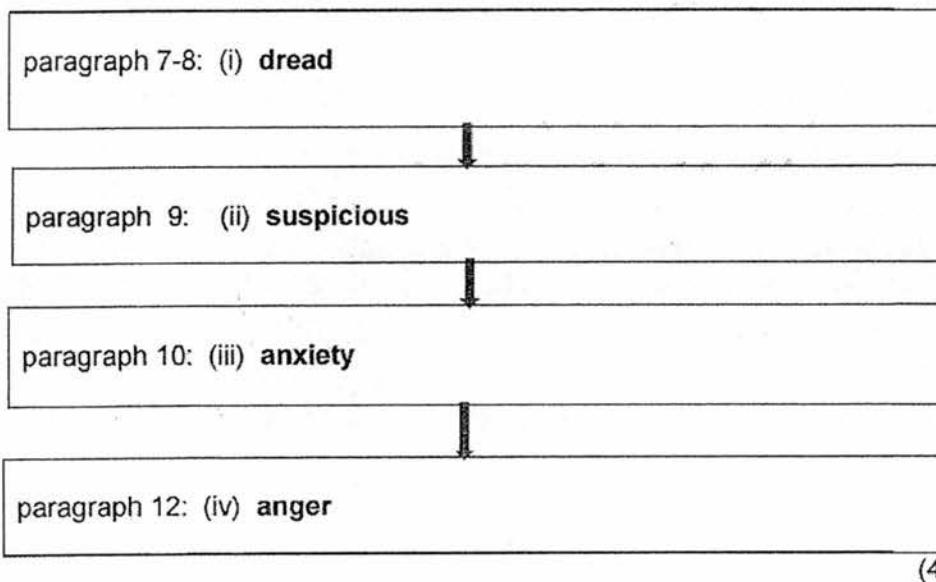
She paid no attention to them (1) and walked off into the house (1)

**Taboo words : ignoring and stomp**

15. The text reflects the main feelings of the writer on one day.  
Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box to summarise the main feeling described in each part of the text.  
There are some extra words in the box you do not need to use.

**Writer's Feelings**

anger	puzzled	dread	jealousy	suspicious	anxiety
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**Section C (25marks)**

**Text 3**

Refer to Text 3 on pages 5 and 6 of the Insert for Questions 16 – 24

- 16 "Here, bobbing side-by-side on the gently lapping waters, are three of the last remaining houseboats in Sydney."

Identify the word in the given sentence which suggest:

- i) an up and down movement: **bobbing (1)**

17. Explain why the houseboats are referred to as "unusual residences". (2)

Although they are boats (1) they do not travel on sea / are permanently attached to the shoreline. (1)

18. "These three houseboats have found a more affordable way to gain a fantastic view" (lines 7-8)

Explain how this is so.

**Homes with a harbour view can cost millions of dollars but not the boats.**

**Or**

**They only pay for the boats which are much cheaper than houses and can enjoy the harbour view as well**

19. Why was Sydney's harbour once lined with clusters of houseboats? (1)

**They were inhabited by people trying to escape homelessness during the Great Depression of 1929 – 1939.**

20. Why did some residents and councillors try to get the licences of the houseboats cancelled? Answer in your own words. (1)

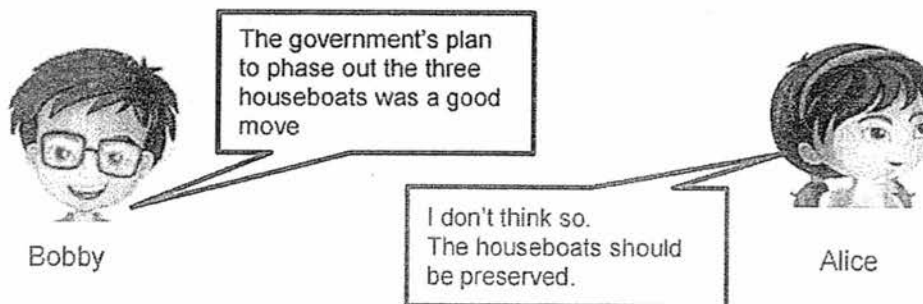
**They consider the houseboats as ugly structures / not aesthetically pleasing**

**Taboo word: eyesore**

21. How did the New South Wales Maritime Board contribute to the existence of the houseboats in Sydney? (1)

**It refused to give up its authority over houseboats and continued to renew their leases.**

22. Here is a part of a conversation between two people, Bobby and Alice, who have read the article.



- i) How would Alice explain her viewpoint with reference to paragraph 5? (1)

**The houseboats are part of the rich cultural heritage of Pearl Bay.**

- ii) Identify one example from paragraph 6 that Bobby can give to support his view. (1)

**The waterways will be clean.**

23. Why was the 21-day stay restriction on holiday houseboats imposed by the state government? (1)

It is to ensure that the waterways remain clean and comfortable for the boating community.

24. Using your own words as far as possible, summarise why people love to stay in houseboats and the problems they bring to the public and environment. (15)

Use only information from paragraphs 8 – 12.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words (not counting the words given to help you begin).

#### Summary Points

1	Enjoy an unobstructive view of the harbour and the leafy coast
2	Life on a houseboat is very relaxing
3	A cheap <u>escape</u> from Australia's soaring property prices
4	Houseboats cost as little as A\$50,000
5	Allow you to budget your expenditure on fuel
6	Equipped with working kitchens and bathrooms
7	Enjoy nature and creatures on the bank
8	Increase in houseboats may lead to inaccessibility of important waterways
9	Damage fragile waterbird habitats
10	Obstruct public access along the coast
11	Affect social values of waterways/ fishing and recreation