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**Section B [30 marks]**

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

You should look at the printout of a webpage on page 4, study the information carefully and plan your answer before beginning to write.

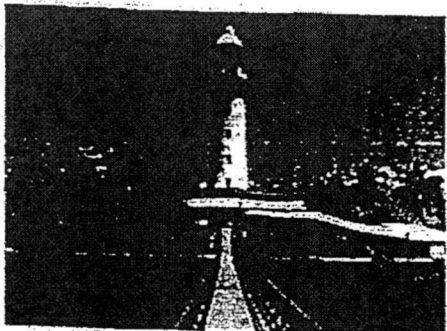
Your favourite 15-year-old cousin and his parents from Australia will be coming to Singapore to visit you during the June holidays. They have seen this webpage on a website and your cousin has written to you expressing their interest in visiting some of the places mentioned.

Write a reply letter to your cousin suggesting:

- two islands shown that you might all enjoy going together
  - one island other than those shown where only you and your favourite cousin might spend some time together
  - why you think they will enjoy the places you have chosen
- Write your proposal in clear, accurate English and in a welcoming, enthusiastic tone to encourage your cousin and his parents to look forward to the trip here.

You should use your own words as much as possible.

## Almost Forgotten Singapore Islands



### History

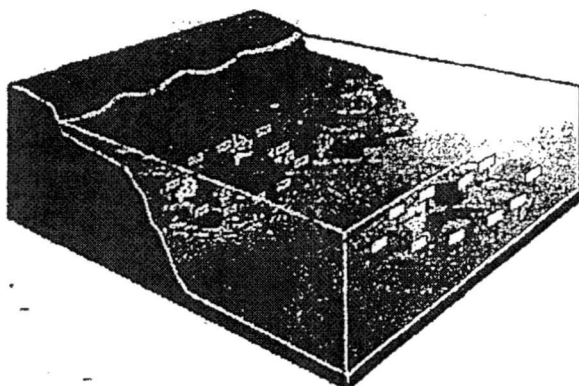
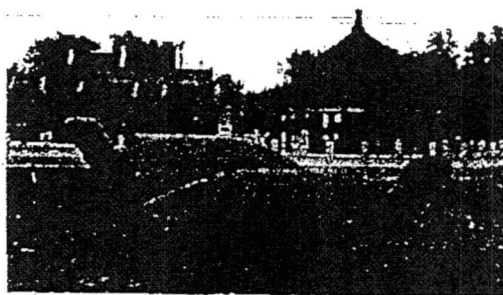
#### Pulau Satumu

- visit Raffles Lighthouse built in 1855, Singapore's second oldest lighthouse
- climb the 88 spiralling steps to the glass-panelled dome to enjoy the panoramic view
- appreciate the small museum that used to be the generator room.
- see historical maritime equipment, such as old lanterns and wind gauges

### Culture

#### Kusu Island

- visit the island's Muslim and Chinese kramats (shrines)
- pray for wealth, good marriage and good health
- go on a guided tour to get up close and personal with various island creatures and sanctuary tortoises.



### Nature

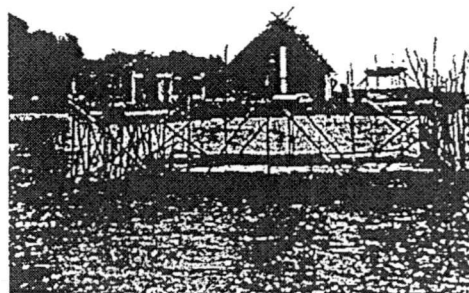
#### Sisters Islands

- now a marine park, good for leisurely water activities
- get under the sea in your snorkelling and diving gear
- explore hard and soft corals while witnessing giant clams, sea horses, octopuses, and even black-tip reef sharks
- overnight camping; guided hikes are available too!

### Leisure

#### Pulau Hantu

- popular for swimming and especially fishing on the commercial kelong
- fishing equipment and sleeping quarters provided
- bring your own larger fishing rods for bigger catches and sleeping bags for sleeping under the stars
- you can also opt to explore 'ghost island' (literally meaning 'ghost island' in Malay) at night!



[30 marks]

Begin your answer on a fresh page.

You are advised to write between 350 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 'Teenagers are too pampered by their parents.' What are your views?
- 2 Why is there such a fascination with celebrities in modern society?
- 3 What do you treasure about your school, and what would you like to change?
- 4 Would you recommend to foreigners to come live and work in your country?

End of Paper

Section A

Text 1

Study the poster below and answer Questions 1 - 4.

**STAY AWAY FROM AT LUNG**

**OR YOU'LL HAVE A HELL OF A LIFE.**

Stay away from a life of harassment, fear and shame.

- Don't borrow from AT Lung or you will end up with a debt you can never repay.
- Don't be a guarantor for tenants. You will be dragged into a never-ending debt.

Stay away from a life of crime.

- Don't promote, advertise or carry out harassment acts for AT Lung.
- Don't provide bank accounts for fundraising activities.

For urgent police assistance, call 999.

Call to report fundraising activities (you can remain anonymous)

1000-1-22-10100  
1000-3-24-000

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING  
FINANCIAL ACTION  
UNITED KINGDOM  
1000-1-22-10100



Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the poster (Text 1) on page 2 for Questions 1-4.

- 1 'Ah Long' is a local dialect term for 'illegal loan sharks'. What effect does using a local term have instead of using the English term?  
[1]
- 2 To whom is the poster directed at?  
[1]
- 3 <sup>(message)</sup> How does the photograph illustrate the message the poster is trying to convey? Give two ways.  
[2]
- 4 Identify the emotion that the poster is trying to exploit in its viewers?  
[1]

Section B [20 marks]

Text 2

The excerpt of a science fiction story below tells of the adventures of two men who travelled to the center of the Earth. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5-13.

- 1 Together we stepped out to stand in silent meditation of a landscape at once weird and beautiful. Before us a low and level shore stretched down to a silent sapphire sea. As far as the eye could reach, the surface of the water was dotted with countless tiny islands - some of them spiked with towering ghostly granitic limbs while others cloaked in gorgeous accessories of tropical vegetation and the magnificent splendor of vivid blooms. 5
- 2 Behind us rose a shadowy and gloomy wood of tree-like ferns standing shoulder to shoulder with the commoner flora of a primitive tropical forest. Huge creepers descended in great loops from tree to tree, dense under-brush overgrew a tangled mass of fallen trunks and branches. Upon the outer edge we could see the same festive coloring of countless blossoms that glorified the islands, but within the dense shadows all seemed dark and miserable as the grave. And upon us, the noonday sun poured its strangling rays out of a cloudless sky. 10 15 20
- 3 "Where on earth can we be?" I asked, turning to Perry. "David," he said, "I am not so sure that we are ON earth, there is every reason to believe that we may be IN it..." but he got no further.
- 4 From behind us there came the most thunderous, awe-inspiring roar that ever had fallen upon my ears. Had I still retained the suspicion that we were still on earth, the sight that met my eyes would quite entirely have banished it. Emerging from the forest was a colossal beast which closely resembled a bear. It was fully as large as the largest elephant and with great forepaws armed with huge claws. Its nose, or snout, descended nearly a foot below its lower jaw, much after the manner of a trunk. The giant body was covered by a coat of thick, shaggy hair. 25 30
- 5 Roaring horribly it came toward us at a ponderous, shuffling trot. I turned to Perry to suggest that it might be wise to seek other surroundings, but



- he was already a hundred paces away. It was evident that the massive  
 beast pursuing us was not built for speed, so all that I considered  
 necessary was to get to the trees sufficiently ahead of it to enable me to  
 climb to the safety of some great branch before it came up. 35
- 6 Notwithstanding our danger, I could not help but laugh at Perry's frantic  
 capers. He was struggling to gain the safety of the lower branches of the  
 trees he now had reached. A dozen times he scrambled up the trunks like  
 a huge cat only to fall back to the ground once more, and with each failure  
 he cast a horrified glance over his shoulder at the oncoming brute,  
 simultaneously emitting terror-stricken shrieks that awoke the echoes of  
 the grim forest. At length, he spied a dangling creeper, just like one's  
 wrist, and when I reached the trees he was racing madly up it, hand over  
 hand. He had almost reached the lowest branch of the tree from which the  
 creeper descended when the thing parted beneath his weight and he fell  
 sprawling at my feet. 40 45
- 7 Perry's misfortune was now no longer amusing for the beast was already  
 too close to us for comfort. Seizing Perry by the shoulder I dragged him to  
 his feet, and rushing to a smaller tree - one that he could easily encircle  
 with his arms and legs - I boosted him as far up as I could, and then left  
 him to his fate, for a glance over my shoulder revealed the awful beast  
 almost upon me. 50 55
- 8 As it started in pursuit of me, I made the mistake of running along the  
 edge of the forest rather than making for the open beach. In a moment I  
 was knee-deep in rotting vegetation, and the awful thing behind me was  
 gaining rapidly as I flapped and fell in my efforts to extricate myself. A  
 fallen log gave me an instant's advantage, for climbing upon it I leaped to  
 another a few paces farther on, and in this way was able to keep clear of  
 the gluey mush that carpeted the surrounding ground. But the zigzag  
 course that this necessitated was placing such a heavy handicap upon  
 me that my pursuer was steadily gaining upon me. 60
- 9 Suddenly from behind I heard a fracas of howls, and sharp, piercing  
 barks. My mammoth enemy was surrounded by a pack of some hundred  
 creatures that rushed growling and snapping in upon it from all sides, so  
 that they sank their white fangs into the slow brute and were away again  
 before it could reach them with its huge paws or sweeping tail. But these  
were not all that my startled eyes perceived. Chattering and gibbering  
 through the lower branches of the trees came a company of manlike  
 creatures evidently urging on the ferocious pack. 65 70  
 shock, fear

Adapted from *At the Earth's Core* by Edgar Rice Burroughs

Refer to Text 2 above for questions 5 – 13.

- 5 At the beginning of this text the two men found themselves in an unfamiliar landscape. Explain how the language used in paragraph 1 makes the landscape appear 'at once weird and beautiful'.

Support your ideas with three details from paragraph 1.

---

[3]

- 6 Identify another set of words or phrases in Paragraph 2 which also suggests  
*magnificent splendor of vivid blooms*

(i) dense \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) dark and miserable

[2]

- 7 At the end of paragraph 2 the writer says 'the noonday sun poured its strangling rays out of a cloudless sky.'

(i) Which two words suggest the sun is a person?

(ii) Why does the writer describe the sun in this way?

[2]

- 8 In paragraph 3 Perry said, "I am not so sure that we are ON earth, there is every reason to believe that we may be IN it...". (lines 24-25)

Why are the words ON and IN capitalised?

---

[1]

- 9 'Had I still retained the suspicion that we were still on earth, the sight that met my eyes would quite entirely have banished it.' (lines 26-28)

Why did the sight of the beast manage to banish David's suspicion?

[1]

- 10 'The writer uses similes 'like a huge cat' (lines 41-42) and 'like one's wrist' (line 45-46). What quality do you think the author is trying to convey with each of these similes?

Simile	Quality
like a huge cat	
like one's wrist	

[2]

- 11 'A fallen log gave me an instant's advantage...' (lines 59-60). The logs actually proved to be both an advantage and a disadvantage to David. Give two evidence to support this idea.

[2]

- 2 Throughout the text there are several examples of how different David and Perry are. Give two such differences to show how true this is.

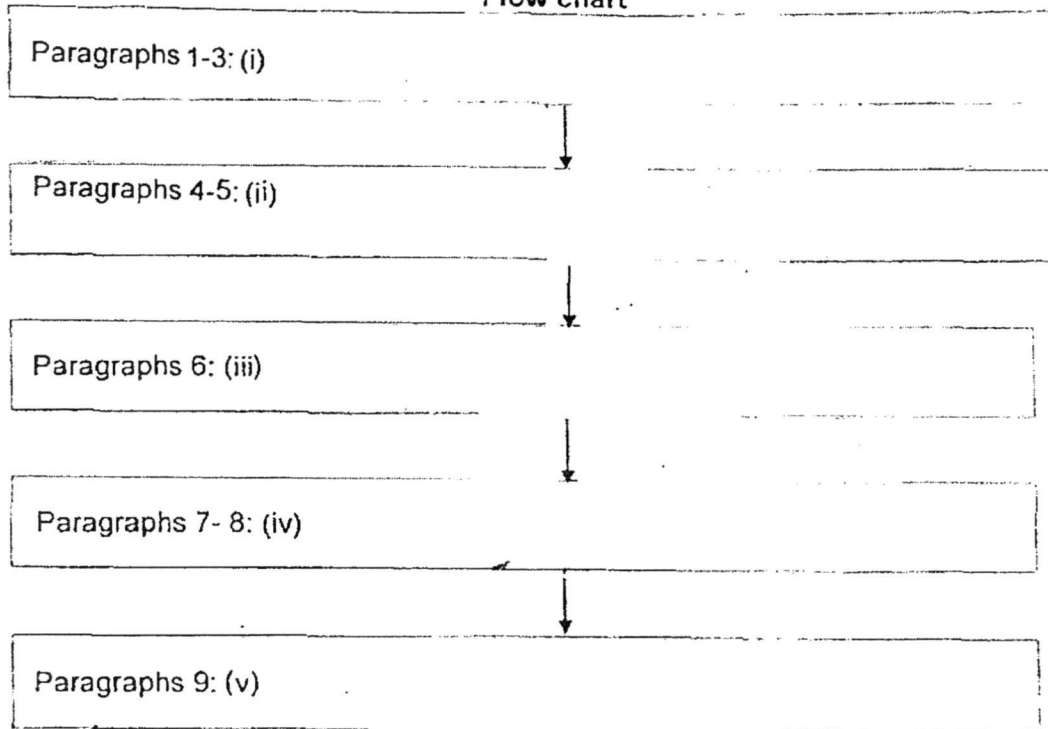
[2]

- 13 The structure of the text reflects the feelings experienced by the men as they reacted to the events that unfolded. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box to summarise David's main feeling described in each part of the text. The first one has been done for you. [4]

David's feelings

relief amusement shock fear safety wonder confusion desperation

Flow chart



Section C [25 marks]

Text 3

Below is an excerpt of an article on eradicating the mosquito menace. Read it carefully and answer questions 14-20.

- 1 Mosquitoes are undoubtedly a plague. There are more than 3500 species buzzing away from the Arctic to tropical swamps, bringing yellow fever, dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis, Rift Valley fever, West Nile virus and now Zika. So, if there is no strong ecological case for keeping them, why not try to exterminate them? 5
- 2 A race is on to do something about the Zika virus. A possible vaccine is years away, so that means doing something about its vector, the Aedes mosquito. But would there be an ecological downside to exterminating a creature whose only purpose seems to be to bother us? As with many predictions involving complex natural systems, a definite answer is impossible. Some ecologists worry about small changes having big unforeseen effects, and liken the complexity of ecosystems to that of an aircraft. Removing the odd rivet may seem harmless... until the aircraft suddenly falls out of the sky. But in reality, ecosystems seem to be mostly more resilient than planes. And nobody has come up with a key ecological job done by mosquitoes that other insects couldn't do just as well. 10 15
- 3 In addition, the world is full of examples of local mosquito eradications that have not brought ecological meltdown. Where there has been damage to other species, it tends to be a by-product of the method used – draining marshes or spraying insecticides – rather than the loss of the insects themselves. In the late 1950s, the world may have come close to eradicating malaria by targeting its host, the Anopheles mosquito, by spraying the insecticide DDT wherever it lived, before concerns about wider toxicity to wildlife saw its use curbed. The mosquitoes and the disease returned. 20
- 4 There exist several methods of eradication that have tackled various other insects. Notably the Sterile-Insect Technique, which swamps populations with sterile or infertile males, and has been used in the Americas to fight the Mediterranean fruit fly and the screw worm. The sterile-insect technique involves releasing millions of males sterilised by radiation. They are harmless to people because male mosquitoes, for instance, don't bite or spread diseases, unlike the female mosquitoes, which don't only feed on nectar. The females they mate with don't produce offspring because any embryos fertilised by the damaged sperm die – so provided sterile males outnumber wild ones, the population crashes. At present, many cities in tropical countries rely on spraying or "fogging" with pesticides to keep numbers down. This can harm a variety of animals besides the insects. Because the sterile-male approach affects only the target species 25 30 35

and can reduce pesticide use, it is seen as a green alternative.

- 5 Much the same effect can be achieved through genetic modification. Genetic engineering techniques mean it is possible to conceive of obliterating this insect entirely. Right now the leading plan for tackling Zika in Brazil is to flood populations of *Aedes* with males engineered to contain a lethal gene that kills their offspring, causing the population to crash. The technology has been successfully used in the north-east of the country since 2011 in an attempt to control another disease *Aedes* carries, Dengue fever. 40
- 6 Releasing sterile males has long been used as a measure to reduce or even eradicate populations of wild insects without harmful side effects. But now it's been shown that equipping these infertile males with a chemical or biological payload massively boosts their destructive power. Giving mosquitoes these weapons helps keep them under control. Call them *hommes fatales*. This newer method of eradicating pests is to coat adults with larvae-killing viruses or pesticides that they then carry to breeding sites. This could be particularly useful for tackling *Aedes* mosquitoes, which breed in tiny pockets of water around dwellings such as rainwater-filled containers that are hard to target with sprays. Field studies show that the approach works – the tricky part is finding ways of coating lots of wild mosquitoes. 45 50
- 7 Researchers knew that male mosquitoes attempt to mate with lots of females, so these scientists decided to combine the approaches. The idea was that coated sterile males would not only prevent the females they successfully mate with from having offspring, but would also transfer the pesticides to the bodies of other females they try to mate with. These females would then transfer them to the water where they lay their eggs, killing any larvae there. Pesticide-loaded sterile males would be far preferable to indiscriminate fogging, but it may not even be necessary to use any pesticides. There are plans to use sterile males to spread a type of virus called a *densovirus*. Some members of this group only infect and kill the larvae of specific mosquito species. 55 60
- 8 As the world waits breathlessly for a Zika vaccine, nobody should underestimate the difficulty of eradicating one of the world's most successful insects by various means, from the less sophisticated draining of marshes to the more state-of-the-art genetic warfare. But it is worth remembering that once before, despite concerns about nature's fragility, we nearly did for them. 65

Adapted from *So long suckers: Would it be safe to wipe out mosquitoes?* <http://www.science.gov/>

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to Text 3 for questions 14 – 20.

- 14 How can mosquitoes be considered a plague, according to Paragraph 1? Give 3 factors.

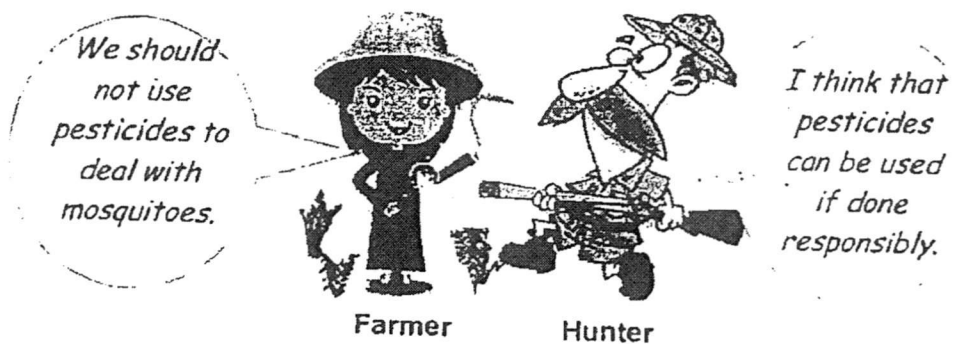
[3]

- 15 'Removing the odd rivet may seem harmless... until the aircraft suddenly falls out of the sky.' (line 12-13)

What does this sentence have to do with the mosquito menace? Answer in your own words.

[1]

16. Here is a part of a conversation between a farmer and a hunter who have read the article.



(i) Identify evidence from paragraph 3 that the farmer can use to support her view.

[1]


*- process*  
(ii) How would the hunter explain his position with reference to paragraph 3?

[1]

17 What are the dietary habits of the male and female mosquitoes, according to Paragraph 4?

[2]

Male mosquitoes feed on...	
Female mosquitoes feed on...	

18 With reference to the italicised word, what does '*flood* populations of *Aedes*' (lines 39-40) mean? 

19 The writer describes genetic warfare as state-of-the-art (line 68).  
*↳ expensive? admirable?*  
Explain why the writer chooses to describe genetic warfare with this underlined phrase.

[1]

- 20 Using your own words as far as possible, summarize the possible ways to deal with the mosquito menace.

Use only information from paragraphs 4 to 8 of text 3.

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).

*One method of dealing with the mosquito menace is the*



2016 Sec 3 Northland Secondary English SA1 Answers

PAPER 1

Section A

- |     |                 |                  |
|-----|-----------------|------------------|
| Q1  | <u>is</u>       | <u>was</u>       |
| Q2  | <u>life</u>     | <u>live</u>      |
| Q3  | No error        | ✓                |
| Q4  | <u>since</u>    | <u>during</u>    |
| Q5  | <u>which</u>    | <u>who</u>       |
| Q6  | No error        | ✓                |
| Q7  | <u>offering</u> | <u>offerings</u> |
| Q8  | <u>but</u>      | <u>and</u>       |
| Q9  | <u>cause</u>    | <u>causing</u>   |
| Q10 | <u>A</u>        | <u>The</u>       |

## PAPER 2

### Section A

Q1      The local term is instantly recognisable to locals.  
            The local term is more commonly used.  
            Using a local dialect brings the message closer to viewers.

Q2      At people who are :

- unable to obtain loan from banks or other legal sources, mostly habitual gamblers.
- at risk of borrowing money from 'Ah Longs'.
- likely to be guarantors for those who borrow from 'Ah Longs'.
- considering helping out with 'Ah Long' activities.

Q3      a)      your family will be placed in danger.  
            b)      your home will be vandalized.  
            c)      your association with Ah Longs will be made public and brought humiliation to the families.

Q4      Fear

**Section B**

- Q5
- The 'sapphire sea' suggests a sea that was as beautiful as a blue jewel.
  - but is 'silent', lacking the normal sound of waves.
  - some islands had 'towering ghostly granitic limbs', strangely shaped mountains.
  - while others were 'cloaked in gorgeous accessories', covered in beautiful decorations of plants and flowers.

- Q6
- i) shoulder to shoulder.
  - ii) shadowy and gloomy.

- Q7
- i) 'poured' and 'strangling'
  - ii) He wanted to show the sun being brutally hot.

Q8 To indicate that Perry was emphasising how wrong David was in thinking that they were still on earth when in fact they were inside it.

Q9 The beast looked like a mix of different animals put together. The beast could not possibly have existed on earth.

Q10

Simile	Quality
like a huge cat	agility (of a cat)
like one's wrist	thickness (of a person's wrist)

Q11 • The logs helped David to extricate himself from the marshy ground.

OR

- David managed to flee the beast by leaping from log to log.
- The zigzag arrangement of the logs forced him to take a longer route than that of the beast directly charging at him.

Q12 • Perry knew that they were at the earth's core, showing himself to be more knowledgeable than David was.

- David was concerned about Perry finding refuge from the beast with him, but Perry was already fleeing in fear and not bothering about David.
- Perry was panicky, scrambling up a tree, while David could find humour even in the face of danger.
- Perry could only try to save himself by climbing up a tree while David helped push Perry up the tree before fleeing to save himself.
- Perry was clumsy and kept falling down the tree while David was more physically fit.

Q13

- i) wonder
- ii) fear
- iii) amusement
- iv) desperation
- v) shock

Section C

- Q14
- i) There are more than 3500 species of mosquitos (numerous).
  - ii) They can be found from the Arctic to tropical swamps (widespread).
  - iii) They transmit many dangerous diseases.

Q15 If the mosquito is removed from the ecosystem, it is feared out that the ecosystem might collapse (as mosquito might have an unknown importantrole in nature).

- Q16
- i) Pesticides are harmful to other animals (cause damage to other species/wider toxicity to wildlife).
  - ii) Pesticides are effective in dealing with the mosquito menace.

Q17

Male mosquitoes feed on...	Nectar
Female mosquitoes feed on...	Nectar and blood

Q18 It means to saturate/overwhelm/send very large numbers into the Aedes populations.

Q19 (To pronoun/define) genetic warfare as the latest/most modern/most sophisticated (method of dealing with mosquitoes).

End

