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NAME: _____ ()

CLASS: _____



FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOL (SECONDARY)

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2023
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1184/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

Date: 21 August 2023

Duration: 1 hour 50 minutes

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains Text 1, Text 2, Text 3 and Text 4.

Setters: Mr Joseph Guo and Ms Felicia Lai

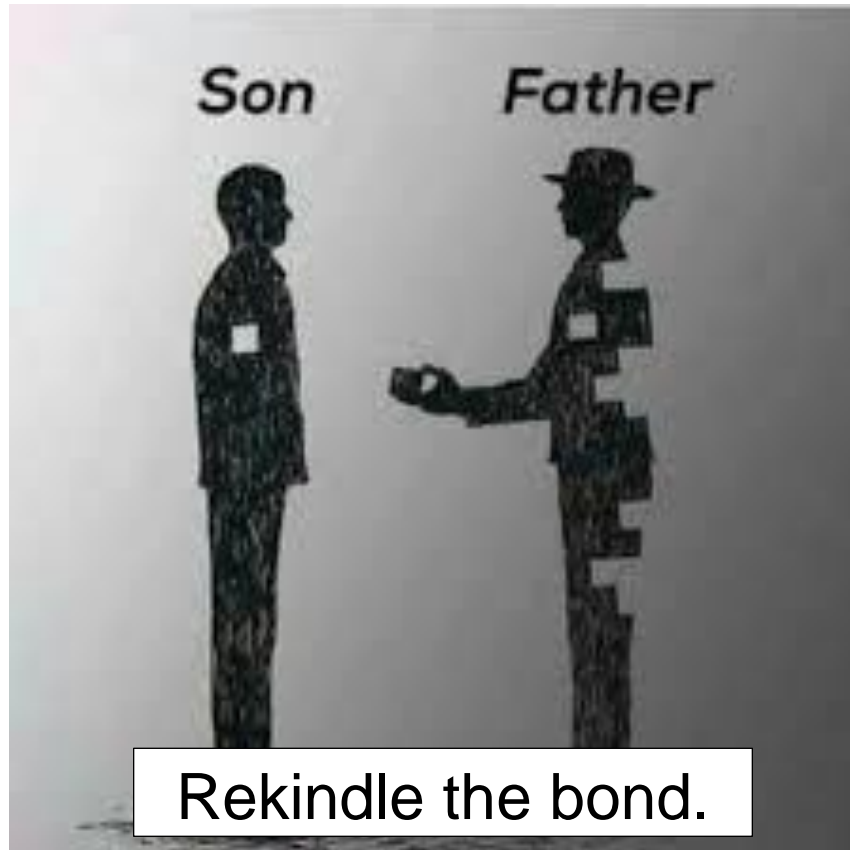
This insert consists of 6 printed pages including the cover page.

[Turn over

Section A

Study the online advertisement (**Text 1**) and the social media post (**Text 2**) and answer Questions 1-4 in the Question Paper.

Text 1 is taken from an online advertisement for Celebrating Dads 2022.



Join us on 18 June from 8:30am to 5pm and have fun with your family in the Dad's Day Out Challenge @ Sentosa! What's more, complete the challenges and redeem an attractive goodie bag!

Text 2 is taken from a social media post on celebrating Father's Day.

The importance of a father cannot be neglected, ignored, overlooked or underestimated. The father-child relationship serves as a foundation of emotional support, guidance, and love. To honour fathers' efforts and contributions in society, a special day is observed every year as Father's Day.

Section B**Text 3**

The text below describes Tuk's and the writer's experiences in the Amazon rainforest.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5-13 in the Question Paper.

- 1 Amidst the echoing calls in the heart of the sultry Amazon rainforest, Tuk and I encountered grave peril. We forced our way through branches that protruded like swords to assault us. The damp leaves threatened to send us plummeting to our demise. Even the towering trunks were poised to ensnare us in their treacherous grip. However, we were determined and not put off by the jungle's rough greeting. 5
- 2 For days, each step took us deeper into unexplored territory that was filled with unseen mysteries and the constant hum of life teeming all around us. Fortunately, my guide, Tuk, was a seasoned native. From the engulfing greens of the leaves and musky aroma of jungle flowers to the earthy scent of the soil beneath our feet, Tuk moved with the grace and ease of a jaguar. As I followed closely behind, my eyes meticulously scanned the entire terrain for any signs of impending danger, while he skillfully wielded his sharp machete to slice through the dense foliage as easily as a hot knife through butter. 10
- 3 As the sun began to dip below the horizon, we finally arrived at a clearing. In the heart of this vast expanse, a colossal stone temple arose splendidly, while its pyramids exuded an aura of awe. However, their edges bore the marks of centuries of exposure to the elements. The faded carvings on the stones, ancient glyphs and symbols, were all that remained. These were woven together like a tapestry of the past, narrating the story of a civilisation long lost to the sands of time. The air around it seemed to pulsate with a palpable sense of history and mystery, as if the temple held secrets and knowledge that had long been forgotten. 15
- 4 Moving forward with caution, Tuk firmly gripped the hilt of his machete. I followed closely, my heart pounding with excitement and fear. We climbed the steep and narrow steps of the pyramid, which were covered in a layer of moss and vines. After overcoming this treacherous ascent, we finally reached the top! Our senses were awakened with the thrill of discovery as we gazed upon an endless expanse of green stretching as far as the eye could see. The trees and vines below us seemed to stretch out into infinity, while the tangled and impenetrable mass of vegetation could swallow up a man in moments. 20
25
- 5 Suddenly, a deafening rumbling filled the air, and the ground began to shake. Tuk shouted urgently in his native tongue. With fear etched on his face, he scanned the horizon for any sign of what was to come. My blood froze as an immense wave of water surged towards me. Tuk grabbed my arm, pulling me towards the edge of the pyramid, his grip tight and unyielding. We looked out across the water, watching as the wave grew closer and closer. Its relentless force was akin to stampeding elephants, threatening to burst from the sheer intensity of the moment. My mind raced as I tried to process what was happening. As the wave hit us, I was thrown from my feet, tumbling down the steep steps of the pyramid and crashing into the foliage below. The final impact was brutal for me. My body slammed into the hard earth with a sickening thud, and I could feel a wave of immense pain lancing through my leg like a white-hot poker. 30
35
- 6 As the water receded, a trail of destruction was left in its wake. I struggled to my feet, my body aching and bruised. Tuk descended the pyramid with a determined expression, scanning the clearing for any sign of danger. I followed him, my heart still racing from the adrenaline of the moment. It was already evening. We had to navigate our way efficiently through the jungle and quickly start a fire at the campsite, as we did not want the darkness to envelope the jungle like a 40

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thick blanket. Eventually, dancing flames emerged, casting eerie shadows across the jungle. We sat in silence, our minds still reeling from the day's events.

Finally, Tuk spoke in a sombre tone, "This is a sacred place. We must be careful, for the jungle is a wild and dangerous place. It does not forgive those who do not respect it."

45

I nodded, understanding the gravity of his intonation in this matter.

(Adapted from 'The Lost Symbol' by Dan Brown, 2009)

Section C

Text 4

The text below is about sneaker culture.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 14-21 in the Question Paper.

- 1 In the millennial-driven online luxury market, streetwear, athleisure and sports lifestyle brands are in the ascendant. Premium sneakers are ubiquitous on the feet of star athletes, musicians, and celebrities around the world. Such high-profile collaborations fuel a multi-billion-dollar global sneaker resale market that is expected to grow exponentially over the coming decade.

- 2 First invented in the 1860s in England for the upper-class playing racket games, sneakers were long associated with function over fashion and did not achieve widespread recognition until the latter half of the 20th century. When the jogging and aerobics craze of the 1970s took off – one in which fitness was fun and anyone could be an athlete – sneakers began to gain traction as a fashion statement. However, their defining moment did not come until 1984 when Nike turned its sights to endorsing athletes. Michael Jordan received an unprecedented \$500,000 a year endorsement deal. With the rising star now sporting the brand’s sneakers on the court and Jordan’s sneakers notoriously violating the dress code on the court, sneakers were symbolic not only of Jordan’s exceptional talent, but of his willingness to challenge authority. As Jordan proved to be one of the greatest basketball players of all time, the sneaker’s fame skyrocketed. Nike’s Air Jordans debuted in stores the following year to whirlwind success and sparked a growing interest and fascination with collecting sneakers amongst enthusiasts. 5
10
15

- 3 Sneaker culture began to take off beyond the basketball court too. Music groups well-liked by many released songs enthusiastically praising sneakers, which earned them endorsement deals with sneaker brands. For example, the influential hip-hop group Run-D.M.C. released their single 'My Adidas' in 1986. This undoubtedly increased the sneaker brand’s visibility. Meanwhile, another cultural shift was taking place as white-collar businesses introduced casual Fridays. This led to a proliferation of men’s fashion items as men were suddenly allowed to put their suits aside and express their identity through accessories like shoes. 20

- 4 Nevertheless, the act of collecting sneakers remained a niche until the dawn of the digital age, when the advent of online marketplaces made possible a robust and wide-reaching secondary market. As resellers began to mark the sneakers up at incredible costs, such actions only reinforced how special these shoes were. In fact, more collaborations between celebrities and luxury fashion houses like Chanel, Dior and Louis Vuitton led to the release of several novel designs. By the mid-2010s, sneakers had become recognised status symbols—literally, in the case of hip-hop artiste Drake, who, in 2016, commissioned a one-of-a-kind pair of Air Jordans wrapped in 24-carat solid gold, which was retailed at an exorbitant \$2.1 million. Wearing rare and cool sneakers became an expression of one’s social status. While sneakerheads¹ have drawn some flak for the lifestyle which they embody, it is not truly reflective of the whole culture. For some, this is simply a matter of personal preference and choice. 25
30

- 5 While some collectors of sneakers treat it purely as an investment, others want to own these coveted pairs because they want to be a part of the stories behind these shoes. Owning sneakers can help one to feel connected to brands, people and cultural movements. Collecting sneakers has also brought sneakerheads a true sense of community through shared experiences, such as camping out all night for a release or looking out for one another on release day to get the pair of sneakers that they really want. Wearing sneakers also helps people to express their personal 35
40

¹ sneakerheads - sports shoe enthusiasts

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beliefs. For instance, NBA player Dwyane Wade wore his custom-designed, limited-edition 'Black Lives Matter' Li-Nings on the court to raise awareness about the movement.

- 6 Decades after the introduction of the first pair of sneakers, they continue to captivate our imagination, reflecting individual style, athleticism, and a passion for collecting unique designs.

(Adapted from 'How Sneaker Culture Took Over the World' by National Geographic, 2023, 'The Rise of Sneaker Culture: Air Jordans and Beyond' by Sotheby's, 2022 and 'How Collecting Sneakers Became a Multi-Billion-Dollar Industry' by CNN, 2021)

~ End of Insert ~

NAME: _____ ()

CLASS: _____



FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOL (SECONDARY)

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2023
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1184/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

Date: 21 August 2023

Duration: 1 hour 50 minutes

Candidates answer on this Question Paper.
Additional Material: Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and register number in the spaces provided on **page 1** and **page 8** of this question paper.

Submit **Sections A, B and C (pages 1-7)** and the **summary section (page 8)** separately.

Write in dark blue or black ballpoint pen.

Do not use pencils, staples, paper clips, glue, correction fluid/tape or highlighters.

Answer **all** questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided on this Question Paper.

The Insert contains the texts for Sections A, B and C.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

FOR EXAMINER'S USE	
Section A	/5
Section B	/20
Section C (Comprehension)	/10
Section C (Summary)	/15
Total	/50

Setters: Mr Joseph Guo and Ms Felicia Lai

This question paper consists of 8 printed pages including the cover page.

[Turn over

Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the online advertisement (**Text 1**) and the social media post (**Text 2**) on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1-4.

1 Look at Text 1. Tick (✓) the most effective title for the image in this advertisement.

Generations united as one

Selfless act of kinship

Passing on the legacy

[1]

2 The advertisement states 'Rekindle the bond.'. What does the writer mean by this sentence 'Rekindle the bond.'? Answer in **your own words**.

.....
.....

[1]

3 Identify the sentence in Text 2 which supports the reason why it is important to 'rekindle the bond'.

.....
.....

[1]

4 Look at Texts 1 and 2 and the statements (a) and (b) below.

Decide whether the statements refer to Text 1, Text 2, both texts, or neither text.

Circle the answer you have chosen for each statement.

(a) Readers are asked to join the writer in taking action.

Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither

(b) The tone suggests the writer and reader are of the same status.

Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither

[2]

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 3 on pages 3 and 4 of the Insert for Questions 5-13.

5 The writer claimed that ‘in the heart of the sultry Amazon rainforest, Tuk and I encountered grave peril.’ (lines 1-2). Explain how this claim is supported with reference to **three** pieces of evidence from Paragraph 1.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

[3]

6 In Paragraph 2, the writer says, ‘Fortunately, my guide, Tuk, was a seasoned native.’ (lines 7-8).

(a) Identify **two** pieces of evidence which convey that Tuk was a seasoned native.

.....
.....

[2]

(b) What does the writer's use of the word ‘Fortunately’ suggest about his attitude towards Tuk's presence in the Amazon rainforest?

.....
.....

[1]

7 In Paragraph 3, Tuk and the writer saw a temple in ‘the heart of this vast expanse’ (lines 13-14). Explain how the language used in this paragraph makes the temple appear majestic. Support your answer with **two** details from Paragraph 3.

.....
.....
.....
.....

[2]

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8 From Paragraph 4, give **two** reasons why climbing the pyramid was considered hazardous.

.....
..... [2]

9 Identify **one** word in Paragraph 4 which suggests that the vegetation appeared inaccessible.

..... [1]

10 In Paragraph 5, the writer says, 'My blood froze' (line 29).

(a) What does this phrase suggest about the writer's feelings at that moment?

..... [1]

(b) Why did the writer feel this way? Answer in **your own words**.

.....
..... [1]

11 Give **two** details from Paragraph 5 which tell us that 'The final impact was brutal' (lines 34-35) for the writer.

.....
..... [2]

12 Identify two separate words in Paragraph 6 that convey the seriousness of Tuk's tone.

..... [1]

- 13 The structure of the text reflects Tuk's and the writer's experiences in the Amazon rainforest at different stages of the narrative. Complete the flow chart by choosing one phrase from the box to summarise the stage in each part of the text. There are some extra phrases in the box that you do not need to use.

Tuk's and the writer's experiences

facing a terrifying natural force

immersing ourselves in historic wonders

witnessing battles

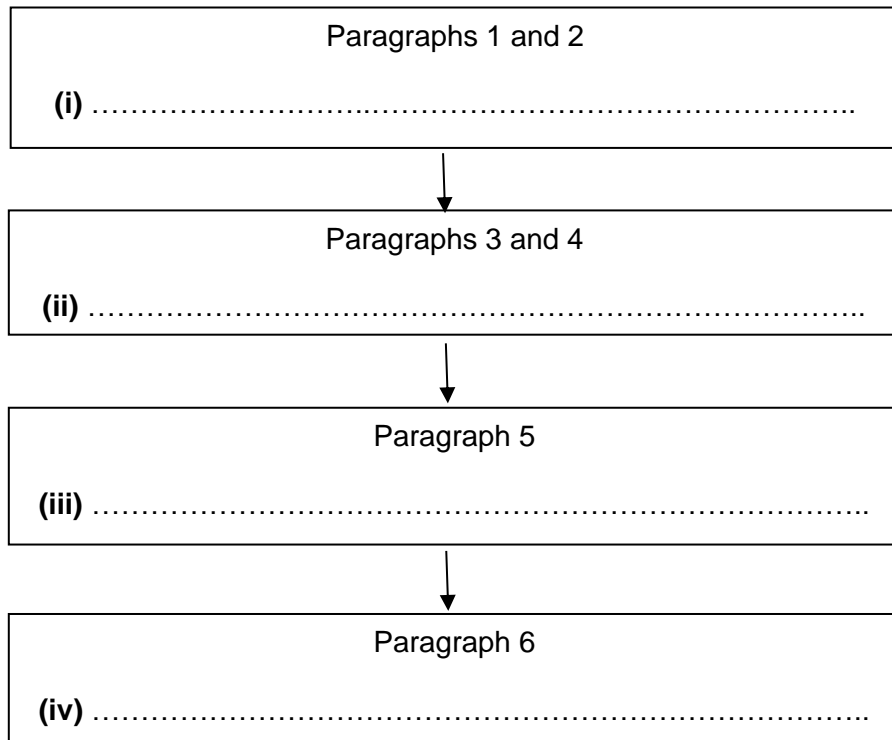
embracing an indifferent reaction

navigating the untamed wilderness

engaging in suspicious activities

persevering through nature's challenging aftermath

Flow chart



[4]

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CLASS: _____

Section C [25 marks]

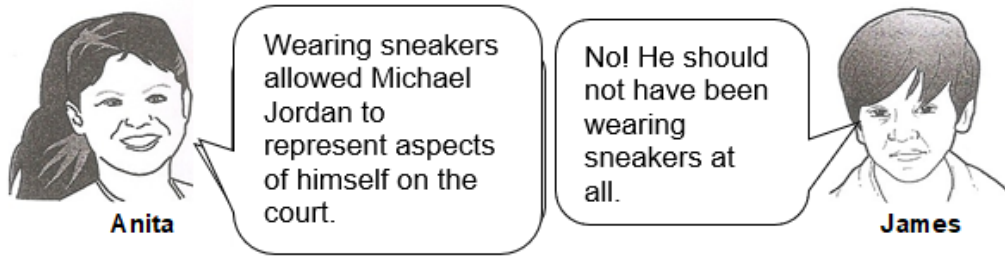
Refer to Text 4 on pages 5 and 6 of the Insert for Questions 14-21.

- 14** Identify **one** phrase of not more than 3 words from Paragraph 1 which suggests the idea of increasingly powerful.
..... [1]
- 15** In Paragraph 1, premium sneakers are described as 'ubiquitous' (line 2). What does 'ubiquitous' suggest about the sneakers?
.....
..... [1]
- 16** From Paragraph 2, what were sneakers first associated with?
..... [1]
- 17** With reference to Paragraph 2, which **two** 2-word phrases suggest that sneakers enjoyed rising popularity?
..... [2]
- 18** With reference to Paragraph 2, provide **one** example that conveys Nike's shift in focus to supporting athletes.
.....
..... [1]
- 19** In Paragraph 2, 'whirlwind' is used to describe the success of Nike's Air Jordans after its debut. What does 'whirlwind' suggest about the success of Nike's Air Jordans?
.....
..... [1]

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20 Here is a part of a conversation between two students, Anita and James, who have read the article.



(a) Give **two** pieces of evidence from Paragraph 2 to support Anita's view.

(i)

.....

(ii)

.....

[2]

(b) Give **one** piece of evidence from Paragraph 2 that would support James' view.

.....

.....

[1]

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FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOL (SECONDARY)

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2023
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1184/02

Paper 2 Comprehension (ANSWER SCHEME)

Date: 21 August 2023

Duration: 1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This paper contains the answer scheme to the visual, narrative and non-narrative comprehension sections of Paper 2.

Setters: Mr Joseph Guo and Ms Felicia Lai

This answer scheme consists of 8 printed pages including the cover page.

[Turn over

NAME: _____ ()

CLASS: _____

Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the online advertisement (**Text 1**) and the social media post (**Text 2**) on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1-4.

1	Look at Text 1. Tick (✓) the most effective title for the image in this advertisement.	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Generations united as one
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Selfless act of kinship
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Passing on the legacy
		[1]
2	The advertisement states 'Rekindle the bond.'. What does the writer mean by this sentence 'Rekindle the bond.'? Answer in your own words .	
	It means <u>reviving the connection / relationship.</u>	
		[1]
3	Identify the sentence in Text 2 which supports the reason why it is important to 'rekindle the bond'.	
	The sentence is 'The father-child relationship serves as a foundation of emotional support, guidance, and love.'	
		[1]
4	Look at Texts 1 and 2 and the statements (a) and (b) below.	
	Decide whether the statements refer to Text 1, Text 2, both texts, or neither text.	
	Circle the answer you have chosen for each statement.	
	(a) Readers are asked to join the writer in taking action.	
	Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither	
	(b) The tone suggests the writer and reader are of the same status.	
	Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither	
		[2]

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 3 on pages 3 and 4 of the Insert for Questions 5-13.

- 5 The writer claimed that 'in the heart of the sultry Amazon rainforest, Tuk and I encountered grave peril.' (lines 1-2). Explain how this claim is supported with reference to **three** pieces of evidence from Paragraph 1.

'branches that **protruded** like **swords** to **assault** us' suggests that the branches are **sharp** (like swords) and **stuck out / extended / reached out prominently** to **attack/ injure /hurt** the writer and Tuk. [1]

'The **damp** leaves **threatened** to **send** us **plummeting** to our **demise**' suggests the **wet** leaves **posed the risk of making us plunge** to our **death**. [1]

'(Even the) **towering** trunks were **poised** to **ensnare** us in their **treacherous** grip' suggests '(Even the) **extremely tall /looming /imposing** trunks were **ready to capture/ catch / trap** us **in a dangerous manner**.' [1] [3]

- 6 In Paragraph 2, the writer says, 'Fortunately, my guide, Tuk, was a seasoned native.' (lines 7-8).

(a) Identify **two** pieces of evidence which convey that Tuk was a seasoned native.

'(Tuk) moved with the grace and ease of a jaguar' [1m]

AND

'(he) skillfully wielded his sharp machete to slice through the dense foliage as easily as a hot knife through butter' [1m] [2]

(b) What does the writer's use of the word 'Fortunately' suggest about his attitude towards Tuk's presence in the Amazon rainforest?

The writer's use of the word 'Fortunately' suggests that he was **relieved /grateful** for Tuk's presence in the Amazon rainforest.

OR

The writer's use of the word 'Fortunately' suggests that his attitude towards Tuk's presence in the Amazon rainforest was one of **relief /gratefulness /gratitude**. [1]

- 7 In Paragraph 3, Tuk and the writer saw a temple in 'the heart of this vast expanse' (lines 13-14). Explain how the language used in this paragraph makes the temple appear majestic. Support your answer with **two** details from Paragraph 3.

'a **colossal** stone temple arose **splendidly**' suggests a **huge /massive /enormous** stone temple stood up **magnificently /impressively /grandly**. [1m]

'its pyramids exuded **an aura of awe**' suggests its pyramids emitted / radiated/ evoked **a sense of reverential wonder/amazement**. [1m] [2]

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8 From Paragraph 4, give **two** reasons why climbing the pyramid was considered hazardous.

It was because the steps of the pyramid were steep and narrow [1m]

AND

It was because the steps of the pyramid were covered in a layer of moss and vines. [1m] [2]

9 Identify **one** word in Paragraph 4 which suggests that the vegetation appeared inaccessible.

'impenetrable' [1]

10 In Paragraph 5, the writer says, 'My blood froze' (line 29).

(a) What does this phrase suggest about the writer's feelings at that moment?

The writer felt very frightened. [1]

(b) Why did the writer feel this way? Answer in **your own words.**

From the Passage

It was because an immense wave of water surged towards the writer.

Own Words

It was because a huge /enormous /massive /gigantic rush of water burst /gushed / moved suddenly and powerfully in the direction of the writer. [1]

11 Give **two** details from Paragraph 5 which tell us that 'The final impact was brutal' (lines 34-35) for the writer.

The writer's body slammed into the hard earth with a sickening thud. [1m]

AND

The writer could feel a wave of immense pain lancing through his leg like a white-hot poker. [1m] [2]

12 Identify two separate words in Paragraph 6 that convey the seriousness of Tuk's tone.

'sombre' and 'gravity' [1]

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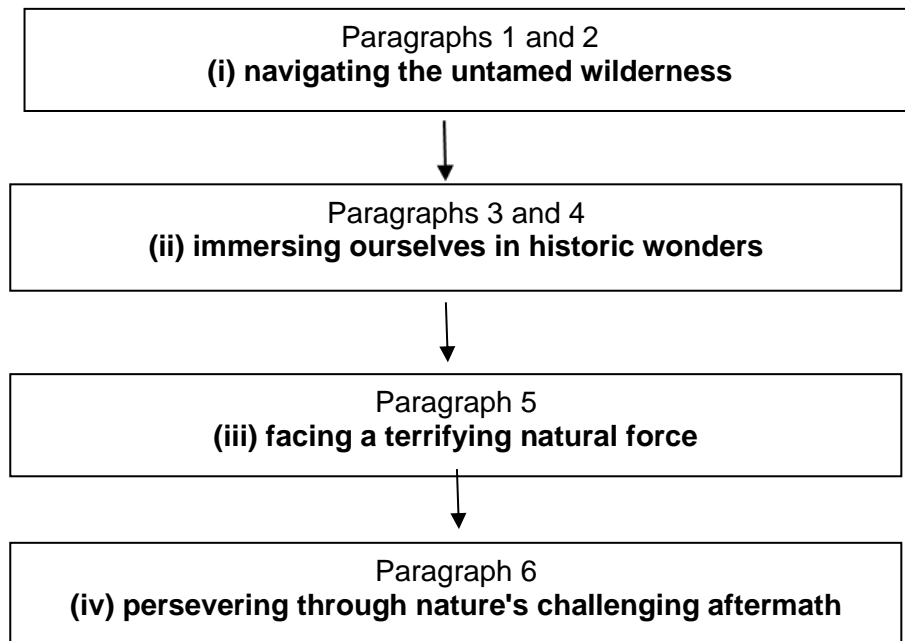
CLASS: _____

- 13 The structure of the text reflects Tuk's and the writer's experiences in the Amazon rainforest at different stages of the narrative. Complete the flow chart by choosing one phrase from the box to summarise the stage in each part of the text. There are some extra phrases in the box that you do not need to use.

Tuk's and the writer's experiences

facing a terrifying natural force
immersing ourselves in historic wonders
witnessing battles
embracing an indifferent reaction
navigating the untamed wilderness
engaging in suspicious activities
persevering through nature's challenging aftermath

Flow chart



[4]

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to Text 4 on pages 5 and 6 of the Insert for Questions 14-21.

- 14 Identify **one** phrase of not more than 3 words from Paragraph 1 which suggests the idea of increasingly powerful.

The phrase is 'in the ascendant'. [1]

- 15 In Paragraph 1, premium sneakers are described as 'ubiquitous' (line 2). What does 'ubiquitous' suggest about the sneakers?

The sneakers are appearing everywhere/ can be found everywhere/ have a pervasive presence. [1]

- 16 From Paragraph 2, what were sneakers first associated with?

Sneakers were first associated with function over fashion. [1]

- 17 With reference to Paragraph 2, which **two** 2-word phrases suggest that sneakers enjoyed rising popularity?

The phrases are 'gain traction' [1] and 'growing interest'. [1] [2]

DNA:

- 'fame skyrocketed'
 - 'rising popularity' suggests a steady increase in popularity, while 'fame skyrocketed' emphasises a sudden and substantial surge in fame.
- 'widespread recognition'
 - highlights an extensive acknowledgement across a broad audience, while "rising popularity" emphasises the increasing level of interest and acceptance over time.

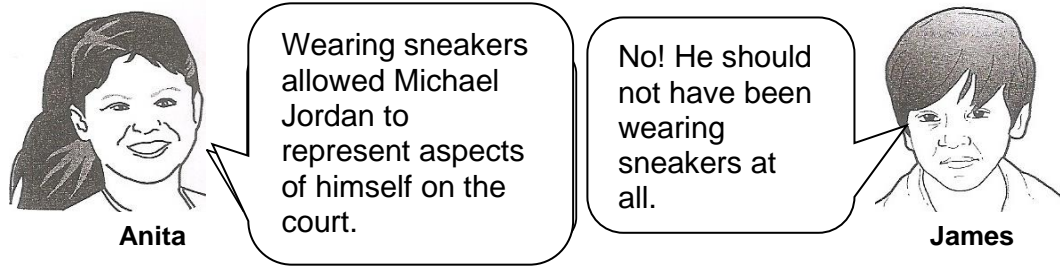
- 18 With reference to Paragraph 2, provide **one** example that conveys Nike's shift in focus to supporting athletes.

Michael Jordan received an unprecedented \$500,000 a year endorsement deal. [1]

- 19 In Paragraph 2, 'whirlwind' is used to describe the success of Nike's Air Jordans after its debut. What does 'whirlwind' suggest about the success of Nike's Air Jordans?

It suggests that Nike's Air Jordans achieved rapid / extremely/ very quick success. [1]

20 Here is a part of a conversation between two students, Anita and James, who have read the article.



(a) Give **two** pieces of evidence from Paragraph 2 to support Anita's view.

- (i) Sneakers were symbolic of Jordan's exceptional talent.
- (ii) Sneakers were symbolic of Jordan's willingness to challenge authority. [2]

(b) Give **one** piece of evidence from Paragraph 2 that would support James' view.

Jordan's sneakers were notoriously violating the dress code on the court. [1]

21 Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the reasons behind the rise of sneaker culture and why individuals enjoy collecting sneakers, as outlined in the text.

Use only information from Paragraphs 3 to 5 of Text 4.

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

Some reasons behind the rise of sneaker culture include ... [15]

No.	Reasons behind the rise of sneaker culture (R) / Why individuals enjoy collecting sneakers (I) (From passage)	Line(s)	Reasons behind the rise of sneaker culture (R) / Why individuals enjoy collecting sneakers (I) (Own Words)
R1	Music groups well-liked by many released songs enthusiastically praising sneakers, undoubtedly increased the sneaker brand's visibility.	17-20	the launch of songs lauding sneakers by popular music groups.
R2	white-collar businesses introduced casual Fridays ... men were suddenly allowed to express their identity through their shoes.	21-23	White-collar businessmen unexpectedly received permission to showcase their identity through shoes on Casual Fridays.
R3	the advent of online marketplaces made possible a robust and wide-reaching secondary market.	25-26	The emergence of online marketplaces enabled a strong and extensive secondary market.

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R4	As resellers began to mark those shoes up at incredible costs , it only reinforced how special they were	26-27	As resellers massively increased sneakers' prices , it emphasised their uniqueness .
R5	more collaborations between celebrities and luxury fashion houses ... led to the release of several novel designs .	27-29	Increased partnerships between celebrities and luxury fashion houses unveiled many original/unique sneakers .
I1	...sneakers became an expression of one's social status	32	Sneakers showcased one's social standing
I2	They want to be part of the stories behind them .	36	People desire inclusion in sneaker narratives
I3	Owning sneakers can help one to feel connected to brands, people and cultural movements .	36-37	Sneaker ownership fosters brand, people and cultural connections .
I4	Collecting sneakers has also brought sneakerheads a true sense of community through shared experiences	37-38	Collecting sneakers bonds sneakerheads via common experiences .
I5	Wearing sneakers also helps people to express their personal beliefs .	40-41	and aids self-expression .

[15 marks]

~ End of Answer Scheme ~