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**BUKIT PANJANG GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL
MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2015
SEC 4ENA5N ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2**

INSERT

Section A

Text 1

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

THE LIFE

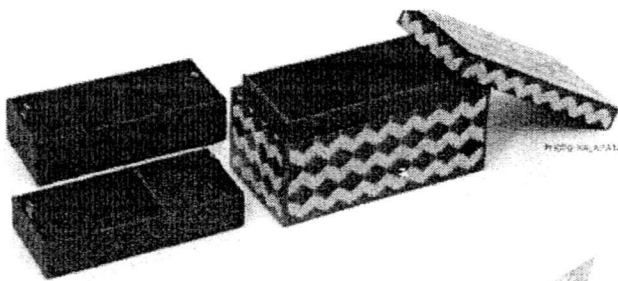
YOUR **E-GUIDE** TO THE GOOD LIFE

DESIGN

Objects of Desire

Add a fresh jolt of colour to your home
with these bold, beautiful items.

TEXT BY DENYSE YEO



Peranakan-inspired hand-made lacquer boxes, with fully-lined interior in hand-woven fabric and two removable trays
by **Kala Pata**

\$195 each, from kapok at National Design Centre,
#01-05, 111 Middle Road, tel : 6339-7987

Bold and beautiful

Objects to perk up
the home

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Section B

Text 2

This passage gives us a glimpse of India as a land of contradictions. It is a thriving economic superpower but also has some of the poorest people on earth.

Read it carefully and answer Questions 6 to 13 in the Question Paper Booklet.

"You must have seen the people foraging through that huge garbage dump on the outskirts of Delhi," the Indian paper tycoon remarked.

"The beggars, looking for food?" I asked. "Of course I've seen them."

But that was all I had done. Seen them, then quickly turned away, covering my nose although the car windows were rolled up and the banks of the four-lane highway were planted with bougainvillea bushes to hide a square mile of fetid garbage with vultures circling overhead. 5

"They're not beggars," the tycoon corrected me. "They're rag pickers – supplying raw material to us in the paper industry."

I was shocked. "You mean people working in those subhuman conditions are on your payroll? You hire them to live like that?" 10

"Of course I don't bloody hire them," he said in irritation. "They collect rags and sell them to a contractor. If you are looking for a convenient phrase, you might say these people are self-employed."

Well, talk about the unacceptable origins of capitalism.

"Actually, it's only an extension of the kind of work they have always done," the tycoon explained kindly. "They're all untouchables* by caste. Local sweepers." 15

Intrigued by these self-employed people, so evidently masters of their own destiny, I got out of the car and made my way toward the tiny figures in the middle of that grey landscape. The handkerchief covering my face did little to protect me from the quicksand under my feet. Why hadn't I realized this garbage dump would not be solid ground? That I would be sinking into the effluvia from the deaths, marriages, examination papers, hospital refuse of a giant metropolis of nine million people? 20

Beyond the dump flowed the holy Jumna River. On the far bank I could see the stone battlements of the Red Fort, where languid Moghul Emperors had once enjoyed the evening breeze while their subjects promenaded on the riverbank below. One Emperor had even famously sighed, "If there is a paradise on earth, it is this, it is this."

Today, to the left of the battlements a power station belched grey smoke into the air, colouring the mile of garbage a uniform grey, like filthy flannel. Sunk to my knees in spongy refuse, not daring to look down to see what might be clinging to my legs, I ploughed my way toward a thin woman wearing a short peasant skirt and a torn jacket. She looked middle-aged but could as easily have been in her twenties. In one hand she carried a long spike, hooked at the bottom, which she plunged into the waste. Farther on, I could see other scavengers fishing up bits of rusty iron or stained rags. Children, their heads barely clearing the surface of the garbage, worked beside their parents. 25 30

The exhausted woman examined me suspiciously when I greeted her. Was I a government inspector about to challenge her right to be here? Or a do-gooder who would take away her children, contributing their pittance to the family's survival? The fact that I was only a voyeur seemed to reassure her and she leaned wearily on her spike to talk. 35

Where was she from?

Rajputana. She used the old name for the Land of Kings.

Had she always done this kind of work?

Of course not. She had only come to the city after seven consecutive years of drought had forced her husband to sell their land to a moneylender. She was a Bhoomiya. 40

I looked at her in surprise. The Bhoomiya people were pathfinders. Traditionally they had guided travellers through the deserts and jungles of Rajputana – knowing every water source, every edible plant, every religious sanctuary. They were paid in arable land that their families cultivated while they delivered wayfarers safely to the next stop on their journey – until trains, buses, telephones had made the work of guides irrelevant. 45

(Adapted from "Snakes and Ladders" by Gita Mehta)

* Glossary

untouchables = an excluded group in the social stratification practised in India

Section C

Text 3

The article below is about light pollution.

Read it carefully and answer Questions 14 to 22 in the Question Paper Booklet.

- 1 If humans were truly at home under the light of the moon and stars, we would go in darkness happily, the midnight world as visible to us as it is to the vast number of nocturnal species on this planet. Instead, we are diurnal creatures, with eyes adapted to living in the sun's light. This is a basic evolutionary fact, even though most of us do not think of ourselves as diurnal beings any more than we think of ourselves as primates or mammals or Earthlings. Yet it is the only way to explain what we have done to the night: we have engineered it to receive us by filling it with light. 5
- 2 This kind of engineering is no different than damming a river. Its benefits come with consequences—called light pollution. Apart from excessive outdoor lighting, light pollution is largely the result of bad lighting design, which allows artificial light to shine outward and upward into the sky, where it is not wanted, instead of focusing it downward, where it is. Ill-designed lighting washes out the darkness of night and radically alters the light levels—and light rhythms—to which many forms of life, including ourselves, have adapted. Wherever human light spills into the natural world, some aspect of life— migration, reproduction, feeding—is affected. 10
- 3 For most of human history, the phrase "light pollution" would have made no sense. Imagine walking toward London on a moonlit night around 1800, when it was Earth's most populous city. Most of the people living there made do with candles, rushlights, torches and lanterns. Only a few houses were lit by gas. There would be no public gaslights in the streets or squares for another seven years. From a few miles away, you would, at best, have seen its dim collective glow. 15
- 4 Now most of humanity lives under intersecting domes of reflected, refracted light, of scattering rays from overlit cities and suburbs, from light-flooded highways and factories. In most cities the sky looks as though it has been emptied of stars, leaving behind a vacant haze that mirrors our fear of the dark and resembles the urban glow of dystopian science fiction. 20
- 5 We have lit up the night as if it were an unoccupied country, when nothing could be further from the truth. Among mammals alone, the number of nocturnal species is astonishing. Light is a powerful biological force, and on many species it acts as a magnet. The effect is so powerful that scientists speak of songbirds and seabirds being "captured" by searchlights on land or by the light from gas flares on marine oil platforms, circling and circling in the thousands until they drop. Migrating at night, birds are apt to collide with brightly lit tall buildings immature birds on their first journey suffer disproportionately. 25
- 6 Other nocturnal creatures—mammals such as desert rodents, fruit bats, opossums, and badgers— forage more cautiously under the permanent full moon of light pollution because they have become easier targets for predators. 30
- 7 Some birds—blackbirds and nightingales, among others—sing at unnatural hours in the presence of artificial light. Scientists have determined that long artificial days—and artificially short nights— induce early breeding in a wide range of birds. As a longer day allows for longer feeding, it can also affect migration schedules. One population of Bewick's swans wintering in England put on fat more rapidly than usual, priming them to begin their Siberian migration early. The problem, of course, is that migration, like most other aspects of bird behaviour, is a precisely timed biological behaviour. Leaving early may mean arriving too soon for nesting conditions to be right. 35
- 8 Nesting sea turtles, which show a natural predisposition for dark beaches, find fewer of them to nest on. They resort to less-than-optimal nesting spots or deposit their eggs in the ocean. Their hatchlings, which gravitate towards the brighter, more reflective sea, find themselves confused by artificial lighting behind the beach. They wander inland where they often die of dehydration or predation. 40
- 9 Like most other creatures we do need darkness. Darkness is as essential to our biological welfare, to our internal clockwork, as light itself. The regular oscillation of waking and sleep in our lives is nothing less than a biological expression of the regular oscillation of light on Earth. So fundamental are these rhythms to our being that altering them is like altering gravity. Thus, for humans, too, light pollution may take a biological toll. At least one new study has suggested a direct correlation between higher rates of breast cancer in women and the night-time brightness of their neighbourhoods. Living in a glare of our own making, we have cut ourselves off from our evolutionary and cultural patrimony—the light of the stars and the rhythms of day and night. In a 45 50

very real sense, light pollution causes us to lose sight of our true place in the universe, to forget the scale of our being, which is best measured against the dimensions of a deep night with the Milky Way—the edge of our galaxy—arching overhead.

55

- 10 Thankfully, of all the pollutions we face, light pollution can be more easily managed. Governments can help greatly by adopting and enforcing policies that require simple changes in lighting design and installation that direct light downwards where illumination is needed and prevent light from travelling sideways. They can also educate people about light pollution. At the end of the day, the responsibility to reduce light pollution and minimise the mortality of wildlife falls on individuals. After all, they are the users of artificial light.

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(Adapted from 'Our Vanishing Night' by Verlyn Klinkenborg)

Name of Candidate: _____ () Class: _____



BUKIT PANJANG GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL
Mid-Year Examinations 2016
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS / 4 & 5 NORMAL (ACADEMIC)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2

Syllabus 1128

Date: 30 April, 2015

Duration: 1 hr 50 mins

Time: **1100h – 1250h**

Read these instructions first.

Write in dark blue or black ink.

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

Answer all questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided in the Question Booklet.

The Insert contains the texts for all the sections.

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

53

Section A [5 marks]

Text 1

Refer to the advertisement in the Insert for Questions 1-5.

- 1 What does “Objects of Desire” suggest about the target audience ? [1]

- 2 What is the intended effect of the heading & information “THE LIFE / YOUR E-GUIDE TO THE GOOD LIFE” on the reader ? [1]

- 3 How does the advertisement directly address the reader ? [1]

- 4 Pick out **two** features of the objects in the advertisement to show that they are exquisite. [1]

- 5 What is the main intention of the advertisement ? [1]

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 2 in the Insert for Questions 6 – 13.

6 At the beginning of this text, the paper tycoon and the writer are talking about the rag pickers.

Explain how the language used in the first 10 lines emphasizes the writer's repulsion towards the rag pickers. Support your ideas with three details from the paragraphs. [3]

7 "Of course I don't bloody hire them," he said in irritation. [line 11]

(i) What does the word 'bloody' suggest about his view of the writer's question? [1]

(ii) Why did the Indian paper tycoon feel so? [1]

8 (a) In line 16, why is the writer intrigued by the self-employed people? [1]

(b) What did she intend to do when she got out of the car? [1]

(c) Explain the two challenges that the writer faced? [2]

9 "Beyond the dump flowed the holy Jumna River. On the far bank I could see the stone battlements of the Red Fort, where languid Moghul Emperors had once enjoyed the evening breeze while their subjects promenaded on the riverbank below." (Lines 21 to 23)

What do the words 'languid' and 'promenaded' suggest about the Moghul Emperors? [1]

10 (a) Why was the writer 'not daring to look down to see what might be clinging to my legs...' (lines 26 to 27)? [1]

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(b) What does 'I ploughed my way toward a thin woman' (line 27) suggest about the way the writer moved? [1]

11 In Line 32 the writer says "The exhausted woman examined me suspiciously when I greeted her. What does the word 'suspiciously' suggest about what the woman was doing? [1]

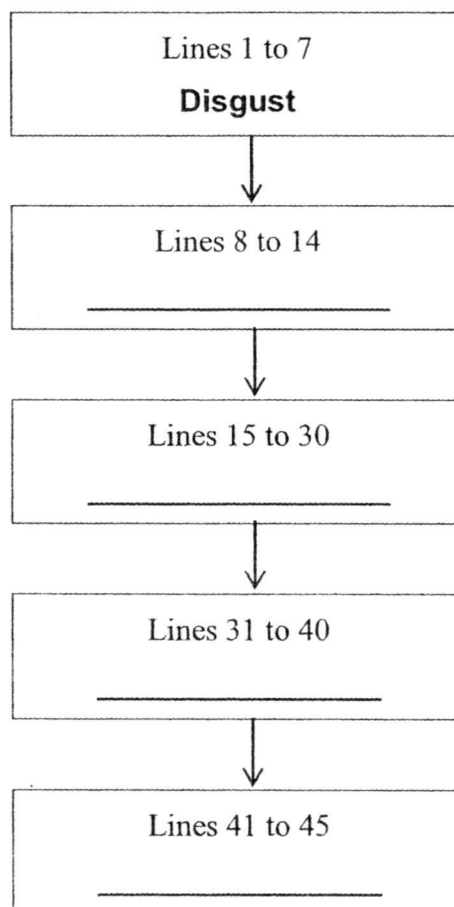
12 Explain how the writer portrays the lives of the rag pickers to be difficult and challenging. Support your answer with **three** pieces of evidences from lines 25 to 35. [3]

13 In this text, the writer experiences a range of feelings towards the rag pickers. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box to describe the main feeling described in each part of the text. There is one extra word in the box you do not need to use. [4]

FEELINGS

Awe	Astonishment	Sympathy	Curiosity	Alarm
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FLOW CHART



Section C [25 marks]

Refer to Text 3 in the Insert for Questions 14 – 22.

14 (i) What is the ‘basic evolutionary fact’ (line 4) that the writer refers to? [1]

(ii) What does ‘evolutionary’ suggest about humans in the distant past? [1]

15 The writer says that humans have ‘*engineered it to receive us* by filling it with light’ (line 6). How do the italicised words suggest his disapproval of human’s interference with the night? [1]

16 How has the night sky changed, according to lines 18 to 20? [1]

Before	
Now	

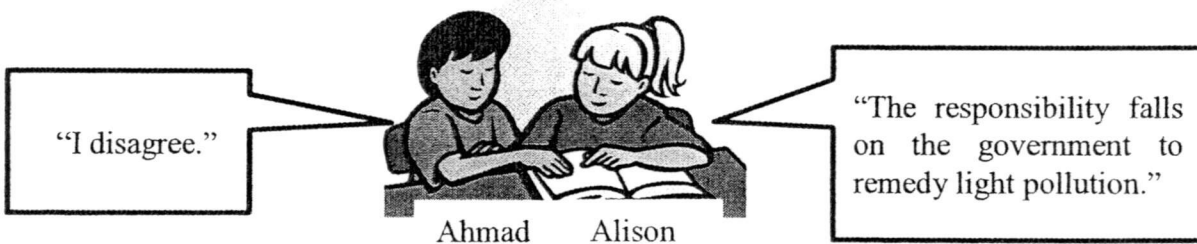
17 Which word in paragraph 4 shows the writer’s negative attitude towards light pollution in cities? [1]

18 ‘Light is a powerful biological force, and on many species it *acts as a magnet*’ (lines 24-25). With reference to the italicised phrase, explain the effect of light on nocturnal creatures. [1]

19 What does ‘disproportionately’ (line 29) tell you about the number of birds that suffer injuries during migration? [1]

20 The writer compares the changing of humans’ biological rhythms to that of gravity (lines 47-48). Explain fully the intention of this comparison. [1]

21 Here is a part of a conversation between two students, Alison and Ahmad, who have read the article.



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BPGHS

Section A (Text 1)

1. The target audience is anyone who has been looking to have these items.
2. The intended effect of the heading & information to the reader is that this e-guide is the lead to anyone who wishes to have a lifestyle that many aspire.
3. It uses words that suggest it is referring more to homemakers.
4. Peranakan-inspired hand-made , fully-lined interior in hand-woven fabric
5. It is intended to get more readers to download the e guide-The Life.

Section B (Text 2)

6.
 - 1) covering my nose although the car windows were rolled up
 - 2) fetid garbage vultures circling ahead
 - 3) subhuman conditions
7.
 - i) He felt that the writer was ridiculous to conclude that he was one of those mean employers.
 - ii) He felt that he was actually helping them to earn a living based on their own effort.
- 8a) He was intrigued on how working in this garbage dump can be a way of earning for these people.
- b) She intended to find out what exactly the rag pickers were doing.
- c)
 - 1) able to stand on the not so solid ground
 - 2) The smell of garbage
9. The Moghul Emperors were lacking in vigour such that they only rest and watch their subjects taking a stroll instead of themselves.
- 10a) The writer was afraid to see something unpleasant.
- b) The writer had difficulty lifting her foot forward for each step.
- 11) The woman was trying to assess if the writer was from the government.
- 12)
 - 1) breathing in the belching grey smoke from the power station
 - 2) ploughing through knee deep refuse
 - 3) government personnels may take away their children

13) Astonishment, Curiosity, Alarm, Sympathy
Section C (Text 3)

14i) It refers to humans belonging to day time in the past but have adapted to living in both day and night.

ii) Humans in the distant past lived under the light of the moon and stars for lighting.

15) The writer was absolutely unhappy and blamed human for filling up the sky with artificial lights.

16) Before- The night sky was lighted by dim glow.

Now- Many cities and suburbs are overlit.

17. dystopian

18. These nocturnal creatures have been attracted to light like it is a natural force.

19. It means the number of birds suffer injuries is in great number.

20. It intends to show that the change has affected humans' daily lives and it was thrown off the balance.

21) i) 1) Adopting and enforcing policies to make simple change in light design
2) educate people about light pollution

ii) Every individual is responsible for light pollution.

22) Causes

1) bad lighting design has allowed artificial light to shine outward and upward into the sky

2) Nocturnal species are affected by the lighting at night

3) The lightning has affected human biologically

Effects

1) It washes out the darkness of night and alters the light levels.

2) songbirds and seabirds are captured by searchlights on land, migrating birds collided into lit buildings and great numbers suffered injuries

3) Human has lost the rhythm of day and night and lost sight of our true place in universe.

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