CERTIFICATE for GENERAL EDUCATION
ELECTIVE ENGLISH
SEMESTER ONE — FIRST SESSION

TIME: 3 hours   TOTAL MARKS: 70

This paper has 3 pages

READING 1   (Items 1 – 6)
Read the text. Then, for each question, write a <u>short</u> *answer (**not more than FOUR WORDS**).*

Siena is one of the oldest and loveliest cities in northern Italy. It's quite a small place, with a population of only about twenty-five thousand, but going there is like stepping into the past. Completely surrounded by its medieval walls, it has a wonderful atmosphere, with its narrow streets, tall stone houses, palaces and churches. It's all very peaceful, except for a couple of days in the summer when the whole place goes completely mad! The reason for this is the '*palio*', a horse race which is held on 2 July and 16 August every year.

This '*palio*' takes place in the main square. Each horse and rider represents an area of the city and wears special traditional colours to show this. There are seventeen of these areas, but in each race only ten of them take part, for reasons of safety. The horses race round the steep, stone-covered square three times and the winner is the first *horse* to reach the finishing-post — it doesn't actually matter if the rider has fallen off!

Sporting activities have taken place in the city square for centuries. In the 16th century, there were bull fights, but after these were forbidden by the government, the city decided to organize races, firstly, between buffaloes and then, from 1650, between horses.

The '*palio*' can be a dangerous sport, not only for the horse and rider but also for the spectators. (Many thousands of local people and tourists pack the square to watch.) In 2005, two horses were actually killed during the race. Every year, animal rights activists protest at the cruel treatment of horses, but it looks as if this ancient tradition will continue for many years to come...

---

1. Where is Siena? _____

2. How many races take place every year? _____

3. How many horses take part in each race? _____

4. What do the riders' colours mean? *They come from different* _____

5. When was the first horse race held? *In* _____

6. What happened in the race three years ago? _____

Write your answers on your answer paper.

READING 2   (Items 7 – 10)

*Read these four texts. <u>What</u> are they <u>about</u>? For each text, choose one of the items in the box. Write **A**, **B**, **C**, etc, as in the example. (There are two extra items in the box.)*

e.g.	*It's light and easy to carry around, and it takes excellent pictures.*	__*F*__	A a calculator
7.	It's very comfortable. I always get a good night's sleep and I don't wake up with backache any more!	_____	B a map
8.	It's quite powerful and it looks very impressive, but the sound-quality is very poor.	_____	C a bed
9.	I was very upset when I received it. It says some terrible things. I wish I could find out who wrote it.	_____	D a cassette-player
10.	It's not much use. Some of the street names are wrong, and it doesn't show any buildings built since 1998!	_____	E a chair
			F̶ a̶ ̶c̶a̶m̶e̶r̶a̶
			G a letter

WRITING 1

Write a PARAGRAPH *about* **Jimmy Rae**. *Use the picture <u>and</u>* ALL *the information in the box. Your writing should be correct and well-organised.*

Jimmy Rae

live/ work/ New York   calm/ relaxed

sold/ 10 million records   excellent voice

jazz singer   father/ pianist

born/ New Orleans/ 1982

next year/ auto-biography

WRITING 2

Write a letter of at least 60 words.

<u>Situation</u>: You want to have your birthday party at a restaurant. Write to your friend *Faiz/ Faiza* inviting him/her to come. In your letter, include the most important information about the party.

*Your name is Nasir/Nada. Do **not** write an address.*
Your letter should be friendly and clear.

Write your answers on your answer paper.

WRITING 3

*Write a **story** of at least 100 words based on the following pictures.*
You can use the words in the box to help you.
You can also put in more details to make your story lively and interesting.

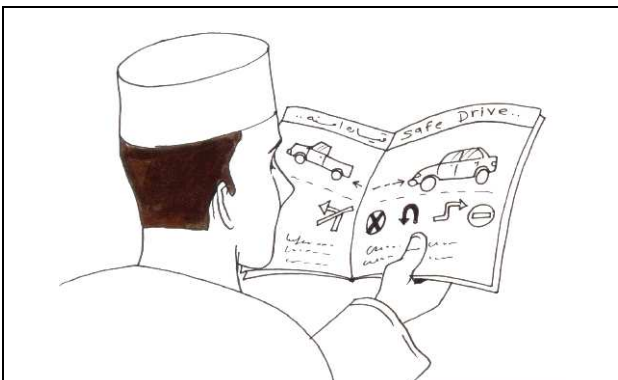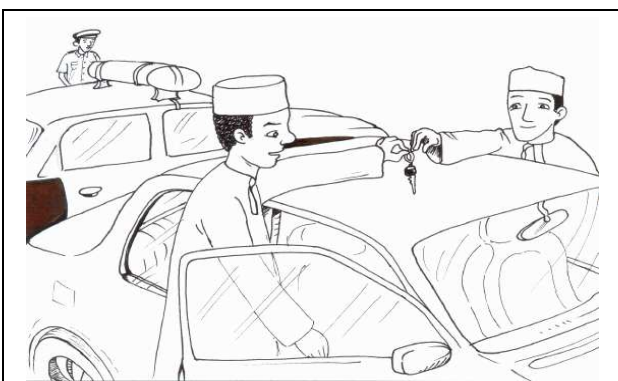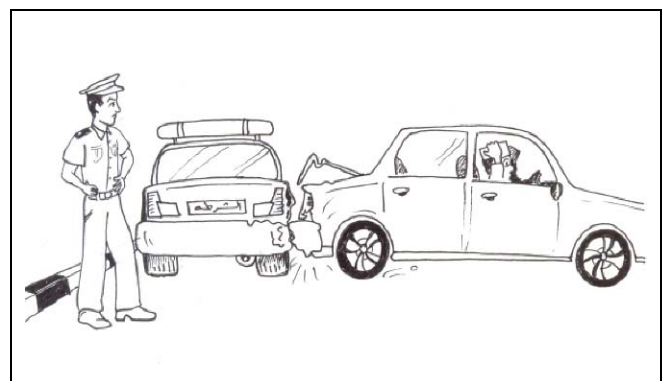|			
driving license	application form	driving test	fail
study	pass	friend/ car-keys	crash

①

②

③

④

⑤

⑥

Write your answers on your answer paper.