

FORM 1

ENGLISH
LISTENING COMPREHENSION

TIME: 15 minutes

Teacher's Paper

Instructions for the conduct of the Listening Comprehension Examination

The teacher should instruct the candidates to answer the questions on the paper provided. The following procedure for reading the Listening Comprehension passage is to be explained to the candidates immediately before proceeding with the examination.

You have been given a sheet containing the listening comprehension questions. You will be given three minutes to read the questions based on the passage. The passage will be read at normal reading speed. You may take notes during the reading. After this reading there will be a pause of another three minutes to allow you to answer some of the questions. I shall read the passage a second time and you may take further notes and answer the rest of the questions. After this second reading you will be given a further three minutes for a final revision of the answers.

- a. 3 minutes – Candidates read questions.
- b. 3 minutes – Teacher reads passage aloud for the first time while candidates take notes.
- c. 3 minutes – Candidates answer questions.
- d. 3 minutes – Teacher reads passage for the second time. Candidates may answer more questions.
- e. 3 minutes – Candidates revise final answers.

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TIME: 15 minutes

Teacher's Paper

And now for the next part of our tour. Today we will visit Big Ben.

Standing high above the Palace of Westminster in London, the clock tower commonly known as Big Ben is one of the most recognizable British icons. The clock tower has also served to symbolize the continued functioning of the British government, particularly in wartime.

As one of the most accurate mechanical clocks, Big Ben marked a big leap in the evolution of clocks and timekeeping in Europe.

St. Stephen's Tower is the official name of the structure. There are various theories surrounding the origin of the nickname "Big Ben", which was originally only given to the large hour bell.

The most widely accepted is that it was named after Sir Benjamin Hall, the commissioner of works at the time of the clock tower's construction. Another popular theory is that it was named after a heavyweight prize fighter of the time. In any case the name "Big Ben" stuck, and eventually evolved to apply to the clock, and later, the entire tower.

Big Ben stands at an imposing height of 97 metres. The clock faces are equally extraordinary for their size, measuring 7 metres in diameter with the hollow, copper minute hands measuring 4 metres in length and hour hands measuring 3 metres. Though the structure itself is impressive, Big Ben's most important aspect is its symbolic status. For example, a light above the clock shines whenever Parliament is in session, indicating the continued functioning of the British government.

That symbolism was particularly notable during the Battle of Britain in the early days of World War II, as the clock tower remained undamaged and continued to operate in defiance of the endless waves of German bombing raids. The clock, which is famed for its accuracy, seldom shows an error greater than one second.

Big Ben remains a standard for accuracy in mechanical tower clocks. Today the monumental timepiece is one of London's best-known landmarks, and the deep pealing of its bell is among the city's most familiar sounds.

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TIME: 15 minutes

Name: _____

Class: _____

A. Tick (✓) if the statements are TRUE or FALSE.

6 marks

		TRUE	FALSE
1.	Big Ben is a well-known attraction in Paris.		
2.	It is unfortunately not an accurate clock.		
3.	It is a digital clock.		
4.	Big Ben was originally the name of the hour bell.		
5.	Some people think that it was named after a heavyweight fighter.		
6.	When Parliament is in session there is light under the clock.		

B. Fill in with words or numbers you hear in the passage.

2 marks

1. The minute hands are _____ metres long while the hour hands are _____ metres long.

2. The minute hands are made of _____ and are _____.

C. What do these numbers refer to?

2 marks

1. 97 m _____

2. 1 second _____

10 marks

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FORM 1

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
COMPREHENSION TEXT

SECTION B: READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and then answer the questions on the Language Paper.



DON'T THROW IT AWAY

People didn't use to throw things away. We used to mend our clothes and we used to wear shoes until they wore out. When we bought things, we used to carry shopping baskets, so we didn't need countless plastic bags. And we didn't use to buy so much in the first place. However, now we consume more and so we produce more rubbish.

5 We can all save money and help the environment by making simple changes to the way we buy and use these products. The UK is one of the worst recyclers in Europe but the *Recycle Now* campaign aims to change that. If **you** are not already recycling, find out more about how easy **it** is and how you can really make a difference. For those who already recycle, discover the positive effect your recycling efforts are making and find out what else you may be able to do.

10 When we recycle, used materials are converted into new products, reducing the need to consume natural resources. If used materials are not recycled, new products are made by extracting fresh, raw material from the Earth, through mining and forestry. Recycling helps conserve important raw materials and protects natural habitats for the future.

15 *Recycle Now* has launched a series of TV commercials **which** show the recycling of metal cans, glass bottles and paper into interesting new everyday items. One advert shows a town with cars, trains, buildings and even planes made of metal cans.

20 Top UK designer Oliver Heath is a strong supporter of the campaign – in 2005 **he** designed the first home constructed entirely from recycled materials, including yoghurt pots and glass bottles. And he is excited by the imaginative recycling of waste. “There’s an awful lot of exciting design stuff out there. I like all the new uses for ordinary products – glass bottles turned into bricks, rubber car tyres into pencil cases and carpets, plastic cups into pencils.” You can also buy pens made from recycled computer printers, rulers made from juice cartons, jewellery made from plastic bags, and bags made from bottle tops or CDs.

25 So don't throw things away! All the items you recycle are valuable resources and can be made into something useful, even stylish and fun. As *Recycle Now* says: “The possibilities are endless!”

FORM 1

ENGLISH

TIME: 2 hours

Name: _____ **Index No:** _____ **Class:** _____

Marks			
Oral Assessment	Listening Comprehension	Written Paper	Total

SECTION A – LANGUAGE

15 marks

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A. Put the adjective in brackets into the correct form. The first one (0) has been given as an example.

John is the (0) **luckiest** (luck) man alive. He owns the (1) _____
 (beautiful) house in town and he drives the (2) _____ (powerful) car I've
 ever seen. He is in fact one of the (3) _____ (wealthy) people on the island
 and I'm sure he is one of the (4) _____ (happy) too. If I had a small
 fraction of his money, I'm sure I would have a much (5) _____ (enjoyable)
 life, a (6) _____ (expensive) house and (7) _____
 (interesting) holidays. Unfortunately, right now I feel that I cannot be in a (8)
 _____ (bad) situation. My business is not doing well and the truth is
 that last year I was feeling much (9) _____ (healthy). I must admit
 that this is certainly the (10) _____ (difficult) situation I've ever found
 myself in.

5 marks

B. Put the verb in brackets into the correct form. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Last week, while many Maltese (0) **were enjoying** (enjoy) an evening walk they
 (1) _____ (see) a mysterious fireball that (2) _____
 (fly) across the night sky. Yesterday, in an interview with a newspaper, the well-known amateur
 astronomer John Zammit (3) _____ (say), "Next Thursday, I

(4) _____ (meet) other astronomers because we had agreed
(5) _____ (discuss) this strange phenomenon. So far, I
(6) _____ (read) five reports that said that the fireball was a missile. I
personally (7) _____ (not believe) it was a missile, but it probably was a
meteor. Unfortunately, it (8) _____ (be) not unusual for meteors to be
mistaken for other objects and I (9) _____ (can) refer to several cases
when this happened in the past. In my opinion, many people (10) _____
(never see) a meteor.

5 marks

C. Fill in the blanks with ONE suitable word. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Kyle Cummings, an Australian boy living in Queensland, is highly interested (0) **in** wildlife. When
he found some eggs in his garden, he thought they belonged to a reptile
(1) _____ as a lizard or a snake. (2) _____ he was
good (3) _____ taking care of such creatures, he put the eggs in a container
and hid them in his bedroom cupboard. The next day his mother found the eggs and became
extremely worried (4) _____ what she saw. As a
(5) _____ of the warmth in the cupboard, the eggs had hatched and there were
six small snakes.

‘(6) _____ many times have I told you not to bring animals into your
bedroom? (7) _____ don’t you take the snakes to the Wildlife Care Centre?’
his mum asked Kyle.

Kyle who was proud (8) _____ the fact that the eggs had hatched, decided to
obey his mum. When he took them to the Centre, the reptile coordinator was surprised
(9) _____ what she saw. (10) _____ they were small,
the snakes were extremely dangerous; they were Eastern Brown snakes – the most poisonous type
of snake in Australia.

5 marks

SECTION B – READING COMPREHENSION

20 marks

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Read the passage “*Don’t Throw It Away*” which is on a separate sheet, and then answer the following questions.

1. Give **TWO** reasons why people didn’t produce so much rubbish in the past. 2 marks

a) _____

b) _____

2. Why do we produce more rubbish now? 1 mark

3. What does the *Recycle Now* campaign aim to do? 1 mark

4. People that already recycle can: 2 marks

a) _____

b) _____

5. What happens when we recycle? 2 marks

6. Give **TWO** reasons why recycling is so important for our planet. 2 marks

a) _____

b) _____

7. a) What is Oliver Heath’s attitude to the *Recycle Now* campaign? 1 mark

b) Give a reason to prove this. 1 mark

8. a) What is “the imaginative recycling of waste” (line 20)? 1 mark

b) Give **TWO** examples. 1 mark

i _____

ii _____

9. What do the following words refer to? 2 marks

a) you (line 7) _____

b) it (line 8) _____

c) which (line 15) _____

d) he (line 18) _____

10. Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage: 2 marks

a) countless (line 3) _____

b) converted (line 11) _____

c) constructed (line 19) _____

d) valuable (line 25) _____

11. Quote the sentence which shows that the author of this passage is in favour of recycling. 2 marks

SECTION C – LITERATURE

20 marks

Part I: Poetry – Unprepared Text

Read the poem and answer all the questions that follow.

10 marks

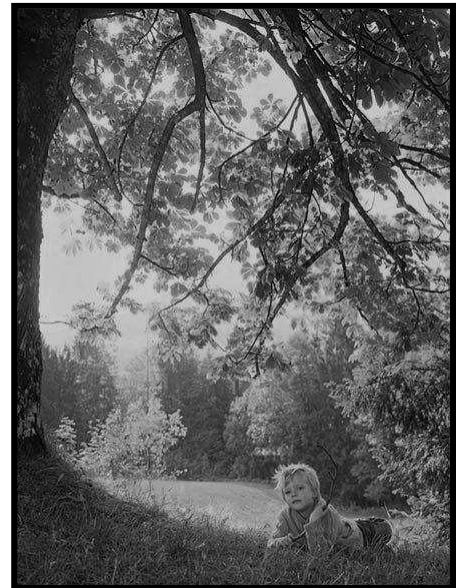
Friends by *Abbie Farwell Brown*

How good to lie a little while
And look up through the tree!
The Sky is like a kind big smile
Bent sweetly over me.

The Sunshine flickers through the lace
Of leaves above my head,
And kisses me upon the face
Like Mother, before bed.

The Wind comes stealing o'er the grass
To whisper pretty things;
And though I cannot see him pass,
I feel his careful wings.

So many gentle Friends are near
Whom one can scarcely see,
A child should never feel a fear,
Wherever he may be.



1. Underline the correct answer.

1 mark

- A. The speaker is
- a) lying under his bed.
 - b) lying on his bed before falling asleep.
 - c) playing with his friends under a tree.
 - d) lying under a tree.
- B. The speaker in this poem
- a) feels very sad.
 - b) feels happy and safe.
 - c) is full of mischief.
 - d) feels happier when sleeping.

2. Who are the speaker's **THREE** friends?

1½ marks

3. Answer the following:
- a) Quote a simile in stanza one: _____ ½ mark
- b) In this simile the _____ is being compared to _____. 1 mark
4. a) In stanza two, the sunshine, “*flickers through the lace
Of leaves ...*” 1 mark
What is this figure of speech called? _____
- b) In stanza two, the child says that the sun “*kisses*” him. 1 mark
What is this figure of speech called? _____
5. Write down **TWO** things that the child imagines about the wind in stanza three. 1 mark
- a) _____
- b) _____
6. Quote **TWO** examples of alliteration in stanza four. 1 mark
- a) _____ b) _____
7. a) What is the rhyme scheme of this poem? ½ mark

- b) Underline the correct answer: ½ mark
The rhyme scheme makes the poem sound (funny / sad / like a prayer / like a song).
8. The poem sounds as if it is being told by a child. Find **TWO** features or things in this poem that help to make the reader feel that a child is speaking. 1 mark
- a) _____
- b) _____

Part II: Prose – Unprepared Text

10 marks

Read the following passage and answer all the questions below.

Icarus

Icarus is going to use his wings for the first time. Read about his experience.

We stood on the edge of the cliff, staring down at the blue green water and watching the white waves crashing wildly against the cliffs.

In our hearts, we hesitated. Would our wings work? Would we really be able to fly like one of those gulls now calling overhead?

We knew the risks we were taking – Daedalus had warned me, “Fly not near the water, my son, nor near the sun, or the wax on your wings will melt.”

As I remembered this, I heard Daedalus say in his gentle voice, “My son, it is time to go.”

Together, we flew out over the sea.

Then I saw the sun. Like a red ball of fire, it hung in the sky. I wondered how it stayed there, why it was so red and angry. I flew nearer. I heard Daedalus cry out, “Icarus, remember my warning!”



Answer the following questions.

1. Are the following statements **TRUE** or **FALSE**?

1½ marks

	TRUE	FALSE
a) In the first line, Icarus is alone on the cliff.		
b) While standing on the cliff he was talking aloud about the risks of flying.		
c) Daedalus is Icarus’s father.		

2. a) Who is the narrator? _____

1 mark

b) Write an adjective to describe Daedalus. _____

3. The writer uses **THREE** colours to describe the water. List the colours.

1½ marks

4. Quote an alliteration that describes the waves.

1 mark

5. Quote a simile that helps us imagine the heat of the sun.

1 mark

6. The sun is described in this line - *“it was so red and angry.”*
a) What is this figure of speech called? 1 mark

b) What does this tell us about the sun? 1 mark

7. How does Icarus feel about the sun? What do you think could happen to him? 2 marks

SECTION D – COMPOSITION

25 marks

Write between 150 and 200 words on ONE of the following.

1. Write a **letter** to a relative who lives abroad telling him/her about a school activity which you really enjoyed.
2. A local radio station is running a “Best Friend of the Year” competition. You are very interested in participating in this competition. Write a composition **describing** your best friend.
3. Write a **story** ending “It was the strangest experience of my life!”

