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Given name(s)

Family name

Selective High School Placement Test

Reading Question Paper

Test 01

40 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Please read this page carefully.

DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

A separate answer sheet is provided for this test. Please fill in the following information on your answer sheet:

- Student application number
- Given name(s)
- Family name

There are **30** multiple-choice questions in this paper. For each question, choose the **one** correct answer and record your choice on the separate answer sheet. If you make a mistake, erase thoroughly and try again.

You will **not** lose marks for incorrect answers, so you should attempt **all 30** questions.

You must complete the answer sheet within the time limit. There will not be any extra time at the end of the exam to record your answers on the answer sheet.

You can use the question paper for notes, but no extra paper is allowed.

Please note that some words and phrases are **shaded** in the texts as they are referred to in some questions.

Dictionaries and calculators may **NOT** be used.



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Knowledge to inspire

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Read the extracts below then answer the questions.

Extract A: from “Free Meant Freedom” by Amy Tan

I was 6 when my father walked me to my first library, two blocks away from home, in Oakland, Calif. It was an old red brick building with fancy castle embellishments and gigantic double doors a child would not have been strong enough to push open. As I stood in the vast room, I felt tiny and timid. The only places I'd been with ceilings this high were the church and the hospital. The first provided provisos for entering heaven, and the other contained fever, pain and terror. This enormous room, I soon learned, was like a toy store where everything was free. My parents rarely bought children's books. Why pay money for something that could be read in an hour and was then used up?

The children's section was on the left closest to the tall gothic windows. The easiest books were on the bottom. Since I could already read, I knew I should choose books on higher shelves, the harder books. That would show I was smarter than other kids my age. I realize now this was evidence I knew the concept of competition and its consequences of either pride or shame. In my family, anything easy was not worth doing. But here, **I was allowed to choose for myself** and whatever was within those books would remain private.

My first library gave me the freedom to exist in private, to choose and even be greedy. I took 10 books the first time — illustrated books, fables, fairy tales and happy stories of white children and their kind parents. A week later, now initiated, I was allowed to walk to the library by myself, carrying the 10 books I had finished reading, knowing I could choose many more to furnish my vast secret room, my imagination, all mine.

Extract B: from “If There's a Heaven, It's a Library” by Neil Gaiman

When I was a boy, in the school holidays, from the age of 7, my parents would drop me at the local library on their way to work. It was a ritual, and it was why I loved the holidays. The library was a red brick building on the London Road in East Grinstead.

In the beginning, I would head for the children's library, in the back, open the card index, which listed books by subject, and explore ghosts or magic, time travel or space. I would find a book I liked, and read everything by the author. I discovered that the librarians could, through the wonder of the interlibrary loan, get me books they did not have, and that they would. As far as the librarians were concerned, I was just another customer, and **I was treated with a level of respect that I don't recall getting anywhere else, even at school.**

Eventually, I just started reading the children's library alphabetically, working my way through it author by author. I cannot imagine being happier than that. I would walk home when the library closed at 6, and be home in time for dinner. It was a perfect arrangement, one marred only by hunger, so I would take a sandwich in a plastic bag, and grudgingly head outside to the parking lot to scoff it as quickly and efficiently as I could. Eating time was not reading time.

As I entered my teen years I had read the children's library and so moved into the adult library. Nobody tried to stop me. I discovered that reading it alphabetically meant that I was encountering a number of very dull books indeed, so I started moving through looking for favorite authors — Brian Aldiss in the A's, Ursula K. Le Guin in the G's, R. A. Lafferty in the L's and so on. By this time I was walking to the library in the morning, walking home at night when they closed. It was still my favorite place in the world. They knocked it down and built a new library when I was 17, and now that library too is gone.

Librarians sometimes discourage me from telling this story. They point out that libraries should not be seen or used as child-minding services, and that feral children should be discouraged from raising themselves in the shelves and the stacks. These things are true.

Still, if there is a heaven, one of the many mansions it must contain is a red brick Victorian building, all wood and shelves, waiting for me. And the shelves will be filled with books by beloved authors, as good as or better than the ones I knew. I will read my way through the adult library, and then, to attain perfect bliss, I will enter the children's library, and never need to leave it. Not even to eat my sandwiches in the parking lot.

For questions 1 – 8, choose the option (A, B, C or D) which you think best answers the question.

1 Both extracts indicate that libraries can

- A provide babysitting services.
- B be lonely buildings.
- C limit a person's knowledge.
- D have a great impact on children.

2 Which author(s) emphasizes the freedom to discover and explore in libraries?

- A Amy Tan
- B Neil Gaiman
- C Both
- D Neither

- 3 In which extract(s) does the author mention a disrespectful librarian?
- A Extract A
 - B Extract B
 - C Both
 - D Neither
- 4 In Extract A, why is it significant that the author mentions, 'I was allowed to choose for myself'?
- A It demonstrates that her family's high expectations restrict her freedom.
 - B It indicates that her home was filled with children's books to read.
 - C It reveals that she wants to learn how to read.
 - D It shows that she is much smarter than most of her peers.
- 5 In Extract A, the author compares the library to what other place?
- A church
 - B toy store
 - C castle
 - D hospital
- 6 In Extract B, what does the writer suggest by 'I was treated with a level of respect that I don't recall getting anywhere else, even at school'?
- A The library had strict rules about respect.
 - B His teachers should have been more respectful.
 - C The librarians viewed him as a valued patron.
 - D He was an incredibly shy child.
- 7 How does the writer in Extract B feel about eating his sandwich outside the library?
- A He feels embarrassed about the plastic bag.
 - B He wants to finish quickly to continue reading.
 - C He can't wait to go home for his dinner.
 - D He wishes to take his time when eating.
- 8 From the last paragraph of Extract B we get the impression that the author
- A would be happy spending his afterlife reading.
 - B is certain that heaven exists.
 - C would be unhappy reading children's books.
 - D is disappointed by libraries on Earth.

Read the poem below by "e.e. cummings" then answer the questions.

Spring is like a perhaps hand

III

Spring is like a perhaps hand

(which comes carefully

out of Nowhere)arranging

a window,into which people look(while

people stare

arranging and changing placing

carefully there a strange

thing and a known thing here)and

changing everything carefully

spring is like a perhaps

Hand in a window

(carefully to

and fro moving New and

Old things,while

people stare carefully

moving a perhaps

fraction of flower here placing

an inch of air there)and

without breaking anything.

For questions 9 – 14, choose the option (A, B, C or D) which you think best answers the question.

9 The title of this poem

- A is unrelated to the poem's subject.
- B is a common phrase used by everyone.
- C is the same as the first line of the poem.
- D is the beginning of the poem's clear rhyme pattern.

10 Where does the “hand” come from?

- A out of the window
- B out of Spring
- C out of the poem
- D out of Nowhere

11 Why might the people in the poem be staring into this “window”?

- A They are awaiting signs of spring.
- B They are surprised to see a hand decorating.
- C They have poor manners.
- D They want to see the “Old” cleared away.

12 When the poet uses the word “like” to compare Spring to “a perhaps hand,” this indicates which literary device?

- A rhyme
- B simile
- C metaphor
- D alliteration

13 Why does the poet conclude with the line “without breaking anything.”?

- A He is clumsy and often breaks things.
- B He feels nervous that the people are staring.
- C He knows that windows are made of glass.
- D He is in awe of the steady and gentle transformation of Spring.

14 What imagery is created for the reader with the following lines:

**(carefully to
and fro moving New and
Old things, while
people stare carefully
moving a perhaps
fraction of flower here placing
an inch of air there)**

- A an untidy room
- B an ocean landscape
- C a gentle designer
- D a hasty gardener

Read the text below then answer the questions.

Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences (**A – G**) the one which fits each gap (**15 – 20**). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use

Snooze or Lose

While neurocognitive sleep discoveries are impressive, there's equally groundbreaking research on how sleep affects metabolism.

Five years ago, already aware of an association between sleep apnea and diabetes, Dr. Eve Van Cauter at the University of Chicago discovered a "neuroendocrine cascade" that links sleep to obesity.

Sleep loss increases the hormone ghrelin, which signals hunger, and decreases its metabolic opposite, leptin, which suppresses appetite. Sleep loss also elevates the stress hormone cortisol. **15** Human growth hormone is also disrupted. Normally secreted as a big pulse at the beginning of sleep, growth hormone is essential for the breakdown of fat.

It's drilled into us that we need to be more active to lose weight. So it spins the mind to hear that a key to staying thin is to spend more time doing the most sedentary inactivity humanly possible. Yet this is exactly what some scientists seem to be finding. In light of Van Cauter's discoveries, sleep scientists have performed a flurry of analyses on children. All the studies point in the same direction: **16** This isn't just in the U.S.; scholars around the world are considering it, as they watch sleep data fall and obesity rates rise in their own countries.

17 One analyzed Japanese elementary students, one Canadian kindergarten boys, and one young boys in Australia. They all showed that kids who get less than eight hours of sleep have about a 300 percent higher rate of obesity than those who get a full ten hours of sleep. Within that two-hour window, it was a "dose-response" relationship, according to the Japanese scholars.

In Houston public schools, according to a University of Texas at Houston study, adolescents' odds of obesity went up 80 percent for each hour of lost sleep.

Sleep's role in obesity is a comparatively new theory, and one difficult to prove in a controlled experiment. **18** The federal government spends over a billion dollars a year on nutrition-education programs in our schools. A recent analysis by McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, found that of 57 such programs, 53 had no effect whatsoever, and the four remaining programs' results were meager at best.

For a long time, there's been one culprit to blame for these failed efforts: television. Rather than running around the neighborhood like when we were young, today's kids sit in front of the boob tube an average of 3.3 hours a day. The connection to obesity seemed so obvious that few people thought it needed to be supported scientifically.

Last year, Dr. Elizabeth Vandewater at the University of Texas at Austin got fed up with hearing scholars blame it all on television. “It’s treated as gospel without any evidence,” she says. “It’s just bad science.” Vandewater analyzed the best large data set available, the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, which has extensively surveyed 8,000 families since 1968. She found that obese kids watch no more television than kids who aren’t obese. All the thin kids watch massive amounts of television, too. **19** “It’s just not the smoking gun we assumed it to be.”

Vandewater examined the children’s time diaries, and she realized why the earlier research had got it wrong. “Children trade functionally equivalent things. If the television’s off, they don’t go play soccer,” she says. “They do some other sedentary behavior.”

In fact, while obesity has spiked exponentially since the seventies, kids watch only seven minutes more TV a day. Although they do average a half-hour of video games and Internet surfing on top of television viewing, the leap in obesity began in 1980, well before home video games and the invention of the Web browser. This doesn’t mean it’s healthy to watch television. **20**

“We’ve just done diet and exercise studies for a hundred years and they don’t work well, and it’s time to look for different causes,” says Dr. Richard Atkinson, co-editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Obesity.

- A** There was no statistical correlation between obesity and media use, period.
- B** But it does mean that something other than television is making kids heavier.
- C** On average, children who sleep less are fatter than children who sleep more.
- D** Children have greater interest in video games than television.
- E** Cortisol is lipogenic, meaning it stimulates your body to make fat.
- F** But the traditional approach to solving childhood obesity is an abject failure.
- G** Three foreign studies showed strikingly similar results.

Read the four extracts below on the theme of environment.

For questions **21 – 30**, choose the option (**A, B, C** or **D**) which you think best answers the question.

Which extract...

- refers to a collective effort among students for environmental and climate action? **21** _____
- links a positive correlation between the coronavirus and the environment? **22** _____
- reveals the legal recourse that younger people have in the court system? **23** _____
- mentions the economic impact of the pandemic on a large industry? **24** _____
- presents an innovative solution for animals to traverse populated areas? **25** _____
- presents an innovative solution for people wishing to travel? **26** _____
- links the rights of citizens to pollution-free environment? **27** _____
- uses the term corridors to include bridges and tunnels? **28** _____
- mentions a well-known climate and environmental activist? **29** _____
- indicates that governments may be held more accountable for ecological stewardship? **30** _____

Extract A

School strikes were held across Australia today, but it was the students, not the teachers, leading the charge.

The strikes were held to demand more meaningful climate action from the government; something the organising students believe to be truly lacking.

According to the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, we have 12 years to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures or the risk of natural disasters and poverty will exponentially increase.

It's a point many of the young students are frustrated with, given they'd be growing into young adults during that time. That's why they've taken action, not only in Australia but around the globe, inspired by Nobel peace prize nominee and activist Greta Thunberg.

In Sydney, thousands of students congregated at Town Hall Square, where they listened to performances, speeches and even called up Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten, to demand more action on the world's climate change disaster.

It's the second nationwide strike since November 2018 and there's no sign of them stopping anytime soon. Australia joins 111 other countries who have taken up the charge in the name of climate action.

Sydney's rally organiser Jean Hinchliffe told Student Edge at November's march that students would keep striking and making their voices heard until the government takes real action to curb the effects of climate change.

"We're definitely not stopping here; there's a lot to organise from here," Jean said.

Extract B

As humans take over more and more of the planet, animals who normally travel over large areas are struggling to survive. One way of helping these animals is to create bridges and tunnels to help them cross dangerous roads.

Many animals need to move across large distances. Often they do this as part of their natural migration. Sometimes animals need to move to a new area when food gets low or conditions get worse.

Humans have taken over huge areas of the planet with cities, towns, malls, factory areas, and farms. Roads and highways cut up the remaining natural areas into many small sections, making it dangerous for animals to move from even one small wild area to another.

Many people are working to help animals by creating "wildlife corridors" – trying to reconnect smaller natural areas so that animals can move over larger areas. One important step in creating these corridors is building wildlife bridges and tunnels to give animals a way to

safely cross dangerous roads.

These changes don't just help animals, they save human lives, too, by avoiding accidents. In the US alone, there are nearly 40,000 accidents every year caused by cars and trucks hitting wildlife.

Extract C

When coronavirus started spreading around the globe, one of the hardest hit industries were airlines. With no one allowed to travel and with most countries shutting their international and even state borders, airlines lost a lot of customers and a lot of staff lost their jobs.

This is great news for the environment, of course, as aeroplanes run off a lot of fossil fuels and contribute to a huge chunk of the world's carbon footprint. But it seems some airlines have put the environment aside to encourage more 'travel' during this weird time... only on this flight you'll go nowhere.

Both Qantas and Singapore Airlines have offered customers 'flights to nowhere', which are essentially scenic trips so that customers can once again have the experience of flying. The flights are usually just a few hours and land in the same destination in which they took off.

The flights are of course aimed at boosting airline finances after they've been hit by coronavirus.

Because the flights aren't actually going anywhere, passengers don't need baggage or need to quarantine once they land so it works with coronavirus guidelines.

Qantas' version takes passengers on a seven hour scenic route, at as low as 4,000 feet, over the Great Barrier Reef and Uluru as well as Kata Tjuta, Byron Bay and Sydney Harbour. They aren't cheap though: the flights start at AU\$566 and go all the way up to AU\$2734.

So, this might seem like a super weird thing to do and a massive waste of money but some people are super keen for it. The Qantas flight sold out in just 10 minutes.

On the other hand, I'm sure there are heaps of people that would love it if we would just not. The state of the environment is a really important issue right now, and encouraging pointless flights (and therefore unnecessary carbon emissions) is only going to make things worse.

Extract D

As temperatures, seas, and related crises rise around the globe, a swelling tide of climate lawsuits is inundating courts. According to a 2019 report, more than 1,300 climate crisis cases have been brought against governments, companies, and other entities in at least 28 nations.

But these are uncharted waters for legal and ecological stewardship. Judges are being asked to navigate complex scientific evidence to rule on matters like whether a government enjoys an “absolute and unreviewable power” to destroy its nation, and whether citizens have a constitutional right to a pollution-free environment. Although many of the cases have floundered, a recent decision by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) to fast-track a case brought by six young people in Portugal may signal more favorable winds.

Lawyers representing the plaintiffs, ages 8 to 21, argue that the E.U. government’s plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are “too weak and not in line with what the science demands.” According to the Global Legal Action Network, a charity providing legal support for the case, there is “no justification for forcing them and other young people to bear this burden” of climate change, and that to do so is discriminatory.

Reference

1. Tan, Amy. "Free Meant Freedom." *From Where the Past Begins*. *The New York Times*. October 15, 2018.
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6. "Helping Animals Cross Roads." *News for Kids*. October 21, 2020.
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8. Bhalla, Jag. "A lawsuit filed by children has forced 33 countries to rethink their climate goals." *Environment. Popular Science*.

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