

Paper 1 Section A - Editing Questions

Question 1

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about the benefits and harm brought about by the development of cities. The first and last lines are correct. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors.

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

Examples:

I arrived (to) my destination at 2pm.

at
.....

My mother always wears sensible clothes.

✓
.....

Cities make a lot of sense for humans. People are concentrated in a small area rather than being spread out around a large territory. This allows the government to provide water and electricity to a larger number of people. Schools and shops are more easily access than in rural areas. Cities have always been at the centre of economy growth and technological advances. The promise of jobs and prosperity pull people to cities. But their rapid growth has also brought many detriments: violent, overcrowding and pollution. Many cities in developing countries are growing too rapidly to their own good, with many residents unable to find jobs and compelled to reside in slums. Urban expanding is also encroaching on wildlife habitats. Increasingly, people live in close proximity to wild animals whose native habitats had been lost. Many animals have adapted to city life, taking advantage of the abundance of food.

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2 Question 2

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about a visit to rice fields in China. The first and last lines are correct. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors.

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

Examples:

I arrived (to) my destination at 2pm.

..... at

My mother always wears sensible clothes.

..... ✓

The grey-haired farmer, in his sixties, found it hard to comprehend how anyone
could not have planted rice before. We giggled amusingly, slipped away our 1
sandals and dug our feet into the soggy earth. It taken a while for us to get used 2
to it - when soon enough we were frolicking in the soil, amidst the crawling snails 3
and leaping frogs. We were in Guilin, China - not just to plant rice, but to 4
immersion ourselves in the native culture, to get to know the locals and 5
experience their lives for us. Earlier that day, we had driven out of the bustling 6
city to the rice fields sprinkled across the outskirts. We have come to China 7
with hopes of seeing its backcountry so it was with relief when our guide leading 8
us out of the city towards its beauty, sprawling green fields. Driving by towering 9
karst hills, we watched as the bright emerald green of the rice fields shimmered 10
under the evening sun, and the golden rays reflected upon the waterways.



Solutions

Solution 1

Cities make a lot of sense for humans. People are concentrated in a small area rather than being spread out around a large territory. This allows the government to provide water and electricity to a larger number of people. Schools and shops are more easily access than in rural areas. Cities have always been at the centre of economy growth and technological advances. The promise of jobs and prosperity pull people to cities. But their rapid growth has also brought many detriments: violent, overcrowding and pollution. Many cities in developing countries are growing too rapidly to their own good, with many residents unable to find jobs and compelled to reside in slums. Urban expanding is also encroaching on wildlife habitats. Increasingly, people live in close proximity to wild animals whose native habitats had been lost. Many animals have adapted to city life, taking advantage of the abundance of food.

- 1 over
- 2 ✓
- 3 accessible
- 4 economic
- 5 pulls
- 6 violence
- 7 for
- 8 expansion
- 9 ✓
- 10 have

Solution 2

The grey-haired farmer, in his sixties, found it hard to comprehend how anyone could not have planted rice before. We giggled amusingly, slipped away our sandals and dug our feet into the soggy earth. It taken a while for us to get used to it - when soon enough we were frolicking in the soil, amidst the crawling snails and leaping frogs. We were in Guilin, China - not just to plant rice, but to immersion ourselves in the native culture, to get to know the locals and experience their lives for us. Earlier that day, we had driven out of the bustling city to the rice fields sprinkled across the outskirts. We have come to China with hopes of seeing its backcountry so it was with relief when our guide leading us out of the city towards its beauty, sprawling green fields. Driving by towering karst hills, we watched as the bright emerald green of the rice fields shimmered under the evening sun, and the golden rays reflected upon the waterways.

- 1 off
- 2 took
- 3 but
- 4 ✓
- 5 immerse
- 6 ourselves
- 7 had
- 8 led
- 9 beautiful
- 10 ✓



Paper 1 Section B - Situational Writing Questions

Question 8

You are advised to write between 250 and 350 words for this section.

You should look at the printout of a poster on the next page, study the information carefully and plan your answer before beginning to write.

Your aunt is looking for a holiday enrichment camp for your 9-year-old cousin, Amanda. She has some expectations of the camp with regards to the learning outcomes and how enjoyable it would be. You have come across this poster and have decided to recommend this camp to your aunt.

Write a letter to your aunt suggesting:

- information of the chosen camp
- justifications for choosing this camp

Write your letter in clear, accurate English and in a persuasive, enthusiastic tone, to convince your aunt to agree with your selection of camp.

You should use your own words as much as possible.





Around The World IN 4 DAYS

A fun-filled cultural themed holiday camp where children will be transported to 4 different countries: Japan, India, Mexico and France



Children will experience their unique language, culture & traditions, music and songs, food, arts and craft without leaving Singapore!



A treat for the 5 senses! Discovery and learning becomes more meaningful and definitely fun!



Each child will have his/her own "passport" for arrivals and departure at these countries and record his/her memorable experiences.

The Celebration

Celebrate like the locals do by participating in traditional songs and dances.

Local Lingo

Learn some local lingo as well as be spellbound by local folklores and fables that have been passed down through generations.



The Artist

Try out your hand at some artwork and create beautiful masterpieces to bring home from your host country.

Food, Glorious Food!

Savour the local delights, learn about its origins and how to make them.



Paper 1 Section B - Situational Writing

Sample Writings

Situational Writing 8

7 Autumn Drive
Singapore 456787

19 May 2013

Dear Aunt Jolin,

I was really happy to receive your last letter and to read all the latest updates from you and your family! I am glad to hear that Amanda was so excited about going to a holiday enrichment camp. Such an anticipatory and open mindset would be sure to help her learn immensely from the camp. I saw a poster the other day about a camp called "Around the world in 4 days", and thought I would recommend it to you.

Amanda has always been curious about the world from a tender age, and you have mentioned to me that she would like to learn about other places and cultures during her enrichment camp. This camp would hence fulfill her expectations completely, as it allows its campers to learn about the culture of four different nations, Japan, India, Mexico and France, via learning their national languages and hearing their local folktales! To add to the excitement, Amanda will get to have her own "passport" to record her arrivals and departures at each country and to journal her experiences. It will certainly feel like a true-blue world tour for her! She will also get to sample the delicious foods of each country, and even learn about their origins and how to prepare them. It will be a truly hands-on journey of exploration for her.

Since Amanda feels that her holiday programmes would be incomplete without a foray into her favourite domain - the world of the arts, this enrichment camp would suit her perfectly. It will give her the opportunity to participate in traditional songs and dances used by locals of these four countries during their celebrations. Also, she will be taught artwork and art styles from each host country, and will get to bring home her masterpieces to remind her of all the fun she has had at camp!

This camp will surely be an eye-opener for Amanda, and I am certain that Amanda would adore being a young globe-trotter during her school vacation. I do hope my suggestion will be of use to you. Do write back and let me know what you decide upon eventually!

Yours sincerely,
Pamela



Paper 1 Section C - Continuous Writing

Sample Essays

1. Describe an experience at a local fun fair on a weekend night.

Essay 1

The terrifying, blind roar surfaced every few minutes or so, **punctuating** the throbbing pulse of noise that underscored Universal Studios Singapore. We moved closer to the fence that separated us from the heartstopping rollercoaster. Again the majestic blue and red double rollercoasters plunged madly into a small **enclave** cut into the ground just before our faces and then swooped upward again, trailing screams behind it. In the fall of the evening, the ride must have been even more thrilling — a confusion of darkness and neon lights, an utter **disorientation**. Calling this **behemoth** of an amusement park a fun fair is somewhat of a **misnomer**; however, it has all the qualifications — rides, food, item sales — if on a massive, almost hyperreal scale.

We decided, with much **trepidation**, to leave the famous rollercoasters for last. Fanning ourselves with brochures to ward off the lazy whine of mosquitoes and the humidity of the Singapore night, we walked further into the park, **marvelling** at the elaborate décor as we passed the theme park's reconstruction of Egypt. Artificial models of Anubis, the jackal-headed guardian of the afterlife, towered imposingly over our heads, arms crossed sternly over broad chests; they were easily as tall as seven-storey HDB buildings and looked especially threatening in the floodlights angled up at their faces. The queues for the Egyptian-themed rollercoaster ride were wearingly long but worthwhile as we screamed our throats raw on a rollercoaster that veered, plunged, and leapt through utter darkness.

Already exhausted, we emerged and walked as if in a dream through a marvellous staging of the world of Jurassic Park. Children scattered past us, some clutching parents' hands, others gripping souvenirs such as two-foot-tall dinosaur-shaped water bottles complete with curly straws. Rides rose and dipped in the **peripherals** of our vision. What awaited us here was a thrilling water ride through the rapids as mechanical dinosaurs accidentally 'let loose' from their compound threatened to eat us whole. Having had enough of adrenaline-inducing rides, we set off for the theme park's version of Fairyland. One of my friends, lured by the smell of fresh popcorn and nachos, munched away as we strolled leisurely past dreamily-lit castles and towers. Parents rested weary feet and cradled tired children on benches, prams parked nearby. We passed an unfortunate teenager hanging off a fence and throwing up into the grass, a victim of some thrill ride or the other, no doubt.

Eventually, it was the moment of truth: it was time to take the terrifying rollercoasters we had passed at first. We made our way towards the ride entrance. Just before we passed it the night exploded in a **conflagration** of glittering lights; fireworks traced flowers in the dark, and the boom of every flower set free **resonated** through our entire bodies. For a minute we linked hands, friends caught breathless in the beauty of the display. Then before we lost our nerve we dove into the queue, laughing.

488 words





Vocabulary

punctuating	punctuate: to interrupt at intervals
enclave	any small, distinct area or group enclosed or isolated within a larger one
disorientation	disorientate: to cause someone to lose his bearings
behemoth	any creature or thing of monstrous size or power
misnomer	a misapplied or inappropriate name or designation
trepidation	tremulous fear, alarm, or agitation; perturbation
marvelling	marvel: to wonder at
peripherals	peripheral: near the surface or outside of; external
conflagration	a destructive fire, usually an extensive one
resonated	resonate: to resound



1. Describe an experience at a local fun fair on a weekend night.

Essay 2

The *pasar malam* unwinds like a long red dragon along the rainy streets. Smoke and noise **unfurls** from beneath its crimson hood; it is curled up, gathering itself, almost waiting to move. In our tiny country, the sweating men and women behind the stalls are our closest things to gypsies as the *pasar malam* marches slowly through the heartlands of Singapore.

Step beneath the canvas tent and push your way through the heavy, oily smoke of *muah chee*, tea eggs, *tu tu kueh*, Ramli burgers and roasted peanuts — all things that any true local has eaten at least once in his lifetime. Touch the Winnie the Pooh and Hello Kitty cotton nightgowns that hang in void decks or the small daily necessities that **cascade** over the sides of the makeshift tables; be assaulted by the ringing of the alarm clocks and watches and hook rubber frogs out of inflatable pools to win cheap children's toys. Hawkers sell durians in loud, commanding voices and split the thorny shells apart with masterful smooth strokes of a chopper.

Once on a Saturday night as a child I remember gazing with wild delight at the *pasar malam* immediately below my block. The children's rides section had been set up at the open area just by the playground and through my window I saw the gemstone glitter of the children's train ride, the inflatable palace complete with a splendid slide, a mini Ferris wheel, child-sized battery-operated motorcycles lined up in a proud, shining fleet by the side, and the grandest prize of all — a pirate ship that swung almost as high as the second storey of a flat. That night, I pleaded with my parents to go. It did not take much convincing; *pasar malams* hold easy magic for anyone. Impatiently I walked past all the stores, ate *tu tu kueh* with peanut filling and waited for my grandmother to linger over the money tree plants and jade plants.

Finally we reached the children's rides and with my sister I raced up the smooth sides of the bouncing castle and slid down like slippery eels. We **deliberated** over which carriages to select for the train rides and sat primly and solemnly on the Ferris wheel. Finally it was time for the pirate ship. I got into line with an air of brisk importance as my sister watched enviously; my mother had decided she was too young to go on this ride. I sat near the bow of the ship and gripped tightly on to the metal bar over my lap.

This is one of my most vivid childhood memories: feeling my stomach swoop, thrill and terror vying in my heart; looking up as the ship swung and seeing the stars spin dizzily and magnificently past the rooftops of flats. The experience of a *pasar malam* is not about a singular memory but a library of associations and emotions assembled throughout your life; it is ultimately and powerfully about growing up at home.

497 words



Vocabulary

unfurls	to spread or shake out
cascade	to flow or fall in a consecutive sequence
deliberated	deliberate: carefully weigh or consider



27. "Academic excellence alone does not guarantee success today." Do you agree?

Essay 1

The term "success" is a broad one, and in this essay, it is defined as the achievement of financial independence, prosperity and a good career. In societies today, a heavy emphasis is placed on achieving good academic results in order to achieve success in life. Entry examinations into colleges and universities are typically academic-based, and securing a university degree is seen as **pivotal** in obtaining a good career. Indeed, it appears that academic excellence plays an important role in determining one's success. However, other factors certainly play a role, and therefore I agree to a large extent that academic excellence alone does not guarantee success today.

Apart from academic excellence, certain personal qualities are crucial in guaranteeing one's success. This can be seen in the examples of successful entrepreneurs who have made a name for themselves despite possessing low academic qualifications. A prominent example is that of Bill Gates, chairman of the software company Microsoft. He obtained much success in his career despite dropping out of school, instead relying on qualities like entrepreneurship and creativity to achieve success. Indeed, grades and certifications can only get one so far. Possessing attractive personal qualities, such as enthusiasm, conscientiousness and good social skills will greatly help one to succeed in his career.

In a world where degrees and certifications are increasingly becoming more achievable, non-academic skills are able to guarantee success as well. Many have found it possible to achieve successes through non-academic skills. Such skills include the ability to draw, dance or any form of vocational skill. One example is that of David Gan, a local hairstylist, who has achieved great success in hairstyling despite having little schooling. Attaining excellence in such non-academic skills can no doubt guarantee success as much as academic excellence. Being adept in these skills allows one to carve a career through imparting the skills to others, or providing much-needed services to customers.

Of course, the importance of academic excellence today cannot be **refuted**. In a small nation like Singapore, academic excellence is still regarded as extremely important in achieving success. Many white collar jobs today require a good education background. While not impossible, it may be significantly harder for many to attain success without some form of formal education.

Academic excellence no doubt plays a key role in guaranteeing success today. However, academic excellence alone will not guarantee success - for instance, a person who is academically inclined, but lacks the creativity or foresight to develop his or her career, will not be as successful as one who possesses such qualities. Furthermore, the importance of other non-academic skills cannot be ignored. Thus, I largely agree that academic excellence alone does not guarantee success today.

446 words

Vocabulary

pivotal of vital or critical importance

refuted refute: to prove to be false or erroneous, as an opinion or charge



27. "Academic excellence alone does not guarantee success today." Do you agree?

Essay 2

Many societies today are extremely caught up in the paper-chase, believing that excellent academic qualifications are the key to eventual success. However, I do not agree that academic excellence alone will be able to grant success to individuals in the world today. Rather, academic excellence is but a useful stepping stone towards the pursuit of success in numerous factions of society. Other factors like people skills and the ability to handle stress are just as important, if not more important, in determining how far one goes in life.

Academic success is of course important to some extent. Academic excellence indicates that we have attained the technical competencies taught to us at school, which equip us to deal with the demands of working life. Someone who aspires to go into the scientific research industry, for instance, will not be considered qualified, unless he has displayed excellence in scientific studies at, perhaps, the tertiary or university level. Academic excellence hence enables us to have the **pre-requisite** skills to take up careers in fields that we are interested in, and facilitates our attainment of professional success in such areas.

However, people skills are just as important as academic excellence. No man is an island, and every aspect of life requires us to work with and communicate with people. It is hence necessary for us to be able to work with people efficiently and to build strong ties with the people around us if we are to get ahead with life. A person with impressive academic **credentials** will eventually fail to find success in both his professional and personal life if he offends people easily or if he is insensitive to the feelings and needs of others. Academic excellence alone cannot grant success in a world where we cannot achieve any substantial accomplishment without the help and support of the people around us.

Furthermore, one's academic success will be of little use in the long run if one is unable to handle stress. For instance, one's excellent grades can gain one entry into a **lucrative** career or a highly-sought-after job position, but they will be useless if one is unable to deal with the stress that accompanies the job. Real-life responsibilities often come with **multifaceted** demands and require one to be flexible and able to stay calm regardless of any crisis that may surface. One can therefore only achieve success in life if one is able to take on multiple, conflicting demands with composure, and not crack under the intense, **unrelenting** pressure.

All of us hope to succeed in our jobs, in our personal lives, and in achieving our dreams and aspirations. Often, our academic accomplishments are useful in that they prove us qualified to take on the jobs, positions, and opportunities that pave the way towards eventual success. However, whether we are truly worthy of this success depends greatly on other factors like our people skills and our stress management capabilities. Academic success, while important, is not enough on its own.

498 words



Vocabulary

requisite	required or necessary for a particular purpose or position
credentials	credential: anything that provides the basis for confidence, belief or credit
lucrative	profitable; moneymaking; remunerative
multifaceted	having many aspects or phases
unrelenting	not yielding or swerving in determination or resolution, as of or from opinions, convictions, ambitions, ideals

