

Paper 1 Section A - Editing

Questions



Question 1

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about the practice of foot binding in ancient 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 term 'foot binding' is self-explanatory. It brings to mind images of ancient Chinese rickshaws, dainty shoes and women with feet grotesque contorted by 1

swaths of bandages, usually accompanied in the reek of infected, gangrenous 2

flesh. Although this picture may invoke revulsion in most of us today, the art of 3

foot binding was in fact once popular and revere in ancient China. There are 4

diverse folklore and legends surrounding its actual origin. One of these date 5

back to the Shang dynasty, attributed the origin of foot binding to a fox which 6

assumed the guise of the Empress and tried to conceal its paws. A more plausibly 7

story, however, tells of a Sung dynasty prince who has a fetish for tiny feet and 8

who made his concubine dance by her feet bound. The concubine was supposed to 9

have been so elegant that she 'skimmed on top of golden lilies'. By the end of 10

the 12th century, the practice of binding feet was prevalent.



Question 2

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about witnessing an interesting behavior of an ant. 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.

..... ✓

One morning, I wasted nearly an hour watching a tiny ant carry a huge feather across my back terrace. Several times, it was confront by obstacles in its path 1

but it will make necessary detours. At one point, the ant had to negotiate a 2

crack in the concrete about a centimetre wide. After a briefly contemplation, 3

the ant laid the feather over the crack, walked across it and picked up the 4

feather on the other side then continued on its way. I was fascinated of the 5

ingenuity of this ant. Here was a minute insect, lacked in size yet equipped with a 6

brain to reason and explore. After some time, the ant finally reach its 7

destination — a flower bed and a small hole that was the entrance to its 8

underground home. And it was here that the ant finally meet its match. How 9

could that large feather possibly fit with the small hole? So the ant, after 10

overcoming all barriers, just abandoned the feather and went home.



Paper 1 Section A - Editing

Solutions



Solution 1

The term 'foot binding' is self-explanatory. It brings to mind images of ancient Chinese rickshaws, dainty shoes and women with feet (grotesque) contorted by swaths of bandages, usually accompanied (in) the reek of infected, gangrenous flesh. Although this picture may invoke revulsion in most of us today, the art of foot binding was in fact once popular and (revere) in ancient China. There are diverse folklore and legends surrounding its actual origin. One of these (date) back to the Shang dynasty, (attributed) the origin of foot binding to a fox which assumed the guise of the Empress and tried to conceal its paws. A more (plausibly) story, however, tells of a Sung dynasty prince who (has) a fetish for tiny feet and who made his concubine dance (by) her feet bound. The concubine was supposed to have been so elegant that she 'skimmed on top of golden lilies'. By the end of the 12th century, the practice of binding feet was prevalent.

- 1 grotesquely
- 2 by
- 3 ✓
- 4 revered
- 5 dates
- 6 attributing
- 7 plausible
- 8 had
- 9 with
- 10 ✓

Solution 2

One morning, I wasted nearly an hour watching a tiny ant carry a huge feather across my back terrace. Several times, it was (confront) by obstacles in its path but it (will) make necessary detours. At one point, the ant had to negotiate a crack in the concrete about a centimetre wide. After a (briefly) contemplation, the ant laid the feather over the crack, walked across it and picked up the feather on the other side then continued on its way. I was fascinated (of) the ingenuity of this ant. Here was a minute insect, (lacked) in size yet equipped with a brain to reason and explore. After some time, the ant finally (reach) its destination — a flower bed and a small hole that was the entrance to its underground home. And it was here that the ant finally (meet) its match. How could that large feather possibly fit (with) the small hole? So the ant, after overcoming all barriers, just abandoned the feather and went home.

- 1 confronted
- 2 would
- 3 brief
- 4 ✓
- 5 by
- 6 lacking
- 7 reached
- 8 ✓
- 9 met
- 10 through



Paper 1 Section B – Situational Writing Questions

Question 4

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

You should look at the photograph below, study the information carefully and plan your answer before beginning to write.

Write a letter of complaint to the Town Council on the situation that you observed. Mention how the current situation has possibly led to the increase in the number of Dengue Fever cases among residents recently. Describe how you feel and provide suggestions on how to improve on the current situation.

**Photo taken by: Ho Boon Kong
Contact No: 97843451**

**Date: 17 August 2014
Time: 2:45 p.m.**

Venue: Construction site at Clementi Avenue 5, near Block 325



Paper 1 Section B – Situational Writing

Sample Writings

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Situational Writing 4

Block 325
Clementi Avenue 5
#09-123
Singapore 789325

20 August 2014

Feedback Department
Clementi Town Council
15 Clementi South Road
Singapore 450689

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Complaint on Potential Aedes Breeding Grounds at Clementi Avenue 5 Construction Site

I am a resident of Block 325, Clementi Avenue 5. I am writing to lodge a complaint about the hazardous conditions at the construction site near my apartment block, which may have facilitated the spread of Dengue Fever in our housing estate.

I passed by the construction site on 17 August 2014, at 2.45 p.m., and noticed that the site was extremely poorly maintained. Crumpled canvas sheets were left lying around, and there was stagnant rainwater collected in their multiple folds. A neglected ground depression in the centre of the construction site was halfway filled with muddy water, and there were open, discarded plastic containers and buckets lying in a corner. Lastly, the metal cover of a few carpark drains had been prised open, but the covers had not been replaced.

I was deeply troubled by these observations, as they meant that the site had many areas that were prime for the accumulation of stagnant water, and hence the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes. It is possible that the sharp increase in Dengue Fever cases in our estate recently could have been caused by the dangerous and careless practices at this large construction site. I was upset that the lives and health of hundreds of residents, especially vulnerable members like the very young, the old, and those with existing health issues, were put at risk. As someone who has elderly and young family members at home, I would like to urge that corrective measures be taken immediately, to prevent our loved ones from falling prey to Dengue Fever.

I would suggest that regular site checks be taken up by supervisors, to ensure that there is no accumulation of stagnant water onsite. Depressions and containers should be drained of water daily, and drains should always be covered up. The Town Council could also send officers down weekly to check that these rules are properly followed.

Thank you for reading my letter. I do hope that my views will be taken into consideration, and that measures will be taken to make our neighbourhood a Dengue-free one.

Yours faithfully,
Ho Boon Kong



Paper 1 Section C – Continuous Writing

Sample Essays

38. Write about a time when you had to do something that you were afraid of doing.

Essay 1

"Alright class, your assignment for the week would be to prepare a speech. Next week, you will present it before the entire class," the teacher's instructions rang loud and clear as the whole class groaned in **unison**.

The whole class, except for me. I was too shocked to even make any verbal **dissent** against the teacher. I have been a shy **introvert** since young, rarely opening up to people around me. Doing such an assignment was **akin** to asking a baby to run even before it could walk!

It had to be done, however; the assignment counted for our end-of-year grades. Desperate, I turned to my best friend, Jon, for help. Jon was my polar opposite: he was loud-mouthed and **boisterous**, full of energy and always bounding around, providing opinions whether he was welcome to or not. Yes, if anyone could help me, it was Jon.

Over the course of the week, he dragged me to his house day after day, poring over my script and editing it together with me, even throwing in actions that I could perform to emphasise my points. He would make me stand on his bed while he sat on the floor as the sole audience, forcing me to speak out loud to him. It was awkward the first few times; even with Jon, I felt extremely self-conscious. However, he pushed me to continue in my speech and made me practise **relentlessly**. Soon, my speech and actions flowed, and towards the end I even forgot about Jon's presence as I got too caught up in speech-making.

Finally, the day of the speech came. I went up before the class, and as Jon gave me a cheeky grin and the thumbs up sign, all my fear was **dissolved**. I delivered my speech **flawlessly** as my classmates and even my teacher stared at me wide-eyed, surprised at my complete change.

Needless to say, I received an excellent grade for my speech. However, the biggest reward I received was not in academic terms, but in the knowledge that I had conquered one of my greatest fears.

348 words



Vocabulary

unison	complete agreement; harmony
dissent	difference of sentiment or opinion
introvert	a shy person
akin	allied by nature; having the same properties
boisterous	rough and noisy; noisily jolly or rowdy; clamorous; unrestrained
relentlessly	relentless: unyieldingly severe, strict, or harsh
dissolved	dissolve: to break up; dismiss; disperse
flawlessly	flawless: having no defects or faults, especially none that diminish the value of something



38. Write about a time when you had to do something that you were afraid of doing.

Essay 2

I stood in line with my family, totally **tremulous** at the prospect of what was coming. The cute penguin holding up the sign which said "You need to be this tall to take the ride!" did not help matters; the smile it flaunted seemed to be all-knowing and cunning, as I passed the height test easily to take the deathly ride.

It was going to be my first time on a roller coaster.

People say that the wait is more terrible than the fate that awaits us, and that was most certainly true. During the one hour wait for the ride, my teeth were knocking against each other, both from the chill of the wind and from the fear of actually getting on the ride. I had a dreadful fear of heights, but with my sister's constant **badgering**, I eventually caved in and agreed to join her.

Whatever was I thinking?

The time finally came for us to take the ride, and upon seeing my almost pale face, the attendant **stifled** a **chortle** and made sure I was securely fastened to my seat. He gave me a pat on my head, and all of a sudden, we were off.

The **racketing** and **clacking** as we **ascended** the first slope only added to the tension, signalling to us the fall that was about to come. When it did happen, I was completely caught off-guard. I screamed my lungs out as my heart felt like it dropped right off my body.

Although my legs felt like jelly upon standing up at the end, I felt like I was at the top of the world; I had finally conquered one of my greatest fears.

281 words

Vocabulary

tremulous	timid; timorous; fearful
badgering	badger: to harass or urge persistently; pester; nag
stifled	stifle: to suppress, curb, or withhold
chortle	a gleeful chuckle
ratcheting	ratchet: to move by degrees
clacking	clack: to make a quick, sharp sound, or a succession of such sounds, as by striking or cracking
ascended	ascend: to move, climb, or go upward



61. Are teenagers today materialistic?

Essay 1

Teenagers of our age are growing up on a steady diet of Hollywood and MTV, **peppered** with various advertisements ranging from the latest technological **gadgets** to the newest in make-up and fashion clothing. It is near impossible to shield the **impressionable** eyes of our youths from these mind-addling advertisements, and it can be said that they are gradually drowning in a world of **rampant** materialism. Teenagers are being taught to want what they see, and such a phenomenon is highly **prevalent** in our society.

It can be argued that teenagers are not so weak-willed as to fall prey so easily to **glittery** advertisements broadcasted all day long. In fact, this is probably true, as we see from plenty of **anecdotes** of teenagers saving up and not spending **flippantly**, all for the sake of saving for a rainy day. Such examples of **frugality** may be relatively commonplace, and can be seen in all **facets** of our community.

However, it is undeniable that our society is progressing towards a more materialistic **stance**. With the economy booming, people have much more disposable income at hand to wave about, granting them the **impunity** to buy almost anything their heart desires. People can now buy things on a **whim** and not feel the pinch, and such a practice seems to be progressively **transmitted** to the younger generation when they observe the examples set by their parents or peers.

Additionally, with dual-income families on the rise, parents find it easier to provide their children with material benefits. The ease of **providence** is not the main factor, though; parents may provide material **incentives** more readily for their children because they are often not around physically to care for their children. This would result in teenagers being bolder in asking for more and more things that they want, instead of being content.

Our society's progress into a more modern, **cosmopolitan** version has had its side effects, and materialistic teenagers are but just one of them. I believe that the issue is not serious as yet, but it must be **curbed** before teenagers grow up to believe that material wealth is all that matters.

355 words



Vocabulary

peppered	pepper: to sprinkle liberally; dot
gadgets	gadget: a small mechanical device or appliance
impressionable	easily impressed or influenced; susceptible
rampant	unrestrained or violent in behaviour, desire, opinions, etc
prevalent	widespread; of wide extent or occurrence; in general use or acceptance
glittery	to be decorated or enhanced by the glamour
anecdotes	anecdote: a short account of a particular incident or event, especially of an interesting or amusing nature
flippantly	flippant: frivolously disrespectful, shallow, or lacking in seriousness
frugality	the quality of being prudent in saving; the lack of wastefulness
facets	facet: aspect; phase
stance	general emotional or intellectual attitude
impunity	immunity from detrimental effects, as of an action
whim	an odd or capricious notion or desire; a sudden or freakish fancy
transmitted	transmit: to pass on
providence	a manifestation of divine care or direction
incentives	incentive: something that incites or tends to incite to action or greater effort, as a reward offered for increased productivity
cosmopolitan	belonging to all the world; not limited to just one part of the world
curbed	curb: to control; restrain



61. Are teenagers today materialistic?

Essay 2

Mass media has come a long way in our time, with advertisements **boosting** revenue for media companies and assisting their ascent of the ladder of success. The side-effects, however, are **manifold**: with advertisements being able to reach out to a larger audience, they have been able to impose their views and influence many people. Such **precedence** may have led to more widespread materialism among people, especially teenagers. Not only are advertisements **propagating** ideas of materialism; they put **immense** peer pressure on the youths to follow in other people's footsteps and gain material wealth.

Advertisements were created to give the target audience an impression that they require the items that are being **peddled**. Through means of appeals to authority and amazing graphics and claims, they have been able to sway the mindsets of many. However, teenagers may be persuaded more than anybody else. At such a tender age, they probably have not formed a firm character like adults, and thus they may be able to be swayed more easily. On the other hand, teenagers have greater spending power than younger children like those in primary school, allowing them to **contemplate** purchasing material goods. This places teenagers at a position to develop a highly materialistic mindset.

Additionally, teenagers, at such a **precarious** age, crave acceptance from their friends, and such a craving may create a hive mind for materialism. Once a group of friends have decided that something is worth getting, such an idea will spread **rampantly** among others and cause others to want something that they might not have initially desired.

It is my belief that teenagers are materialistic in this day and age, and they may believe that material goods make what they are. As they become more sure about their own identity and mindset, however, a materialistic mindset might become less of a problem.

305 words



Vocabulary

boosting	boost: to increase; raise
manifold	of many kinds; numerous and varied
precedence	act of going before, as in place, order, rank, importance, or time
propagating	propagate: to transmit
immense	vast; huge; very great
peddled	peddle: to sell
contemplate	to consider thoroughly; think fully or deeply about
precarious	dependent on the will or pleasure of another; liable to be withdrawn or lost at the will of another
rampantly	rampant: growing or developing unchecked

