

## Paper 1 Section A - Editing

### Questions



#### Question 1

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about bull sharks. 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. ✓  
.....

Bull sharks are aggressive and usually live near tropical shorelines. They are not  
bothered for brackish freshwater, and can even venture far inland via rivers and **1** .....  
tributaries. Because of these characteristics, many experts consider bull sharks **2** .....  
to be the most danger sharks in the world. Historically, they are joined by their **3** .....  
more famous cousins, great whites and tiger sharks, as the three species were **4** .....  
most likely to attack humans. Bull sharks get their name from their short, blunt **5** .....  
snout, as well as their pugnaciously disposition and a tendency to head-butt their **6** .....  
prey before attack. They are medium-sized sharks, with thick, stout bodies and **7** .....  
long pectoral fins. Been fast and agile predators, they will eat almost anything **8** .....  
they see, include dolphins and even other sharks. Humans are not, per se, on **9** .....  
their menus. Thus, they frequent the turbid waters of estuaries and bays, and **10** .....  
often attack people inadvertently or out of curiosity.



## Question 2

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about off-trail hiking. 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. ✓  
.....

Almost all hikers have the strong desire to explore and discover. The sense of wonder and peace you get when making your way by snaking wooded paths and 1 .....

natural terrain was tough to beat. For some experienced hikers, the best of that 2 .....

feeling comes when exploring truly untouch areas — the ones that you cannot 3 .....

find on a well-travelled trail. Called "off-trail hiking" by its practitioners, going 4 .....

off marked paths and into the uncharted parts of a forest can add an element of 5 .....

excitement to your hiking trip. The distinction may not seem huge on face value, 6 .....

but many hikers believed that pioneering your own path makes all the difference 7 .....

in having a rewarded outdoor experience. Those who are trying to catch a 8 .....

glimpse of native wildlife, too, common venture into less travelled areas. In 9 .....

addition to add a level of excitement to an outdoor adventure, off-trail hiking 10 .....

allows you to hone your skills.



## Paper 1 Section A - Editing

### Solutions



#### Solution 1

Bull sharks are aggressive and usually live near tropical shorelines. They are not bothered (for) brackish freshwater, and can even venture far inland via rivers and tributaries. Because of these characteristics, many experts consider bull sharks to be the most (danger) sharks in the world. Historically, they are joined by their more famous cousins, great whites and tiger sharks, as the three species (were) most likely to attack humans. Bull sharks get their name from their short, blunt snout, as well as their (pugnaciously) disposition and a tendency to head-butt their prey before (attack). They are medium-sized sharks, with thick, stout bodies and long pectoral fins. (Been) fast and agile predators, they will eat almost anything they see, (include) dolphins and even other sharks. Humans are not, per se, on their menus. (Thus), they frequent the turbid waters of estuaries and bays, and often attack people inadvertently or out of curiosity.

- 1 ..... by .....
- 2 ..... ✓ .....
- 3 ..... dangerous .....
- 4 ..... are .....
- 5 ..... ✓ .....
- 6 ..... pugnacious .....
- 7 ..... attacking .....
- 8 ..... Being .....
- 9 ..... including .....
- 10 ..... However .....

#### Solution 2

Almost all hikers have the strong desire to explore and discover. The sense of wonder and peace you get when making your way (by) snaking wooded paths and natural terrain (was) tough to beat. For some experienced hikers, the best of that feeling comes when exploring truly (untouch) areas — the ones that you cannot find on a well-travelled trail. Called "off-trail hiking" by its practitioners, going off marked paths and into the uncharted parts of a forest can add an element of excitement to your hiking trip. The distinction may not seem huge (on) face value, but many hikers (believed) that pioneering your own path makes all the difference in having a (rewarded) outdoor experience. Those who are trying to catch a glimpse of native wildlife, too, (common) venture into less travelled areas. In addition to (add) a level of excitement to an outdoor adventure, off-trail hiking allows you to hone your skills.

- 1 ..... through .....
- 2 ..... is .....
- 3 ..... untouched .....
- 4 ..... ✓ .....
- 5 ..... ✓ .....
- 6 ..... at .....
- 7 ..... believe .....
- 8 ..... rewarding .....
- 9 ..... commonly .....
- 10 ..... adding .....



## Paper 1 Section B – Situational Writing

### Questions

#### Question 15

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

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

After a one-week stint as a volunteer amassing donations for the needy in poorer countries, you have gained a deeper appreciation for the things that you have in Singapore. Write a letter to your friend relating your experience. Describe your feelings and explain why youths in Singapore should feel fortunate and contented with what they have.


# CHARITY VISION

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## Gift Catalogue


By Price Range

By Category





**India: Hygiene kits for 3 children**  
\$20

 [Add to my gifts](#)





**Laos: Medical equipment and facilities**  
\$250

 [Add to my gifts](#)




**Cambodia: A share of new water supply system**  
\$15

 [Add to my gifts](#)



**Zimbabwe: Food packs for 5 children**  
\$65

 [Add to my gifts](#)



## Paper 1 Section B – Situational Writing

### Sample Writings

15

#### Situational Writing 15

21 Hill View Lane  
Singapore 890123

8 September 2014

Dear Sally,

What have you been up to lately? I recently participated in a one-week volunteering stint to amass donations for the needy in poorer countries, and I have learnt so much from the experience. It has left me deeply moved indeed.

I was happy to have participated in a plethora of fund-raising activities organised by Charity Vision, a non-governmental organisation which seeks to acquire crucial resources for poverty-stricken communities in developing countries. We took part in Flag Day events, where we asked passers-by for donations. Also, we performed informative skits in schools to raise awareness of our cause and our website, where people can make online donations.

Through this experience, I realised how fortunate Singaporean youths are. We often fail to realise exactly how comfortable life on our sunny little island is. The impoverished often lack essentials like clean water for drinking in places like Cambodia. While we can easily head to a clinic or hospital when we fall ill, slight illnesses can worsen and result in great suffering or death due to the lack of proper healthcare and hygiene in poor parts of India and Laos. We should be grateful for and contented with what we have, and look towards helping the less fortunate, if we can.

Often, what seems like a paltry sum to us can save the lives of the poor. For instance, \$20 can purchase hygiene kits for 3 children in India, and \$15 can buy a share of a new water supply system in Cambodia. We often think nothing of forking out tens or hundreds of dollars for luxuries like computer games, but just \$65 is enough to pay for food packs for 5 children in Zimbabwe, rescuing them from starvation, and \$250 is enough to purchase medical equipment and facilities in Laos.

I am looking into a long-term volunteering commitment with Charity Vision, as I have emerged from this brief stint with an entirely different perspective about life altogether. I hope my sharing has been interesting to you, and would love to tell you more if you would like to take up charity work too. Take care, and I look forward to your reply!

Yours sincerely,  
Vicky



## Paper 1 Section C – Continuous Writing

## Sample Essays

## 16. My first swimming lesson

Essay 1

The **sapphire** blue water **glistened**, bathed in the warm sunlight. It would have made for an extremely relaxing dip in the blazing afternoon, if not for a single reason: I could not swim.

It was my first swimming lesson, and it was in great **trepidation** that I even reached out my little toes to touch the water. In my mind, water was never a friend; water seemed to be a **fearsome** enemy, ready to **engulf** me in its terrible arms the moment I set my foot in it. It was with great effort and a lot of pushing on my father's part that I even dared to dip myself, **timorously**, into the terrifying waters.

As I entered the pool, a gush of water filled my nostrils, causing me to choke up and nearly setting off a panic attack. The cold of the water shocked me; I never expected that there could be such **contrariness** between the weather and the temperature of the water. The cold immediately knocked the air out of me, and I had trouble breathing for a few moments after. It was not the best start I could have hoped for.

Nevertheless, the less than perfect beginning was soon shaken off as the coach began leading me through my warm-up drills. Whatever fears I had were slowly **dissolved** in the caring arms of the coach, as he made sure that I could kick my way through the breadth of the pool without having to dip my head underwater even once. I soon grew confident of being able to wade in the water.

The last test awaited me near the end of the lesson, when the coach suddenly let go of his hands, setting my heart fluttering for the second time. I began paddling furiously like a dog taking to the water, struggling with all my might just to keep afloat. Only with the soothing words of the coach did I realise that I could, in fact, keep myself above water with smooth, confident strokes.

I had finally learnt how to swim.

343 words



Vocabulary

sapphire      deep blue

glistened      glisten: to reflect a sparkling light or a faint intermittent glow; shine  
lustrously

trepidation      tremulous fear, alarm, or agitation

fearsome      causing fear

engulf      to swallow up; submerge

timorously      timorous: full of fear; fearful

contrariness      contrary: opposite in direction or position

dissolved      dissolve: to disappear gradually; fade away





## 16. My first swimming lesson

### Essay 2

Anybody who knew me when I was young would know that I have had a deathly fear of water, ever since my first trip to a water theme park, when I was stuck in my float and led down the lazy river away from my family. Back then, I did not know how to swim, and there was no way for me to get out of my float. Since then, I have not had the guts to step into a pool again.

Despite my fear of water, my parents have always tried to coax me to learn how to swim, claiming that it was an invaluable skill in life. However, my **vehement** protests, which included a lot of whining and crying, would always win any argument that my parents put forth. Thus, even at the ripe age of seven, while all my friends were all busy getting swimming medals, I had the swimming skills equivalent to that of a rock's.

One day, my father finally had enough of my **antics**. He hired a swimming coach for me, and even with my best efforts of resistance, my father managed to drag me into the car and drive me to the swimming complex. Little did he know that I was about to show him the little terror that I could be.

When I met my coach for the first time, I decided that it was the time to act. Taking advantage of my father's **momentary lapse** in concentration as he shook hands with my coach, I ran away at full speed, screaming at the top of my voice.

My father and coach stood shell-shocked for a while before they regained their senses. They started to chase me, and in all my life I had never seen my father run so fast before. He quickly caught up with me, and with one hand, **hauled** me up and **unceremoniously** dumped me into the swimming pool.

The fear of **invoking** my father's **wrath** again trumped my fear of water, and from then on I attended my swimming lessons **diligently**, finally overcoming my fear of water.

350 words





Vocabulary

vehement	strongly emotional; intense or passionate
antics	antic: a playful trick or prank
momentary	lasting but a moment; very brief; fleeting
lapse	a slip or error, often of a trivial sort
hauled	haul: to pull or draw with force
unceremoniously	unceremonious: discourteously abrupt; hasty; rude
invoking	invoke: to summon
wrath	strong, stern, or fierce anger
diligently	diligent: constant in effort to accomplish something; attentive and persistent in doing anything



## 60. Should all students learn a third language?

### Essay 1

With the rapid **onset** of globalisation in our world, the **coalescing** of cultures from all around our world has been happening at an equally fast rate. Where we were earlier separated by **insurmountable** geographical barriers, we now easily overcome them with superior technology. There has never been a more crucial time for all of us to arm ourselves with knowledge of other cultures, and one of the best ways to go about it is to learn their language.

As such, the question of the need for students to study a third language has sprung up from time to time, and people have questioned if it should be a compulsory subject. I am of the opinion that it should not be compulsory, but that students should have the ability to decide if a third language would be beneficial.

There is no doubting the practicality of learning a third language; it enables one to connect with a wider audience, especially in a new generation where we can literally connect with anyone around the globe. While it may not be as useful in a student's schooling life, it may prove to be invaluable in the future, when the students grow up into adults who may need to do business with **counterparts** from another land.

The above, however, applies only in a perfect world where people have unlimited resources and time. In the real world, however, students are often limited by the limited energy they can devote to each subject at hand. With two languages and a few other subjects, we already hear plenty of students complaining that they are unable to keep up with the syllabus. This is the reason why the third language subject is only offered to students of higher abilities who are able to handle the work they already have at hand. It would be **preposterous** to ask the same of students across the board.

While it is useful, learning a third language definitely does not work well for all students, and therefore, I believe that it should not be a compulsory subject for students.

345 words

### Vocabulary

onset	a beginning or start
coalescing	coalesce: to unite so as to form one mass, community, etc.
insurmountable	incapable of being surmounted, passed over, or overcome
counterparts	counterpart: a person or thing closely resembling another, especially in function
preposterous	completely contrary to nature, reason, or common sense; absurd; senseless; utterly foolish



## 60. Should all students learn a third language?

### Essay 2

It is an **indisputable** fact that learning languages helps **tremendously** in life: one can begin to connect with a wider variety of audiences, and it may prove to be highly useful in helping to bridge different cultures and traditions among various countries. With globalisation at its peak, it can be said that there is no better time than now to learn a new language. Despite that, I feel that not all students should learn a new language, as not all of them may have the ability to do it.

As of now, capable students studying at top schools in Singapore are given the choice of studying a third language. These students have been judged to be able to handle a demanding curriculum on top of the other activities that they have at hand. What is more, they are assumed to have no prior knowledge of the language, which makes it an even more impressive **feat** that they are studying a third language. Not all students are able to do such a thing, and making it compulsory would only add to the stress that students face.

We must face the harsh fact that there are only certain subjects that really matter in determining a student's future, and a third language is not one of them. Despite the nation's best efforts in trying to develop well-rounded students, making third language a compulsory subject will only serve to **detract** attention from the other more important subjects that will help students in their educational progress. It is a shame, but it is a fact of life that some students just cannot keep up with the **frantic** pace at which our syllabi are set.

There is no doubt as to the value that third languages can add to a student's life. However, we must also look at the other **facets** of a student's life that needs improvement as well. Time is a **scarce** resource, and unfortunately, third languages are just not important enough to **warrant** a compulsory slot in every student's timetable.

337 words

### Vocabulary

indisputable	not disputable or deniable; uncontestable
tremendously	tremendous: extraordinarily great in size, amount, or intensity
feat	a noteworthy or extraordinary act or achievement, usually displaying boldness, skill, etc.
detract	to take away a part, as from quality, value, or reputation
frantic	desperate or wild with excitement, passion, fear, pain, etc.
facets	facet: aspect; phase
scarce	insufficient to satisfy the need or demand; not abundant
warrant	to give a formal assurance, or a guarantee or promise, to or for; guarantee

