

## PSLE English · Practice Paper 2 · Silver 3

### Booklet A

**25 MARKS**

**TOTAL TIME FOR BOOKLETS A & B:** 1 hour 50 minutes

#### CANDIDATE PARTICULARS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Register No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
2. Follow all instructions carefully.
3. Answer all questions.
4. Use a 2B pencil to shade your answers on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS).

## PAPER 2 · BOOKLET A · 25 MARKS

**Multiple-choice questions**

Section	Marks
Section 1 · Grammar (Questions 1–10)	10
Section 2 · Vocabulary (Questions 11–15)	5
Section 3 · Vocabulary Cloze (Questions 16–20)	5
Section 4 · Visual Text Comprehension (Questions 21–25)	5
TOTAL	25

**Section 1 · Grammar**

For each question from 1 to 10, choose the answer that best fits the sentence(s). Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (10 marks)

1. By the time the form teacher \_\_\_\_\_ the register that morning, Aisha's chair had already been empty for eight school days.

- (1) takes
- (2) took
- (3) had taken
- (4) was taking

2. Either the canteen auntie or the prefects \_\_\_\_\_ to inform Mrs Devi whenever a pupil is absent without notice.

- (1) is supposed
- (2) are supposed
- (3) has been supposed
- (4) have being supposed

3. Nadia, \_\_\_\_\_ mother had once been admitted to the same ward, understood exactly what Aisha must be feeling.

- (1) who
- (2) which
- (3) whose
- (4) who's

4. "If I \_\_\_\_\_ in her place," Mei Xuan said quietly, "I would also be too tired to come to school."

- (1) am
- (2) was
- (3) were
- (4) would be

5. The grandmother apologised for \_\_\_\_\_ Malay so slowly, but the girls assured her that they understood.
- (1) speak
  - (2) to speak
  - (3) speaking
  - (4) spoken
6. Neither the lift nor the staircase \_\_\_\_\_ well-lit, so the four of us climbed up together.
- (1) was
  - (2) were
  - (3) have been
  - (4) are being
7. \_\_\_\_\_ the long ride and the afternoon heat, none of us complained as we cycled to Aisha's block.
- (1) Although
  - (2) Despite
  - (3) However
  - (4) Because
8. "You \_\_\_\_\_ tell Aisha that we came to look for her," whispered Priya. "Let her decide what to say."
- (1) may not
  - (2) cannot
  - (3) must not
  - (4) would not
9. Of the four of us, Priya is \_\_\_\_\_ — she had already drafted a letter to the form teacher before we reached home.
- (1) the most organised
  - (2) a more organised
  - (3) more organiseder
  - (4) the organisedest
10. The hardship application \_\_\_\_\_ by the school welfare committee for nearly a week before Aisha's family was finally contacted.
- (1) was reviewed
  - (2) had been reviewed
  - (3) has been reviewing
  - (4) is being reviewed

## Section 2 - Vocabulary

For each question from 11 to 15, choose the answer that best fits the sentence(s). Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

11. After noticing the empty seat for the third day in a row, I could no longer \_\_\_\_\_ my curiosity.
- (1) control
  - (2) contain
  - (3) hold
  - (4) keep
12. Mrs Devi gave us such a \_\_\_\_\_ answer that we knew at once she was hiding something.
- (1) vague
  - (2) blurry
  - (3) unclear
  - (4) foggy
13. The smell of fried bee hoon from the void deck was so \_\_\_\_\_ that my stomach rumbled all the way up the stairs.
- (1) delicious
  - (2) appetising
  - (3) yummy
  - (4) edible
14. Aisha's grandmother greeted us with a \_\_\_\_\_ smile, despite the worry written all over her face.
- (1) grateful
  - (2) thankful
  - (3) glad
  - (4) merry
15. The four of us worked \_\_\_\_\_ over the weekend, dividing the chores so that nothing would be missed.
- (1) tirelessly
  - (2) endlessly
  - (3) boringly
  - (4) neverendingly

## Section 3 - Vocabulary Cloze

For each question from 16 to 20, choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined word(s). Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

Last term, the four of us in Primary 6 Compassion took part in a school clean-up at Bedok Reservoir. As we set out at sunrise, the lake was so still that I felt a quiet serenity<sup>(16)</sup> wash over me.

Our task was to collect rubbish along the jogging path. At first, I presumed<sup>(17)</sup> that there would not be very much, but within ten minutes my bag was already half full. Plastic cups, bottle caps and crumpled tissues lay scattered<sup>(18)</sup> between the bushes, almost out of sight to a passing jogger.

An elderly man stopped to thank us. He had been walking there every morning for years, he said, and was heartened<sup>(19)</sup> to see young people caring for the park. His simple kindness made the heavy bags feel much lighter.

By the time we walked back to the bus, the sun had risen fully and the joggers had thinned out. I felt a quiet contentment<sup>(20)</sup> that I had not expected from a few hours of work.

16.

- (1) loneliness
- (2) calmness
- (3) tiredness
- (4) boredom

17.

- (1) doubted
- (2) assumed
- (3) promised
- (4) refused

18.

- (1) arranged
- (2) buried
- (3) strewn
- (4) stacked

19.

- (1) surprised
- (2) encouraged
- (3) amused
- (4) annoyed

20.

- (1) regret
- (2) boredom
- (3) satisfaction
- (4) confusion

## Section 4 - Visual Text Comprehension

For each question from 21 to 25, choose the best answer based on the notice below. Shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

Study the poster below carefully. Then answer questions 21 to 25.

**GREEN HANDS COMMUNITY GARDEN FESTIVAL**  
*A celebration of our neighbourhood's first edible garden!*

*From bed to bowl - and back again.*

Date: Saturday, 13 June 2026  
Time: 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.  
Venue: Green Hands Community Garden, beside Block 215

**WHAT'S ON**

- Guided garden walk (every 30 minutes)
- Cookery demonstration: 'From bed to bowl' - featuring kang kong, long beans and curry leaves
- Free seedling give-away at the tool shed beside the herb beds (one bag per family)
- Storytelling corner for the little ones
- Recipe-swap board: bring a printed family recipe, take one home

**COOKERY WORKSHOP**

- 'Cooking with neighbourhood greens' - hands-on, 60 minutes
- Register by 6 June 2026 at the RC office or scan the QR code
- Limited to 20 residents; halal-friendly station available.

**WHAT TO BRING**

- A reusable bag for your seedlings and any harvested vegetables.
- A water bottle (refill points on-site).
- Sun hat and sunscreen - most of the festival is outdoors.

**IF IT RAINS**

- Light rain: festival continues under the void deck of Block 215.
- Heavy rain: please check the RC notice board after 8.00 a.m.

**ENQUIRIES**  
Organised by Block 215 Residents' Committee. Enquiries: rc.block215@email.example

21. What is the main purpose of the poster?

- (1) To advertise a new restaurant opening in the neighbourhood.
- (2) To invite residents to volunteer at a community garden.
- (3) To announce the opening of a community garden festival.
- (4) To recruit students for a school gardening club.

- 22.** Which of the following will not be available at the festival?
- (1) A cookery demonstration using vegetables grown on-site.
  - (2) Free seedlings for residents to take home.
  - (3) A lucky draw for festival attendees.
  - (4) A storytelling session for young children.
- 23.** Where exactly will the seedling give-away take place?
- (1) At the main stage near the playground.
  - (2) At the tool shed beside the herb beds.
  - (3) At the void deck of Block 215.
  - (4) At the multi-purpose hall on the second floor.
- 24.** Why are visitors advised to bring a reusable bag?
- (1) So that the organisers can save money on plastic bags.
  - (2) So that visitors can carry home their seedlings and harvested vegetables.
  - (3) Because plastic bags will be sold at the festival.
  - (4) Because the festival is also a recycling drive.
- 25.** By when must residents register if they wish to join the cookery workshop?
- (1) By 6 June 2026.
  - (2) By 8.00 a.m. on the day of the festival.
  - (3) By 13 June 2026.
  - (4) Registration is open on the day of the festival itself.

Please note that the passage for Comprehension Questions 66 to 75 in Booklet B is printed below and on the following page. Read it carefully. You may now go on to Booklet B.

## Comprehension passage for Booklet B (Questions 66 to 75)

Read this passage carefully. The questions in Booklet B (Section 9, Questions 66 to 75) refer to it.

### The Empty Seat

- 1 The seat behind mine had been empty for eight school days before I finally said anything. Aisha had always been the first to arrive in the morning, her pencil case lined up neatly on the right side of her desk, her water bottle on the left. Now the chair sat tucked in, exactly as the cleaner had left it the previous Friday. Each morning I turned around, half expecting her bag to be on the hook, and each morning the hook was bare. 5
- 2 On the ninth day, I asked Mrs Devi. She paused for a moment longer than she usually did before answering, as if choosing her words from a small, careful pile. "Aisha is dealing with some family matters," she said. "Please don't worry yourselves. She'll be back when she can." Her smile was kind but final. 10
- 3 At recess, I told Nadia, Priya and Mei Xuan what Mrs Devi had said. We sat on the bench outside the library and chewed our curry puffs slowly. Family matters, Nadia repeated, as though the words might mean something different if she turned them over in her mouth. We all knew that, in Mrs Devi's careful way of speaking, family matters could mean almost anything. 15
- 4 "She lives in Block 411," said Priya, who had once been to Aisha's flat for a school project. "Ground-floor unit, near the void deck." She looked at us. "We could just go, after school. Bring her something. See if she is all right."
- 5 It was a fifteen-minute cycle from school to Aisha's block. We rode in single file along the park connector, our schoolbags bouncing against our backs. None of us spoke very much. I think we were all rehearsing, silently, what we might say if Aisha did not want to see us. We had agreed in advance that, if her door was closed, we would simply leave the kueh we had bought at the void-deck stall on the floor mat and cycle home. 20
- 6 Her grandmother answered the door. She was a small woman in a faded baju kurung, with hands that looked as though they had spent many years near a stove. She did not speak much English, and our Malay was poor. Still, between the four of us, with gestures and a few patient repetitions, we understood. 25
- 7 Aisha's mother had been admitted to hospital almost two weeks earlier. The doctors had said it would take time. Aisha's father worked the night shift at the port, which meant that, during the day, Aisha had been the one looking after her two younger siblings — a brother in Primary 2, and a sister who was not yet old enough for kindergarten. The grandmother had come down from Johor to help, but she did not know the neighbourhood well, and the children were 30

- shy with her. Aisha, exhausted, had asked the school for a few days off. The few days had stretched on. 35
- 8 Aisha came out of the bedroom while her grandmother was still speaking. She was wearing the same T-shirt I had once seen her wear at Sports Day. Her younger sister clung to her hand. Aisha looked at the four of us standing at her door, and for a moment her eyes filled, though no tears fell. “You didn't have to come,” she said quietly. 40
- 9 “We know,” said Mei Xuan, just as quietly. “That's why we came.”
- 10 On the cycle home, we worked it out without much discussion. Mei Xuan's mother ran a small halal kitchen at the coffee shop near our school; Mei Xuan would ask if she could send over an extra packet of rice and curry each evening for the rest of the week. Nadia, who was always first to finish her homework, would copy out the week's worksheets and bring them to Aisha so that she would not fall further behind. Priya, the most determined of us, would speak to Mrs Devi about a hardship application — she had seen the form once, on the noticeboard outside the staff room. 45
- 11 I asked what I should do, and the three of them looked at me as though the answer were obvious. “You sit behind her,” said Priya. “When she comes back, you just be there. Don't make a big thing of it. Don't ask her anything she doesn't want to answer. Just sit behind her, like before.” 50
- 12 Aisha came back the following Monday. Her hair was tied back the way it had always been, and her pencil case was in its usual place on the right side of her desk. She did not say where she had been; we did not ask. When she turned around to borrow my eraser, I passed it to her without a word. She gave me a small, tired smile, and turned back to face the front. The seat behind mine was no longer empty, and that, for the moment, was enough. 55
- 60

## END OF BOOKLET A

## PSLE English · Practice Paper 2 · Silver 3

### Booklet B

**65 MARKS**

**TOTAL TIME FOR BOOKLETS A & B:** 1 hour 50 minutes

#### CANDIDATE PARTICULARS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Register No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
2. Follow all instructions carefully.
3. Answer all questions.
4. Use a dark blue or black ballpoint pen to write your answers in the spaces provided.
5. Do not use correction fluid, correction tape or highlighters.
6. Please do not write in the margin.

## PAPER 2 · BOOKLET B · 65 MARKS

## Written response

Section	Marks
Section 5 · Grammar Cloze (Questions 26–35)	10
Section 6 · Editing for Spelling and Grammar (Questions 36–45)	10
Section 7 · Comprehension Cloze (Questions 46–60)	15
Section 8 · Synthesis and Transformation (Questions 61–65)	10
Section 9 · Comprehension Open-Ended (Questions 66–75)	20
TOTAL	65

## Section 5 · Grammar Cloze

There are 10 blanks, numbered 26 to 35, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. Each word may be used once only. The letters I and O have been omitted to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

<b>A</b> in	<b>F</b> of	<b>L</b> although
<b>B</b> to	<b>G</b> who	<b>M</b> with
<b>C</b> when	<b>H</b> that	<b>N</b> whose
<b>D</b> as	<b>J</b> but	<b>P</b> were
<b>E</b> on	<b>K</b> which	<b>Q</b> how

Every December, our neighbourhood holds a small festival \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(26)</sup> the void deck of Block 215. Preparations begin almost a month ahead, and the residents look forward \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(27)</sup> it with growing excitement. The afternoon \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(28)</sup> the stalls are finally set up always feels a little magical.

This year, our family arrived early. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(29)</sup> soon as we stepped out of the lift, the smell of curry puffs and freshly fried kueh drifted up \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(30)</sup> the air to meet us.

Many \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(31)</sup> our neighbours were already there. Mr Subramaniam, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(32)</sup> has run the lucky-draw booth for as long as I can remember, waved us over cheerfully. He told my younger brother \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(33)</sup> every ticket would receive a small prize this year. My brother hesitated, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(34)</sup> finally decided to buy one. He drew a small wooden top, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(35)</sup> he spun happily for the rest of the evening.

## Section 6 - Editing for Spelling and Grammar

Each of the underlined words in the passage below contains either a **spelling** error or a **grammatical** error. There are 5 spelling errors and 5 grammatical errors in total. Write the correct word in the box beside its question number. (10 marks)

Last Sunday, my cousins and I decides<sup>(36)</sup> to visit our grandmother at her

36

new flat in Tampines. She had moved in only a month earlier, and we wanted

to surprise<sup>(37)</sup> her with a small house-warming gift. Auntie Salmah,

37

who lives in the unit next door, kindly offer<sup>(38)</sup> to bake a tray of pineapple

38

tarts for the occasion. Grandmother was so delight<sup>(39)</sup> to see us that she

39

nearly forgot to switch off the kettle. While we were chatting, my youngest

cousin accidentally spill<sup>(40)</sup> a glass of barley water on the new rug.

40

Embaressed<sup>(41)</sup> by the puddle, he quickly fetched a cloth from the kitchen.

41

Grandmother only smiled and said that even the most careful of guests

has<sup>(42)</sup> the occasional accident. Before we left, she remind<sup>(43)</sup> us to take

42

a packet of kueh lapis home for our parents. My eldest cousin

43

recieved<sup>(44)</sup> the packet with both hands, and we promised that we would

44

visit again before the school holidays finaly<sup>(45)</sup> ended.

45

## Section 7 - Comprehension Cloze

Read the passage below carefully. Fill in each numbered blank with a suitable word. Use only ONE word per blank. (15 marks)

For most of her early childhood, Hui Min had been terrified of the dark. Whenever the lights in her bedroom went out, she would \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(46)</sup> her blanket tightly over her head, convinced that something was watching her from the cupboard. Her mother never scolded her for this fear; she believed that every child must overcome it at her \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(47)</sup> pace.

One Saturday, her elder brother arrived from his polytechnic hostel with an unusual gift. He had signed her \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(48)</sup> for a four-week stargazing course at the Science Centre. Hui Min felt her stomach tighten. She tried to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(49)</sup> that she had too much homework to spare the time, but her brother only smiled and patted her shoulder. "A girl of eleven," he said gently, "cannot keep hiding from the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(50)</sup> forever."

The first session was held on the rooftop of the Science Centre. The instructor, a gentle woman named Ms Chia, explained \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(51)</sup> the night sky was not empty at all, but full of patterns that people had been reading for thousands of years. Hui Min tried to listen, but the moment the floodlights were switched off, a familiar panic rose inside \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(52)</sup>. She gripped the railing tightly and kept her eyes on the city lights below.

Ms Chia noticed at once. She did not make Hui Min feel small. Instead, she handed her a small torch and a star chart, and showed her how to trace the shape of Orion. Hui Min practised every evening at home, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(53)</sup> the chart against the ceiling of her bedroom. By the second session, she could find three constellations at \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(54)</sup> glance. By the third, she could stand on the dark rooftop without flinching, feeling oddly \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(55)</sup>.

On the final evening, Ms Chia quietly asked whether Hui Min would like to point out a constellation to the rest of the class. Hui Min's heart hammered, but she stepped forward and began to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(56)</sup>. Her voice trembled at first, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(57)</sup> she kept going, naming each star she had practised. When she finally lowered her torch, her classmates clapped, and she felt a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(58)</sup> of pride she had never felt before.

That night, she wrote in her journal: 'The dark is still dark. I am not yet brave. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(59)</sup> I have learnt that even a small torch is enough to take the first \_\_\_\_\_<sup>(60)</sup>.'

## Section 8 - Synthesis and Transformation

For each question from 61 to 65, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in **one sentence**. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s). Each question carries 2 marks. (10 marks)

61. "I will visit Aisha tomorrow," Priya told us. [2]

Priya told us that \_\_\_\_\_

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62. Nadia copied out the worksheets carefully. She then cycled to Aisha's flat. [2]

Having \_\_\_\_\_

.....

63. The grandmother spoke very little English. The four of us still understood her. [2]

Although \_\_\_\_\_

.....

64. Mei Xuan was too tired to cycle any further. [2]

Mei Xuan was not \_\_\_\_\_

.....

65. Mrs Devi said to Priya, "Please bring the hardship form to the staff room tomorrow." [2]

Mrs Devi asked Priya \_\_\_\_\_

.....

## Section 9 - Comprehension Open-Ended

Read the passage 'The Empty Seat' in Booklet A. Answer the questions below in the spaces provided. Marks for each question are shown in brackets. (20 marks)

66. For how long had Aisha's seat been empty before the narrator finally spoke to Mrs Devi? [1]

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67. In paragraph 2, the writer says that Mrs Devi chose her words "from a small, careful pile". What does this expression suggest about how Mrs Devi felt about Aisha's situation? [2]

.....

.....

68. Why did the four friends agree, before reaching Aisha's flat, that they would simply leave the kueh on the floor mat if her door was closed? What does this show about them? [2]

.....

.....

.....

69. Look at the table below. Complete it by writing what each of Aisha's three friends decided to do for her after the visit, as described in paragraph 10. [2]

Moment in the story	What Wei Jie did or felt
Mei Xuan	(a) _____
Nadia	(b) _____

70. In paragraph 7, why had Aisha been the one looking after her two younger siblings during the day, rather than her father or her grandmother? [2]

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71. In paragraph 8, the writer says that Aisha's eyes “filled, though no tears fell”. In your own words, explain what this tells us about how Aisha was feeling. [2]

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72. How does the narrator's understanding of friendship change between the beginning and the end of the passage? Use details from the passage to support your answer. [3]

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73. Which TWO of the following statements about the four friends are true? Put a tick (✓) in the box beside your TWO answers. (DO NOT TICK MORE THAN TWO BOXES.) [2]

- They told the rest of the class where Aisha had been when she returned.
- They cycled to Aisha's flat in single file along the park connector.
- Mei Xuan's family ran a halal kitchen at the coffee shop near the school.
- Priya had never been to Aisha's flat before the day of the visit.
- They asked Aisha directly to explain why she had been absent.

74. List TWO things that suggested Aisha's life had returned to its usual rhythm when she came back to school on Monday, as described in paragraph 12. [2]

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75. At the end of the passage, the writer says that “the seat behind mine was no longer empty, and that, for the moment, was enough.” What does this final sentence suggest about the value the narrator places on small, quiet acts of friendship? Answer in your own words. [2]

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**END OF BOOKLET B · END OF PAPER**

## ANSWER KEY

## LearnUp PSLE English Practice Paper 2 — Silver 3

Sample answers and marking notes. For open-ended questions, accept any answer that is clearly supported by the passage and expressed correctly.

## Booklet A - MCQ answers (Q1–Q25)

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
(2)	(2)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15
(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(1)
Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
(2)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(3)
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25
(3)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(1)

## Section 5 - Grammar Cloze (Q26–Q35)

Q26	(A) in	Q31	(F) of
Q27	(B) to	Q32	(G) who
Q28	(C) when	Q33	(H) that
Q29	(D) as	Q34	(J) but
Q30	(E) on	Q35	(K) which

## Section 6 - Editing for Spelling and Grammar (Q36–Q45)

Q36	decides → decided	(grammar)	Q41	Embaressed → Embarrassed	(spelling)
Q37	suprise → surprise	(spelling)	Q42	has → have	(grammar)
Q38	offer → offered	(grammar)	Q43	remind → reminded	(grammar)
Q39	delight → delighted	(spelling)	Q44	recieved → received	(spelling)
Q40	spill → spilled	(grammar)	Q45	finaly → finally	(spelling)

## Section 7 - Comprehension Cloze (Q46–Q60)

Q46	pull	Q51	that	Q56	speak
Q47	own	Q52	her	Q57	but
Q48	up	Q53	holding	Q58	surge
Q49	protest	Q54	a	Q59	But
Q50	dark	Q55	calm	Q60	step

### Section 8 - Synthesis & Transformation (Q61–Q65) — sample answers

- Q61. Priya told us that she would visit Aisha the next day.
- Q62. Having copied out the worksheets carefully, Nadia cycled to Aisha's flat.
- Q63. Although the grandmother spoke very little English, the four of us still understood her.
- Q64. Mei Xuan was not energetic enough to cycle any further.
- Q65. Mrs Devi asked Priya to bring the hardship form to the staff room the next day.

### Section 9 - Comprehension Open-Ended (Q66–Q75) — model answers

Q66. [1]

It had been empty for eight school days; the narrator asked Mrs Devi on the ninth day.

Q67. [2]

It suggests that Mrs Devi knew the situation was sensitive and did not want to say too much. She was being deliberately careful, choosing only the words she was willing to share.

Q68. [2]

They agreed to leave the kueh quietly because they did not want to force Aisha to see them if she was not ready. This shows that the friends were considerate and respected Aisha's feelings.

Q69. [2]

(a) Mei Xuan would ask her mother to send over an extra packet of rice and curry each evening for the rest of the week. (b) Nadia would copy out the week's worksheets and bring them to Aisha so that she would not fall further behind.

Q70. [2]

Her father worked the night shift at the port, so he had to sleep during the day. Her grandmother had only just come down from Johor and did not know the neighbourhood well, and the younger children were shy with her.

Q71. [2]

It tells us that Aisha was deeply moved when she saw her friends at the door, but she was trying very hard not to cry. She was holding back her emotions, perhaps because she had become used to staying strong for her younger siblings.

Q72. [3]

At the beginning, the narrator notices the empty seat each morning but does nothing for over a week. After the visit, she learns from Priya that her role is simply to sit behind Aisha as before, without questions or fuss. By the end, she understands that friendship is sometimes about quietly being present rather than making grand gestures.

**Q73.** [2]

Correct: (2) and (3).

**Q74.** [2]

(i) Her hair was tied back the way it had always been. (ii) Her pencil case was in its usual place on the right side of her desk.

**Q75.** [2]

It suggests that the narrator has come to value quiet, undemanding friendship over dramatic gestures. She does not need Aisha to explain herself; it is enough that Aisha has come back and that things can quietly continue.

**End of answer key.** Find more free LearnUp resources at [brainbuzz.sg](https://brainbuzz.sg).