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PRIMARY 6 · PRELIMINARY PRACTICE

PSLE English · Practice Paper 2 · Gold 2

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).

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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. Not until Mei Lin had read the third paragraph aloud _____ her grandmother begin to weep quietly into the embroidered handkerchief in her lap.
- (1) did
 - (2) had
 - (3) would
 - (4) was
2. _____ Ah Ma not received the letter from Penang that afternoon, Mei Lin would never have learned that her grandmother had a younger sister at all.
- (1) If
 - (2) Should
 - (3) Had
 - (4) Were
3. Mei Lin's mother wished, more than once, that her own mother _____ taught to read in the village school before the war broke out.
- (1) was
 - (2) were
 - (3) had been
 - (4) has been
4. By the time Mei Lin finishes secondary school next year, Ah Ma _____ in the same Toa Payoh flat for nearly four decades.
- (1) lives
 - (2) has lived
 - (3) will live
 - (4) will have lived

5. If the postman had not knocked twice on the door that afternoon, Ah Ma _____ the envelope at all.
- (1) would not notice
 - (2) would not have noticed
 - (3) had not noticed
 - (4) will not notice
6. Ah Ma kept a small tin box on top of the wardrobe, the contents _____ she had never shown to anyone in the family before that day.
- (1) of whom
 - (2) of which
 - (3) of that
 - (4) of whose
7. So carefully _____ Mei Lin form each Chinese character that her grandmother's reply took almost two hours to finish.
- (1) did
 - (2) had
 - (3) was
 - (4) would
8. The letter from Penang, _____ had been posted three weeks earlier, had been forwarded twice before reaching the flat in Toa Payoh.
- (1) that
 - (2) what
 - (3) which
 - (4) whom
9. Ah Ma seldom spoke of her childhood in the village before the Japanese soldiers came, _____?
- (1) did she
 - (2) didn't she
 - (3) would she
 - (4) wouldn't she
10. It was the first letter she _____ in seventy years from anyone who still remembered her by her childhood name.
- (1) receives
 - (2) had received
 - (3) has received
 - (4) was receiving

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. Ah Ma traced the unfamiliar handwriting with a _____ finger, as though afraid the words might lift off the paper and drift away.

- (1) clumsy
- (2) tentative
- (3) decisive
- (4) weary

12. The old envelope had been _____ preserved between the pages of a Cantonese hymnal for almost seven decades, its corners scarcely yellowed.

- (1) roughly
- (2) occasionally
- (3) immaculately
- (4) reluctantly

13. There was a _____ silence in the kitchen after Ah Ma finished dictating the last sentence, as though even the kettle had stopped to listen.

- (1) bewildered
- (2) festive
- (3) reverent
- (4) trivial

14. The dialect words Mei Lin had grown up hearing at the wet market had _____ to a handful by the time she reached secondary school.

- (1) expanded
- (2) doubled
- (3) dwindled
- (4) lingered

15. Her grandmother spoke of her younger sister with an almost _____ tenderness, as if the very name might shatter if pronounced too loudly.

- (1) reckless
- (2) boisterous
- (3) begrudging
- (4) reverential

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)

On the morning my mother first asked me to fill out her hospital admission forms, I understood, with a small, late shock, that she had been concealing⁽¹⁶⁾ her difficulty with English from us for years. The forms had always been done by my father, and after he passed away, by my elder brother, and now by me. None of us had thought to ask why.

She watched me fill in her name and her IC number with a kind of composed⁽¹⁷⁾ attentiveness, as if she were memorising the shape of each letter for later. When I asked her, gently, whether she would like me to teach her, she shook her head. 'Too late already,' she said.

I thought about how often, growing up, I had been impatient⁽¹⁸⁾ with her — with her halting English at parent-teacher meetings, with the way she would whisper, in Hokkien, for me to translate. I had taken her literacy for granted in the way only a child of immigrants can.

That evening, I sat by her hospital bed and read her the discharge instructions⁽¹⁹⁾ aloud. She listened with the same grave attention she had shown the forms, nodding now and then. When I had finished, she reached for my hand and held it for a long time without uttering⁽²⁰⁾ a single word.

16.

- (1) announcing
- (2) hiding
- (3) denying
- (4) exaggerating

17.

- (1) calm
- (2) anxious
- (3) distracted
- (4) amused

18.

- (1) proud
- (2) grateful
- (3) irritable
- (4) puzzled

19.

- (1) promises
- (2) directions
- (3) warnings
- (4) complaints

20.

- (1) whispering
- (2) writing
- (3) shouting
- (4) speaking

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 notice below carefully. Then answer questions 21 to 25.

VOICES BEFORE THE WORD

Singapore's Unwritten Lives - an oral history project

Some grandmothers spoke whole worlds they never wrote down.

Date: Project runs through 2026
Time: Registration deadline: 30 June 2026
Venue: Peranakan Museum, in partnership with Oral History Centre, NLB

OPEN TO

- Any Singapore family with an elderly relative aged 75 and above.
- Priority given to families whose elderly relatives received fewer than four years of formal schooling.

WHAT IS INVOLVED

- A trained volunteer interviewer visits the family at home (or at the museum).
- One 90-minute recorded interview in any language or dialect the elder is comfortable speaking.
- The recording is transcribed and translated into English by the museum.
- A free bound copy of the transcript is given to the family.
- The recording joins the National Archives' permanent oral history collection.

WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD PREPARE

- A quiet room with minimal background noise.
- Old photographs, letters or objects the elder may wish to refer to.
- One family member (over 18) to sit in for the elder's comfort.

REGISTRATION

- Online at peranakanmuseum.gov.sg/voices, OR
- By telephone on 6332 7591 (Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.).
- Limited to 80 families. Allocation is by date of registration.

ENQUIRIES
Cost: Free. Contact: voices@peranakanmuseum.gov.sg

21. What is the main purpose of the notice?

- (1) To recruit elderly volunteers to teach dialect at the Peranakan Museum.
- (2) To invite families to take part in a project recording the stories of elderly relatives.
- (3) To advertise a new literacy class for Singaporeans aged seventy-five and above.
- (4) To announce the publication of a book about Singapore's unwritten history.

22. Which of the following is not stated in the notice?
- (1) The language in which the interview may be conducted.
 - (2) What the family is expected to prepare beforehand.
 - (3) The names of families who have already taken part.
 - (4) The deadline by which families must register.
23. Which family is most likely to be given priority for the project?
- (1) A family whose grandfather completed his secondary education in English in the 1960s.
 - (2) A family whose grandmother was kept out of school during the Occupation and never learned to read.
 - (3) A family whose grandmother already records weekly podcasts in Hokkien.
 - (4) A family with three elderly relatives, each above the age of seventy-five.
24. From the notice, what can we infer about the museum's attitude towards the elderly participants?
- (1) The museum considers the participants to be in need of formal English instruction.
 - (2) The museum is mainly interested in the participants for academic research purposes.
 - (3) The museum treats the participants' stories as valuable in themselves, regardless of language.
 - (4) The museum expects the participants to provide written records of their own lives.
25. Why might a family hesitate to register, despite the project being free of charge?
- (1) Because the recording will be made public against the family's wishes.
 - (2) Because places are limited and offered on a first-come-first-served basis.
 - (3) Because the project requires the elder to learn to read before the interview.
 - (4) Because the museum charges families for the bound transcript at the end.

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 Letter Writer

- 1 The envelope was thin, blue, and crossed with the faint, looping creases of a letter that had travelled a long way to reach Block 86. The postman handed it to Mei Lin at the lift lobby, already turning away before she had finished signing. She climbed the stairs with the envelope held out from her body, the way one carries a candle in a draught, in case it should suddenly become important. 5
- 2 Ah Ma was at the kitchen table, shelling beansprouts into a chipped enamel basin. The afternoon sun came through the kitchen window in long, careful bars and lay across the linoleum like the rungs of a ladder that led nowhere. “Letter, Ah Ma,” said Mei Lin, placing the envelope beside her grandmother’s elbow. Ah Ma did not look up at once. She finished the handful of beansprouts in her lap with the slow patience of someone who had learned, long ago, that one finished what one had started before attending to anything else. 10
- 3 When she did look up, her hands stopped. The blue of the envelope seemed to startle her, like a kingfisher seen unexpectedly in a drain. She picked it up by one corner and turned it over, peering at the unfamiliar handwriting as if at a language she ought to recognise but could not. “Mei Lin,” she said at last, in a voice gentler than her usual one, “you read for Ah Ma, can?” 15
- 4 It was at that moment — and Mei Lin would remember it, afterwards, with a small, late shock — that she understood, fully and for the first time, that her grandmother could not read. Not just English, which Mei Lin had always known about, but Chinese as well. The understanding settled in her chest in the way an old, half-felt suspicion settles when it is finally given a name. She had been ten years in Ah Ma’s kitchen. She had been wiped clean, after meals, by hands that had never traced a single character on a page. 20
25
- 5 She sat down opposite her grandmother and slit the envelope along its edge with the bone-handled letter opener Ah Ma kept by the rice tin. Inside was a single sheet of pale-blue airmail paper, folded into thirds. The handwriting was unfamiliar but unhurried, the strokes of an older generation. The signature at the bottom said, in Chinese characters as well as in romanised letters, ‘Your sister, Ah Hwa, who has waited a long time.’ 30
- 6 Mei Lin read the letter aloud. She read it slowly, the way the school chaplain read the prayer at morning assembly, giving each phrase its full weight. Ah Hwa wrote that she was living in Penang now, in a house above a kopitiam owned by her son-in-law. She wrote that she had spent forty years trying to find Ah 35

- Ma. She wrote that she had been five years old when the Japanese soldiers came to the village, and that she remembered, still, the colour of the headscarf Ah Ma had been wearing the day they were separated at the railway station. Mei Lin paused on the word 'headscarf' and looked up. Ah Ma was sitting very still, her two hands flat on the table, as if she were holding the table down so that it would not float away. 40
- 7 "Read more, child," said Ah Ma. So Mei Lin read on. She read about cousins Ah Ma had never met, about a husband long dead, about a small samsui-red shawl that Ah Hwa had kept in a tin box for seventy years on the chance that it might one day be returned to its first owner. When the letter ended, the kitchen was very quiet. The bars of sunlight had shifted across the linoleum; the ladder was leading somewhere different now. 45
- 8 "You write back for Ah Ma, can?" said her grandmother, after a long time. Mei Lin nodded. She fetched a fresh sheet of foolscap from her schoolbag and uncapped her good pen. Ah Ma began to dictate, in Hokkien, the way she dictated her wet-market list — slowly, with long pauses, except that these pauses were not the pauses of a forgetful mind. They were the pauses of a woman who had not, in her whole life, been allowed to put her own words on paper, and who was now deciding which of the many sentences inside her she would set down first. 50
55
- 9 Mei Lin wrote carefully. She translated each phrase into the simplest English she could manage, then read it back in Hokkien to make sure she had it right. Ah Ma listened with her eyes half-closed. Once she shook her head and said, 'No, not like that. Say: I dreamed of you, but I was afraid the dream would stop if I spoke of it.' Mei Lin crossed out the line she had written and wrote the new one. She would remember, years later, the small, sharp pleasure of being trusted to find the right words. 60
- 10 When the letter was done, Ah Ma did not read it back. She could not. Instead, she placed her old, blotched hand over the page for a moment, as if to seal it with something more than ink. Then she folded the sheet into thirds, slid it into a fresh envelope, and asked Mei Lin to write the address in careful block letters. Before she sealed the flap, Ah Ma did something Mei Lin had never seen her do to any object before. She lifted the envelope to her lips and kissed it, very lightly, on the side where the address was written. 65
- 11 That night, lying in bed, Mei Lin thought about the long road from a village railway station to a kitchen table in Toa Payoh, about everything that had been carried across the years without ever being written down — names, songs, the colour of a headscarf, the precise shape of a sister's small hand. She had always thought of literacy as something she had been given at school, like a uniform or a name tag, and which everyone she knew had also been given. She was beginning to suspect, in the way a child first suspects something difficult, that what she could read and write had been bought, somewhere along 70
75

the way, with the silence of women like her grandmother.

END OF BOOKLET A