

PSLE English · Practice Paper 2 · Gold 2

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)

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

During the Japanese Occupation of Singapore, the lives of ordinary families were thrown _____⁽²⁶⁾ chaos. Many children _____⁽²⁷⁾ had been attending village schools were forced to abandon their studies, often before they had learned to read or write more than a handful _____⁽²⁸⁾ characters.

Some families were separated, sometimes for decades. Brothers and sisters were sent to live with distant relatives, _____⁽²⁹⁾ a precaution against further raids. In the years _____⁽³⁰⁾ the bombs had fallen across Singapore, telegrams and handwritten letters became the only way _____⁽³¹⁾ the scattered families could find each other again. The letters were often delivered _____⁽³²⁾ bicycle, sometimes weeks after they had been written.

It was not unusual for a letter to take many months to arrive, especially _____⁽³³⁾ the addressee had moved across several towns. The senders were sometimes literate; the receivers, _____⁽³⁴⁾ not. In Singapore's older neighbourhoods, professional letter writers _____⁽³⁵⁾ set up their stools beneath the five-foot-ways read out, for a small fee, the letters that grandmothers could not read for themselves.

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)

My grandmother grew up in a small village in southern China and came to

Singapore as a young bride in 1948. She had only recieved⁽³⁶⁾

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two years of formal schooling. Throughout my childhood, she manage⁽³⁷⁾

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the household entirely from memory: the prices at the wet market, the bus

routes to her sister's flat, the dosage instrucshuns⁽³⁸⁾

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on her medication. Nothing was ever written down. It was my mother, that⁽³⁹⁾ had attended an English-medium school in the 1960s, who read her

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every letter and form. When my mother passed away last year, my grandmother's

world becomed⁽⁴⁰⁾ very small. Although⁽⁴¹⁾ the rest of us

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tried to help, the loss of her daily reader was a kind of second bereavment⁽⁴²⁾. She would sit by the window for hours, the morning

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noozpaper⁽⁴³⁾ open on her lap, looking at the photographs but unable

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to read a single headline. We learned, slow⁽⁴⁴⁾

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by slow, to take turns. We read aloud to her every evening, the way she

had once read the world aloud to us - in a diferent⁽⁴⁵⁾ tongue altogether.

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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)

Language is one of the strangest inheritances a person can receive. It is given to us in infancy, long before we are old enough _____⁽⁴⁶⁾ understand what we are being given. By the time we begin to use it _____⁽⁴⁷⁾ our own purposes, it has already shaped the way we think.

It is easy to forget, in a country as multilingual as Singapore, that not every generation has had equal access _____⁽⁴⁸⁾ the written word. Many of our grandparents were taken out _____⁽⁴⁹⁾ school after only a few years, or never sent to school at all. They grew up rich in spoken language but were never given the small, ordinary power of being able to read a letter for _____⁽⁵⁰⁾.

What does it mean, to live a life _____⁽⁵¹⁾ the written word? It means, perhaps, that one's memory has to work harder. Stories are kept by being told, and told again, _____⁽⁵²⁾ the listener has learned them by heart.

It also means that certain forms of dignity are placed permanently out of reach. A woman who cannot read her own letters must always ask _____⁽⁵³⁾ someone to read them for her. A man who cannot fill in his own forms _____⁽⁵⁴⁾ always be a small distance away from the workings of his own affairs. The loss is not loud, but it is _____⁽⁵⁵⁾. It accumulates over a lifetime.

Younger Singaporeans, who have been given English and Chinese at school as a matter of course, do not always _____⁽⁵⁶⁾ this inheritance. We assume that what we have, our grandparents _____⁽⁵⁷⁾ had also. We forget that the literacy we are so casual _____⁽⁵⁸⁾ was, for the women in our family who came before us, the difference between being heard and being heard only through someone else's voice.

Perhaps the best thing we can do, for the grandparents still with us, is to listen well — to _____⁽⁵⁹⁾ down the stories they tell us, in our own hand, in their words. To do for them what they could not do for themselves: to leave something on the page that will outlast the _____⁽⁶⁰⁾.

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. Mei Lin had hardly finished reading the letter aloud when her grandmother began to cry into the embroidered handkerchief. [2]

No sooner _____

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62. Ah Ma had never been taught to read English. She had never been taught to read Chinese either. [2]

Neither English _____

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63. Ah Ma kissed the envelope because she could not sign her own name at the bottom of the letter. [2]

It was because _____

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64. Ah Hwa was the younger sister. Ah Ma had been separated from her at a village railway station seventy years before. [2]

Ah Hwa, from whom _____

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65. "I will write to my sister again next month," Ah Ma promised Mei Lin that evening. [2]

Ah Ma promised _____

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Section 9 - Comprehension Open-Ended

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

66. From paragraph 1, pick out a six-word phrase that suggests Mei Lin treated the envelope as if it might be valuable or fragile. [1]

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67. In paragraph 2, the writer describes the sunlight as lying across the linoleum "like the rungs of a ladder that led nowhere". What does this image suggest about Ah Ma's life in the flat before the letter arrived? [2]

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68. In paragraph 3, the writer compares the blue envelope to "a kingfisher seen unexpectedly in a drain". Explain what the writer is suggesting about Ah Ma's reaction. [1]

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69. Look at the table below. Write down the word or phrase from the passage that each underlined word refers to. [3]

Underlined word	What it refers to
the word "it" in "she would remember <u>it</u> , afterwards, with a small, late shock" (paragraph 4)	(a) _____
the word "something" in "as if to seal it with <u>something</u> more than ink" (paragraph 10)	(b) _____
the phrase "what she could read and write" in the last paragraph	(c) _____

70. Re-read paragraph 4. Explain in your own words two things Mei Lin came to understand at that moment. [2]

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71. From paragraph 6, pick out one word that suggests Ah Ma's stillness was caused by deep emotion rather than by physical tiredness. [1]

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72. Decide whether each of the following statements is true or false. Give a reason for each answer using information from the passage.

- (a) Mei Lin had always known that her grandmother could not read Chinese.
- (b) Ah Ma's pauses while dictating the reply were caused by a failing memory.
- (c) Ah Hwa had given up searching for Ah Ma long before the letter was written. [3]

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73. Look at the table below. For each of the two moments, describe Ah Ma's behaviour and explain what it reveals about her feelings. [2]

Moment	Ah Ma's behaviour and what it reveals
Just before Ah Ma asked Mei Lin to read the letter (paragraph 2)	(a) _____
Just before Ah Ma sealed the envelope (paragraph 10)	(b) _____

74. Which TWO of the following statements about Mei Lin are best supported by the passage? Put a tick (✓) in the box beside your TWO answers. (DO NOT TICK MORE THAN TWO BOXES.) [2]

- She had always been her grandmother's regular letter writer.
- She came to understand that her own literacy had a hidden cost in her family's history.
- She felt impatient with her grandmother's slow dictation in the kitchen.
- She took quiet pride in being trusted to find the right words for her grandmother.
- She believed that her grandmother had been deliberately hiding the letter from the family.

75. At the end of the passage, the writer says that Mei Lin's literacy had been “bought, somewhere along the way, with the silence of women like her grandmother.” In your own words, explain what Mei Lin was beginning to understand about her own education. [3]

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END OF BOOKLET B · END OF PAPER