

FUKIEN SECONDARY SCHOOL  
S3 Final Examination (2020-2021)  
English Language Paper 2: Reading Comprehension and Usage  
Question Paper  
(1 hour 15 minutes)

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Time: 8:30a.m.- 9:45a.m.

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

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Total score: \_\_\_\_\_ /

100

**Instructions to candidates:**

1. Write your Name, Class and Class Number in the spaces provided on this cover **AND** on the cover of the Answer Sheets.
2. This paper consists of three parts: **Part I (Reading Comprehension)**, **Part II (Usage)** and **Part III (Bonus)**. Answer **ALL** questions.
3. Mark **ALL** answers on the Answer Sheets given.
4. For multiple-choice questions, write the letters that correspond to the answers.
5. Each question carries 1 mark unless otherwise specified.

**Part I: Reading Comprehension (40 marks + bonus 5 marks)****Text 1 (18 marks + bonus 3 marks)**

Read the story below and answer the questions that follow.

**The storyteller**

It was a hot afternoon and in the stuffy train carriage were two small girls, a small boy, their aunt and a bachelor. The children kept bothering their aunt. The bachelor couldn't help thinking, 'Those noisy children should be controlled a little better.'

5 The small boy began beating his seat. 'Don't, Cyril,' exclaimed the aunt. 'Come and look out of the window.'

'Why are those sheep being driven out of that field?' he asked.

'They are going to a field with more grass,' said the aunt weakly.

'But there's lots of grass in that field,' replied the boy.

'Perhaps the grass in the other field is better,' suggested the aunt.

10 'Why is it better?' came the swift question.

'Oh, look at those cows!' shouted the aunt, as though cows were a rare sight in a field.

'Why is the grass there better?' Cyril continued.

The bachelor frowned.

The smaller girl began to recite the first line of a poem over and over again in a loud voice.

15 'Come here and listen to a story,' said the aunt.

The children moved slowly towards her.

She began to tell a boring story about a very good girl who was saved from a mad bull by the people who admired her goodness.

‘It is the stupidest story I’ve ever heard,’ said the bigger of the small girls.

20 The smaller girl started murmuring her favourite line again.

‘You don’t seem to be a good storyteller,’ said the bachelor suddenly.

‘Perhaps you would tell them a story,’ replied the aunt angrily.

‘Once upon a time,’ began the bachelor, ‘there was a little girl called Bertha, who was very good,’

25 The children’s interest began to dim immediately – all stories seemed awfully alike.

‘In fact, she was horribly good.’

The children looked at him with renewed interest. The word ‘horrible’ in connection with ‘goodness’ was new to them.

30 ‘She was so good,’ continued the bachelor, ‘that she won three large medals for obedience, punctuality and good behaviour, which she always wore.

‘The prince of the country heard about her goodness and allowed her to walk in his park once a week.’

‘Were there any sheep in the park?’ asked Cyril.

‘No,’ said the bachelor.

35 ‘Why not?’

The aunt grinned.

‘The prince’s mother,’ said the bachelor immediately, ‘had once dreamt that her son would be killed by a sheep, so there were no sheep in the park. There were pigs instead.’

The aunt held back a gasp of admiration.

40 ‘Bertha enjoyed herself in the park and thought to herself, “If I were not so good, I wouldn’t

be allowed to come into this beautiful park.” Her three medals clinked against one another as she walked, and she was reminded of how good she was. Just then, an enormous wolf appeared in the park. Bertha saw the wolf coming towards her and began to wish she had never been allowed to come into the park. She ran as quickly as she could and managed to  
45 hide in some bushes. She thought to herself, “If I had not been so good, I would have been safe in the town at this moment.” The wolf could not sniff out where Bertha was hiding, so he decided to catch a little pig instead. Just then, Bertha’s medals clinked against each other. The wolf heard the sound and ran into the bush. He ate Bertha entirely. All that was left were her three medals for goodness.’

50 ‘The story began badly,’ said the smaller of the small girls, ‘but it had a beautiful ending.’

‘It is the ONLY beautiful story I have ever heard,’ said Cyril.

‘A most improper story to tell young children!’ the aunt said.

‘But,’ said the bachelor, ‘I kept them quiet for ten minutes, which was more than you were able to do.’

1. What is the setting of ‘The storyteller’?
2. Which one of the following statements is TRUE about the bachelor?
  - A. He was the children’s uncle.
  - B. He knew many stories.
  - C. He disliked the children.
  - D. He was an author of children’s books.
3. Find a word (lines 15-20) that means the opposite of ‘fascinating’.
4. In lines 17-18, why did the people save the girl from the mad bull?
5. The children were not interested in the bachelor’s story at first because...
  - A. it began like most other stories.
  - B. they had heard the story before.
  - C. they were busy doing something else.
  - D. they could not understand the bachelor.

6. The bachelor's story mentions that Bertha received medals for three character traits. Match each of the following speech bubbles with one of the traits. (3 marks)

(i)

She's always on time for her lessons.

(ii)

She does what her parents tell her to do.

(iii)

She's very polite and has excellent manners.

7. What does 'which' (line 30) refer to?
8. Which word in lines 40-49 could be replaced by 'huge'?
9. How did Bertha feel when she first entered the park? Why? (2 marks)
10. What does 'the sound' (lines 47-48) refer to?
11. Decide whether the following statements are true, false or the information is not given. Write down **T**, **F** or **NG**. (3 marks)
- All children except the smaller girl enjoyed listening to the bachelor's story.
  - The children felt sorry for Bertha.
  - The aunt thought the bachelor's story was unethical.
12. How would you describe Cyril? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

**Bonus Questions**

13. Why did the aunt grin in line 36?

14. Complete the sentence below: (2 marks)

The story the bachelor told the children is quite ironic because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Text 2 (22 marks + bonus 2 marks)**

Read the editorial and the letter to the editor below and answer the questions that follow.

**Today's editorial: What is the word coming to?**

**By Professor Terence Lo, Department of English Literature**

5 [1] Call me a modern-day Luddite, but I simply cannot turn a blind eye to what modern technology is doing to our language. Historically, the Luddites were artisans who invaded newly created textile factories and smashed the machinery in protest of the way this mechanisation was replacing their jobs. The same thing is happening today. But this time we are talking about written language. Instant message (IM) language – and by that I am referring to all the acronyms and short cuts in texting and Internet slang – is the beginning of the end for the English language.

10 [2] Language is a work of art. Imagine if Shakespeare's Hamlet had exclaimed '2BRNT2B?' or if Tolstoy's great novel had been titled 'WRnPS'. I am not exaggerating, dear readers. We must stop the destruction of our language before it spirals out of control forever. Twittering, for example, only began about eight years ago, but now it is all the rage! And, just like twittering, I consider the whole IM language concept to be a trend as useless and dangerous as platform shoes. It is distracting our students. Instead of playing with letters like someone who has just been introduced to the alphabet, they should be reading the great works of classic literature.

15 [3] I know that today's youth think this is all good fun and perfectly harmless. But we will have to agree to disagree on that. Maybe these youngsters, who are inventing this textspeak out of silliness or laziness – will come around when they realise the harmful effects of their actions. In the meantime, it is important for educators and parents to encourage teens to reduce their screen time and participate in a discussion using formal language. The more they practise, the more prepared they will be for their future career.

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**It's time for democracy – in communication**

25 [4] We want to voice our disagreement with Professor Terence 'Luddite' Lo and his editorial last week, in which he complained about the IM trend, calling it 'the beginning of the end for the English language'. He criticised the use of the shortcuts and acronyms that are a central feature of this form of written communication. He betrays his age perhaps, and shows us his set-in-his-ways attitude by failing to make the connection: these younger generations are the first to embrace the new communications technologies that lend themselves to this new

written form. We understand that a professor in the Literature Department would view written language as a 'work of art', but we believe that language is more often used as a tool  
30 of communication. Language is organic and ever-changing, not something found in a museum. What was once 'to morrow' became 'to-morrow' and is now 'tomorrow'. Well, welcome to tomorrow!

[5] If Professor Lo knows his history, he should know that the Chinese written language was developed for the elite of society only. May we suggest that what is happening to the English  
35 Language (and Chinese too) is a natural outcome of the democratising effects of modern communications technology. It is a language created by the people.

[6] We also didn't care for Professor Lo's use of language in the editorial. When we read that IM language was 'a trend as useless and dangerous as platform shoes', we had to LOL. But then again, everyone has a different way of expressing themselves. That's the beauty of  
40 language. We'll just have to agree to disagree on our views on language.

Agnes Mak and Tiffany Chan  
Linguistics Department

15. How has language changed due to the introduction of texting and instant messaging?

16. Find words or expressions in paragraphs 1-2 that mean the same as the following: (3 marks)

- i. ignore (5 words)
- ii. extremely popular (3 words)
- iii. shouted (1 word)

17. What does 'they' (line 14) refer to?

18. According to Professor Lo, what do young people think about IM language in paragraph 3?

19. What is Professor Lo's advice to parents and teachers? (Complete the sentence below and make sure your answer is grammatically correct.) (2 marks)

Professor Lo suggests parents and teachers \_\_\_\_\_.

20. Which of the following best describes Professor Lo's view of language?
- A. scientific
  - B. flexible
  - C. modern
  - D. traditional
21. What is the tone of Professor Lo's editorial?
- A. concerned
  - B. objective
  - C. hopeful
  - D. apologetic
22. What does 'betrays' (line 25) mean?
- A. protects
  - B. reveals
  - C. hides
  - D. hurts
- 23 (i). How is Mak and Chan's view on language different from Professor Lo's? (2 marks)
- (ii). Which side do you agree with? Explain your answer.
24. What examples do Mak and Chan give in paragraph 4 to show that language is 'ever-changing'?
25. Below is a summary of paragraph 5. Fill in the blanks using words that can be found in paragraph 5. Use one word for each blank. (4 marks)
- Mak and Chan argue that the evolution of language is (i). For example, based on the (ii) of China, written language was only used by the (iii). Nowadays, language is a universal tool that will keep on changing due to modern (iv).
26. Give two examples of textspeak used in the editorial and letter to the editor. (2 marks)
27. What is Mak and Chan's main purpose in writing this letter?
- A. to complain
  - B. to argue
  - C. to recount
  - D. to recommend



**Bonus Question**

28. What/ Who does Professor Lo compare himself to? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

**Part II: Usage (60 marks)****Section A (12 marks)**

Read an excerpt from “Memoirs of My Mother”. Fill in the blanks with the verbs given in brackets. Change the form of the verbs and use the **negative form** and **passive voice** where necessary.

The first time I left Mum was the first day of my primary school life. I didn't have to go far because my school (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (locate) just across the street from my house. For that reason, I (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (allow) to go home for lunch. After the morning session, I ran home, barely able to contain my excitement.

‘Mom! You can never guess what (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (happen) at school today. Every one of us (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (give) a story book to bring home this morning! I am going to read it to you tonight,’ I shouted.

‘That’s wonderful!’ she said, ‘Come, I have prepared some lunch for you. You can start reading me the book if you (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) early.’

Much to my delight, there on the kitchen table, my favourite dish, fish and chips, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (arrange) like a piece of artwork on a plate. While I (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (have) lunch, I just couldn't stop talking about my first day at school. ‘My neighbour kept chatting for five minutes. If you were the teacher, you (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (punish) her,’ said I. Mum just sat there and smiled.

Then, I left for college. The night before, she had helped me pack my bag and when I got to the destination, I found a note that (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (tuck) among my sweaters. It read, ‘We (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) proud of you!’

Mum (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (diagnose) with cancer before I left for my Master's Degree in the UK. If there (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a delay in the issue of my visa, I would have gone to the UK and would have missed her death. It was not an easy death, but in the midst of pain, she managed to tell me one more time, ‘I love you.’

**Section B (12 marks)**

Read the following conversation between the owner of Westfield Castle and a reporter. Join the underlined sentences by using *which, who/whom, why, where and whose*.

Owner	Welcome to my castle!
Reporter	It looks very old and spooky.
Owner	(1) <u>This castle was built hundreds of years ago. It has an interesting history.</u>
Reporter	How so?
Owner	(2) <u>The castle was run by a wicked landlord. He had tortured and killed many people here.</u>
Reporter	That's awful! Are there any ghosts here?
Owner	You can say that. (3) <u>My son had dinner in the kitchen. He saw a dark shadow there.</u>
Reporter	A dark shadow! Did you do anything afterwards?
Owner	I tried to look up the history of the castle. (4) <u>Sir Patrick Sung was the owner after the wicked landlord.</u> Do you know Sir Patrick Sung? <u>His wife was the famous singer Amor.</u>
Reporter	Wow! Sir Patrick Sung just passed away too.
Owner	(5) <u>That was the reason. We heard his footsteps last night.</u>
Reporter	That's terrifying.
Owner	In fact, (6) <u>I just met Sir Patrick. I had asked him to give you a tour.</u>
Reporter	Sorry, I'm not feeling well. I'd better go now. Bye!

**Section C (12 marks)**

Complete the following article with the vocabulary from JS 3B vocabulary list. You may need to change the word form.

World Animal Protection

Last Sunday, actor Jackie Chan spoke to the BBC about his efforts to change Chinese attitudes towards (1) \_\_\_\_\_ animals.

In a recent publication by the World Animal Protection, some (2) \_\_\_\_\_ commented that poaching has reached a crisis point – tens of thousands of elephants, rhinos and tigers are being (3) \_\_\_\_\_ for their tusks, meat or skin each year. A week before their voices were heard, leaders from 40 states had already gathered in London to discuss the illegal wildlife trade, aiming to draw up a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ declaration to tackle animal trafficking as it has been affecting the whole world.

Chan, who is an ambassador for charity WildAid, said he believed the Chinese government was making progress in stemming the poaching trade. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ have been launched to raise public (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of illegal wildlife trade, showing people wild animals like pangolins and Chinese giant salamanders are in (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of becoming extinct. The idea of taking these “delicacies” off the dining table has been (8) \_\_\_\_\_ by the general public. Nowadays, a lot of people in China who used to have (9) \_\_\_\_\_ meals that could cost a hundred thousand dollars would ensure these protected wildlife animals are off the menus.

Steven Galster, the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of WildAid, started focusing on countering wildlife and human trafficking back in 1995. Over the years, they have invited many (11) \_\_\_\_\_ ambassadors to speak for them, such as Yao Ming, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jane Goodall, etc. (12) \_\_\_\_\_ by Chan, Galster had a tour in the World Animal Protection Centre in the UK where they were both interviewed by the BBC.

**Section D (15 marks)**

Complete the following article. Choose the best option for each question. Write down the letters only.

Pros and Cons of being a Reporter

Have you ever thought of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a reporter? If you are a reporter, you (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a greater chance of meeting famous people. It is true that this is one of the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of being a reporter. (4) \_\_\_\_\_, there are also many difficulties faced by a reporter.

One of my friends regrets working as a reporter (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the long working hours. If she (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a subject again in the university, she would not choose anything related to journalism either. After being a reporter, she did try (7) \_\_\_\_\_ time to spend with her family but she just couldn't. She remembered working until midnight for a month. She commented that if she (8) \_\_\_\_\_ become a reporter, she would (9) \_\_\_\_\_ at least a hundred hours more.

Reporters work long hours as there is news 24/7. Not only (10) \_\_\_\_\_ they ready to bring us news when typhoon signal number 8 is in force, they also have to stay awake until the result of an election is out. It could be dangerous (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the reporters to work in some situations, but it could also be very exciting when they are the first person to report about the latest inventions.

Besides, it is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ that they have to meet deadlines every day. News is like bread: people like it fresh. If they are not quick (13) \_\_\_\_\_ to bring readers the latest news, readers will lose interest (14) \_\_\_\_\_ their reports.

It is incredible that reporters bring us news from different places. They deserve to (15) \_\_\_\_\_.

1	A. to become B. doing C. becoming D. working	2	A. would have had B. would have C. are having D. may have	3	A. joyous B. advantages C. advantage D. fun
4	A. Also B. To conclude C. Despite D. However	5	A. since B. because of C. because D. in spite of	6	A. would pick B. picks C. had to pick D. has to pick
7	A. to find B. spend C. find D. to take	8	A. was not B. did not C. had not D. would not	9	A. be sleeping B. have slept C. not sleep D. had been slept
10	A. are B. will C. do D. is	11	A. that B. to C. of D. for	12	A. stress B. pressure C. stressed D. stressful
13	A. too B. enough C. that D. action	14	A. to B. in C. on D. about	15	A. being honored B. honor C. be honored D. honored

**Section E (9 marks)**

Refer to pages 4 and 5 of the Answer Sheets.

**Part III: Bonus (10 marks)**

Mr. and Mrs. Ng were on their way to Janet and Jonathan's engagement party. Fill in the blanks with words / phrases from Vocabooster 3 to complete the conversation below. You may need to change the word form.



Mrs. Ng	I still remember running (1) _____ Janet in the florist's the other day, and she told me about this engagement party.
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Mr. Ng	I'm glad that they've finally decided to tie the knot. Two years ago, they still had a lot of arguments and they even thought of (2) _____ to their relationship. I bet they have (3) _____ a lot of difficulties in the past two years.
Mrs. Ng	Yes, they did have a lot of challenges, but everything worked out fine eventually. Janet said they had been (4) _____ it over and I'm glad that they didn't just give up.
Mr. Ng	I remember Janet's mother was a really tough woman. I guess Janet really (5) _____ her Mum.
Mrs. Ng	Actually, Janet (6) _____ be quite weak when she was my classmate in primary school. She has changed a lot over the years. Her mother was a good role model for her.
Mr. Ng	What did her mother do?
Mrs. Ng	Her mother started her own business when she was thirty. Fifteen years ago, the company size dropped from 30 to only 10 staff members due to some big disagreements in the office. The staff (7) _____ until her mother agreed to give them more benefits. Her Mum was a smart lady who always tried to strike a (8) _____ between work and home. She took good care of her children.
Mr. Ng	That's right. You told me Janet has three other siblings and they all studied very well.
Mrs. Ng	Yes, they are all quite successful now. Janet is the last to get married.
Mr. Ng	Oh no...
Mrs. Ng	What's that?
Mr. Ng	We are (9) _____ out of gas. I don't think we can drive very far.
Mrs. Ng	Shall we (10) _____ the shortcut then?
Mr. Ng	That's a good idea. We can get there in two minutes.
Mrs. Ng	Great! We can't miss the speeches by the couple.
Mr. Ng	Don't worry, we won't.

**END OF PAPER**