



**GENERAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA EXAMINATION
ELECTIVE ENGLISH
SEMESTER ONE — SECOND SESSION**

TIME: 3 hours

TOTAL MARKS: 70

This paper has 3 pages

READING 1 (Items 1 – 6)

Read the text. Then, for each question, write a short answer (**not more than THREE WORDS**).

In October every year, at the beginning of the rainy season, the tourism office of the city of San Fernando in the Philippines organises its annual Frog Festival. For four days, the people celebrate their love of this small amphibious animal, which is commonly found in the swamps and rice fields that surround the city.

The festival has games, activities and competitions for everyone. For example, you can win a prize for designing the best frog costume. Or, if you are musical, you can enter the Best Frog Song competition — last year's winner was written by 19-year-old Maria Gomez and was called 'Here Comes the Frog'. There is also a kind of Frog Olympics, with events such as the 20 metres race, the long jump and the high jump.

More serious frog specialists can also enter Frog Catching competition. This traditional skill involves the use of a stick to attract the frog and a net to catch it. It takes years of practice and a great deal of patience, but, as the Filipinos say, "What is difficult to get is delicious to eat."

Which brings us, of course, to the main reason why the people of San Fernando love this particular animal. When cooked in the right way, frogs taste fantastic! There are dozens of traditional recipes, ranging from frog soup, to grilled frogs' legs, to the most famous dish of all, 'betute tujak', which consists of deep fried frog stuffed with minced beef.

Actually, despite all these traditions, the San Fernando Frog Festival is itself quite a new event. It started just six years ago in 2003. The area had recently been hit by a huge volcanic eruption, but the frogs were able to survive — just like the people of San Fernando. So the Festival is, in fact, a kind of symbol of survival.

1. When was the first frog festival held? _____ (year)
2. Who is responsible for the preparations? _____
3. How long does the festival last? _____
4. What **two** pieces of equipment do you need to catch a frog? _____ and _____
5. What is 'Here Comes the Frog'? The name of a _____
6. What is 'betute tujak'? A kind of _____

Write your answers on your answer paper.

READING 2 (Items 7 – 10)

Read these four texts. What are they about? For each text, choose one of the items in the box. Write **A, B, C**, etc, as in the example. (There are two extra items in the box.)

e.g. After the match, the coach said he was delighted with the team's performance. F

7. The stolen painting is believed to be worth more than half a million US dollars.
8. The new drug, which will go on sale soon, offers hope to thousands of sufferers all over the world.
9. The island has recently become a very popular destination for young people from Japan and Korea.
10. The earthquake, which measured 7.1 on the Richter scale, has caused the death of at least two thousand people, including many children.

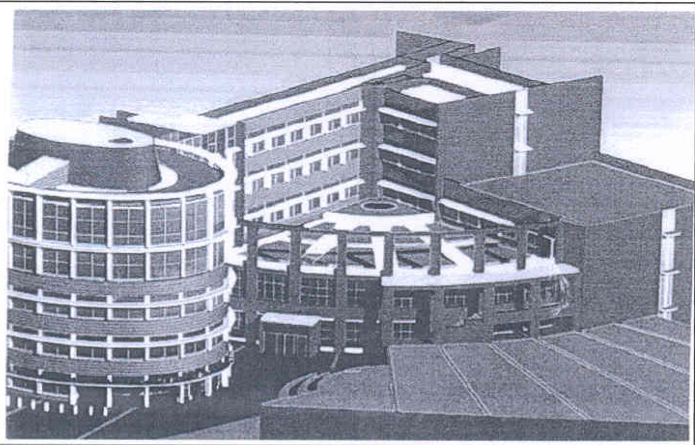
- | | |
|---|-------------|
| A | Disasters |
| B | Health |
| C | Tourism |
| D | Environment |
| E | Crime |
| F | Sport |
| G | Technology |

WRITING 1

Write a PARAGRAPH about **the Mitchell Building**. Use the picture and ALL the information in the box. Your writing should be correct and well-organised.

Mitchell Building

950 students design/ John Doe
\$35 million research/ teaching
Physics/ Chemistry open/ 1966
laboratories/ classrooms/ offices
Texas University/ USA



WRITING 2

Write a **letter** of at least 75 words.

Situation: Your British penfriend, John/ Joanna, is doing a project about **transport** in different countries. He/She has written a letter asking you about Oman. Reply to his/her letter. Tell him/her about the kinds of transport (car, bus, plane, etc) that people use in Oman.

Your letter should be friendly, informative and interesting.
Your name is Salim/ Salma. Do **not** write an address.

Write your answers on your answer paper.

WRITING 3

Write a **story** of at least 100 words based on the following pictures.

You can use the words in the box to help you.

You can also put in more details to make your story lively and interesting.

boat	have fun	engine	break down
try/ repair	all night/ sea	sun/ hot	rescue

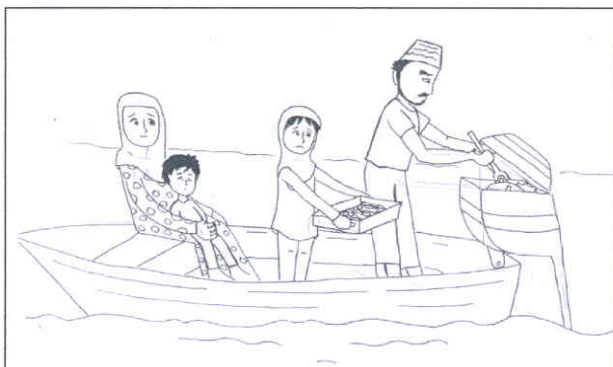
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②



③



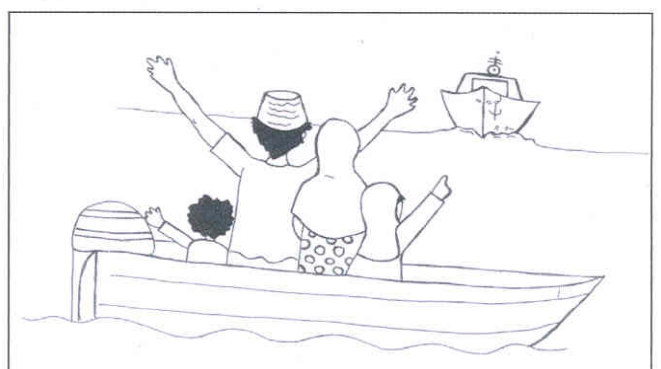
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⑤



⑥



Write your answers on your answer paper.