



SULTANATE of OMAN

MINISTRY of EDUCATION

Directorate-General of Educational Evaluation

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

**GRADE TWELVE
ENGLISH 'A'**

NOVEMBER/2009

PURPOSES of SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- To ensure that students understand the instructions for each type of test format.
- To help students to develop effective test taking strategies.
- To familiarize students with the types of texts and questions used in formal exams.

CONTENT of SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- The questions have been selected from previous grade 12 exam papers. However, in some cases, amendments have been made to match with the current (2009/2010) exam specifications.
- These questions have been arranged accessibly according to the elements of Listening, Vocabulary, Grammar, Reading and Writing. Each element is then organized according to formats, followed by different examples.
- The formats for Listening questions are: interactive text with Multiple Choice and informative or narrative texts with Wh-Questions and Multiple Choice. (With each set of questions, a Listening Script is provided, as well as the original sound recording on CD)
- There are three formats for Vocabulary: Multiple Choice (sentences), Gap-fill (words provided) in a text and Word Completion from definitions.
- The formats for Grammar are: Gap-Fill (words provided) in a text, Multiple Choice (text) and Gap-Fill (no words provided) in sentences.
- There are two formats for Reading questions: Matching Texts with Texts and Multiple Choice with informative or narrative texts.
- The formats for Writing are: Situational Writing and Picture Story.

USE OF SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- Teachers can start by taking a particular format for a particular element and discussing (a) the instructions and (b) strategies which could help students in responding. Other examples could then be used as homework in order to provide further practice.
- Alternatively, students can do the examples individually or possibly in pairs and then discuss them with the teacher.

(Note: These sample questions are useful in achieving the three purposes mentioned above. However, teachers are advised not to *overdo* this type of exam preparation practice. The main focus should be on helping students to develop their English language skills.)

LISTENING

FORMAT 1

**MULTIPLE CHOICE
(INTERACTIVE TEXT)**

FORMAT 2

**Wh-QUESTIONS &
MULTIPLE CHOICE
(NARRATIVE or INFORMATIVE
TEXT)**

LST/ FORMAT 1/ MCH/ INTERACTIVE TEXT

EXAMPLE 1

You will hear a conversation between two people who have studied in the UK.

Listen, and for each item, choose the correct option: A, B or C.

1. The conversation takes place _____.
A. in the UK B. at a conference C. at a university

2. The woman is interested in students' _____.
A. language skills B. exam results C. Motivation

3. The man studied in Britain _____.
A. last year B. two years ago C. five years ago

4. He will go back there soon to _____.
A. give a presentation B. continue his studies C. start a new job

5. The man offers to help her find _____.
A. a place to live B. some books to read C. a language course

6. The woman complains about having to _____.
A. write long essays B. attend lectures C. read a lot

LST/ FORMAT 1/ MCH/ INTERACTIVE TEXT

LISTENING SCRIPT - Semester1, 1st session (2008/2009)

EXAMPLE 1

Man: Hi, Salma! I wasn't expecting to see you here. I thought you were in the UK, doing your Master's degree.

Woman: Oh, hi, Rashid! You're right, I am studying in the UK, but I've just finished my exams, and now I'm on holiday for the winter break.

Man: So what are you doing at a conference? Shouldn't you be relaxing at home, spending time with your family?

Woman: Well, yes, that's right, but the thing is, I read about this conference, and several of the presentations are related to an education project I'm working on. It's part of my Master's degree.

Man: Oh, what's this project about?

Woman: It's about teaching science, how to motivate students.

Man: That sounds interesting. Who's the supervisor for your project? Is it James Nicholson?

Woman: Oh, you know him?

Man: Of course, I know him! He was my supervisor as well.

Woman: So you studied at Leeds University, too! When was that?

Man: Two years ago. In fact, I've applied to go there again to do my Doctorate degree. Hopefully, next year.

Woman: Oh, so you must have enjoyed being there.

Man: Yes, I had a great time! How about you?

Woman: Well, it's OK.

Man: You don't sound too sure about that. Is something wrong?

Woman: Yes, it's the accommodation. The flat I'm staying in is quite nice, but the problem is, it's so far away from the university. I have to travel by bus every day and it takes me forty minutes to get there.

Man: Have you tried looking for another place, somewhere nearer to the university?

Woman: Yes, but I didn't find anything that I could afford.

Man: I see. My cousin, Amal, is also studying in Leeds, in the Economics faculty, and she's staying in a really nice place, just five minutes' walk from the university, and not too expensive. She's sharing it with a Pakistani girl, and they have an extra bedroom. Shall I tell her that you're looking for somewhere to stay?

Woman: Oh, yes, that'd be great! I'll give you my mobile number. Please let me know what your cousin says.

Man: Sure. Anyway, apart from that, how are things? How are your studies going?

Woman: Oh, fine, the lectures are interesting and the professors are friendly enough. The only thing is, they expect me to do so much reading.

Man: But they're right to expect that! You can't study at university without reading, can you?

Woman: Yes, I know, and the books are very interesting. It's just that, to be honest, I'm not used to reading.

Man: Yes, I've heard this comment from many other university students. The problem is that people don't get into the habit of reading when they're at school.

Woman: Yes, you're right, and that includes me. Anyway, I am getting better, and luckily I don't have problems with my English.

Man: That's good.

Woman: Anyway, it's time for some more presentations. Which one are you going to? (*fade*)

LST/ FORMAT 2/ Wh-QUESTIONS & MCH/ NARRATIVE or INFORMATIVE TEXT

EXAMPLE 1

You will hear a historian talking about the international trade in amber. The text is divided into two parts.

Part One: *For each question, write a short answer (ONE or TWO WORDS only).*

1. What was amber usually used for? _____
2. How was it transported along the Amber Road? *By* _____
3. Which two European countries bought a lot of amber? _____ *and*

4. What is the *usual* colour of amber? _____
5. What can sometimes be found inside pieces of amber? _____

Part Two: *For each item, choose the correct option: A, B or C.*

6. Amber is mostly found in _____ Europe.
A. northern B. western C. Southern
7. It *originally* comes from _____.
A. volcanoes B. the sea C. Forests
8. *Now*, it is usually found _____.
A. in or near water B. in the mountains C. on low-lying land
9. It has been traded for about _____ years.
A. 1,000 B. 5,000 C. 10,000

LST/ FORMAT 2/ Wh-QUESTIONS & MCH/ NARRATIVE or INFORMATIVE TEXT

LISTENING SCRIPT- Semester1, 1st session (2008/2009)

EXAMPLE 1

Part One:

Everybody has heard of the Silk Road, but there is another ancient trade route which deserves to be more famous than it actually is. That is the Amber Road, which for centuries connected the Baltic Sea in northern Europe with the Mediterranean Sea in the south. Amber is a material which is both beautiful and easy to work with, so it is not surprising that, from very early times, it was used to make jewellery such as rings, bracelets, necklaces and pendants. These beautiful objects were produced in the north and transported south along the Amber Road. Actually, the word 'road' is rather misleading. In fact, almost all the amber was carried in boats along rivers such as the Elbe and the Dnieper. When this cargo reached its destination, in Italy, Greece, or even Egypt and Arabia, it fetched very high prices and traders were able to make huge profits. No wonder amber became known as 'the gold of the north'! One reason why amber sold so well was its extraordinary colour — or rather colours. Most commonly, it was dark yellow or orange, but a whole range of different colours were available: red, brown, black, white, cream, or even blue. But it wasn't just these gorgeous colours that made amber so popular — it was also believed that if you wore amber, or even just held it in your hand, you would always be healthy and stay young. This idea that amber is somehow connected with long life probably comes from one extraordinary fact. Inside some pieces of amber, you can actually see complete insects, perfectly preserved in their original form! As I shall explain in a moment, these insects are millions of years old!

Part Two

So what exactly is amber? Well, just like frankincense, it's a natural product, which originally comes from a tree. Thirty to forty million years ago, vast forests covered northern Europe, and one particular kind of pine tree was common in the area now known as Poland. This explains why amber has a slight, but very pleasant, smell. These pine trees used to leak a sticky resin which collected on the ground. Insects which landed on this resin got stuck, and could not escape when more resin fell on them. Then, as the resin became harder and harder, they were trapped inside. Millions of years later, the amber was found by human beings, sometimes in the ground, but usually at the bottom of streams or washed up on the beach after storms. That was the beginning of the trade in amber, which started about ten thousand years ago and still continues today, with Poland and the Baltic coast at its centre. In fact, eighty percent of the world's known supplies of amber can be found in Poland, which is also the world's largest manufacturer of amber jewellery.

LST/ FORMAT 1/ MCH/ INTERACTIVE TEXT

EXAMPLE 2

You will hear a conversation between two people studying at different universities in the UK. Listen, and for each item, choose the correct option: A, B or C.

1. The conversation takes place during a _____.
A. conference B. party C. sports competition

2. The woman is studying _____.
A. Business B. Economics C. Management

3. She complains about _____.
A. her flat B. her studies C. the weather

4. The man spends too much money on _____.
A. travelling B. food C. books

5. The woman is doing a project on _____.
A. advertising B. tourism C. fair trade

6. The man helps her by suggesting _____.
A. an article B. a website C. a book

LST/ FORMAT 1/ MCH/ INTERACTIVE TEXT

LISTENING SCRIPT- Semester1, 2nd session (2008/2009)

EXAMPLE 2

- Man:* Hi! I saw your team playing this morning. Congratulations on getting to the final!
- Woman:* Oh, thank you. Would you like to join us?
- Man:* Sure. I'll just get my coffee. (*pause*) Right. I'm sorry, I haven't introduced myself. I'm Rashid.
- Woman:* And I'm Moza.
- Man:* That's an Omani name, isn't it?
- Woman:* Yes, that's right. I'm from Nizwa. And you?
- Man:* I'm from the Emirates — Dubai, to be exact.
- Woman:* Ah. And where are you studying?
- Man:* Manchester. I'm doing my Masters degree in Economics. How about you?
- Woman:* I'm doing my Masters as well, in Business Studies. At Edinburgh University.
- Man:* Oh, up in Scotland? I've never actually been there. What's it like?
- Woman:* It's a beautiful city with lots of history. I really like living there, except for the weather, of course.
- Man:* Pretty cold, is it?
- Woman:* Yes, and windy.
- Man:* Actually, I love the cold weather. I often go walking in the hills to the east of Manchester. There's nothing like spending a day out in the fresh air, working up an appetite, and then in the evening going out and having a good meal.
- Woman:* Do you eat out a lot? Isn't that rather expensive?
- Man:* Oh, yes. It costs me a fortune! But what can I do? I can't cook.
- Woman:* Why don't you learn? It's easy nowadays. There are lots of websites on the Internet with simple recipes for beginners.
- Man:* That's a good idea. But do they include traditional Arabian food? That's what I really like.
- Woman:* Not all of them. But I could write down the names of some websites for you.
- Man:* That'd be great! But nothing too complicated — remember, I'm a beginner!
- Woman:* Of course.

Man: You know, it's strange. I came to Britain to learn about Economics, but now I'm learning how to cook as well!

Woman: And I've learnt how to play basketball! I wasn't much good before I joined the university team. Of course, I have to practise a lot.

Man: Does that leave you enough time for your studies?

Woman: Good question. You're right, it is important to get the balance right between playing and studying. In fact, when I get back to Edinburgh, I'm not going to play any basketball at all for two weeks. I'm doing a project on fair trade, and I have to finish it by the end of the month.

Man: Have you read Erwin Schnitzler's article on fair trade? It's brilliant, I can really recommend it.

Woman: No, I haven't. Where can I get it from?

Man: It must be in the university library. We can go and have a look tomorrow.

Woman: Great! Then I can photocopy it. How many pages is it?

Man: Only four or five.

Woman: Good. Oh, look at the time, I must go. My team are having another practice session.

Man: Right. Anyway, good luck in the final!

Woman: Thanks.

LST/ FORMAT 2/ Wh-QUESTIONS & MCH/ NARRATIVE or INFORMATIVE TEXT

EXAMPLE 2

*You will hear a historian talking about the international trade in pepper.
The text is divided into two parts.*

Part One: For each question, write a short answer (ONE or TWO WORDS only).

1. How much pepper is sold on world markets today? _____% of all spices sold
2. Which part of India does black pepper come from? _____
3. Which part of the plant is used to make black pepper? _____
4. When did the international trade in pepper start? _____ years ago
5. In the old days, what was pepper used for? Food and _____

Part Two: For each item, choose the correct option: A, B or C.

6. Archaeologists have discovered _____ which are thousands of years old.
A. kitchens B. bowls C. cookbooks
7. Two thousand years ago, most of India's pepper exports went to the _____.
A. Chinese B. Romans C. Persians
8. A new trade route for pepper was discovered in the _____ century.
A. 16th B. 17th C. 18th
9. Today, the world's biggest exporter of black pepper is _____.
A. India B. Thailand C. Vietnam

LST/ FORMAT 2/ Wh-QUESTIONS & MCH/ NARRATIVE or INFORMATIVE TEXT

LISTENING SCRIPT- Semester1, 2nd session (2008/2009)

EXAMPLE 2

Part One:

Spices are one of the most important products in the history of world trade, and pepper is the most popular of all these spices. It accounts for 20% of all the spices sold on world markets today. There are three main types of pepper: chili pepper, long pepper and black pepper. All three come from plants grown in tropical countries. Chili pepper is originally from South and Central America, while long pepper and black pepper both originated in India. Let's take black pepper first. The black pepper is a flowering plant from the south of India. It grows to a height of three metres and produces fruit in the form of small green berries called peppercorns. These can be processed in different ways — cooking, cleaning, drying, pickling, and so on — to produce different kinds of pepper, which all have a strong, spicy taste and add flavour to any kind of food. We know that pepper has been used in Indian cooking for at least four thousand years and that the Indians started exporting black pepper to other countries about two thousand five hundred years ago. The people who bought the pepper were not only interested in its taste. In many countries, it was also used as a medicine for people suffering from a long list of health problems — although whether it actually worked is another matter!

Part Two:

However, it was for its use in food that pepper was most valued. Recipes which include black pepper can be found in cookbooks which have survived from the time of the Roman Empire, two thousand years ago. In fact, the ancient Romans spent enormous amounts of money importing pepper from India. Every year, a fleet of 120 ships was sent there to buy pepper and bring it back via the Red Sea, the River Nile, Alexandria and the Mediterranean. Even after the fall of the Roman Empire, this trade route operated for hundreds of years, until the sixteenth century when traders from Europe found another route to India, around the south and east coast of Africa. Using this route, they were able to take over a large part of the trade. Later, they also used seeds taken from India to grow pepper in other places, especially in South-East Asia. So today countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia are all major producers, and Vietnam is actually the world's leading exporter of black pepper. As a result of all this, pepper is now much more common — and therefore much cheaper — than it was in the old days, when only the very rich could afford to buy it.

LST/ FORMAT 1/ MCH/ INTERACTIVE TEXT

EXAMPLE 3

You will hear part of a job interview at a hotel. Listen, and for each item, choose the correct option: A, B or C.

1. The woman is applying for a job as a _____.
A. waitress B. sales manager C. receptionist

2. She left her last job because _____.
A. her parents moved house B. she wanted a change C. the hotel closed

3. She asks for _____.
A. accommodation B. transportation C. medical care

4. She would _____ have to work overtime.
A. sometimes B. often C. never

5. She says she is especially interested in opportunities for _____.
A. training B. promotion C. travel

6. The hotel manager says he will contact her by _____.
A. fax B. e-mail C. phone

LST/ FORMAT 1/ MCH/ INTERACTIVE TEXT

LISTENING SCRIPT- Semester2, 1st session (2008/2009)

EXAMPLE 3

- Man:* Now, just one last question. It says in your CV that you worked as a receptionist at the Grand Hotel... for three years until April this year. But then you left. Why was that?
- Woman:* Well, I didn't exactly leave. The hotel needed to be renovated. So the owners decided to close it, until the beginning of next year.
- Man:* Oh, yes, I think I heard about that.
- Woman:* Anyway, I didn't like the idea of sitting at home doing nothing. So I decided to look for another job.
- Man:* I see. Anyway, that's it from my side. Now, are there any questions you would like to ask?
- Woman:* Well, first, are you planning to renovate this hotel in the near future?
- Man:* (*laughing*) No, no, you don't need to worry about that!
- Woman:* Good! But yes, seriously, I do have a couple of questions. First, do you provide your staff with transportation?
- Man:* Yes, we do. But there is another option available. We can also provide accommodation within walking distance of the hotel.
- Woman:* Well, actually, I already have accommodation. I live with my parents in the city. So I would need transportation.
- Man:* OK. Anything else?
- Woman:* Yes. Your advert mentions that receptionists have to do 'shiftwork'. Could you explain what that involves?
- Man:* Certainly. Each shift is eight hours long, and there are three shifts every day: morning, evening and night.
- Woman:* Would there be any occasions when I would have to work overtime?
- Man:* Not usually, but as you know, there are some times when reception is very busy, public holidays, international conferences, and so on.
- Woman:* Of course.
- Man:* Oh, that reminds me. I forgot to tell you. If you're accepted, you'll have to attend our special training programme. All our new staff have to take part, even experienced ones like yourself.
- Woman:* OK. And how long is this training programme?
- Man:* Well, it's in three parts, each of them two weeks long. And throughout the year

we also provide workshops on different topics, according to the needs of our staff.

Woman: Now, that sounds really good! At the Grand Hotel, there was a short training course when I started, but after that there was, well, nothing... and I believe it's so important to keep on learning new things...

Man: Yes, you're right. (*pause*) Well, if there's nothing else, that'll be all for now. Obviously, I can't give you the result of the interview right now. But you will hear from us ... within two weeks ... We'll call you... We do have your telephone number, don't we?

Woman: Yes, it's in my CV. Thankyou very much...

LST/ FORMAT 2/ Wh-QUESTIONS & MCH/ NARRATIVE or INFORMATIVE TEXT

EXAMPLE 3

You will hear a scientist giving a lecture about a dangerous disease. The text is divided into two parts.

Part One: *For each question, write a short answer (ONE or TWO WORDS only).*

1. When was Lassa fever discovered for the first time? _____ (year)
2. What is the disease named after? _____
3. In which continent is it usually found? _____
4. How many people die of the disease every year? _____
5. What kind of animal gives it to human beings? _____

Part Two: *For each item, choose the correct option: A, B or C.*

6. Of the people who catch the disease, about _____ have no symptoms.
A. 20% B. 50% C. 80%
7. Patients can easily be cured if they are _____.
A. young and strong B. treated quickly C. put in hospital
8. The disease often causes _____.
A. deafness B. heart problems C. blindness
9. The writer thinks the situation is _____.
A. getting worse B. getting better C. not changing

LST/ FORMAT 2/ Wh-QUESTIONS & MCH/ NARRATIVE or INFORMATIVE TEXT

LISTENING SCRIPT- Semester2, 1st session (2008/2009)

EXAMPLE 3

Part One

One of the problems facing medical science is that new diseases are developing all the time. Take Lassa fever, for example. The first ever cases of the disease were found only forty years ago, in 1969, when two nurses died in town called Lassa in Nigeria, which gave its name to the disease. It is now endemic in many parts of West Africa, although fortunately it is still rare in Europe, Asia and other parts of the world. The World Health Organisation estimates that Lassa fever affects two hundred thousand people every year, even though it only actually kills about five thousand. There are two main ways in which Lassa fever can be transmitted to human beings. The first is by contact with a kind of rat, which is common in West Africa. These rats, which often come looking for food in and around people's houses, do not themselves become ill, but they pass the illness on. Infection can also occur through person-to-person contact, though this is more unusual. In both cases, infections occur in places where there is poverty, overcrowding and poor hygiene.

Part Two

Lassa fever occurs in all age groups and in both men and women. One of the strangest facts about it is that 80% of the people who catch it have few, if any, symptoms and at all. They hardly even know that they are ill! However, in the remaining 20% of cases, the symptoms can be very serious indeed, ranging from headaches, coughing, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pains, internal bleeding and seizures. These symptoms usually last for about three or four weeks. The only known treatment is a drug called Ribavirin, and if this is given to patients early enough, they are likely to recover. As I have already said, the death toll of the disease is not very high, only about 2%. But even if it does not kill very often, it can still leave people permanently disabled. For example, about 25% of those who develop symptoms become deaf and are never able to hear again. This happens to tens of thousands of people every year. Unfortunately, in my opinion, the world community is not paying enough attention to Lassa fever, and so this terrible situation is likely to continue...

LST/ FORMAT 1/ MCH/ INTERACTIVE TEXT

LISTENING SCRIPT- Semester2, 1st session (2008/2009)

EXAMPLE 4

- Woman:* Now, you've already been with the airline for five years. How would this experience help you as a flight attendant?
- Man:* Well, as you know, I've been working at the airport in the reception area. So I'm used to dealing with passengers and looking after their needs.
- Woman:* Yes, and we know you've been doing a good job. So why do you want to change now, and become a flight attendant?
- Man:* There are two main reasons. First, I'd like to gain some new experience. To be honest, I need a change. And second, even more important, I'd like to travel.
- Woman:* I see. In that case, I should warn you that for the first two years you'll only be on short-distance flights to neighbouring countries.
- Man:* Oh. Is that part of the training?
- Woman:* Yes. The second part. Before that, there's a full-time training programme in the classroom.
- Man:* And how long is that?
- Woman:* Just three months. It'll be at our training centre in Kuwait, so you'll have to stay there the whole time. We'll provide accommodation and everything else, of course.
- Man:* So I'll be away from my family for three months?
- Woman:* Yes, that's right. And after that, you'll start the practical training, working as a junior flight attendant on our planes.
- Man:* For two years?
- Woman:* Yes. Oh, by the way, I wanted to ask you. It says in your CV that you can speak three foreign languages.
- Man:* That's right. English, French and Spanish.
- Woman:* Good. It's unusual to meet someone who speaks Spanish. Where did you learn it?
- Man:* Oh, I took some classes, and then I went to Spain on holiday.
- Woman:* Now, that could be very useful. We have regular flights to several countries in South and Central America.
- Man:* So, after I've completed all the training, I might be able to travel to South

America?

Woman: Well, I can't promise anything now, of course, but there is a chance...

Man: That'd be really great!

Woman: Anyway, just one last question. Do you have any medical problems which we should know about?

Man: No, I'm in excellent health. I had a full medical check-up last month. But I should tell you, my eyesight's not that good.

Woman: Oh, that's not a problem. You don't need 20-20 vision to be a flight attendant, do you?

LST/ FORMAT 2/ Wh-QUESTIONS & MCH/ NARRATIVE or INFORMATIVE TEXT

EXAMPLE 4

*You will hear a scientist giving a lecture about a dangerous disease. The text is divided into **two parts**.*

Part One: For each question, write a **short answer** (ONE OR TWO WORDS only).

1. How many blind people are there in the world? _____ million
2. What is the disease usually called? _____
3. In which two continents is it found? _____ and _____
4. What kind of animal gives the disease to human beings? _____
5. Which parts of the body are affected? The _____ and the eyes

Part Two: For each item, choose the correct option: A, B or C.

6. The WHO campaign started by _____.
A. moving people away from the rivers B. making a film about the disease C. killing the animals that cause the disease
7. The medicine given to patients is _____.
A. free B. Cheap C. expensive
8. Because of the campaign, _____.
A. clean water is now available B. people have started farming again C. the disease has disappeared
9. The next thing WHO must do is _____.
A. find new medicines B. report to the UN C. start more campaigns

LST/ FORMAT 2/ Wh-QUESTIONS & MCH/ NARRATIVE or INFORMATIVE TEXT

LISTENING SCRIPT- Semester2, 2nd session (2008/2009)

EXAMPLE 4

Part One

According to the World Health Organisation, there are forty-five million blind people in the world today. The sad thing is that most of these cases of blindness could actually have been avoided. One of the main causes of blindness is a disease which is usually known as 'river blindness'. This disease is usually found in tropical countries in Africa and South America. As its name suggests, it is usually caught by people who live near rivers. It is transmitted to human beings through the bite of black flies which live on the banks of these rivers. The first symptoms of the disease affect the skin, which starts to swell and itch uncontrollably. But later, after a few weeks, it starts to attack the eyes, and if untreated, frequently leads to permanent blindness. In some areas of West Africa, 10% of the population are completely blind, and another 30% suffer from poor eyesight. As a result, large areas of fertile, productive land have been left empty as people have tried to escape from the disease.

Part Two

However, there is now hope for many of these people. The World Health Organisation and the governments of affected countries in Africa have recently joined together to organize a campaign to fight river blindness. First, they concentrated on preventing the disease by reducing the number of black flies. For several weeks, helicopters flew along river banks and valleys spraying with insecticide the areas where the flies lay their eggs. The campaign then focused on treating people who already have the disease. To do this they used a medicine called Ivermectin, which is given to patients in the form of a small white pill. The medicine was actually provided free of charge by the American company which developed it. All this work has achieved some important results. The number of sufferers from river blindness has been reduced. What's more, it is estimated that half a million people have been saved from going blind because of the campaign. Another positive sign is that many thousands of people have been able to return to their villages and start farming again. However, despite this success, there is a problem. Ivermectin is at present the only drug which can be used to treat river blindness, and scientists are now finding that it is becoming less effective than it used to be. So it is essential that scientists now do research in order to produce a new type of medicine...

VOCABULARY

VOCABULARY	
FORMAT 1	MULTIPLE CHOICE (SENTENCES)
FORMAT 2	GAP-FILL (WORDS-PROVIDED)
FORMAT 3	WORD COMPLETION (DEFINITIONS)

VOCB/ FORMAT1/ MCH (SENTENCES)

EXAMPLE 1

Complete each sentence. Choose the correct option: A, B, C or D.

1. I've been following the same boring _____ for years. I need a change!
A. quality B. routine C. condition D. obligation
 2. On the front page, there was a huge _____. It said: "OMAN WINS GCC CUP".
A. brochure B. publication C. headline D. essay
 3. I tried to persuade her to see a doctor, but she _____ to listen to me.
A. requested B. remained C. returned D. refused
 4. The shortage of water in the region may lead to _____ between the tribes.
A. damage B. conflict C. pollution D. irrigation
 5. He's an _____ player, probably the best in the world.
A. outstanding B. unsatisfactory C. official D. Universal
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VOCB/ FORMAT1/ MCH (SENTENCES)

EXAMPLE 2

Complete each sentence. Choose the correct option: A, B, C or D.

1. "Smoking is a very bad _____. You should try to give it up."
A. character B. aptitude C. habit D. career
2. "I don't understand your essay. It doesn't make any _____ at all!"
A. sense B. meaning C. summary D. knowledge
3. "I've _____ a lot of money in this company, so I hope it makes a profit."
A. exported B. applied C. invested D. developed
4. "In the north-east of the country, people speak a strange _____."
A. diagram B. diameter C. diagnosis D. dialect
5. "The newspaper has a huge _____. It sells over a million copies every day."
A. communication B. celebrity C. citizenship D. circulation

VOCB/ FORMAT2/ GAP-FILL (WORDS-PROVIDED)

EXAMPLE 1

Complete the text. Use five of the words in the box. Write ONE word in each space. (There are three extra words in the box.)

affected	anticipated	decided	delivered
enrolled	improved	lost	repaired

At that time, I was under a lot of stress because I had just (1) _____ my job. So I became a 'compulsive eater' or 'eataholic'. I just couldn't stop eating, and this badly (2) _____ all areas of my life, including my health. Finally, after I had been hospitalized three times, I (3) _____ to do something about it. I (4) _____ for a special course which helps people with this problem. Since then I have completely recovered, and my life has greatly (5) _____, especially my relations with my family and friends.

VOCB/ FORMAT2/ GAP-FILL (WORDS-PROVIDED)

EXAMPLE 2

Complete the text. Use five of the words in the box. Write ONE word in each space. (There are three extra words in the box.)

caused	found	guessed	hurt
increased	joined	replaced	suffered

For a long time, I (1) _____ from a kind of 'disease'. I used to tell lies for no reason at all, and by doing this I often (2) _____ the feelings of my family and friends. Psychologists call this 'compulsive lying', and say that it is usually (3) _____ by a need for other people's attention. But now I think I have (4) _____ a solution to my problem. I heard about a support group for 'compulsive liars', so I (5) _____ the group, and now we meet every week to talk. This has helped me a lot.

VOCB/ FORMAT2/ GAP-FILL (WORDS-PROVIDED)

EXAMPLE 3

Complete the text. Use five of the words in the box. Write ONE word in each space. (There are three extra words in the box.)

agriculture	aim	industry	loan
organisation	protection	reform	support

TAKLONG is a non-governmental (1) _____ which was established in 2001. It works in rural areas of Indonesia where (2) _____ is the most important source of income. Its main (3) _____ is to provide advice and financial (4) _____ for poor farmers and their families. If, for example, a farmer needs a (5) _____ to buy seeds or equipment, TAKLONG can help him to negotiate with the bank.

VOCB/ FORMAT2/ GAP-FILL (WORDS-PROVIDED)

EXAMPLE 4

Complete the text. Use five of the words in the box. Write ONE word in each space. (There are three extra words in the box.)

application	judge	lawyer	murder
prison	referee	trial	witness

(23 March 2009) Crime boss, Josef Kellner, appeared in court again yesterday at the end of a four-week (1) _____. The (2) _____ told him that he had been found guilty of a long list of crimes, including (3) _____ and kidnapping. "Because of the serious nature of these crimes," she said, "you will have to spend the rest of your life in (4) _____." Kellner listened in silence, but his (5) _____ later told reporters that his client would certainly appeal against the decision.

VOCB/ FORMAT3/ WORD COMPLETION (DEFINITIONS)

EXAMPLE 1

For each item, read the definition and write the word in the space provided. You are given the first letter(s) of the word. Make sure you spell the word correctly.

Example: kitchen (noun) a room where food is prepared and cooked

e.g. *They keep the fridge in the **kit**.....*

(noun) a small practical piece of advice

1. _____ e.g. *She gave me a very useful **t**..... on how to cook spaghetti.*

(adjective) short, quick, not lasting a long time

2. _____ e.g. *The minister made a **br**..... statement about the crisis.*

(verb) to stay on the surface of a liquid, and not sink

3. _____ e.g. *It's easier to **fl**..... in saltwater than in fresh water.*

(noun) someone who applies for a job

4. _____ e.g. *What time shall we interview the first **can**.....?*

(verb) to deliberately pay no attention to somebody or something

5. _____ e.g. *I said 'hello' to her. So why did she **ig**..... me?*

VOCB/ FORMAT3/ WORD COMPLETION (DEFINITIONS)

EXAMPLE 2

For each item, read the definition and write the word in the space provided. You are given the first letter(s) of the word. Make sure you spell the word correctly.

1. _____ (adjective) neatly arranged with everything in the right place
e.g. *If you keep your room ti....., it's much easier to find things.*
2. _____ (noun) the name of a product made by a particular company
e.g. *What br..... of washing-up liquid do you use?*
3. _____ (adjective) extremely big or large
e.g. *A va..... area of rainforest is cut down every year.*
4. _____ (noun) a large mass of ice that moves slowly down a valley
e.g. *Because of rising temperatures, the gl..... is shrinking.*
5. _____ (adverb) approximately, about
e.g. *This vehicle weighs rou..... one-and-a-half tonnes.*

GRAMMAR

GRAMMAR	
FORMAT 1	GAP-FILL (WORDS-PROVIDED)(TEXT)
FORMAT 2	MULTIPLE CHOICE (TEXT)
FORMAT 3	GAP-FILL (NO-WORDS PROVIDED)

GRM/ FORMAT 1/ GAP-FILL (WORDS PROVIDED)

EXAMPLE 1

Complete the text. Use five of the words in the box. Write ONE word in each space. (There are three extra words in the box.)

at	for	held	hold	on	that	the	which
----	-----	------	------	----	------	-----	-------

Chiang Mai, (1) _____ is in the north of Thailand, is one of (2) _____ most interesting places in the country. It is especially famous (3) _____ its annual Water Festival. The festival is (4) _____ every year in April (5) _____ the end of the rainy season.

GRM/ FORMAT 1/ GAP-FILL (WORDS PROVIDED)

EXAMPLE 2

Complete the text. Use five of the words in the box. Write ONE word in each space. (There are three extra words in the box.)

a	award	awarded	dancer	dancers	in	the	to
---	-------	---------	--------	---------	----	-----	----

If you're interested (1) _____ colourful festivals, you really ought (2) _____ go to the Cuban National Dance Festival. It takes place annually in (3) _____ capital city, Havana. Thousands of (4) _____ come out onto the streets, and huge cash prizes are (5) _____ to the best performers.

GRM/ FORMAT 2/ MCH (TEXT)

EXAMPLE 1

Complete the text. For each space, choose the correct option: A, B, C or D.

Hi Sami, I (1) _____ your letter two weeks ago. I'm sorry I (2) _____ reply immediately. It sounds like you made (3) _____ nice new friends in France. I'm going there myself (4) _____ June. By the way, thanks for the photo! Where (5) _____ it taken?

- | | | | | |
|----|------------|-------------|------------|------------------|
| 1. | A. receive | B. received | C. was | D. have received |
| 2. | A. didn't | B. don't | C. haven't | D. wasn't |
| 3. | A. some | B. any | C. much | D. a |
| 4. | A. at | B. on | C. in | D. to |
| 5. | A. did | B. is | C. was | D. has |
-

GRM/ FORMAT 2/ MCH (TEXT)

EXAMPLE 2

Complete the text. For each space, choose the correct option: A, B, C or D.

Good news! My mother (1) _____ decided to spend six months here.

She (2) _____ next month. Our apartment is (3) _____ small for all of us, so we're going to find a larger apartment (4) _____ else. Hopefully, we can find a nice one (5) _____ the coast.

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. | A. have | B. has | C. is | D. was |
| 2. | A. is coming | B. was coming | C. has come | D. came |
| 3. | A. enough | B. too | C. less | D. as |
| 4. | A. somewhere | B. nowhere | C. everywhere | D. anywhere |
| 5. | A. for | B. in | C. on | D. at |

GRM/ FORMAT 3/ Gap-Fill (No Words Provided)

EXAMPLE 1

Complete each sentence with ONE WORD only.

1. "I met her for the first time _____ June 1998."
 2. "Which is better for you: Monday _____ Tuesday?"
 3. "How long have you _____ learning French?"
 4. "This is a nice place. _____ don't we camp here?"
 5. "I never used _____ like him, but now I do!"
-

GRM/ FORMAT 3/ Gap-Fill (No Words Provided)

EXAMPLE 2

Complete each sentence with ONE WORD only.

1. "He's been working for us _____ 1989."
2. "The meeting will _____ held in my office."
3. "She used _____ live with her parents, but now's she's married."
4. "Have they found out _____ stole the money?"
5. "Those children are making a lot _____ noise!"

READING

FORMAT 1

**MULTIPLE CHOICE
(EVALUATIVE OR INTERACTIVE
TEXT)**

FORMAT 2

**Wh-QUESTIONS &
MULTIPLE CHOICE
(INFORMATIVE or NARRATIVE
TEXT)**

EXAMPLE 1

Read the following text. Then, for each item, choose the correct option: A, B or C.

My favourite film of all time is 'King Kong', and I don't mean the fancy new colour version made in 2005, or any of the other versions made in Japan and other places — I mean the real, original, black-and-white movie made in 1933.

Of course, I'm not old enough to have seen the film when it first came out — in fact, I wasn't even born then! But when I did see it on television as a teenager — that was in 1975 — I was amazed! A few years later, I was also able to see it at the cinema, and that was even better! Now of course, I've got the DVD and can watch it any time I like.

Everyone knows the story of the gigantic gorilla named Kong, and how he is captured from a remote prehistoric island and brought to civilization — and how he is destroyed by that civilization. For some reason, I've always found this story very moving. I still sometimes feel like crying when Kong dies at the end.

Another reason I like the film is that I've always preferred classic movies from the great days of cinema in the 1930's and 40's. Black-and-white films require far more skill from the director and I think they actually look better, too! Modern films may have huge budgets and be able to produce wonderfully life-like special effects. But even if the special effects back in 1933 were crude and simple, who could ever forget that scene near the end when Kong is on top of the tallest building in the world being attacked by fighter planes?

Another film that I really like is 'Amadeus'. I'm not saying it's the best film ever made, but it's the one that's had the biggest impact on me personally. In fact, it changed my life.

For those of you who have never seen it: it was made in 1984 and it's all about the great classical composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart who lived in Austria at the end of the 18th century. Many people believe that he is greatest composer of all time, but the problem with having so much natural talent — his middle name Amadeus actually means "beloved by God" — is that it can make other people very jealous.

In the film, the jealous person is an Italian composer called Antonio Salieri. Salieri is actually a very good composer, but not a *genius* like Mozart! So he loves and really appreciates Mozart's music, but gradually begins to hate the composer himself — so much that in the end he actually murders him by putting poison in his food!

In fact, there is no historical evidence that the *real* Mozart was actually murdered — he almost certainly died of typhoid. But never mind, it makes a very good story, and it's certainly a very interesting psychological study — and the acting is brilliant!

So, how did it change my life? Well, before seeing 'Amadeus' two years after it came out, I had always been deeply prejudiced against classical music, especially opera.

I only ever used to listen to my favourite rock bands! But the clips of music in the film were so wonderful that I changed my attitude completely! Now I listen to all

kinds of music, including lots of classical music, and I've even learnt to play the piano!

1. The story of King Kong has been filmed _____.
A. only once B. twice C. several times
2. The writer is about _____ years old.
A. eighty B. fifty C. fifteen
3. She first saw '*King Kong*' _____.
A. on DVD B. at the cinema C. on TV
4. For her, the best thing in the film is the _____.
A. story B. acting C. special effects
5. '*Amadeus*' is mainly about _____.
A. money B. power C. jealousy
6. The first time the writer saw '*Amadeus*' was in _____.
A. 1984 B. 1985 C. 1986
7. She especially enjoyed the _____ in the film.
A. acting B. photography C. dialogue
8. Because of '*Amadeus*', the writer is now interested in _____.
A. history B. classical music C. films
9. Most historians believe that Mozart _____.
A. died of an illness B. was murdered C. died in an accident

RDG/FORMAT1/MCH/ Evaluative or Interactive Text

EXAMPLE 2

Read the following text. Then, for each item, choose the correct option: A, B or C.

Read this newspaper story, and then complete Task 1 and Task 2.

(14 November 2008) A cleaner at the Singapore zoo who jumped into the white tiger enclosure yesterday was killed by the animals as a horrified crowd looked on helplessly. Malaysian Nordin Montong, aged 32, was attacked by two of the three big cats in the enclosure at around noon.

According to eye witnesses, the man first climbed onto the wall of the enclosure and then jumped down into the water-filled ditch which surrounds the tigers. Carrying a plastic bucket and a broom, he then waded through the water and climbed out on the other side, where he started waving the broom and yelling at the animals. When two of the tigers approached him, he lay down on the ground. In a flash, the huge cats were on him, dragging him with their paws and biting his back and neck. The onlookers tried to distract the tigers by shouting at them and throwing objects such as umbrellas and dustbin covers. But despite their efforts, the animals continued to attack the poor man. By the time the zookeepers arrived, he was already dead.

Later, a police spokesman said that it was still unclear why Nordin had done what he did. However, one of his colleagues in the bird enclosure where Nordin worked told us that he had been behaving very strangely that day. He had thrown his wallet on the floor and walked out of the zoo with the words: "Goodbye, you'll never see me again." Minutes later, he returned on his bike and rode straight to the tiger enclosure.

Following the incident, the tiger enclosure has been closed, but the zoo intends to open it again in a week's time. The director said that strict safety inspections are conducted regularly, and that at no time were any of the zoo's visitors in danger. He described the cleaner's death as "very unfortunate", but said that the animals cannot be blamed in any way; they were only behaving naturally and protecting their territory. He promised to provide financial assistance for the dead man's wife and three children. "He had only been with us for three months, but we must do something to help."

A teenager named Ricky Chan was the only witness to capture the incident on film, using his father's video camera. "When I first saw the man walking towards the tigers,

I thought it was some kind of 'show'. But then I saw the blood and realized that it was for real. For some reason, I don't know why, I carried on filming. I wasn't thinking. I feel rather ashamed now, but there was nothing I could do to help him, was there? Anyway, I've handed the film over to the police to help them their investigation. A friend says I should put it on the Internet. He reckons I could make a lot of money from it. But there's no way I would ever do that!"

Task 1 For each question, write a short answer (ONE or TWO WORDS only).

1. How long had Nordin been working at the zoo? _____

2. During the attack, how many other people were in danger? _____
3. How many of the tigers will be killed because of the attack? _____
4. How long will the tiger enclosure be closed? _____

Task 2 For each item, choose the correct option: A, B or C.

5. The incident took place in the _____.
A. morning B. middle of the day C. afternoon
6. Noordin's job was to _____.
A. clean the bird enclosure B. feed the tigers C. clean the bird enclosure
7. The writer thinks that the incident was _____ fault.
A. Noordin's B. the zoo management's C. the tigers'
8. Ricky Chan made a film of the incident. Later he _____.
A. destroyed it B. put it on the Internet C. gave it to the police

RDG/FORMAT2/Wh-QUESTIONS & MCH/ NARRATIVE or INFORMATIVE TEXT

EXAMPLE 2

Read this newspaper story, and then complete Task 1 and Task 2.

(30 April 2008) Magician David Blaine has set a new world record for breath-holding: 17 minutes 4 seconds. The stunt was broadcast 'live' during the Oprah Winfrey TV show, and the studio audience cheered as divers pulled Blaine from a water-filled tank. He looked relaxed afterwards and said the record was a 'lifelong dream'. The previous record was 16 minutes 32 seconds, set earlier on 10 February by Switzerland's Peter Colat.

Before entering the tank, Blaine had spent 23 minutes inhaling pure oxygen through a mask in order to saturate his blood with oxygen and get rid of carbon dioxide. This is allowed under the official rules set by the 'Guinness Book of Records'.

When interviewed by Oprah Winfrey, the host of the show, Blaine told her that the secret of success was to train hard beforehand and then, during the stunt, to think about absolutely nothing at all. And this is exactly what he did. As the minutes ticked by, he remained completely motionless and calm. Winfrey, however, was exactly the opposite. As she watched, she moved around in her chair, placed her head in her hands, and kept checking with the doctor at her side that everything was OK.

In fact, the doctor's only real worry was Blaine's very high heart-rate. The higher the heart rate, the more quickly oxygen is consumed, and the more painful the build-up of carbon dioxide in the body. During training in a swimming pool, he had been able to reduce his heart-rate to less than 60 beats a minute, but here — probably because he was appearing 'live' on TV — Blaine's heart-rate never fell below 100 beats per minute.

As a result, the carbon dioxide in his body grew and grew, until in minute 12 he was in severe pain. "It felt as if a heavyweight boxer had hit me in the stomach with the hardest punch he could." This pain reached a maximum in minute 14, but then gradually decreased. When he was finally released from the tank, he was fine again.

Born in Brooklyn in 1973, Blaine was the son of a soldier and a schoolteacher. From the age of five, he was fascinated by the great American escapologist, Harry Houdini, who was at the height of his fame in the 1920's. Blaine's previous stunts include being buried alive in a see-through coffin for seven days, with no food and only a few teaspoons of water per day; and, in November 2000, being enclosed in a block of ice for 63 hours, an experience which very nearly killed him!

Blaine says he now plans to try to break the world record for staying awake. The current record is twelve days. However, doctors have strongly advised him not to make this attempt, which they say could permanently damage his health.

Task 1 For each question, write a short answer (not more than **THREE WORDS**).

1. When Blaine was a child, who was his hero? _____
2. Where did he do his training for this stunt? _____
3. What causes pain during this kind of stunt? _____
4. Why was the doctor worried? *Because of Blaine's* _____

Task 2 For each item, choose the correct option: A, B or C.

5. The stunt took place in _____.
A. a TV studio B. Blaine's hometown C. a hospital
6. Just before doing the stunt, Blaine _____.
A. drank a lot of water B. breathed in extra oxygen C. took some vitamins
7. Blaine _____.
A. broke the record by _____ B. broke the record by _____ C. failed to break the record
8. Blaine's most dangerous stunt was when he stayed _____ for a long time.
A. without food B. in a block of ice C. awake

WRITING

FORMAT 1

**TASK INSTRUCTION
(SITUATIONAL WRITING)**

FORMAT 2

PICTURE STORY

WRT/FORMAT 1/ Task Instruction (Situational Writing)

EXAMPLE 1

Complete the following task. Write at least 100 words.

Situation: Imagine that your name is Nasr/ Nasra Al-Kindi. You are worried about road safety in Oman. Write a *letter* to a newspaper complaining about dangerous driving. Describe what happens now, and suggest what can be done to make Oman's roads safer.

Begin your letter with: "Dear Editor," The letter should be lively, clear and interesting.

WRT/FORMAT 1/ Task Instruction (Situational Writing)

EXAMPLE 2

Complete the following task. Write at least 100 words.

Situation: Imagine that your name is Nasr/ Nasra Al-Kindi. You have recently been on a long bus journey with your family. It was a very bad experience. Write a *letter of complaint* to the bus company. Tell them what happened, and make some suggestions. Your letter should be polite, but quite strong! Begin the letter with:

"Dear Sir/ Madam,....."

WRT/FORMAT 2/ PICTURE STORY

EXAMPLE 1

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.

lecture

listen

throw away

injured

ambulance

feel guilty

rubbish

presentation

j



k



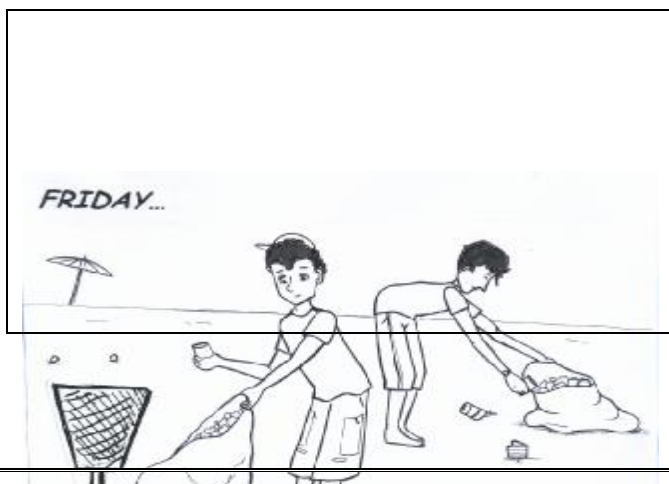
l



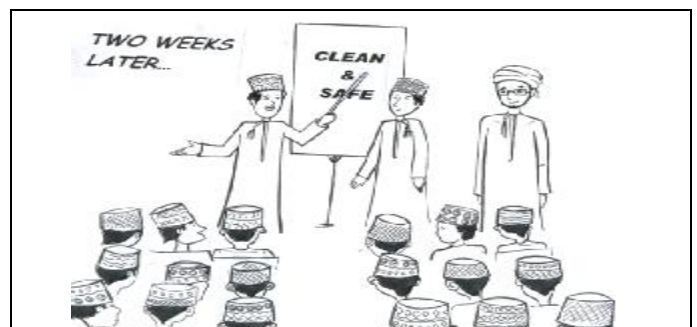
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WRT/FORMAT 2/ PICTURE STORY

EXAMPLE 2

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.

shopping centre	couple	balloons	information desk
describe	announcement	crying	re-united

j



k



l



m



n



o



WRT/FORMAT2/ PICTURE STORY

EXAMPLE 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.

holiday	engine/ fire	crash	mountains
small child	carry	village	TV/ interview

j



k



l



m



n



o



WRT/FORMAT2/ PICTURE STORY

EXAMPLE 4

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

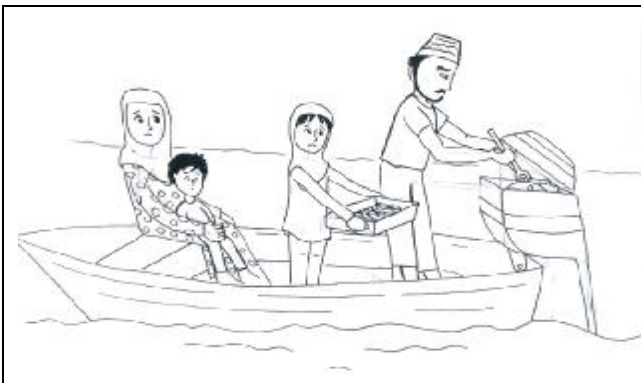
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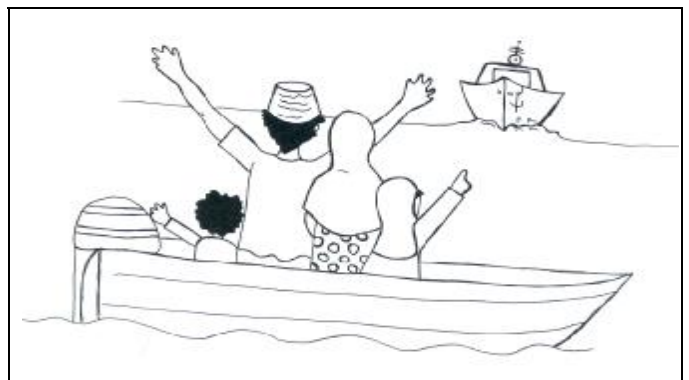
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WRT/FORMAT2/ PICTURE STORY

EXAMPLE 5

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

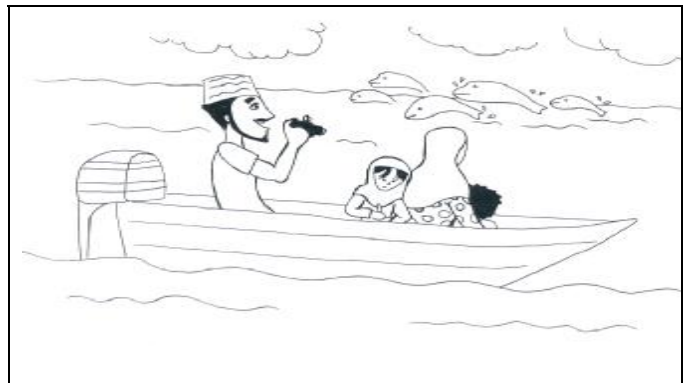
You can use the words in the box to help you. You can also put in more details to make your story lively and interesting.

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

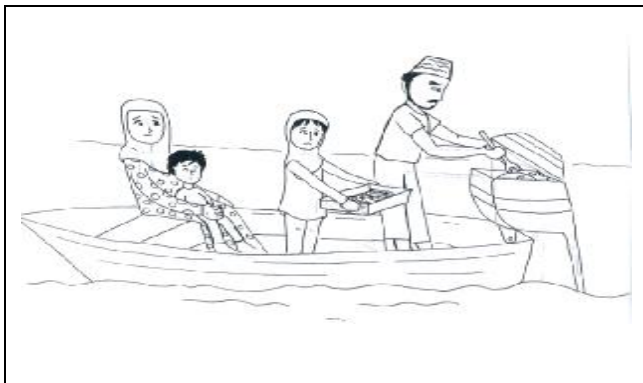
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k



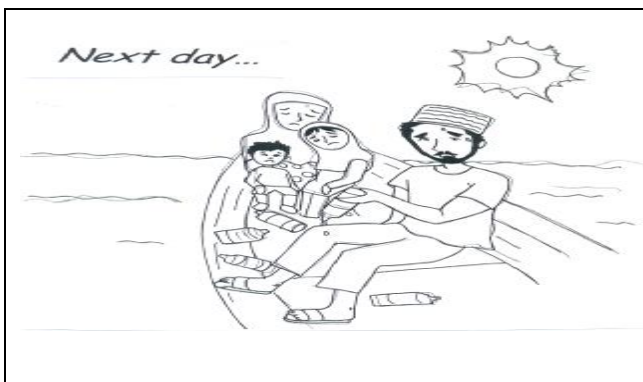
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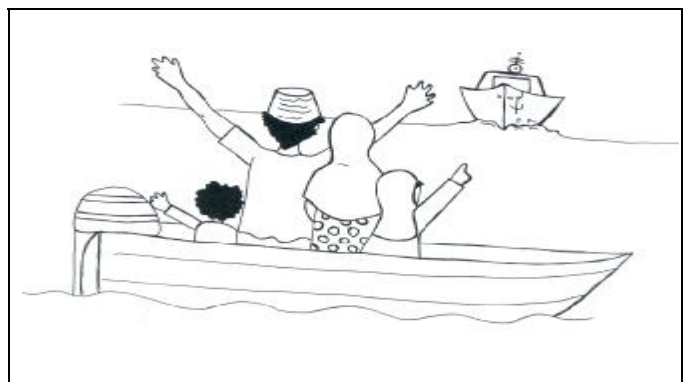
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WRT/FORMAT2/ PICTURE STORY

EXAMPLE 6

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.

driving license

application form

driving test

fail

study

pass

friend/ car-keys

crash

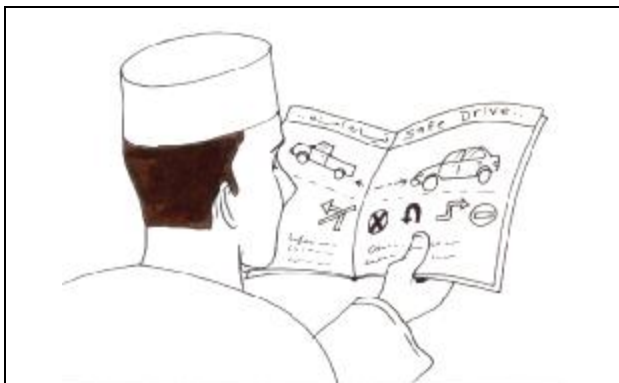
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k



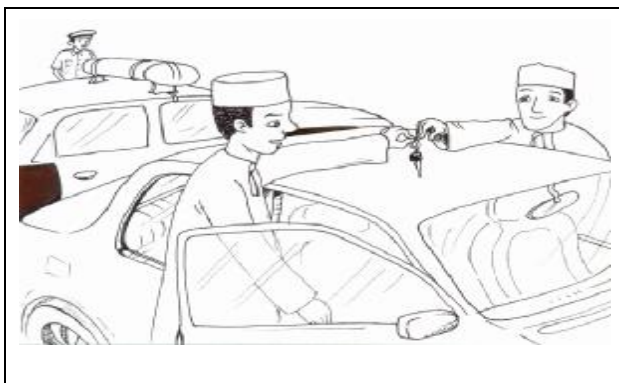
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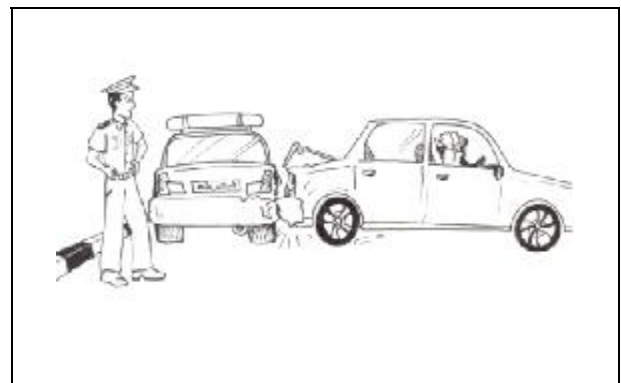
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WRT/FORMAT2/ PICTURE STORY

EXAMPLE 7

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

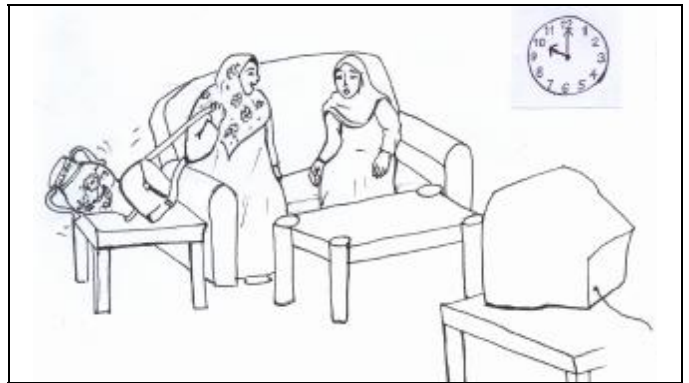
You can use the words in the box to help you. You can also put in more details to make your story lively and interesting.

friends	visit	chat	vase
upset	new	package	broken

j



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