

Primary

6

English

PSLE Practice Papers

**in Listening Comprehension
and Oral Communication**

Answer Guide and Listening
Comprehension Scripts

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Practice 1

Listening Texts

In this listening test, you will listen to a total of seven texts. Each text will be read twice. Listen carefully to the text that is read to you and answer the questions that follow. Write 1, 2 or 3 in the brackets provided. You may attempt the questions at any time during the test.

The test is about to begin.

Text 1

You will hear an announcement about new food in the canteen.

Before you listen to Text 1, read questions 1 and 2 now.

Listen to Text 1 and answer questions 1 and 2.

Good morning, boys and girls. I have good news for you. Remember the canteen survey we started last month? Well, we have studied the findings and made some recommendations. Many of you wanted ice cream and lollies to be sold in the canteen. However, they are not healthy snacks for you as they are not very nutritious, containing mainly sugar and practically nothing else. So, instead of ice cream and lollies, the stall next to the fruit juice stall will be selling fruit smoothies and ice kacang. Fruit smoothies have lots of vitamin C and ice kacang comes with red beans and corn, which is more nutritious than lollies. We have heard your request for cold desserts, especially on hot afternoons and after running about during PE. We hope you will enjoy them. But do not just eat cold desserts during recess. Make sure you have some hot food like noodle soup and chicken rice too.

Listen to Text 1 again.

Text 2

You will hear two friends talking about going to a waterfall.

Before you listen to Text 2, read questions 3 and 4 now.

Listen to Text 2 and answer questions 3 and 4.

Janet: Hi Arfan, have you reached the waterfall yet? Aunt Sue is waiting for you there.

Arfan: Hi Janet, I'm sorry I was delayed. I've just arrived. I'm at the bus stop.

Janet: Oh, you're at the bus stop outside the park? I'm already at the picnic area. Shall we meet here? There was a shortcut you could have used to get here right away. Unfortunately, it is closed for repairs. I suggest you walk towards the Thai Restaurant instead, then use the suspension bridge to get to the picnic area and meet me so we can walk to the waterfall together.

Arfan: Will I pass by the nursery? I want to take photographs of the young ginger plants there.

Janet: We can meet at the picnic grounds and walk to the nursery together. Or, you might want to take the shorter route and head to the Thai Restaurant. But when you get there, don't cross the suspension bridge. Instead, walk towards the photo shop and then towards the nursery.

Arfan: The shorter route sounds better. I'll see you at the waterfall after I'm done at the nursery.

Janet: Sure! I will entertain Aunt Sue with some stories and jokes while we wait for you. She loves listening to my stories!

Listen to Text 2 again.

Text 3

You will hear a teacher giving instructions about Tree Planting Day.

Before you listen to Text 3, read questions 5 to 7 now.

Listen to Text 3 and answer questions 5 to 7.

Mr Ali: Class, we have to start preparing for Tree Planting Day.

Suyan: Oh, I thought we needed to prepare for Games Day first. We'll still have time to prepare for Tree Planting Day after that, right? Last year, I don't think we spent enough time on the Family Carnival and we felt quite stressed in the end.

Mr Ali: You don't have to come up with ideas for Games Day because the school has arranged several game booths for the classes. You just need to sell tickets, so I will collect the tickets for our class when they're printed. But for Tree Planting Day, we have to decide what tree we want to plant and go and get it ourselves.

Suyan: Mr Ali, my father says he can bring a tree for us to plant. You see, our neighbour is moving to a flat, and he can't take all his trees from his garden along with him. So he gave us his young papaya tree.

Mr Ali: That's great! When the tree bears fruit, we can harvest it and have a fruit day in school too. Please thank your father for us.

Suyan: Mr Ali, where should my father leave the tree when he brings it to school? He doesn't have to bring it to our classroom on the second floor, right?

Mr Ali: Right. He can leave it at the car park where there are vacant lots reserved for trees and tools for Tree Planting Day.

Suyan: Tools? Does he need to bring spades and shovels too?

Mr Ali: No, don't worry, the school will provide them.

Listen to Text 3 again.

Text 4

You will hear a radio interview with a child governor.

Before you listen to Text 4, read questions 8 to 10 now.

Listen to Text 4 and answer questions 8 to 10.

Jack: Hi Amy, thanks for agreeing to our radio interview. I'm amazed that you are already a governor despite your young age. How does it feel to be in charge of a town?

Amy: Well, I am not the only one responsible for running the town. There are many people helping me, like the town council and its members. I am only ten years old, so I cannot do many things on my own, like interviewing cleaners to keep the town clean.

Jack: I heard that you are renovating some playgrounds. Can you tell us more about that? I'm sure our listeners, especially children from your town, would like to know what changes they can expect to find in the playgrounds.

Amy: I think safety is very important for children when they are playing, so I have decided to change the material of the ground so that it is not too hard. When children fall on a hard cement ground, they are likely to get hurt or even suffer serious injuries. Slippery surfaces are also dangerous on rainy days. My team hopes to change the current hard cement ground of the playground to a softer and slip proof surface.

Jack: That's wonderful. Besides safety, do you think playgrounds need to be interesting? You know, bright colours and exciting equipment...

Amy: Oh yes, children would enjoy themselves in a colourful place, so we are also painting the slides and swings. We have chosen red and yellow for some playgrounds, and blue and green for others, so that there's variety. We will be installing climbing equipment like monkey bars as well.

Jack: Wow! That sounds exciting! I wish I were a kid again, so that I could play at the playground!

Listen to Text 4 again.

Text 5

You will hear an extract from a news report.

Before you listen to Text 5, read questions 11 to 13 now.

Listen to Text 5 and answer questions 11 to 13.

Welcome back to Save the World. In this programme, we tell you about what people all over the world are doing to save others. Today, we are in India, where a new project called Saving Little Hearts has just started.

The project has helped over 25 children undergo heart surgery in the last three months. One of them is Diva Uhara. She is the daughter of a waiter and had a few months to live due to heart problems. The surgery was too costly for her parents and it seemed she had no hope of living. However, thanks to the timely intervention from Dr Manjo, this poor girl now has a functioning heart and a good life ahead. Dr Manjo says, "Our vision is to help girls like Diva, who would otherwise die due to lack of resources."

Listen to Text 5 again.

Text 6

You will hear a story about a boy and a dog.

Before you listen to Text 6, read questions 14 to 17 now.

Listen to Text 6 and answer questions 14 to 17.

David's parents told him that they were going to an island resort for their holidays. Needless to say, David went wild with excitement upon hearing the news. He imagined combing the beach for seashells and surfing on the waves with his father. Little did he expect that he would find a starving dog whimpering for help.

The island resort was practically deserted except for holiday-seekers like David and his parents. When he saw a dog in the distance, the thought that he was going to save her life never crossed his mind.

She was skinny and weak, barely able to walk, yet, she limped over to the boy. Then, he saw that she was covered in fleas and had bruises all over her. It was a sign that she had been beaten. David could not turn his back on her, like her owner must have done so. To him, she did not seem like a stray dog. It was more likely that she was brought to the island and left there. And there she stood, so close to death. David could imagine vultures circling in the sky above her.

With his parents' help, David gave the dog some food and took her to the resort, where there was a doctor. He was not a vet, but he did his best to clean her wounds and bandage them. A week later, when she was better, David managed to sail home with his new pet. It was indeed an unusual holiday that he would remember for a long time to come.

Listen to Text 6 again.

Text 7

You will hear an extract of a documentary about an unusual horse.

Before you listen to Text 7, read questions 18 to 20 now.

Listen to Text 7 and answer questions 18 to 20.

Have you ever wondered why some people breed horses? Ever since we first domesticated horses over 6,000 years ago, people have been selectively breeding them to suit whatever they want the horse to do. Fast forward to today and there are literally hundreds of different horse breeds around the world that have a million and one different uses. I bet not many of you have heard of an unusual breed called the Bashkir Curly. It is not the oldest or rarest breed around, but it is special because its coat is used to make sweaters for people who are allergic to wool. Every summer, the horse will lose its curly coat along with its mane and sometimes, its tail. It grows a straight coat after that, but don't worry because the curls return in the winter! It is a strong horse that can survive extreme winters.

Listen to Text 7 again.

Answers to Paper 3

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. 3 | 2. 1 | 3. 3 | 4. 2 | 5. 2 |
| 6. 2 | 7. 1 | 8. 1 | 9. 2 | 10. 3 |
| 11. 2 | 12. 1 | 13. 1 | 14. 3 | 15. 2 |
| 16. 2 | 17. 1 | 18. 3 | 19. 2 | 20. 1 |

Paper 4 – Answers to pronunciation, word stress, intonation and expression for Reading Aloud and suggested responses for prompts

Reading Aloud

Pronunciation

1. Thursday – say the th sound
2. Science – say in 2 syllables sci - ence
3. lessons, teachers – say the plural ending s sounds
4. Art, but, taught – say the ending t sounds
5. Mr Singh – say Singh with a silent h
6. thoughts – say the th sound, g is silent
7. looked up at – link the words by saying look - tup at
8. ask – say the ending k sound

Word Stress

1. helplessly – put stress on the first syllable **HELP**lessly
2. speechless – put stress on the first syllable **SPEECH**less

Intonation and Expression

1. Dreaming again? – use a rising tone for this question
2. ...thoughts of ice cream – use a falling tone for this statement
3. ...ask me a question – use a rising tone to express puzzlement
4. ...say something in return – use a rising tone to express puzzlement

Conversation

- (a) I like the cover of the textbook for English as I like English. I think it is an interesting subject. I love English poems, songs and storybooks. My English teacher is Mrs Raj. She makes the lessons fun and challenging. Sometimes we have a surprise spelling test. Last week she asked us to spell the word 'rendezvous', which many of my classmates could not spell correctly, but I did. I was very pleased. I always score good marks in these surprise quizzes. I love this subject very much because I am good at English.

OR

I like Maths because I am good at numbers. My Mathematics teacher is Mr Leong. He explains many things to us clearly, so we do not find Maths difficult. Sometimes, he makes jokes during the lessons and we have lots of fun laughing. For example, one time, he told us that his age is only 18 years plus plus! He says he is handsome from afar but if we look at him up close, he is far from handsome. Sometimes, Mr Leong sets very challenging assignments for us. I find it very satisfying when I can finally solve a difficult problem like those that Mr Leong sets.

- (b) My classmates and I enjoy IT lessons very much because our teacher takes us to the computer lab for lessons. We get to use the computer to complete assignments like making PowerPoint slides for our presentation. We also play computer games to learn new words in English and do quizzes for Science. I like the animation effects very much as I can see how lava in a volcano flows up and out. It is really fantastic and seems so real to me. It is better than seeing a diagram in a textbook.

OR

My classmates and I like lessons that are exciting and interesting. For Chinese language, for example, our teacher hides sayings in different parts of the school and we have to search for them. I found one in a bush near the parents' corner and my group won a prize. I explained the meaning of the saying so clearly that my teacher said it showed that I understood the saying very well. He presented me with a certificate for being first in Chinese blogging too. At first, I did not like Chinese language at all but because of the interesting lessons I had, I find that I am beginning to like the subject very much. In fact, my marks for Chinese language are higher than my marks for English language and my parents are very pleased!

- (c) I think we can learn many more things from activities outside school. These include travelling or going to places in the country and overseas. That is why we have learning journeys to places like the zoo and the fish farm, to help us learn more about Science. I travel with my family during the holidays and learn a lot during these trips. For example, I learnt that people in other countries have a different culture. They do not always speak the same language as us. When I was in Japan, I learnt that even though the Japanese will often say *Hai* (yes), they are polite people and will say it even when they do not agree with you. I learn so much more during travels with my family because these experiences are not found in textbooks we use in school.

OR

I think we can learn from school as well as from home. I have a cousin who is homeschooled, which means he does not go to school. He stays at home and his parents and relatives come to teach him different subjects. He also uses the computer to read up about some topics. I think he is very clever and certainly knows more than I do. The computer is a great way to learn more about the world because of the World Wide Web. The internet has so much information in it that we may not need textbooks to find the information we want; we just need to use the search engine. Of course, there are dangers when we use the internet, so we have to be careful so that we do not get into trouble like being cyber-bullied or cheated online.

Practice 2

Listening Texts

In this listening test, you will listen to a total of seven texts. Each text will be read twice. Listen carefully to the text that is read to you and answer the questions that follow. Write 1, 2 or 3 in the brackets provided. You may attempt the questions at any time during the test.

The test is about to begin.

Text 1

You will hear a student leader giving instructions.

Before you listen to Text 1, read questions 1 and 2 now.

Listen to Text 1 and answer questions 1 and 2.

Listen carefully, boys and girls. I'm going to tell you what our group has prepared for the funfair. Since we are running a food stall but we are too young to cook the food, some parent volunteers have agreed to make some pineapple tarts for us. David's mother, who runs a pizza place, will donate some pizzas. All that's left is for us to make some simple sandwiches or buy a cake to cut into slices to sell. What do you think?

I am hoping that some of you can volunteer to make the sandwiches. I think buying a cake is costly and we do not have much funds left, but we do have enough to buy bread and ingredients for our sandwiches. If no one objects, we'll go with that.

Oh yes, those on duty have to report early to prepare the booth, so please meet me at the canteen to carry the food to the booth. It will be good if you can bring some trays from home, so we won't have to make many trips to and fro.

Listen to Text 1 again.

Text 2

A boy loses his cat at a festival.

Before you listen to Text 2, read questions 3 and 4 now.

Listen to Text 2 and answer questions 3 and 4.

Sam was crestfallen. He had started the day cheerfully when he went to the festival with his cat. They explored some booths and had a great time, until Sam discovered his cat was not with him! Furball had kept close to Sam all the time, as far as he could remember – when he got his ticket, then when he bought a lantern, and even after that when he took a photo with Furball and the lantern at the photo shop as a memento of his visit to the festival. Then Sam had run into his childhood friend, Lee Seng, who was queuing for some snacks. The two of them chatted merrily about old times as they ate some snacks at the stall. After a while, Lee Seng said he wanted to go to the toilet. When he excused himself, Sam saw that Furball was not around. Where could he have gone to? Did someone steal him? Sam was frantic and searched all over the festival grounds for his cat. When Lee Seng came back from the toilet, he could not find Sam. He too started searching the festival grounds.

Listen to Text 2 again.

Text 3

You will hear a conversation between a girl and her father.

Before you listen to Text 3, read questions 5 to 7 now.

Listen to Text 3 and answer questions 5 to 7.

Bee Chu: The food centre is not crowded. I'm glad we came early today. Where shall we sit?

Dad: That depends on what you want to order, Bee Chu. We'll sit near whichever stall you order from, so we don't have to walk far after buying our food.

Bee Chu: Hmm... can I have a soft drink?

Dad: How about water or fruit juice instead? Fruit juice has vitamin C and is good for you.

Bee Chu: Okay, I'll have orange juice then. Let's sit near the fruit juice stall over here.

Dad: What about food? Would you like rice or noodles?

Bee Chu: Well, yesterday I had chicken rice, and the day before that I ate duck rice. I think I have had enough of rice, so I'll have noodles today, Dad.

Dad: All right, I'll get us fishball noodles with soup. You wait here. I'll have to leave my things in your care then.

Bee Chu: Don't worry, I'll keep an eye on your bag and laptop while I read my storybook.

Listen to Text 3 again.

Text 4

You will hear a radio interview with someone who loves darts.

Before you listen to Text 4, read questions 8 to 10 now.

Listen to Text 4 and answer questions 8 to 10.

Jill: Hi Leslie, welcome to our talk show. I know that you love to go to fairs and carnivals because you want to throw darts at the game booths. Can you tell us more?

Leslie: Ah yes, I love carnival game booths. Sometimes, the manager watches me at the booth and lets me win one grand prize. Then he tells me to come back the next day.

Jill: Oh, why? Does he think you will win all the prizes at the booth?

Leslie: I'm afraid so. I did that once, and after that, my reputation as a super winner at darts spread, so the people running the darts booth have become wary of me!

Jill: Wow! How did you get so good at the game?

Leslie: I guess all the practice helps me keep my hands steady and my eyes on the bullseye! I never let anyone or any noise distract me, so I never miss!

Jill: You're amazing, Leslie!

Leslie: Actually, I think anyone can do it. They just need to keep practising. It's not that difficult!

Listen to Text 4 again.

Text 5

You will hear an extract from a news report.

Before you listen to Text 5, read questions 11 to 13 now.

Listen to Text 5 and answer questions 11 to 13.

Welcome back to Brave New World. Today, I will be talking about fear and how to overcome it. It is quite normal to be afraid of something. Some children are frightened of the dark. Some adults are scared of creepy-crawlies like cockroaches and scorpions.

When I was ten years old, I was terrified of getting into a swimming pool as I did not know how to swim then. Once, a stranger accidentally pushed me into a pool when he was playing with his friends. I fell and swallowed a lot of water, struggling to stay afloat. Fortunately, the lifeguard on duty saw me and jumped in to save me from drowning. I have since learnt to swim and overcome my fear of the water. I hope non-swimmers out there who are afraid of the water will sign up for swimming lessons to overcome their fear.

Listen to Text 5 again.

Text 6

You will hear a story about two naughty boys.

Before you listen to Text 6, read questions 14 to 17 now.

Listen to Text 6 and answer questions 14 to 17.

Camping outdoors is the favourite activity of many children. Taking in the fresh air and enjoying the sunshine makes them feel healthy and alive! Thus, when Mr Lim announced that he was taking his group of boy scouts camping, the boys could barely contain their excitement.

On the first day of the camp, Khalid pulled his friend Amin aside. With a mischievous look in his eyes, he said, "Let's explore the farm next to our camp site!" It was an enticing idea indeed. Amin glanced around furtively. When no one was looking at them, the boys crept away. However, at the entrance of the farm, a goat stood blocking their path. To distract the goat, Khalid picked up a stone and threw it, hoping it would land behind the animal, but the stone hit the goat squarely on its head! Without warning, the goat charged angrily at them.

Fleeing for their lives, they ran off. Amin climbed up a tree and clung to it for dear life. Khalid ran round the tree in circles with the enraged goat hot on his heels. Mr Lim and the other campers had a good laugh when they saw this. It was the start of a memorable camping experience.

Listen to Text 6 again.

Text 7

You will hear an extract of a documentary about a special campaign.

Before you listen to Text 7, read questions 18 to 20 now.

Listen to Text 7 and answer questions 18 to 20.

What animal protein requires no fresh water, produces little carbon dioxide, and does not require farmland unlike beef, chicken, pork and lamb? The answer is wild fish. Yes, if we catch fish in the ocean, we can feed two billion more people!

Unfortunately, overfishing has reduced the fish population to historically low levels right when the world needs its oceans more than ever. There are already seven billion people on Earth, and this figure is expected to grow to a staggering nine billion people by 2050. We must produce more food! Right now, 795 million people on this planet suffer from hunger because we don't have enough food and fresh water for them. But there is a solution – we must stop overfishing. The Oceana Campaign hopes to teach fishermen to rebuild ocean abundance. One of the ways they do this is to impose a catch limit, where if fishermen catch small fish, they are encouraged to throw them back into the sea for them to grow. Support the Oceana Campaign so that we can feed a billion people a healthy seafood meal each day!

Listen to Text 7 again.

Answers to Paper 3

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. 1 | 2. 3 | 3. 2 | 4. 3 | 5. 2 |
| 6. 3 | 7. 1 | 8. 1 | 9. 1 | 10. 2 |
| 11. 1 | 12. 2 | 13. 3 | 14. 2 | 15. 3 |
| 16. 1 | 17. 2 | 18. 1 | 19. 3 | 20. 1 |

Paper 4 – Answers to pronunciation, word stress, intonation and expression for Reading Aloud and suggested responses for prompts

Reading Aloud

Pronunciation

- loved, old – say the ending d sound
- deed – say the long vowel sound ee
- library – say it in three syllables li - bra - ry
- explained – say the ik sound, not the ex sound
- children – say chil - dren, not chew - ren
- put in – link the words by saying pu - tin

Word Stress

- cabinet* – put stress on the first syllable **C**abinet
- decided* – put stress on the second syllable de**C**ided

Intonation and Expression

- ...my boxes of shoes? – use a rising tone for this question
- ...in the shoe cabinet – use a falling tone to express frustration

Conversation

- (a) Yes, I have seen such recycling bins at the foot of the block of flats where I live. They are placed there so that people will find it convenient to recycle. It is nearby and not too much of a hassle to bring heavy items there. If the place is too far, people may not take the trouble to carry their items there. Newspapers can be heavy in huge bundles, so people may not have the strength to carry them to faraway locations. I think items that are good to recycle are newspapers and bottles. Newspapers can be made into pulp and new paper products after that.

OR

Yes, I have seen such recycling bins in my school canteen and car park. They are placed there so that students will find it convenient to recycle used paper and cans. After eating in the canteen, they can throw their empty food and drink packets into the recycling bins provided the packets are clean. Dirty food and drink packets cannot be recycled unless they are washed and dried. If there are no recycling bins there, students will throw everything in the dustbins instead. It is a good place to encourage recycling. Drink bottles can be recycled easily if they are made of glass. Plastic bottles are not suitable for recycling because the coating from the plastic bottles may release certain chemicals in high temperatures. It is not safe to drink from recycled plastic bottles.

- (b) I recycle my old textbooks at the end of the year by giving them away to a supermarket or to the collection centre at my Community Club. I recycle my used exercise books and workbooks by putting them in recycling bins. I also reuse the plastic bags that shops use to put items in. My mother keeps biscuit tins and containers instead of throwing them away. I think she does this because the containers are in good condition. It is a waste to throw away something that can still be used. She puts all kinds of things in these recycled containers – soap, rice, cookies, even costume jewellery.

OR

I recycle my old clothes and shoes by donating them to the Salvation Army store. I also recycle tetra packets of drinks after finishing them. I recycle my art sketchbook after using it because the paper is thick and hard and good for art and crafts. I use it to make tissue boxes, paper lanterns and other cute stuff that I design and give away as presents to my friends. My mother recycles curtains and bedsheets by making them into something else. Our living room rugs are actually made from old curtains and our quilts from old bedsheets. I think my mother does so because the colours and patterns of our curtains and bedsheets are bright and colourful, and we can't bear to throw them away after buying new ones, so my mother turns them into attractive rugs and quilts.

- (c) We can play a part in saving the Earth in many ways, not just by recycling used things. We can walk instead of using the car so that we do not cause more pollution. We can save water by using it wisely, like not taking long baths but having quick showers. We can save electricity by switching off the lights, fans and appliances when we are not using them. Instead of the air-conditioner, we can use fans to cool the room down. We can bring containers for food instead of getting the sellers to provide plastic or CFC food containers.

OR

There are many different ways to save the Earth besides recycling. The Earth has limited resources. We can cut down on the use of water and electricity. We can use water sparingly, for example, not using the long hose to wash the car or water the garden but using a pail or watering can instead. We can use a basin for washing dishes and clothes so that the water we use is less than when we wash them under a running tap. We can car-pool or take the bus or train instead of driving individual cars to get to a common destination. Even children can help save the Earth by putting their mobile phones on low power mode or energy-saving mode!

Practice 3

Listening Texts

In this listening test, you will listen to a total of seven texts. Each text will be read twice. Listen carefully to the text that is read to you and answer the questions that follow. Write 1, 2 or 3 in the brackets provided. You may attempt the questions at any time during the test.

The test is about to begin.

Text 1

You will hear an advertisement about a special holiday programme.

Before you listen to Text 1, read questions 1 and 2 now.

Listen to Text 1 and answer questions 1 and 2.

Listen carefully, boys and girls. I'm going to tell you more about our special holiday programme this afternoon. Farmtastic will be an enjoyable educational experience for you. You will learn about various farm animals, watch the farmers milk the cows and even try your hand at preserving fruit for making jams. At the end of your Farmtastic visit, you will receive an apple from the fruit farm, a bottle of milk and a jar of the fruit jam that you personally made! Isn't that wonderful?

Please assemble at the canteen after school today to collect your visitor's pass. We will wait for all the students from the different classes to report before we walk to the bus park to board the bus to the farm. Please do not be late.

Listen to Text 1 again.

Text 2

Two students discuss how they are going to make their way to a school.

Before you listen to Text 2, read questions 3 and 4 now.

Listen to Text 2 and answer questions 3 and 4.

Aisha and Nam Jin are excited about going to a school in the countryside. They study in the city and have not visited the village school before.

"Shall we walk from the bus stop to the school?" asked Aisha.

"Yes, there's no other way to get there except on foot," replied Nam Jin.

Aisha and Nam Jin looked at a map closely and decided to walk from the bus stop to the row of shops where they could sit in a coffee shop to wait for Mrs Lim. From there, she would guide them to take a shortcut from the shops to the bridge. They cannot enter the school without her anyway, so they need to wait for her. From the bridge, she will show them a community garden that the students from the village school have helped to grow. Mrs Lim hopes the students will take back some ideas that they can use to start a community garden in the city.

"Although we cannot grow many of the vegetables there, because of the climate difference, there's still a lot we can learn from it," Mrs Lim had told them.

However, due to the heavy rain that started when they met their teacher, Mrs Lim changed her mind and said they should cross the bridge quickly to get to the school for shelter first. The visit to the community garden was shelved for later.

Listen to Text 2 again.

Text 3

You will hear a boy reading his diary entry aloud.

Before you listen to Text 3, read questions 5 to 7 now.

Listen to Text 3 and answer questions 5 to 7.

Dear Diary,

Today is a day I will remember for a long time. You see, Arfan and I were bored, so we thought we would have some fun. We wanted to pretend to be medieval warriors.

“Cling! Clang!” I said, imitating the sound of a metal weapon as my broom clashed with Arfan’s mop.

“Surrender, Sir Ali!” my brother said. So, we fought and fought, oblivious to my sister entering the kitchen with her cup of tea for a refill. In the middle of our duel, we heard Nora scream at the top of her lungs. She was furious because her cup slipped from her hand and broke! We were sorry but she still wanted to punish us.

“Since you like the broom and mop so much, you have to clean my bedroom as your punishment!” Nora stormed off while Arfan and I made our way up the staircase with our broom, mop and a pail of water.

Once we finished cleaning her bedroom, we had nothing else to do, so Arfan winked at me and said, “Psst! Sir Ali, raise your weapon!”

I’ll let you guess how it ended since there was not a soul in sight.

Listen to Text 3 again.

Text 4

You will hear a radio interview with a young gardener.

Before you listen to Text 4, read questions 8 to 10 now.

Listen to Text 4 and answer questions 8 to 10.

Host: Hi Lilian, welcome to our radio show. I see that you’ve brought some plants for us. Thanks, Lilian.

Lilian: You’re most welcome. I hope you like them and will start growing them in your homes too.

Host: Oh, what plants are these? Did you grow them yourself?

Lilian: Yes, I grew them at home. They are sweet potato plants. You can cook the leaves with prawns and some chilli. It’s delicious! I learnt to grow them during a workshop organised by my school. The Green Growing Workshop instructors taught me how to plant them using soil and natural fertilisers. They do not recommend anything chemical or artificial. It’s amazing how fast the sweet potato leaves grow. Now I even have enough to give away!

Host: Wow! What else have you tried growing?

Lilian: Hmm, I tried growing tomatoes but my plants were attacked by pests. I also tried lady’s fingers but their stalks are soft and weak, so on a gusty day, they broke and withered. My most successful plant is the papaya plant! I threw some seeds into the fertile soil and they just grew and grew. Now, my father has to climb a ladder to pick the papayas each time they ripen!

Listen to Text 4 again.

Text 5

You will hear an extract from a running commentary.

Before you listen to Text 5, read questions 11 to 13 now.

Listen to Text 5 and answer questions 11 to 13.

Here we are, in the middle of Orchard Road which has been closed to all vehicles as part of the weekend celebrations of our car-free environment week. A large crowd is gathering in front of the stage. Dazzling lights are flashing across the stage as dancers in sequinned costumes move gracefully to the music. Wow! Look at the bright and colourful balloons they just released. What a feast for the eyes! The crowd is cheering and clapping.

Wait a minute. I hear someone making an announcement. Yes, the MC is saying there will be free hotdogs after the concert. No wonder there is such a delicious aroma in the air. The children will be most happy to sink their teeth into hotdogs on such a wonderful evening.

Let's move to the hotdog booths to see how the progress is. Yes, there are hundreds of hotdogs all ready to be devoured. Oh, for me? Thanks, hmm... it's delicious ...

Listen to Text 5 again.

Text 6

You will hear a story about a boy and a magic tree.

Before you listen to Text 6, read questions 14 to 17 now.

Listen to Text 6 and answer questions 14 to 17.

One day, little Johnny was walking through a park. In the middle of the park, there was a tree with a sign on it saying, "I am a magic tree. Say the magic words and you will see."

Johnny tried to guess the magic words. He tried abracadabra, hocus-pocus, tan-ta-ra, and many more... but none of them worked.

Exhausted, he finally gave up and just sat on the ground staring at the tree. "Please give me a clue, magic tree," he said. Suddenly, a big door opened in the trunk.

Inside, everything was dark. Then Johnny put his foot forward, saying, "Thank you, dear tree!" With this, the inside of the tree lit up brightly and revealed a pathway leading to a great big pile of toys and chocolate.

Johnny brought all his friends to the magic tree, and they had a whale of a time. Do you know what the magic words are?

Listen to Text 6 again.

Text 7

You will hear an extract of a documentary about ants.

Before you listen to Text 7, read questions 18 to 20 now.

Listen to Text 7 and answer questions 18 to 20.

What do you do when you see ants on your plate? You probably flick them away or crush them, right? Well, you might not be a big fan of ants if they are always bothering your kitchen or climbing your walls. You, therefore, might not recognise the virtue of these remarkable insects. What good are ants?

Scientists argue that we cannot live without ants. Ants are called helpers for four reasons. First, they bring air into the soil. Earthworms get all the credit for this, but ants do a better job than earthworms in improving the soil. They redistribute nutrients as they move soil particles from place to place. They improve air and water circulation in tunnels of soil. That is why farmers say ants are their best friends!

In addition, ants excrete waste and leave food scraps behind. This means the soil has more nutrients, being richer in nitrogen and phosphorus.

Did you know that ants provide an invaluable service to plants by transporting their seeds to safer habitats? The seeds carted off by ants are protected from seed-eating animals.

Finally, ants will munch on creatures ranging from ticks to termites. In large numbers, they can also eat scorpions. That is why some pesky fire ants are particularly good at pest control in farms.

Listen to Text 7 again.

Answers to Paper 3

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. 3 | 2. 1 | 3. 2 | 4. 1 | 5. 2 |
| 6. 3 | 7. 3 | 8. 3 | 9. 3 | 10. 1 |
| 11. 3 | 12. 1 | 13. 1 | 14. 2 | 15. 1 |
| 16. 1 | 17. 3 | 18. 3 | 19. 2 | 20. 1 |

Paper 4 – Answers to pronunciation, word stress, intonation and expression for Reading Aloud and suggested responses for prompts

Reading Aloud

Pronunciation

1. want, right, fast – say the ending t sound
2. talk, make, spoke – say the ending k sound
3. listened – say listened with the silent t
4. thought – say the th sound
5. exercising – say it with the ek sound
6. shed, award, had, gold – say the ending d sound
7. the award – say thee, not the
8. went on – link the words by saying wen - ton

Word Stress

1. restaurants – put the stress on the first syllable **RE**Staurants
2. assembly – put the stress on the second syllable as**SEM**bly
3. temptation – put the stress on the second syllable temp**TA**tion
4. irresistible – put the stress the third syllable irre**SIS**tible

Intonation and Expression

1. ... just like Hong Chong! – use a rising tone for this exclamation
2. ...aren't I – use a rising tone for this question
3. ...before rushing out – use a falling tone for this final statement

Conversation

(a) Yes, I would like to order the food in the poster. It looks delicious and tempting to me, but I think I would not eat it very often. It is okay to eat food like this once in a while, but not on a daily or regular basis. Most of it is deep fried and will make me put on weight if I do not eat it in moderation. Besides, it will cost a lot of money too. It will be too expensive to order the food on a daily basis.

OR

No, I would not like to order the food in the poster. It looks unhealthy to me because it is mostly fried stuff and without greens like lettuce or salad. Yes, potatoes are vegetables, but when they become French fries, I don't think they are vegetables anymore! I prefer food that is more balanced, because I do not want to put on unnecessary weight and also because I want to be fit and healthy. My parents always tell me to choose my food wisely.

(b) Children my age like food that is tasty. My friends like ice cream a lot, for example. They like chocolate flavour and some of them like mixed flavours. You see, food must be tasty or flavourful so that we can enjoy eating it. We also like food that looks attractive. I think if you arrange eggs neatly on a plate into a face, they will be more attractive and tempting to eat, rather than eggs that are all broken up and look like a mess on the plate.

OR

Children my age are growing up, so we like food that helps us grow taller and healthier. We like fish and chips because the chips are tasty and fish is supposed to be brain food, so it is good for our brain. We also like food that is colourful, like jelly. We do not usually like spicy food like curry or sour fruit like strawberries and oranges. They have to be non-spicy or sweet, otherwise we are not likely to enjoy eating them. Cold food also tastes nice to us, like fruit juice, ice popsicles and ice cream.

(c) Besides eating healthy food, people can also stay healthy by exercising regularly. When they exercise, the blood circulates in their body and they will feel good. When they do not exercise, they tend to put on weight and this may not be good for them. If they become overweight or obese, they will be lethargic in their movements and may even be at risk of certain illnesses. They should keep fit by playing games, jogging, cycling and swimming and so on. They should exercise regularly, like three times a week, not just during the weekends. Weekend warriors do not get all the benefits of exercise that people who regularly exercise enjoy.

OR

Besides eating healthy food, people can also stay healthy by getting enough rest and sleep. Sleep and rest are important, so people need to go to bed early. Staying up late to play computer games is bad for them as they are not getting enough sleep and straining their eyes. The body needs to rest after being active for many hours and it is during the rest period that the body becomes refreshed and ready to start a new day. If we study overnight for our tests all the time, our body will get confused about the time for rest and time for being wakeful. It is difficult to readjust to an earlier bedtime after our tests.

Practice 4

Listening Texts

In this listening test, you will listen to a total of seven texts. Each text will be read twice. Listen carefully to the text that is read to you and answer the questions that follow. Write 1, 2 or 3 in the brackets provided. You may attempt the questions at any time during the test.

The test is about to begin.

Text 1

A boy tells his sister what he wants for his birthday.

Before you listen to Text 1, read questions 1 and 2 now.

Listen to Text 1 and answer questions 1 and 2.

Sis, can you give me a special present this year please? I am thankful for all your past presents but they are not what I wanted. Last year, you gave me a book, but you were the one who ended up reading it because it was a book you liked, not one that I liked. The year before that, you got me a pair of rollerblades but you gave up teaching me how to use them because I was too scared. So, this year, I really hope you can buy me a bicycle with training wheels, not a tricycle with three wheels. When I am more confident, I will remove the training wheels and cycle on my own. I promise not to be scared of riding it when you teach me.

Listen to Text 1 again.

Text 2

A teacher is taking his class of students to the river safari.

Before you listen to Text 2, read questions 3 and 4 now.

Listen to Text 2 and answer questions 3 and 4.

Jill and Osman were excited about their class learning journey to the river safari during the coming holidays.

"Shall we ask Mr Wong to take us on the river cruise? The tickets for it are free since we booked the entrance tickets!" said Jill.

'What a great idea! Let's tell him! Should we take the river cruise first or last?' asked Osman.

"Hmm, if we see the other exhibits first, we might end up having to stand in line for the cruise..."

During class that morning, Mr Wong briefed the students about their learning journey. He told them to bring umbrellas or raincoats in case of wet weather. The trip would carry on in spite of any rain because many of the exhibits were indoors. They would begin with the river cruise to avoid the long queue, as pointed out by Jill and Osman. Originally, Mr Wong had planned for the students to attend a demonstration and talk before viewing the exhibits. But the schedule for that was moved back, so they would view the exhibits of the river creatures in enclosed exhibition areas first. Finally, they would attend the demonstration and talk at the main stage before gathering in the café, to wait for the bus to bring them back to school.

"Please do not talk or take photos with flash cameras during the demonstration because the river animals will be frightened and run off. I know you will be excited once the animals appear to demonstrate how they move and what they eat, but do keep your voices down and do not scream!" warned Mr Wong.

"Yes, Mr Wong," chorused the students.

Listen to Text 2 again.

Text 3

You will hear a conversation between two siblings.

Before you listen to Text 3, read questions 5 to 7 now.

Listen to Text 3 and answer questions 5 to 7.

Kim Lee: Where are my sports shoes? Did you take them again, Kim Min? You are always wearing my shoes, my watch and my clothes.

Kim Min: Don't blame me if you can't find your shoes. I always return them after I use them. Yesterday, I only borrowed your sports watch, and that's because you said I could use it since I was going jogging. I did not borrow your sports shoes which you said were wet and being dried after Mum washed them.

Kim Lee: Ah yes, so they must be on the balcony being sunned. Thanks. I'll go get them now. See you later.

Kim Min: What? Are you going out? Mum says you have to go to Grandpa's to help him make dumplings.

Kim Lee: What about you? Don't you have to help too?

Kim Min: Yes, that's why I am going to the supermarket to buy some ingredients. See you later!

Listen to Text 3 again.

Text 4

You will hear a radio interview about an orangutan.

Before you listen to Text 4, read questions 8 to 10 now.

Listen to Text 4 and answer questions 8 to 10.

Host: Thank you, Dr Sam, for agreeing to our radio interview. I heard that your father was the one who saved Ah Meng the orangutan when she was smuggled illegally into Singapore.

Dr Sam: Yes, many people know about Ah Meng because of the Breakfast with Ah Meng programme, but what they don't know is that she was originally smuggled from Indonesia. She was only seven years old then and an illegal pet.

Host: And she was so famous that celebrities like the famous actress Elizabeth Taylor and the singer Michael Jackson came to visit her!

Dr Sam: Yes, the original Ah Meng was famous indeed. So is the present Ah Meng. Actually, the Ah Meng now is the granddaughter of the original Ah Meng. The first Ah Meng passed away in 2008, so the zoo decided that her granddaughter should take her name and continue the Breakfast with Ah Meng programme. Visitors just loved to be photographed with Ah Meng while having their breakfast.

Host: Yes, I remember that many people turned up to pay their respects. She was well loved by locals as well as tourists.

Dr Sam: Ah Meng has become the zoo's icon. If you haven't visited Ah Meng, you haven't been to the zoo, is what people say!

Listen to Text 4 again.

Text 5

You will hear an announcement made during a morning assembly.

Before you listen to Text 5, read questions 11 to 13 now.

Listen to Text 5 and answer questions 11 to 13.

Good morning, boys and girls. This is Lydia Lim. Today is Thursday and we are celebrating the fourth day of Careers' Week. Today, we are focusing on your future. How many of you have thought about your future? What do you see yourself doing five, ten and even twenty years from now? The world is changing and your options are unlimited.

Did you know that some jobs today did not exist in 2010? Do you know that when you start working, you will be solving problems that we don't know about yet? What an exciting time to grow up in! Study hard and take advantage of your time in school to learn, to discover what you are good at, and to figure out what you want to be when you grow up. Benjamin Franklin once said, "Hide not your talents, for they are meant to be used. What use is a sundial in the shade?" Find your talents. Dream big. Celebrate your future.

Listen to Text 5 again.

Text 6

You will hear a story about a giraffe.

Before you listen to Text 6, read questions 14 to 17 now.

Listen to Text 6 and answer questions 14 to 17.

Long ago, many animals lived peacefully in the jungle. Then came a new animal, Gerry the giraffe. She got on the nerves of the other animals because she was such a busybody. With her height and her long, bendy neck, she was always sticking her head in every nest and every den. This annoyed many animals and they decided to teach her a lesson.

As a part of the plan, Mano the monkey told Gerry that he had chanced upon an old, abandoned den and decided to live there. Gerry could not contain her curiosity, and one night she tiptoed to Mano's den and stuck her head inside to spy on him.

However, Mano kept going from one room to the other, and Gerry's neck got into an enormous tangle, trying to follow him. "Help!" Gerry shouted.

That's when all the animals appeared from behind the bushes and told Gerry what they thought of her irritating nosiness. Gently, they helped untangle Gerry's neck. An embarrassed Gerry thanked them and said she would never snoop into their lives again.

Listen to Text 6 again.

Text 7

You will hear an extract of a documentary about the octopus.

Before you listen to Text 7, read questions 18 to 20 now.

Listen to Text 7 and answer questions 18 to 20.

Do you like sea creatures like the octopus and its cousin, the squid?

These sea creatures live in the world's oceans, but they are also found in abundance in tropical waters where they thrive. Octopuses are solitary creatures that live by themselves in dens built from rocks. To keep themselves safe, they create shields from rocks to keep out predators. When threatened, they shoot out an inky fluid that darkens the water to confuse their attacker so that they can make their escape. As masters of camouflage, they can alter their skin to take on a range of colours and textures to help them blend in with their surroundings. Despite all these measures, many octopuses cannot escape the fate of being a delicacy on someone's dinner plate!

Listen to Text 7 again.

Answers to Paper 3

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. 2 | 2. 3 | 3. 3 | 4. 2 | 5. 2 |
| 6. 1 | 7. 3 | 8. 2 | 9. 1 | 10. 1 |
| 11. 3 | 12. 1 | 13. 2 | 14. 1 | 15. 3 |
| 16. 2 | 17. 1 | 18. 3 | 19. 1 | 20. 2 |

Paper 4 – Answers to pronunciation, word stress, intonation and expression for Reading Aloud and suggested responses for prompts

Reading Aloud

Pronunciation

1. I've, you've – say the contracted form of I have and you have
2. packed, looked – say the kt sound
3. thanks, this – say the th sound
4. breakfast, but, first – say the ending t sound
5. commuters, rides, stations – say the plural ending sounds
6. eat it – link the words by saying ea - tit

Word Stress

1. definitely – put the stress on the first syllable **DE**initely
2. sensible – put the stress on the first syllable **SEN**sible
3. secondary – put the stress on the first syllable **SE**condary

Intonation and Expression

1. Thanks Mum! – use a rising tone for this exclamation
2. ...aren't I – use a rising tone for this question
3. ...before rushing out – use a falling tone for this final statement

Conversation

- (a) I would like to take the bus to travel from place to place because a bus trip is more interesting than a train journey. I can see roads and buildings along the way when I sit in a bus, but a train may go underground and there is nothing interesting to see in a dark tunnel. Also, a bus trip means I can take photos of places that I am interested in as well.

OR

I would like to take the train to travel from place to place because a train journey is more comfortable than a bus trip. There is air-conditioning in the train carriage and it does not jerk suddenly like a bus does when it comes to a sudden halt at a bus stop. Also, a bus may get caught in a traffic jam or must stop at traffic light junctions quite often and so it will take longer for me to reach my destination.

- (b) My parents use a car and my friends cycle to school. Sometimes my grandparents take the taxi. My parents say the car is convenient because they can put a lot of their shopping bags in it and don't have to lug them home with difficulty. My friends find cycling enjoyable especially on a windy day at the park. My grandparents say they do not drive so they have no choice but to take a taxi sometimes.

OR

My friends' parents drive them to school. My neighbor drives a taxi. One of my neighbours walks to school since it is only a stone's throw away. My friends say that being driven to school is good because they can rest in the car while being driven. Also, they do not get wet when it rains because their parents can drive under the porch to let them alight. My neighbour who drives a taxi says it is how he earns a living. He says he sits all day on the driver's chair and has a backache sometimes because of that. My neighbour who goes to school on foot says it saves her time and money. She is never late because she does not miss a bus or have to wait long for one!

- (c) People walk to their destinations to save money and for other reasons too. They may think the distance is short and it is a waste of money and time to stand and wait at the bus stop and then squeeze with many other commuters to get onto the bus. They may think walking is a good form of exercise and will help keep them fit. They may consider taking the bus as less environmentally friendly because the bus will give out fumes and pollute the air. They may enjoy walking because there is nice scenery along the way too.

OR

People may prefer to walk because of many reasons. They may not want to be late when caught in a traffic jam, when they miss a bus or when the bus makes many stops along the way. Some people may get bus-sick easily, and feel uncomfortable when the bus moves, making them giddy or feel nauseous. Some bus drivers are reckless and step on the brakes abruptly, causing the passengers to have to hold on to the handrails tightly for dear life! Bus trips and train journeys cost money and time, so people who cannot spare the fare or time will prefer to walk quickly to their destinations.

Practice 5

Listening Texts

In this listening test, you will listen to a total of seven texts. Each text will be read twice. Listen carefully to the text that is read to you and answer the questions that follow. Write 1, 2 or 3 in the brackets provided. You may attempt the questions at any time during the test.

The test is about to begin.

Text 1

You will hear an announcement regarding a lost child.

Before you listen to Text 1, read questions 1 and 2 now.

Listen to Text 1 and answer questions 1 and 2.

Dear shoppers,

This is Chee Seng from the Information Counter. A little girl is lost. She is wearing a floral dress with a huge ribbon and a pair of black shoes. She has a fringe and long straight hair. She was found crying outside the toilet and brought to the Information Counter. The elderly woman who found her said she was looking for her parents who had gone grocery shopping. If you know this child or if you are the parents of this child, please come to the Information Counter as soon as possible. Thank you.

Listen to Text 1 again.

Text 2

A buddy takes a new student on a canteen tour.

Before you listen to Text 2, read questions 3 and 4 now.

Listen to Text 2 and answer questions 3 and 4.

Jerry and Ai Choo stepped into the canteen for a quick tour. Jerry said the canteen was the only place students were allowed to eat. They could not take food out of the canteen to eat in the classroom or on the field. Everything must be consumed only on the canteen premises.

Wide-eyed Ai Choo was happy to see the Japanese stall. "Can I buy sushi later during my break?" she asked her buddy.

Jerry replied, saying, "Sure, but first, let me take you to the drinks stall at the leftmost part of the canteen. You can get drinks like fruit juice here. You place your order first and then come back to collect it when it is ready. In the meantime, you can buy your food. Now let's check out some food stalls, starting with the most popular chicken rice stall. The queue can get rather snaky once the bell rings for recess! If you can't wait, you can go to the roti prata stall over there and get Indian curry rice or roti prata with gravy. Lastly, here's the Japanese stall. Here, you can order whatever sushi you like. Once you've gotten your food, wait here for me. I'm going to the roti prata stall to get curry rice. After that, I will come back to look for you and we can eat together."

Listen to Text 2 again.

Text 3

You will hear a conversation about a competition.

Before you listen to Text 3, read questions 5 to 7 now.

Listen to Text 3 and answer questions 5 to 7.

Zul: Did you hear the announcement this morning, Mary? Primary 6A won again!

Mary: What? They won the semi-finals? How awesome! Last month, they won the second prize – book vouchers! I wonder what they won this time.

Zul: You wouldn't believe it. They won cash! \$500! I'm so happy for them.

Mary: I heard that the prizes for the finals are even more amazing – the winners get to go on a holiday in Japan, and the teacher gets to accompany them too! Isn't it exciting, Zul?

Zul: Let's attend the finals together. Is it in the multi-purpose room, where the debate teams are during their CCA hours?

Mary: No, the venue is way larger because a huge crowd is expected at the finals. It will be held in the school hall, so that parents and other family members can come to support their children taking part in the debate. Oh, I heard we need to get a ticket to attend the finals of the debate. We can go to the school office for that.

Zul: Great! I'll get tickets for my little sister too. She loves debates and wouldn't miss this one for the world.

Listen to Text 3 again.

Text 4

You will hear a radio interview with a zookeeper.

Before you listen to Text 4, read questions 8 to 10 now.

Listen to Text 4 and answer questions 8 to 10.

Jane: Welcome to our show, Mr Kumar. You must be very busy, so I'm really grateful that you could join us today.

Kumar: My pleasure, Jane. I'm always willing to make time to help our conservation efforts. Working in the zoo only lets me interact with visitors who come. So being on your show will help broadcast my message to a bigger audience.

Jane: Is your message about endangered animals?

Kumar: Yes. Specifically, it is about the wild Javan gibbons. Numbering between 4000 and 4500, these animals are struggling to survive because of habitat loss caused by increased land use for human beings. Many of them end up in fragmented pockets of forest that are too small to support them. What is worrying is that more and more land is being used and there's less land left for the gibbons. You see, the villagers cultivate coffee under the trees and sell their crops for a living, so we have started a project to convince the growers that they can continue to grow their crops without cutting down more trees. If we succeed, the gibbons will have a better chance of survival.

Listen to Text 4 again.

Text 5

You will hear an extract from a news report.

Before you listen to Text 5, read questions 11 to 13 now.

Listen to Text 5 and answer questions 11 to 13.

Welcome back to News for Juniors. I am Hana, your reporter. Today, I am reporting from a special place to cover a project by students from the city. We are now in a village in a remote part of Perak, Malaysia. The children are attending a camp organised by the city school students. The children come from farming communities around the area. They do not attend school, since they have to tend to the farms with their parents.

During the introduction activity, the village children fought over sweets that the student organisers gave out as prizes. As the organisers had not expected this, it was shocking to them. The organisers realised that they did not understand how the village children felt when they scored fewer points and received fewer sweets. In the end, the organisers decided to remove the competitive element in all their activities and gave every participant the same number of sweets, books, stationery and other prizes. It was an eye opener for the student organisers indeed.

Listen to Text 5 again.

Text 6

You will hear a story about a girl who opened the door to a stranger.

Before you listen to Text 6, read questions 14 to 17 now.

Listen to Text 6 and answer questions 14 to 17.

Tim and Su-anne were alone in their flat. Their parents had gone for a wedding dinner and left Tim in charge. Tim was watching television while his younger sister was doing her homework. Suddenly, the doorbell rang. Ding-dong! Su-anne rushed to the door, thinking their parents had returned. She unlocked the door and opened it.

Outside, stood a tall man. He said he was a salesman and asked politely if their parents were home.

Without thinking, Su-anne said, "No."

Then the man put his foot in. He forced the door ajar and took out a knife. "Don't shout if you don't want to get hurt!" he warned and proceeded to tie up Su-anne and Tim's hands and legs. Tim was too stunned and scared to scream. Su-anne trembled and started to cry. Leaving them in the living room, the man rummaged around the bedrooms.

Tim's eyes lit up when he saw Miss Fatimah, their next-door neighbour. She was leaving for the market when Tim whistled as he held his tied hands up. Turning around, Miss Fatimah saw Tim with his hands restrained. Miss Fatimah peeped into the flat from the side windows and saw Su-anne in a similar situation.

Miss Fatimah rushed into the flat to free the children and together, they raced to the neighbourhood police post to report the burglary.

However, by the time the policemen and the children returned to their flat, the burglar had fled, the house was in a mess and some valuables were missing. When their parents came home that night, instead of being angry, they were relieved that Tim and Su-anne were unhurt, but they lectured Tim for not stopping his sister from opening the door to a stranger. Tim had learnt a lesson on safety and responsibility.

Listen to Text 6 again.

Text 7

You will hear an extract of a documentary about the origin of the zebra's stripes.

Before you listen to Text 7, read questions 18 to 20 now.

Listen to Text 7 and answer questions 18 to 20.

Have you ever wondered how the zebra got its stripes? There are several stories about this. The most well-known story comes from the bushmen of the Kalahari Desert. It is said that in the desert, where it is hot, the animals wanted a drink. However, the only water pool was guarded by a baboon who forbade any animal from drinking from it. A zebra confronted the baboon, who was sitting by his fire next to the water pool. He jumped up and barked at the animal in a loud rough voice, "I am the lord of the water. Go away intruders!"

"The water is for everyone, not just you, monkey-face," the angry zebra shouted back. After a heated argument, they were locked in combat. Back and forth they fought, raising a huge cloud of dust, until with a mighty kick, the zebra sent the baboon flying high up among the rocks of a cliff behind them. The baboon landed with a smack, and today he still carries a bare patch where he landed. The zebra, tired and bruised from fighting, did not look where he was going and staggered right into the baboon's fire. It scorched him, leaving black burn stripes across his white fur. The shock of being burned sent the zebra galloping away.

Listen to Text 7 again.

Answers to Paper 3

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. 3 | 2. 2 | 3. 1 | 4. 2 | 5. 1 |
| 6. 2 | 7. 3 | 8. 3 | 9. 2 | 10. 2 |
| 11. 1 | 12. 2 | 13. 1 | 14. 1 | 15. 3 |
| 16. 2 | 17. 3 | 18. 1 | 19. 2 | 20. 2 |

Paper 4 – Answers to pronunciation, word stress, intonation and expression for Reading Aloud and suggested responses for prompts

Reading Aloud

Pronunciation

1. I'm, What's – say the contraction for I am and What is
2. eat, minute, flat, burst – say the ending t sound
3. stepped – say the ending pt sound
4. sight – say it with the silent g
5. the – say the th sound
6. said, did, told – say the ending d sound
7. tucked – say the kt sound
8. in front of – link the words by saying in - fron - tof

Word Stress

1. vegetable – put the stress on the first syllable **VEG**etable
2. scrumptious – put the stress on the first syllable **SCRUMP**tious
3. photographs – put the stress on the first syllable **PHO**tographs

Intonation and Expression

1. I'm home! – use a rising tone to express happiness
2. What's for lunch? – use a rising tone for this question
3. I could eat a horse! – use a falling tone for this exclamation
4. You're the best, Grandma! – use a rising tone to express appreciation

Conversation

(a) Yes, I would like to take part in an activity with my grandparents or the elderly. I think my grandparents are old now and do not have many activities to participate in or many friends to go out with. They will be lonely and bored if they don't join activities with others. If I sign up with them, they will be willing to attend the activity with me. This is a chance for them to get out of the house to do something different.

OR

No, I would not like to take part in an activity with my grandparents. I think my grandparents will be happier if we go out together as a family instead of attending an activity where there are other people and too much noise. They prefer peaceful places and doing things quietly. They are not fond of working with people they do not know.

(b) Yes, I have gone marketing with my grandmother. She knows how to choose the freshest vegetables. The ones she buys are never yellow or bitter. She also knows how to bargain with the sellers. It is fun to watch her talk to them. She is all smiles when one of them gives her a 10-cent discount! After marketing, I help my grandmother carry her bags of vegetables, fish and meat. They are too heavy for her and she appreciates my strong arms.

OR

No, I have not done any activity with my grandparents. They are old and not able to walk, so they just sit at home and watch television. The shows they like are not cartoons or shows for children, so we don't watch television together. They don't speak English so I cannot communicate well with them because I can't understand their dialect.

(c) I think many people, including me, are not spending enough time with our parents and grandparents. Our parents are busy at work and too tired when they reach home, so we do not talk much. Also, we have lots of homework and assignments to complete, so we are occupied with them and have no time to chit-chat with our parents. Our grandparents do not speak the same languages as we do, so we do not really spend time together to do things we both like.

OR

I think we are all not spending enough time together. We can spend time together during dinner when we are all at home. We can chit-chat with one another and find out more about what happened during school or at work. We can also go out during the weekends or school holidays. We can go on an overseas family vacation together and this will help us spend more time together as a family.

Practice 6

Listening Texts

In this listening test, you will listen to a total of seven texts. Each text will be read twice. Listen carefully to the text that is read to you and answer the questions that follow. Write 1, 2 or 3 in the brackets provided. You may attempt the questions at any time during the test.

The test is about to begin.

Text 1

You will hear an advertisement for a new school bag.

Before you listen to Text 1, read questions 1 and 2 now.

Listen to Text 1 and answer questions 1 and 2.

Do you have to carry books to school every day? Is your bag durable, or does it give way and break after use? If your answer to any of the questions was yes, it is time to change your bag.

With various compartments, the new MODERNA school bag is made of a strong material that does not break or tear easily. It is also waterproof, so you can put your calculator in one compartment and not have to worry that it will get wet. There are pockets outside as well as inside the bag, for all your needs. There is even a plastic cover for each pocket!

Get the bag now, and you will receive a set of half a dozen pens with eraser tips. No more missing erasers when you need them urgently.

Available in all school bookshops from today! No need to travel to a shopping mall or bookstore! Hurry! Get them before they disappear from the shelves!

Listen to Text 1 again.

Text 2

Two children discuss plans to explore a special theme park.

Before you listen to Text 2, read questions 3 and 4 now.

Listen to Text 2 and answer questions 3 and 4.

Gina and Mark looked closely at the theme park map. They wanted to visit as many stations as possible but due to the limited time, they could not. Gina told her brother, "Mark, I think we have to split up, otherwise neither of us will be able to do what we like."

Mark agreed, so they decided to meet later for a photo session at the zookeeper station where both of them could pose with their favourite animal posters. Gina got into a smart pilot uniform at the costume rental station before skipping off excitedly to the pilot station, where she explored the cockpit and tried 'flying' her plane virtually. Then, she went back to the costume rental to get her ballerina tutu for a dance session in the dancer station. In the meantime, Mark met some friends while exploring the cockpit, so he took photos with them dressed smartly as a pilot. Then he headed off to do some animation with a cyber guide. He finished late because he had complicated ideas for his animation project and made Gina wait at the zookeeper station. Fortunately, Gina met some friends and chatted happily with them while waiting. One of her friends helped to take pictures of her and her brother when he finally appeared at the zookeeper station.

Listen to Text 2 again.

Text 3

You will hear a telephone conversation between a father and his daughter.

Before you listen to Text 3, read questions 5 to 7 now.

Listen to Text 3 and answer questions 5 to 7.

Dad: Hi Lee Mei, have you reached home?

Lee Mei: Yes, Dad. I have called the shop to order some food for tea. The shopkeeper said they ran out of mee siam which is a popular breakfast item, so he suggested that I get fried rice instead. I said yes. I hope that's okay with you.

Dad: Yes, that's okay. What about pizza and cheesecake? Did you manage to get them or were they out of those too?

Lee Mei: Oh there was no problem with the cheesecake, but the pizza comes with pineapple and ham. Those were the only toppings left.

Dad: That's fine. When will the shop deliver the food? I hope you have time to return your overdue books and get home to accept the delivery. You're not planning to go swimming or anything like that, right?

Lee Mei: No Dad, I swam yesterday. Today I will just return the books and head back.

Dad: Good. Have a good rest. Your Mum and I will be back to have tea with you later. We need to eat before going to the wedding reception because the dinner there is served rather late; only after all the invited guests have arrived. I think you will be hungry before then, and we don't want to hear your growling stomach, do we? Remember what happened at Grandma's birthday? You felt embarrassed when your stomach growled at the cake cutting! And during the school prize-giving, when your principal handed you the trophy on stage! Everyone had a good laugh then!

Listen to Text 3 again.

Text 4

You will hear a radio interview with a student leader.

Before you listen to Text 4, read questions 8 to 10 now.

Listen to Text 4 and answer questions 8 to 10.

Jenny: Hi Rashid, thanks for agreeing to our radio interview. I'm amazed that you have been put in charge of your school's graduation party. Is there also a teacher-in-charge to help you since you are only a student?

Rashid: Our school leaves student matters to students, that is why as a student leader, I have to plan the graduation party for the Primary 6 students. Of course, if I have questions or need assistance, I can always ask my form teacher. Mrs Carmen has offered her assistance if I need it.

Jenny: That's reassuring to know, because you will need to book the venue – like a hotel or hall in a community club – and for that, payments will need to be made, maybe by credit card, which I think only adults possess, right? By the way, what venue have you chosen?

Rashid: Well, we are quite fortunate to have some students whose parents are members of some clubs. Matthew, for example, told us that his father will rent a function room in the Orchid Country Club. He will let me know by next week. Then there's Rita whose mother offered her function hall in her condo. It will be our back up plan if the country club is fully booked. We save quite a bit of money since the venue will be free of charge. We only need to get the food catered. We also have prizes sponsored by the generous parents' support group.

Jenny: Wow! That's awesome! I hope you enjoy planning the graduation party, Rashid!

Listen to Text 4 again.

Text 5

You will hear an extract from a news report.

Before you listen to Text 5, read questions 11 to 13 now.

Listen to Text 5 and answer questions 11 to 13.

The police are investigating a case of trespassing. It is not the usual case of an intruder going into someone's house or a building uninvited. It's a rather puzzling case of a masked man who entered a white rhino enclosure and made a video there. He does a backflip in the video which he posted, to many people's amusement.

The authorities, however, are not amused. The Wildlife Reserves Singapore or WRS, who manages the zoo, said it is aware of the video.

"It is a reckless and mindless act that is dangerous to our animals," said WRS. "We appeal to the public not to encourage copycats as this can put lives in danger," it added.

To the millions of others who have visited the zoo, appreciated and shown the animals respect, WRS thanks them for their support.

The incident happened on Thursday, December 17, and the case has been referred to the police. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the police to assist in the investigation.

Listen to Text 5 again.

Text 6

You will hear a story about a kind deed.

Before you listen to Text 6, read questions 14 to 17 now.

Listen to Text 6 and answer questions 14 to 17.

It is not often that a circus comes to town. When Mohan and his family heard that the Moscow Circus was arriving, everyone was excited. Mohan went to get the tickets. There was a long queue. Standing in the hot sun, he noticed a family of five children talking excitedly about the animals they would see in the circus shows. Their mother listened to their lively chatter. She stood in front of Mohan, apologising for her noisy children.

"It's all right," said Mohan. "If my children were here, they would be just as chatty and excited."

When it was the lady's turn, she opened her tiny purse and took out some notes and coins. The ticketing officer said it cost fifty dollars for her and her four children. The last one, being a toddler, needed no ticket. A quick count left the lady crestfallen, for alas, she had only thirty-nine dollars, which she had scrimped and saved for some time.

Watching her, Mohan said, "Excuse me Ma'am, If I'm not mistaken, I saw something drop out of your purse just now."

Mohan pointed to the ground where a twenty-dollar note was near her shoes. The lady was puzzled and did not know what to do, so Mohan bent down to pick up the note and passed it to the ticketing officer, who issued the tickets and returned the lady the remaining nine dollars.

The children squealed with delight when they saw their mother with the tickets in her hands. Mohan paid for his tickets and walked home, feeling rather pleased with the good deed he had done. He had given someone something she needed, without taking away her dignity.

Listen to Text 6 again.

Text 7

You will hear an extract of a documentary about elephants that paint.

Before you listen to Text 7, read questions 18 to 20 now.

Listen to Text 7 and answer questions 18 to 20.

Do you like elephants? Some people simply love these majestic animals. They travel across the world to Thailand, just to experience riding on an elephant or watching them paint!

Elephants are utterly magnificent beings. Their size and grace are humbling to a mere human. It is near impossible not to be floored by the sight of this gentle giant using its trunk to paint a picture of a flower. This experience is sought after as a memorable experience on a tour to Thailand.

However, the closer we look into these happy elephant excursions, the more concerned we become for the welfare of the elephants living in captivity. Just as an elephant in the wild would not choose to do a handstand, it is not likely that an elephant ever aspired to be a Picasso either. It is likely that elephants endure months of abuse to learn how to hold a paintbrush effortlessly. Young elephants are separated from their mothers, and are then starved, shackled and beaten until they submit to the will of their captors. Think again the next time you want to sign up for an elephant tour! Making an elephant paint is cruel, not cute.

Listen to Text 7 again.

Answers to Paper 3

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. 2 | 2. 1 | 3. 1 | 4. 3 | 5. 2 |
| 6. 3 | 7. 1 | 8. 3 | 9. 2 | 10. 3 |
| 11. 2 | 12. 1 | 13. 3 | 14. 1 | 15. 2 |
| 16. 2 | 17. 3 | 18. 1 | 19. 2 | 20. 1 |

Paper 4 – Answers to pronunciation, word stress, intonation and expression for Reading Aloud and suggested responses for prompts

Reading Aloud

Pronunciation

1. I'm – say the contraction for I am
2. had, avid, good, read – say the ending d sound
3. take – say the ending k sound
4. get, at, that – say the ending t sound
5. the, through, them, that – say the th sound
6. hoped – say the pt sound
7. examinations – say it with the ig sound, not ek
8. all kinds of – link the words by saying all - kind - of

Word Stress

1. opportunity – put the stress on the first syllable and the third syllable **OpporTU**nity
2. assessment – put the stress on the second syllable a**SSESS**ment

Intonation and Expression

1. I'm ready! – use a rising tone to show enthusiasm
2. Shall we get some assessment books too? – use a rising tone for this suggestion

Conversation

(a) Yes, I would like to read the book. The cover shows the title Stories for Kids. It also states that the stories were written by kids for kids, so they should be interesting because they were written from a child's perspective. Each author is a child and when a child writes a story, another child can understand it too, so I think I will be able to understand each story and enjoy it. I think the short story about the keyhole mystery will attract me most because it is a mystery and I find mysteries very fascinating.

OR

No, I am not interested in the book because it is written by children for children. Since the authors are all children, I do not think the stories will be well-written because children are young and still learning about the English language, so they cannot write as well as adults. I prefer storybooks about children written by adults. The language will be more interesting and the stories easier to follow.

(b) During my free time, I go to the library to read. Sometimes, I borrow and bring the books home because I cannot finish reading them in the library. I am an avid reader and love many kinds of books – fiction and non-fiction. I love to read about animals and enjoy animal stories very much. I prefer indoor leisure activities like reading, not outdoor activities like rough games or sports. I am not the athletic sort and do not like to be wet and sweaty at all. I will have an allergic reaction if my sweat is not cleaned away quickly, so I avoid activities that make me sweat profusely.

OR

During my free time, I am out in the park cycling or skating with my siblings. My brother skates very well. He even does stunts like air jumps. I want to do these stunts too, so I need to practise more. I also challenge my uncle on the bicycle. I can ride very fast, but my uncle is even faster. I think I will be able to overtake him one day, but not so soon. I ride safely, not recklessly like him. That's because my parents warned me about being reckless on the bike.

(c) Yes, I think everyone should have a hobby. It is a good way to help us relax after a stressful day at school or work. A hobby is something we choose to do because we like it, so we feel happy when we are pursuing our hobby and we forget about homework or problems we have for the time being. If we do not have time for a hobby, our lives will be hard and stressful, so it is better to have an enjoyable hobby or one that allows us to learn some skills or be good at something. We will feel good when we achieve something after learning the skills.

OR

No, I don't think everyone should have a hobby. When we are young, we play a lot and have different hobbies. For example, some children enjoy playing the piano when they first start, then after buying the piano, they get tired of it and it becomes a white elephant at home. Besides, some hobbies are very addictive, like playing computer games. We may neglect our studies because the computer games need our attention. We cannot concentrate fully on our assignments and keep thinking of the next step or strategy to use. Hobbies like these waste time and money. I think when we are older, we are more certain of what we like to do in our free time. Then we can choose a good hobby, and it will be a permanent pursuit that is worth our time and money.

Practice 7

Listening Texts

In this listening test, you will listen to a total of seven texts. Each text will be read twice. Listen carefully to the text that is read to you and answer the questions that follow. Write 1, 2 or 3 in the brackets provided. You may attempt the questions at any time during the test.

The test is about to begin.

Text 1

You will hear an announcement.

Before you listen to Text 1, read questions 1 and 2 now.

Listen to Text 1 and answer questions 1 and 2.

Listen carefully, boys and girls. I'm going to announce a very important exercise that starts tomorrow. It is the safe entry check that our school will be conducting in the classrooms. Please come to school early and go straight to your classrooms. Do not loiter at the school gate or chat with friends in the canteen.

To do the safe entry check, you will need to have your temperature taken. We are not providing any thermometers, so you must bring your own. Please do not share thermometers with anyone. You should keep your masks on during lessons unless you are drinking from your water bottle. Please keep a safe one-metre distance from your classmates too. Before you leave for recess, do sanitise your hands. You should also carry a small bottle of sanitiser so that you can use it after recess and before you enter the classroom.

Listen to Text 1 again.

Text 2

A family decides to visit the road safety park.

Before you listen to Text 2, read questions 3 and 4 now.

Listen to Text 2 and answer questions 3 and 4.

James was thrilled to bits when his parents said they could go to the road safety park open house during the weekend. He went on a learning journey there last year when he was in Primary 5 and had enjoyed the trip very much.

"I can be your guide, Mum," James said, puffing up his chest with confidence. He suggested choosing different vehicles to make the trip more interesting. He was thinking of driving around in the mini car while his little brother could get a bicycle. Parents have to be pedestrians since the vehicle showroom only has small vehicles not big enough for adults.

Prior to getting their vehicles checked for faulty brakes and lights, they had to register at the showroom and sign out their vehicles. They would be briefed on how to move around in the park safely. At the traffic lights, they have to observe the rules. Before reaching bus stops, they have to slow down. James remembered everything well as he rattled off tips for his brother Jack.

The first place to go after clearing the inspection was of course, the charging station. It was fun to pretend that they were charging their electric cars. Cyclists need not go there since the bicycles do not need to be charged, but James suggested that Jack tag along, so that James could keep an eye on his little brother. His parents beamed with pride, noting that James was showing maturity and responsibility. James hoped to take Jack up the bridge, which is called the Bridge of Safety, but he was not sure if Jack could cycle up the slope. His father offered to give Jack a helping hand, but the bridge was not for pedestrians, so they aborted the idea. James wanted to show Jack the police station, which would be an exciting place for his little brother. Their parents were very pleased with the plan James had prepared indeed.

Listen to Text 2 again.

Text 3

You will hear a conversation about Prize-Giving Day.

Before you listen to Text 3, read questions 5 to 7 now.

Listen to Text 3 and answer questions 5 to 7.

Zak: Are you paying attention, Joyce? I am not repeating myself this time.

Joyce: Yes, I heard you clearly. You said the prizes must be arranged on the prize table neatly, with the medals in front and the trophies in the last row. The certificates must be arranged in a stack in the order that the names will be read out.

Zak: Good to know that you remember what I said, because last year, you left out the medals! And you did not arrange the trophies properly, so some of them toppled over on the table. We got scolded for that, remember?

Joyce: Yes, I remember. Don't worry, I will be very careful this time. Mrs Lee will stand on the left of the prize table, so I have marked her place with tape. The winner will stand on the right of the prize table where they will pose for a photo after receiving their prize.

Zak: Oh, about the photo-taking. Has the teacher-in-charge confirmed who the photographer is? I think we asked the chairman of the parents' support group to help because he is a professional photographer.

Joyce: Yes, about that – the photographer is someone else. She volunteered to help out because her daughter is one of the prize-winners. The chairman of the parents' support group is working on that day, so he can't make it.

Listen to Text 3 again.

Text 4

You will hear a radio interview with an award winner.

Before you listen to Text 4, read questions 8 to 10 now.

Listen to Text 4 and answer questions 8 to 10.

Host: Congratulations, Sue, on winning the Social Contribution Award this year. Can you tell me how you got involved in such a social project?

Sue: Well, it was actually our teacher who told us about the five seniors working in a café. The café is called Forget Me Not. Mr Tan told us that the elderly did not want to be affected by their condition of dementia, so they worked every day to be active and busy. It was better than being bored at home and losing their memory with the passing of each day. We were inspired and wanted to help.

Host: Did your teacher nominate your project for the award too?

Sue: Yes, he did. He said our project was very helpful because we made more people aware of the problems that people with dementia suffer from. They can go out unaided but sometimes they need help returning home, simply because they cannot remember where they live.

Host: How did you make more people aware of the problems? Did you give a talk or presentation? Or give out posters and brochures to members of the public?

Sue: Oh no, we didn't have to do all that. We started a website about the story of an elderly man who went out happily and ended up lost on his journey home. The story went viral because many people wanted to help him. So, through his story, we managed to explain dementia and its challenges.

Host: What a great way to create awareness. No wonder you were bestowed the award. Congrats once again!

Listen to Text 4 again.

Text 5

You will hear an extract from a news report.

Before you listen to Text 5, read questions 11 to 13 now.

Listen to Text 5 and answer questions 11 to 13.

Welcome back to Daily Update. We have just returned from various community clubs and have the latest update. More than 3,000 people have turned up for their vaccinations today, up from 2,800 yesterday. This is a good trend and it seems that the target of 4,000 vaccinations a day may soon be reached. Most seniors came on their own, even those in wheelchairs. It was expected that they would come with family members, who would have had to take leave from work to accompany them. In fact, it was why the numbers were low at the start of the vaccination exercise. It is heartening indeed to see that the seniors now feel confident enough to get vaccinated on their own.

The Health Minister was present at one of the community clubs to show his support. Mr Ong helped to distribute free medical masks and wet wipes to residents who came to Bishan Community Club. He was pleased to see that the vaccination exercise was carried out in an orderly manner. There were no long queues or people rushing to get in. There were enough vaccines for everyone.

Listen to Text 5 again.

Text 6

You will hear a story about a kind deed.

Before you listen to Text 6, read questions 14 to 17 now.

Listen to Text 6 and answer questions 14 to 17.

Every evening, Shila and her grandfather take a leisurely stroll in the park. It makes them happy to hear the cheerful sounds of children at play and to watch the ducks swim tranquilly in the lake. Last week, as they were sitting and reading on one of the benches, they heard someone shouting, "Don't!" The shout was followed by a loud whack and all of a sudden, a wild buzzing noise broke the silence of the park. A playful boy had hit a hive with his slingshot, despite his grandmother's warning. Angered, numerous bees swarmed out in full force to launch a counterattack.

That was when Shila's grandfather swung swiftly into action. He grabbed the boy in his arms and jumped into the lake, using his newspaper to shield their heads and faces from the angry bees. Shila saw her grandfather stay in this position with the frightened boy until help arrived. The onlookers who had witnessed the rescue spread the news of his heroic act. An elderly lady present at the park, obviously the boy's grandmother, thanked the elderly man repeatedly. Now the whole neighbourhood greets Shila's grandfather with wide-eyed admiration and respect. As for Shila, she feels proud to be the granddaughter of such a courageous man.

Listen to Text 6 again.

Text 7

You will hear an extract of a talk.

Before you listen to Text 7, read questions 18 to 20 now.

Listen to Text 7 and answer questions 18 to 20.

Do you look smart in your school uniform? Have you ever wondered why some students' uniforms are always clean and white? They do not turn yellow or look faded although they are not exactly new. The secret lies in how they are washed.

I am not referring to adding softeners or deodorisers to make the clothes soft or fragrant. If your mother just puts vinegar in the washing machine, you will be amazed to see the white shirt come out whiter than ever. This is because vinegar removes moulds and stains from clothes. It also removes odours and retains the white colour of the fabric. So don't worry if you are playing in a field on a rainy day and find your shirt or shorts soiled. There's vinegar to the rescue!

Listen to Text 7 again.

Answers to Paper 3

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. 1 | 2. 2 | 3. 2 | 4. 1 | 5. 3 |
| 6. 1 | 7. 2 | 8. 2 | 9. 3 | 10. 1 |
| 11. 3 | 12. 3 | 13. 3 | 14. 2 | 15. 1 |
| 16. 2 | 17. 3 | 18. 1 | 19. 3 | 20. 3 |

Paper 4 – Answers to pronunciation, word stress, intonation and expression for Reading Aloud and suggested responses for prompts

Reading Aloud

Pronunciation

1. can't – say the contraction for cannot
2. this, that – say the th sound
3. hour – say it with the silent h
4. bought, sigh – say them with the silent g
5. it, bright, light, hit, target, must – say the ending t sound
6. dear – say it with the silent r
7. for it – link the words by saying fo - rit

Word Stress

1. suddenly – put the stress on the first syllable **SU**ddenly
2. remembered – put the stress on the second syllable re**MEM**bered
3. fortunately – put the stress on the first syllable **FOR**tunately

Intonation and Expression:

1. Smack! – use a strong falling tone for this firm hitting action
2. Oh dear, – use a falling tone to express regret

Conversation

(a) Yes, the poster has pictures which make it look easy to take steps to prevent the spread of dengue fever. There are simple things we can do, like putting the lid or cover on a container of water, pouring out the water from a vase of flowers to change it and so on. It is easy to turn a pail over so that it does not collect rain water and allow mosquitoes to breed in the water. It is also easy to tilt the tyre in such a way that any water in it can flow out. The steps are not difficult for adults or even children to follow. If the poster shows steps that are difficult, people are not going to make an effort to follow the steps.

OR

No, the pictures in the poster do not explain clearly what the steps are. There is a picture of some fish in a container but it is not clear to me what the step is. I think the picture should also have words to tell me what to do. There are some arrows pointing into some containers and some arrows pointing out. While it is clear that we should pour out water in the examples where there are arrows pointing out, it is not clear for the examples with arrows pointing into the water. Do we fill the container with the water? If we do, how does it stop the breeding of mosquitoes?

(b) Some people will heed the advice given because they do not want to get dengue fever. They will throw away water to stop the breeding of mosquitoes. They realise that dengue fever is a serious illness, and old people may die when infected, so for the sake of the elderly members in their family, these people will do their best to take the recommended steps shown in posters.

OR

No, some people do not take the advice seriously. People with gardens may not have the time to check every pot plate or inspect their roofs regularly to remove leaves. If they don't do anything, they think they will not get into trouble. They do not think they will get sick with the dengue virus easily because they are young and strong. Tougher actions like strict laws are needed to make such people listen to advice.

(c) Besides giving advice, we can have laws that will fine people who breed mosquitoes in their homes or gardens. People will act if there are such laws because they don't want to pay fines. We can also put their house or flat numbers on the notice board so that they know their neighbours will find out about their negligent behaviour. They will also feel embarrassed when they are caught doing such irresponsible acts. Advice alone is not enough. I think we need action to stop this mosquito from breeding in large numbers.

OR

Besides giving advice, there should be advertisements on television or YouTube videos to warn people against breeding mosquitoes. The schools can also have assembly talks about dengue fever to teach young children about it, so they can help their family members fight the spread of dengue fever. Science lessons can also teach students about the life cycle of the mosquito, so that students understand more about it and can take effective action against its breeding. Checks can be conducted, and those who are found breeding mosquitoes can be punished by fines or embarrassing them in public by making them do Public Corrective Order such as sweeping drains and clearing them of leaves.

Practice 8

Listening Texts

In this listening test, you will listen to a total of seven texts. Each text will be read twice. Listen carefully to the text that is read to you and answer the questions that follow. Write 1, 2 or 3 in the brackets provided. You may attempt the questions at any time during the test.

The test is about to begin.

Text 1

You will hear an advertisement about a theme park.

Before you listen to Text 1, read questions 1 and 2 now.

Listen to Text 1 and answer questions 1 and 2.

Visit Joy Theme Park for a great day out. There is something for everyone. Parents can enjoy rides with their children on the Sky Flyer, the only ride in Asia that soars up high and suspends you by a shoulder harness. Kids will love the Family Roller Coaster for sure – what a breathtaking ride it will be!

Then there is the Go Kart for parents and their children. For those without any experience, there's the beginner's track on a level ground with no surprises. For the braver ones, there's the mountain track with its bumps and sudden sharp turns. The most exciting attraction of all is the See-Saw – a gigantic thrill ride that swings you nine storeys high before plunging straight down! What can be more adrenaline pumping than this!

Listen to Text 1 again.

Text 2

A guide explains what tourists can do on an island.

Before you listen to Text 2, read questions 3 and 4 now.

Listen to Text 2 and answer questions 3 and 4.

Welcome to our special tour of the island. I am Alex your island guide. As you all know, there are many little islands in our country. Nios happens to be one of the lesser-known islands, so without a guide, you really wouldn't know where to go or what to do here. By the way, there are 365 churches on this island, one for each day of the year!

The tour will take you to various stops, beginning with the cook house. Here you can try some local dishes. For those who are not hungry yet, you can opt not to get down and proceed to the second stop, which is the massage hut. Yes, you can get a massage for your tired legs, shoulder and neck. Just tell them where you feel you need that massage. Again, some of you may not enjoy massages, so you can also opt not to get down and proceed to the third stop. For the adventure seekers, you can zipline or just watch your brave friends zipline across the jungle. The view is awesome, so it is certainly worth a try. If you are not too fond of floating on a line in the air, you can enjoy the fresh air plus take photos of the picturesque scenery. The tour will go on to the final stop, which is the stable. If you want to ride a pony, you need to book a slot as soon as possible. Then you can explore the farm while waiting for the ponies to be ready. The ponies are tame and used to tourists riding them, so don't worry if you are a first-timer. After one hour, the tour will resume and loop back to where it began – at the cook house – by this time, most of you will be hungry and lunch will be served. Every dish is a local favourite made with fresh ingredients, I promise!

Listen to Text 2 again.

Text 3

You will hear a conversation about how two friends are going to spend their school holidays.

Before you listen to Text 3, read questions 5 to 7 now.

Listen to Text 3 and answer questions 5 to 7.

- Zak: Amy, how are you and your family going to spend the coming holidays? Are you going overseas?
- Amy: Hi Zak, my parents are thinking of staying in a local hotel instead of flying off. They read in the newspapers that many families enjoyed their staycations last year, so they want to try it out. My father wants to book a farm stay in Hay's Dairies. It is a goat farm and we get to feed the goats every morning.
- Zak: Wow, that sounds like fun, Amy. I wish my parents could book a farm stay too, but they are unable to go away because their newly renovated office has just opened, and they have to work every day. I'll be alone at home by myself, unless I make my own plans.
- Amy: Why don't you ask them if you can join us at the goat farm? My parents won't mind if I bring a friend along. After all, the more the merrier!
- Zak: Really? Thanks, Amy, I'll call my father and ask right away!

Listen to Text 3 again.

Text 4

You will hear a radio interview with a school representative.

Before you listen to Text 4, read questions 8 to 10 now.

Listen to Text 4 and answer questions 8 to 10.

- Host: Hi Ali, thanks for agreeing to our radio interview. I'm Mary, the host for today's segment on World Water Day. I hear that your school celebrates World Water Day every year. Can you tell us how your school plans to celebrate it this year?
- Rep: Hello everyone, I'm Ali, the Innovate Primary School representative for World Water Day. Yes, water is very important to us, so my school makes it a point to remind us that we need to conserve water and not waste it carelessly. Right, my fellow Innovators? This year, like previous years, every class will have lessons about water at the start of the day, followed by a documentary about the water cycle. However, instead of the usual exhibition on how to save water, we are doing something different – we are writing a water diary. We want to help all students understand the importance of water by developing an awareness of their own daily consumption. For one day, the 22nd of March, all students will write down all the water or fluids they use during the day. We want the entries to be as detailed as possible – for example, if they leave the tap on while brushing their teeth, how long they spend in the shower, how many glasses of water they drink and so on.
- Host: And what happens after students write their water diaries?
- Rep: Oh, we select the best entries and publish them in a booklet. The booklet will be given free to all students, so that they can take them home to share with parents and siblings and spread the message that we should use water thoughtfully.
- Host: Yes, indeed. It is a good habit to cultivate.

Listen to Text 4 again.

Text 5

You will hear an extract from a news report.

Before you listen to Text 5, read questions 11 to 13 now.

Listen to Text 5 and answer questions 11 to 13.

Welcome back to The Green Movement. Today, we cover a greening project by students of a primary school. Evergreen Primary is proud to present its 600th tree. Yes, the students have started planting trees class by class and as of yesterday, they have successfully planted 599 trees.

Today, Mrs Raj, the principal is happy to declare that Primary 6A is the class that planted the 600th tree. Although it is good news that they have reached this milestone in tree planting, Mrs Raj reminded them that they have a long way more to go, before they achieve their target of 1,000 trees. She also told them it was not enough to just plant the trees; they also have to look after them to make sure that they do not wither and die. The students have been watering and weeding in the afternoon, after dismissal to ensure that their tree planting efforts are not in vain. What a great way to spend the afternoon with friends in the fresh air and sunshine!

Bye for now, listeners, don't forget to tune in again next week, same time, same day. Our next report will take us to a secondary school which started a unique greening project. Tune in to find out more!

Listen to Text 5 again.

Text 6

You will hear a story about how a cat injured a girl.

Before you listen to Text 6, read questions 14 to 17 now.

Listen to Text 6 and answer questions 14 to 17.

Sara stirred slightly and her eyes fluttered open.

"Hi there!" Lucy murmured. "Does it still hurt?" she asked, looking at the bandaged forehead of her best friend.

The unfortunate incident had started out innocently when Sara's cat had a litter of kittens. Lucy had gone over to her house to have a look at them, hoping that Sara would give her one little kitten. Under the mother cat's watchful eye, the kittens frolicked playfully. Then, Lucy picked up one kitten and lifted it in the air. The huge mother cat hissed fiercely and clawed at Lucy without warning. When Sara stepped in to stop it, the mother cat scratched Sara's forehead instead. Although it was not a serious injury, Sara was so shocked that she fell backward and hit the chair behind her. Both Lucy and Sara would never forget the loud hissing they heard that day. It was totally unexpected from the gentle and sweet mother cat that Sara had known.

Lucy felt guilty looking at Sara's forehead. If she hadn't picked up the kitten, Sara would not have been badly scratched.

Listen to Text 6 again.

Text 7

You will hear about a documentary entitled 'Royal Family'.

Before you listen to Text 7, read questions 18 to 20 now.

Listen to Text 7 and answer questions 18 to 20.

Many people wonder how kings and queens live. That was why a documentary called the *Royal Family* was made in 1969. In the film, viewers get to see Queen Elizabeth travel on a private jet. They also see her playing with her children. The British queen agreed to allow a camera crew into the palace to make the documentary. She hoped to introduce the future king, Prince Charles, to the public. Prince Charles was still a student then. Before the film, no one outside the family knew about Prince Charles' artistic side. He called himself an artist and loved to paint landscapes.

For several months, the activities of several members of the royal family were recorded. They followed her on her official duties and filmed her talking to the US President when he came to visit England. Upon greeting the US President, they heard her ask, "World problems are so complex now, aren't they?"

More than 30 million people managed to watch it before it was removed from public view.

Listen to Text 7 again.

Answers to Paper 3

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. 2 | 2. 1 | 3. 2 | 4. 3 | 5. 2 |
| 6. 3 | 7. 3 | 8. 3 | 9. 1 | 10. 2 |
| 11. 3 | 12. 2 | 13. 1 | 14. 3 | 15. 2 |
| 16. 3 | 17. 2 | 18. 3 | 19. 1 | 20. 2 |

Paper 4 – Answers to pronunciation, word stress, intonation and expression for Reading Aloud and suggested responses for prompts

Reading Aloud

Pronunciation

1. What, want – say the ending t sound
2. asked – say the kt sound
3. daughter – say it with the silent g
4. Don't – say the contraction for do not
5. know – say it with the silent k and w
6. started – say the ted sound
7. booths – say the th sound
8. kinds of – link the words by saying kind - sof

Word Stress

1. hesitantly – put the stress on the first syllable **HE**sitantly
2. different – put the stress on the first syllable **DIF**ferent
3. knowledgeable – put the stress on the first syllable **KNOW**ledgeable
4. community – put the stress on the second syllable com**MU**nity
5. professionals – put the stress on the second syllable pro**FESS**ionals
6. professions – put the stress on the second syllable pro**FESS**ions

Intonation and Expression

1. ...when you grow up? – use a rising tone for this question
2. I don't know – use a falling tone to express uncertainty

Conversation

(a) I think being a firefighter is very interesting and exciting. Firefighters have to be fit so that they can climb buildings to rescue people trapped in them. They are like heroes to me because they risk their lives to save the lives of others. They have a dangerous job to do – going into a building that is already burning to bring people out. Of course, they wear protective suits, but it is still very dangerous and risky. They are fearless in situations of grave danger.

OR

I think being a ballerina is very interesting and exciting. Ballerinas have to practise their steps well so that they can dance confidently in front of an audience. It is not easy because they need to listen to the music and remember the dance steps. They also have to coordinate with other dancers on the stage and dance gracefully together.

(b) My father is a policeman. His job is to keep law and order in the country. He works in the police station on some days and goes out for patrol duties on other days of the week. He is very busy every day because he has to talk to offenders to get their statements. He uses a computer and a video-recorder to do this. He likes his job very much because he thinks it is a helpful and meaningful occupation, but he does not like the long overtime hours. He cannot join us for dinner on some evenings because he is needed at the police station for some important duties. Fortunately, this does not happen every day!

OR

My father is a manager. His job is to supervise other workers in the company. He has to attend meetings and make decisions. Sometimes his workers are absent because they are unwell or have other personal matters to attend to, so my father has to do their work as well. He does not mind it because they appreciate him for helping them and thank him when they return. My father enjoys being a manager very much because it is a good position that allows him to lead others.

(c) When I grow up, I want to be a policeman like my father. I want to keep my family and country safe from criminals like thieves and terrorists. I love the uniform that policemen wear. It is awesome and it makes me feel safe to see these men in uniform patrolling the shopping centres and roads. I would ask my father for advice so that I can prepare to be a good policeman like him. Of course, I must do well in my exams first.

OR

When I grow up, I want to be a ballerina. I think it is wonderful to be able to dance gracefully in front of an audience. I am learning ballet now and my teacher says I am talented in it, so my ambition is to be a ballerina. However, I will only be able to dance professionally for a few years because when I am old, I will not be able to cope with the point shoes, so I think I will become a ballet teacher after that. I will teach other people to dance, like my teacher is teaching me to dance.

Practice 9

Listening Texts

In this listening test, you will listen to a total of seven texts. Each text will be read twice. Listen carefully to the text that is read to you and answer the questions that follow. Write 1, 2 or 3 in the brackets provided. You may attempt the questions at any time during the test.

The test is about to begin.

Text 1

You will hear a mother giving instructions to her son.

Before you listen to Text 1, read questions 1 and 2 now.

Listen to Text 1 and answer questions 1 and 2.

Listen carefully, Kassim, I will be working late so you have to take care of your sister until I reach home.

For dinner, I have ordered pizza for the both of you. It will be delivered to the house at about six. Be careful when you open the box because the pizza will be hot. Check that it is the correct one – with mushrooms, onions and peppers. I did not order pineapple with chicken ham because we ate that last weekend at the pizza place near my office. Remember to thank the delivery man and collect the receipt. Don't wait for me because the pizza will get cold. Eat it while it is hot.

Listen to Text 1 again.

Text 2

A family discusses plans to explore a district near their home.

Before you listen to Text 2, read questions 3 and 4 now.

Listen to Text 2 and answer questions 3 and 4.

Jacob and his sister Sara were excited as their parents sat down to discuss some plans for the coming weekend with them.

"Are we really going to the old railway station?" asked Jacob, a fan of trains and tracks.

"Yes, we are," replied his father.

Sara wanted to know if they could take a train ride but was a little disappointed to learn that the railway station was no longer in use. They could sit in the carriages of the old train and pose for pictures but that was about all they could do. Her eyes lit up, however, when her father told her they could visit the car factory after that. She would get a short car ride in an old Ford model.

Their mother was happy that the plans included a visit to the last farm in the suburb. She hoped to get some fresh vegetables and fruit from the farm at the end of the visit. Jacob and Sara promised to carry everything for her, if it was not too much, that is.

The family finally decided that they would explore the old black and white houses before the farm visit – it would be too cumbersome to go up and down in the old wooden houses with their heavy bags of vegetables and fruits, wouldn't it!

"Better set your alarm clocks to wake up early tomorrow!" said their mother. "We have so much to do in just one day!" she added.

Listen to Text 2 again.

Text 3

You will hear a conversation about a workshop for writers.

Before you listen to Text 3, read questions 5 to 7 now.

Listen to Text 3 and answer questions 5 to 7.

- Zul: Look here, Sasha, there is a poster about a workshop for writers!
- Sasha: Really! When is the workshop, Zul? Let's see... Oh during the school holidays this June! Great!
- Zul: Let's attend the workshop together. Are you free on the 2nd or 6th of June? I can't attend on the 10th or the other dates because of my swimming practice for the competition.
- Sasha: Hmm, we have a learning journey to the zoo on the 2nd, but there is nothing planned yet for the 6th.
- Zul: Ok, we should register right away in case the places for the 6th are snapped up. It says here that places are limited. Do you want to choose the venue? They are held at the community club, the library and the youth centre.
- Sasha: The library sounds good because we can borrow books to read after the workshop, right?
- Zul: Agreed! Let's go to my house now and I can get my parents to register us since they are not working today. The poster says parents' consent is needed for children under twelve.

Listen to Text 3 again.

Text 4

You will hear a radio interview with a T-shirt maker.

Before you listen to Text 4, read questions 8 to 10 now.

Listen to Text 4 and answer questions 8 to 10.

- Host: Good morning listeners, today on One Percent for the Planet, we have invited a special guest. He is none other than John Lee, the maker of SMILE T-shirts that come with a smiling face in front.
- Guest: Thanks Lilian, for inviting me to the show. And good morning to all the listeners out there! I hope you will buy more SMILE T-shirts after this show, because I'm going to share with you what we do with the profits we make.
- Host: Yes, indeed, in the One Percent for the Planet programme, companies donate to the less fortunate in our society.
- Guest: Right! For my company, we help children in the less fortunate parts of the world where simple things to us, like T-shirts and school uniforms, are not to be taken for granted. Last month, for example, we travelled to a remote village in Indonesia to make school uniforms for the children there. Our team of tailors measured the children to make sure that the school uniforms would fit them. Most of the time, they wear donated school uniforms that are too big for them because they do not have much of a choice. When clothing is too loose and big, it is quite uncomfortable because it tends to get in the way. The children have to fold up the sleeves that are too long or cut the long shirts. What's worse is they often do not know how to hem the shirts properly. The unhemmed shirts get torn when washed, so the children end up wearing torn uniforms to school.
- Host: I see, so for every item that we buy from your company, a child gets a fitted school uniform, right?
- Guest: That's right. Last year, we made 300 uniforms for children in Bali. This year, we are hoping to make 800 uniforms for those in Lombok.

Host: Well then, I'd better go buy some T-shirts now! Listeners, before we say goodbye to our special guest, can I ask for your help too? Get your parents, friends and relatives to do some good by purchasing a SMILE T-shirt today!

Listen to Text 4 again.

Text 5

You will hear an extract from a news report.

Before you listen to Text 5, read questions 11 to 13 now.

Listen to Text 5 and answer questions 11 to 13.

Welcome back to School Watch. Today, we are reporting about a case of the COVID-19 virus found in the college at Nanyang Avenue. The virus was detected when professional cleaners brought back samples to the laboratory for further investigation. Once it was confirmed that the sample was collected from a toilet in the university, a notice was sent out to all students via email and telephone. The notice informed students about the closure of the toilet. It instructed students who had used the toilet in the last two days to report to the medical centre for a swab test. If the test results are negative, the students can continue to attend classes. If the test results are positive, the students need to be quarantined and further tests will be done before treatment is given.

The medical centre will be open daily for twenty hours from today onwards. That's all from us at School Watch. Tune in next week for another report.

Listen to Text 5 again.

Text 6

You will hear a story about a boy who carelessly broke some eggs.

Before you listen to Text 6, read questions 14 to 17 now.

Listen to Text 6 and answer questions 14 to 17.

Ahmad's mother sent him to the market to buy some eggs. The boy was walking home happily with his carton of eggs when he tripped over a rock and fell.

"Oh no! My eggs!" Ahmad moaned.

With the eggs all broken, Ahmad trudged back, thinking of what his mother would say and how he would be punished for being careless.

On his way, he saw a farmer's cart laden with cages of squawking chickens. It was rather noisy, but the farmer was cheerfully whistling a tune. Suddenly, the door of a cage flew open when the cart went over a hump.

Pandemonium broke out when half a dozen noisy chickens spilled out of the cart onto the path. Stunned, Ahmad watched the chickens flap about excitedly. With a harried look, the farmer stopped the cart instantly and started chasing after the chickens. Ahmad sprang into action. Opening his arms, he gathered a chicken and gave it to the grateful farmer. In no time, the farmer and Ahman had collected all the escaped chickens.

Before the farmer went on his way, he said to Ahmad, "Come to my farm later this evening. I would like to give some eggs to you and your family."

Ahmad could not believe his ears! His mother would be happy to know that Ahmad had eggs for her that day.

Listen to Text 6 again.

Text 7

You will hear an extract of a documentary about the International Day of Happiness.

Before you listen to Text 7, read questions 18 to 20 now.

Listen to Text 7 and answer questions 18 to 20.

Let's greet each other with a smile, for a smile is the best thing you can give someone. Yes, that's the message of the International Day of Happiness this year.

Join us in our celebrations wherever you are – a little smile can have a big impact, not only to promote your individual mental wellness but also to bring positivity to others around you.

Some doctors say that laughter is the best medicine. Well, according to some patients, a smile can be a special kind of medicine too. When they feel sick, a smile from someone helps to make their day more bearable.

A smile has no boundaries and is recognised across cultures and races. We know that everyone has been stressed by the pandemic that hit us recently and badly, but a simple smile can help people feel more hopeful in these times. A simple smile is the start of opening your heart to be more compassionate to another person. Just smiling at someone can make that person's day. What's more – it does not cost a thing. It's free!

Listen to Text 7 again.

Answers to Paper 3

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. 3 | 2. 1 | 3. 3 | 4. 2 | 5. 1 |
| 6. 1 | 7. 3 | 8. 1 | 9. 3 | 10. 2 |
| 11. 2 | 12. 2 | 13. 3 | 14. 2 | 15. 2 |
| 16. 3 | 17. 2 | 18. 1 | 19. 3 | 20. 2 |

Paper 4 – Answers to pronunciation, word stress, intonation and expression for Reading Aloud and suggested responses for prompts

Reading Aloud

Pronunciation

1. look, walk – say the ending k sound
2. the, that, then, they, thought – say the th sound
3. site, side – say the ending t sound and the ending d sound
4. Let's – say the contraction for let us
5. completed – say the ted sound
6. bite, hit, it – say the ending t sound
7. the authorities – say thee authorities
8. hit it – link the words by saying hi - tit

Word Stress

1. construction – put the stress on the second syllable con**STRUC**tion
2. solemnly – put the stress on the first syllable **SO**lemnly
3. authorities – put the stress on the second syllable au**THO**rities
4. apparently – put the stress on the second syllable a**PPA**rently

Intonation and Expression

1. ...still moving! – use a rising tone to express surprise
2. ...call the authorities, then – use a falling tone for this decision

Conversation

(a) I would choose the cat to take home as my pet. I think cats make good pets because they do not give much trouble. They do not need to be walked, unlike dogs that my friends keep. My friends have to bring their dogs to the park every day for a short walk, otherwise the dogs will bark loudly and disturb the peace of the neighbourhood. Cats meow or purr softly and will not become a nuisance. They are furry and soft to touch.

OR

I would love to choose the dog to take home as my pet, but I can't. My parents will not allow me to have a pet. It is not because I am not a responsible person. It is because I am allergic to dog fur. I had asthma when I was young, and it was serious. The doctor said I must not have carpets or pets nearby otherwise I will get another asthma attack. Even when I go to my friends' house and they keep dogs, I have to keep my distance from them.

(b) Before taking a pet home, we should consider if we are able to take good care of it. We should not take a pet home just because it is cute. We might not be able to take good care of it. We need to read up about pet care, because it is not easy to look after an animal. When the animal is not well, we need to take it to a vet for a check-up and it will cost money. So, we must consider carefully before we take a pet home for adoption.

OR

Before becoming a pet owner, we should ask ourselves if we will be able to spend time with the pet and be able to feed it, care for it and look after it like a responsible pet owner. For example, if we like dogs, we need to think about the amount of spare time we have to take the dogs out for walks every day. We cannot keep a dog housebound all day because it will bark to ask to get out for a walk.

(c) Yes, I think people who abuse their pets should be punished for their wickedness. Pets are living things and should not be treated badly. They need our care and concern, instead of abuse. Since these people took the animals home to be their pets, they should treat the animals well – feed them, give them space to move, clean them and spend time with them. When the owners go for holidays, they also need to plan how to make sure their pets still get food and water in their absence. They can leave them with relatives and friends. They cannot just abandon them and go for their holiday.

OR

Not really, I think punishing pet abusers will not help solve the problem. It is better to teach them about responsibility. Paying a fine is not a serious punishment, and the abusers will not change for the better. I think the abuser should go for compulsory lessons on responsible pet care and be observed for a while to ensure that they have learnt from their mistake of pet abuse. In this way, hopefully, there will be fewer repeat pet abusers.

Practice 10

Listening Texts

In this listening test, you will listen to a total of seven texts. Each text will be read twice. Listen carefully to the text that is read to you and answer the questions that follow. Write 1, 2 or 3 in the brackets provided. You may attempt the questions at any time during the test.

The test is about to begin.

Text 1

You will hear a teacher giving instructions.

Before you listen to Text 1, read questions 1 and 2 now.

Listen to Text 1 and answer questions 1 and 2.

Listen carefully, boys and girls. I'm going to give you some instructions for a simple experiment. No, we don't need to go to the science lab for this experiment. We can do it right here, in the art room. Each group will get two bamboo poles, two T-shirts and two rags. We'll call the poles pole A and pole B. For pole A, you will put the one rag on the end of the pole furthest from you. Then, you put a T-shirt on the other end nearest to you. For pole B, you will put the T-shirt furthest and the rag nearest. Can you guess what this experiment is about? Yes, we are trying to find out what material will dry first. The rags are made of thick cotton, while the T-shirts are made of synthetic dry fit material. We will put the poles outside for a while. During the last period today, we will check the results. Please do not play with the poles – they are equipment for the experiment. Do not place them where they will obstruct students walking along the corridor. Put them neatly out of the way. Here are the pegs. Let's start now.

Listen to Text 1 again.

Text 2

Two children discuss plans about what stations to try at a carnival.

Before you listen to Text 2, read questions 3 and 4 now.

Listen to Text 2 and answer questions 3 and 4.

Jessy and Li Han cannot wait for the carnival to begin. They already have a copy of the map and want to make the most out of their day at the carnival when it opens the next day.

"We must visit the castle for sure! It'll be amazing to see the magic mirror that talks, the party dresses in the wardrobe of the princess and—" Jessy could not stop talking.

"Wait," her brother Li Han interrupted. "We should not miss the merry-go-round too. I want to ride on the lion!" he added.

Jessy agreed that they would go straight to the merry-go-round after their castle visit. Then they had to choose between the roller coaster ride and the boat ride because both have long queues and would take up much of their precious limited time at the carnival. At first, Li Han opted for the roller coaster ride, but he changed his mind because of his sister.

"I vote for the boat ride! It's a rare chance to get to row a boat, right?" suggested Jessy.

Li Han nodded but warned that with all the rowing and splashing of oars, they were likely to get wet, even if their boat does not overturn! The children laughed at the thought of getting soaked on the boat ride.

"We can change into dry clothes after that! Let's ask Mum and Dad to bring us a change of clothes – we can meet them at the circus area and change before we enter the tent for the show!" said Jessy with her eyes lit up.

"Great idea, sis," Li Han grinned.

Listen to Text 2 again.

Text 3

You will hear a conversation between two siblings about Grandma.

Before you listen to Text 3, read questions 5 to 7 now.

Listen to Text 3 and answer questions 5 to 7.

Li Ming: Wee Choo, what are we going to do about Grandma? She's been singing non-stop in the living room. I thought she would lose interest after a week but ever since Father bought her that microphone, she has been like this every day after breakfast, lunch and dinner. In fact, every time she is not eating, she's singing!

Wee Choo: I know, Li Ming. I find it difficult to concentrate on my homework too. Maybe we should get help from Uncle Jack. He could take her out to the shop or for a walk in the park or something like that.

Li Ming: Perhaps we can take her to the community club, where there are people her age. She might make friends with them if they share some common interests.

Wee Choo: I heard there are cooking and baking courses at the C.C. There are also interest groups for activities like cycling, walking and exercising. I bet Grandma would like to join a cooking class since she loves food!

Li Ming: Yes, let's ask Father and Uncle Jack to register her for the cooking class tomorrow. I hope we get some peace and quiet in the living room soon, because I really need to study for the coming exams.

Wee Choo: Me too!

Listen to Text 3 again.

Text 4

You will hear a radio interview with a teacher in charge of a neighbourhood aid project.

Before you listen to Text 4, read questions 8 to 10 now.

Listen to Text 4 and answer questions 8 to 10.

Host: Good morning Mr Tan, welcome to our programme.

Dylan: My pleasure, Janet. And please, call me Dylan. I am happy to be here to share my school's food aid project with listeners. It is a very meaningful project since my school believes in inculcating the value of empathy in our students, and there's no better way to do this than by giving them opportunities to interact with the vulnerable and less fortunate among us.

Host: I heard that your school even adopted some blocks of rental flats in the neighbourhood.

Dylan: Yes, I have gone to some of these flats with my class of students. They were quite shocked to see the state of the flats, to be honest. Once they got over the shock, they realised how fortunate they themselves were. The boys got down to scrubbing toilets and sweeping. The girls were exhausted after folding clothes and washing dishes left in the sink for days. They never did household chores in their own homes because they had helpers and of course their doting mothers and grandmothers!

Host: Oops! I think I am guilty of being a doting mother too. I don't let my children wash dishes because I thought of the breakage and injuries that could occur if they were not careful. I will stop thinking this way from now on.

Dylan: Good for you, Janet! My students also improved in their teamwork and problem-solving skills after their involvement in our school's food aid project. In teams of five, they packed donated food in the WeCare packs and delivered them to the rental flats as well.

Host: Wow! That's wonderful.

Listen to Text 4 again.

Text 5

You will hear an extract from a news report.

Before you listen to Text 5, read questions 11 to 13 now.

Listen to Text 5 and answer questions 11 to 13.

Welcome back to The Green Movement. Today, we are visiting a special place that helps us reduce, reuse and recycle. It is called the Repair Kopitiam. At this repair centre, volunteers help you repair your broken stuff. If your television set is not working, don't fret about having to spend money to buy a new set. Come here first and see if one of the volunteer repairmen can fix the problem. If your toaster does not get hot anymore, bring it over. Even your bicycle tyres can be changed here, for free!

Everyone is encouraged to buy fewer new items so that factories will produce fewer products to sell. Reducing production will help keep our planet green. We will use less fuel, burn less energy and produce less trash to throw later!

According to the founder of Repair Kopitiam, they have helped households repair more than one thousand appliances since they started volunteering their services. To extend their reach, they are offering something new this year – they will go to customers' houses to do the repairs, especially for the elderly who find it difficult to cart the faulty item to the repair centre. They also stay to chit-chat when they have time because they know that the elderly do get lonely sometimes, particularly if they are immobile or have difficulty going out on their own.

Listen to Text 5 again.

Text 6

You will hear a story about some picnickers and a monkey.

Before you listen to Text 6, read questions 14 to 17 now.

Listen to Text 6 and answer questions 14 to 17.

After leaving the town, it was a short drive to get to the beach that afternoon. Hock Seng and his family were happy to arrive at their destination. They enjoyed the breeze as they walked on the beach in search of a shady spot for their picnic. They had just found a spot and his mother was handing out egg sandwiches, when Hock Seng shouted, "Look out!" He had spotted a monkey sitting on a tree branch with a ripe coconut in his hands. The tree was right above Hock Seng and his family who were seated on their picnic mat. Suddenly, it let go of the coconut, sending it plummeting down towards the picnickers like a cannon ball! Before anyone could respond, it picked another coconut and hurled it down. Two more coconuts followed in quick succession. Then in the blink of an eye, it scrambled down and disappeared back into the forested area nearby.

"Do you think the monkey wanted to hurt us?" asked Hock Seng's mother.

"No," replied his father, "I think it meant to give us a treat! Look, there's a coconut for each of us!"

Hock Seng's father opened one of the coconut husks. They all sat down to indulge in the sweet and refreshing drink. Hock Seng's brother declared that coconut water was now his favourite drink, not cranberry juice. Hock Seng added that his favourite animal was now a monkey. Their parents burst out laughing.

Listen to Text 6 again.

Text 7

You will hear an extract of a documentary about a historical place in Singapore.

Before you listen to Text 7, read questions 18 to 20 now.

Listen to Text 7 and answer questions 18 to 20.

We are all too familiar with modern malls and skyscrapers in our country, but did you know that there are places near us that can take us back in time?

Let's visit Sembawang to see the old black and white houses that still keep their history intact. There are more than 50 such houses. They were built many years ago – between 1903 to 1928 for soldiers of certain ranks in the army. They are called black and white houses because they were built with black timber and their walls were white. One of the houses, Beaulieu House, is actually a restaurant today where you can enjoy a meal. Be sure to book your table by the sea first because it is a small private restaurant with few seats available. Its menu includes Chinese and western cuisine. If you like walking after a meal, you can have a look at the other houses in Sembawang Park. But be aware, these historical houses are not museums that you can enter as you wish. There may be real tenants living in them since they are available for rent. Don't loiter too long at a house if someone's living there, or you might be asked to leave!

Listen to Text 7 again.

Answers to Paper 3

1. 2 2. 3 3. 2 4. 3 5. 1
6. 1 7. 2 8. 1 9. 2 10. 1
11. 2 12. 1 13. 3 14. 2 15. 2
16. 1 17. 3 18. 2 19. 2 20. 3

Paper 4 – Answers to pronunciation, word stress, intonation and expression for Reading Aloud and suggested responses for prompts

Reading Aloud

Pronunciation

1. camp – say the ending p sound
2. pleaded, added – saying the ending ded sound
3. I'm, don't – say the contraction for I am and do not
4. hot, sent, site, forgot, about – say the ending t sound
5. children – say chil - dren, not chew - ren
6. won – say one
7. climbers – say it with the silent b
8. athletic – pronounce the th in athletic

Word Stress

1. athletic – put the stress on the second syllable ath**LE**tic
2. cooperative – put the stress on the second syllable co**O**perative

Intonation and Expression

1. Do I really have to go to the camp? – use a rising tone to express unwillingness
2. ...getting hot and sweaty – use a falling tone for this statement

Conversation

(a) Yes, I would like to attend the sports camp. I think it is very interesting because there are many activities at the camp. There are games to play and prizes to win. There is a campfire too. There will be delicious food during the campfire such as roasted marshmallows and chicken wings. I think I will enjoy the camp very much because I am an outdoors person.

OR

No, I would not like to attend the sports camp. I think it is too exciting for me. I prefer staying home to do other things such as play board games or watch television. I am not strong or athletic and do not think I can take part in these physical activities. My group may not like it when I am slow and cause them to lose points. The campfire looks smoky, and the food will probably be oily or grilled, which will give me a bad sore throat after I eat it.

(b) I went for the Primary 5 school camp. It was at Changi. We took a bus to get there. The camp leaders were not from our school. They were friendly and experienced campers. They instructed us and taught us many things. We pitched a tent near the chalet. We cooked food over a fire that we made ourselves. It was like we did not have technology or electricity. It was exciting to sleep in the tent under the stars in the sky.

OR

I attended a P5 camp last year. It was at Dairy Farm. At first, our teachers briefed us about the camp activities and the things we could and could not take with us. I was disappointed that I could not take my mobile phone with me. I wanted to call my parents and show them photographs that I could take with my phone. The camp leaders were fun, and we enjoyed many activities at the camp. It was such a pity that I had no photographs of the camp.

(c) I think whether a camp is a success or a failure depends on many things. The weather is one factor. If it rains on many days, the activities may be cancelled and the campers disappointed. Of course, the wet weather activities will replace the original ones but they will not be as exciting. Another factor is the people attending the camp. If they are active and take part, the camp will be more successful. If everyone is afraid to do the activities like the flying fox, the camp leaders will have to waste time persuading each camper to climb to the top and do the flying fox.

OR

I think the camp will be a successful one if everyone is positive and cooperates with one another. They will enjoy the camp more if they contribute to it. Usually, campers are divided into groups, so if the group leaders are friendly and persuasive, they will make the group members happy to join in the activities. If the leaders boss the members around, the campers will end up complaining about the treatment and become unhappy. Of course, the food provided is another reason. At the campfire, the grilled chicken is usually delicious and campers go for second helpings. This means they are enjoying themselves!