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SECONDARY
2



ENGLISH

MODEL EXAM PAPERS

PAPER 1&2

FAIRFIELD BOOK PUBLISHERS

SAMPLE

Secondary 2
English Model Exam Papers - Paper 1&2

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Preface

This book is written for those who are in Secondary Two. It covers the new syllabus English Language Papers 1 and 2. Components like Editing, Composition, Situational Writing, Visual Text, Comprehension and Summary Writing are included.

In order to achieve competence in the English Language, pupils must possess certain skills. They need to know how to deduce the meaning of unfamiliar words in order to fully comprehend the passage. Then, they must also be able to pick out relevant points to answer the summary questions.

Therefore, this book aims to give pupils practice to answer a wide range of questions in line with the new English Language examination format. This book also aims to expose pupils, through the comprehension passages, to new words, phrases and styles of writing which pupils can apply in their compositions.

The answers at the back of the book provide a guide to pupils on the kind of answers that are expected of them.

Besides practising, it is also important to read newspapers, books and short stories to acquire new ideas and widen one's vocabulary bank.

Happy practising!

Charmaine Foo-Wong



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Model Examination 1

Paper 1

Section A: Editing (5 marks)

Read the text below consisting of 12 lines about the narrator in a dilemma when he caught James, a bully, vandalising the wall. The first and last lines are correct. For eight of the lines, there is <u>one</u> grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors. If there is <u>no</u> error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided. If the line is <u>incorrect</u>, circle the incorrect word and write its correct answer on the space provided. The correct word you provide <u>must not change the original meaning</u> of the sentence.

I arrived (to) my destination at 2 pm. at

My mother always wears sensible clothes. ✓

There was an eerie pin-drop silence, except for some screeching of the marker against	
the wall. Should I report it to the discipline master, Mr Dick Lee, and should I wash my	**(1)** _____
hands off this and treat it as though nothing happened? A myriad of question bombarded	**(2)** _____
me. Out of the blue, James fished in a pen knife and started scratching the walls, leaving	**(3)** _____
indelible marks on them. At this moment, I couldn't take it anymore. I crept from my hiding	**(4)** _____
place and I stormed to the general office to report this incident to Mr Dick Lee and before	**(5)** _____
I moved a few inches, I heard a familiar voice thundered across the room.	**(6)** _____
"Stop right there. I wondered since where you had grown guts," James enunciated, his	**(7)** _____
words full of sarcastic, silence breaking the awkwardness.	**(8)** _____
I turned back to face him, eye to eye. We were locked in a fiery stare. Time dragged –	**(9)** _____
every second dragged like a snail, reluctance to go into history. I reprimanded him for	**(10)** _____
his nefarious acts. He gave a guffaw and bent down slightly. I knew what was coming.	

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Section B: Composition (30 marks)

Choose a question from below and write a composition of at least 300 words based on it.

1. Describe a teacher who has left a lasting impression on you.
2. Is a teacher's role in society more important than a scientist's?
3. Would you like to become a teacher? Why or why not?
4. The pros and cons of being a teacher in Singapore.

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Section C: Situational Writing (30 marks)

The following is the lyrics of a movie show taken from the book "To Sir With Love" that was written in 1967. Although the song was composed such a long time ago, the lyrics are meaningful.

Those schoolgirl days of telling tales and biting nails are gone
But in my mind, I know they will still live on and on.
But how can you thank someone who has taken you from crayons to perfume?
It isn't easy but I will try.

If you wanted the sky, I would write across the sky in letters
that would soar a thousand feet high...

TO SIR WITH LOVE

The time has come for closing books and long last looks must end
And as I leave, I know that I am leaving my best friend.
A friend who has taught me right from wrong
And weak from strong... that's a lot to learn
What can I give you in return?

If you wanted the moon, I would try to make a start,
But I would rather you let me give my heart...

TO SIR WITH LOVE

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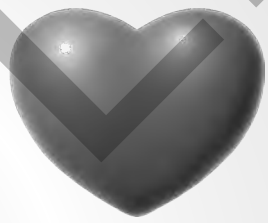
Based on the lyrics, write a thank you letter to your favourite teacher whom you feel greatly indebted to and who has inspired you to achieve great success in your life. In your letter, say why that teacher has such a great impact on you. Give details of the deeds of that teacher.

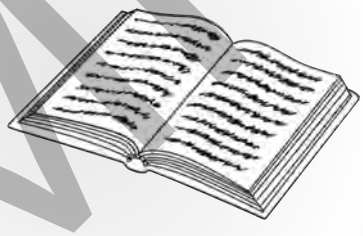
Paper 2

Text 1: Visual Text (5 marks)

Read the following text and answer the questions that follow it.

The very best teachers

teach from the 

...not the 

(or even the )!

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1. Rephrase the text without using the symbols given. **(2 marks)**

2. (a) In one word of your own, say what the text tells us about the qualities a good teacher must possess. **(1 mark)**

(b) Why is that characteristic so important? **(1 mark)**

3. What tells you that this text is written in the 21st century? **(1 mark)**

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Text 2: Comprehension (20 marks)

Read the two texts below and then answer the questions that follow them.

I began my teaching career in 1989 after a year-long training stint at the National Institute of Education. **Teaching is in my blood**. My mother, aunties, cousin and elder sisters must have influenced me to become a teacher. Even my late grandmother had said that if her parents had allowed her, she would have become a Chinese teacher. After my "A" levels, I did relief teaching in the school my mother was teaching in and I kind of enjoyed teaching, especially the authority the post gave me.

Unfortunately, my grandmother's love for Chinese never rubbed off on us for we were brought up in an English-speaking environment. My mother and aunties were English teachers. I would not say that I have a flair for the language but at least the **grounding** was there.

I conducted group tuition, coaching the younger students in Mathematics and English. The money I earned enabled me to pay my way through the three years in the university. I qualified for admission to the law faculty in the local university but I chose to follow my passion. One friend remarked that I was silly for the sky is the limit if I became a lawyer while in teaching, my first drawn salary was slightly below a thousand dollars. I told my parents and that friend of mine then that even if I had loads of money but I had to drag myself to work in the morning and through the day, it would not be meaningful at all.

So here am, still a teacher after 25 years. Yes, it has been a long time and my life has become all the better because I am a teacher. Many things have changed. Of course, I have aged and the first batch of pupils I taught has aged with me. Salaries for teachers have increased manifold since those lean years. Also, I have seen many changes in the school curriculum but most importantly in the mindset of the students.

In the past, teachers were respected (when I entered the teaching career, teachers were less revered as they were during my mother's generation). Students would be silent once the teacher steps into the class and though many were disinterested in the History lesson I taught, none would dare to make a sound. At the most they would stare into space and **build castles in the air**.

With the onslaught of modern technology, some students openly defy school rules and play games downloaded on their mobile smartphones during the lessons. In the past, students knew they had to work hard if they needed to climb the ladder of success but it seems these days, the younger generation is a pampered lot who do not seem to be motivated to study because they know their parents have the means to support them through their lives. What self-centredness some young ones have developed!

It is sad the way education has gone. And I have been bitten many times by disillusionment that my role as a teacher has not been fulfilled – that teachers not only stand in front of the class to impart knowledge but also to educate and mould the lives of the young innocent ones into people who can contribute to the society economically and be socially responsible.

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4. When did the writer enter the National Institute of Education to train to be a professional teacher? **(1 mark)**

_____

5. What does the writer mean when she says "teaching is in my blood" (line 2)? **(1 mark)**

_____

6. From paragraph 1, say why the writer likes to teach. **(1 mark)**

_____

7. Explain why the writer's Chinese was not good. **(1 mark)**

_____

8. Replace the word "grounding" in line 8 with a word of your own. **(1 mark)**

_____

9. How did the writer support herself through university? **(1 mark)**

_____

10. "One friend remarked that I was silly for the sky is the limit if I became a lawyer while in teaching, my first drawn salary was slightly below a thousand dollars." (lines 11–13)

(a) Explain the phrase "the sky is the limit" in this context. **(1 mark)**

_____

(b) Pick out the phrase that shows the salary of a teacher used to be very meagre. **(1 mark)**

_____

11. "when I entered the teaching career, teachers were less revered as they were during my mother's generation" (lines 20–21). What does this statement tell you of the attitude of pupils towards their teachers long ago? **(1 mark)**

_____

SAMPLE

12. What do students do when they "build castles in the air" (line 23)? **(1 mark)**

_____

13. Based on the writer's observation of students in the second last paragraph of the passage, compare the students of the past with the pupils of the present in your own words. **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

14. What is the writer's opinion of the role of teachers? Use your own words to explain. **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

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Answers

Model Examination Paper 1

Paper 1:

Section A: Editing

There was an eerie pin-drop silence, except for some screeching of the marker against the wall. Should I report it to the discipline master, Mr Dick Lee, (and) should I wash my hands off this and treat it as though nothing happened? A myriad of (question) bombarded me. Out of the blue, James fished (in) a pen knife and started scratching the walls, leaving indelible marks on them. At this moment, I couldn't take it anymore. I crept from my hiding place and I stormed to the general office to report this incident to Mr Dick Lee (and) before I moved a few inches, I heard a familiar voice (thundered) across the room.	**(1) or** **(2) questions** **(3) out** **(4)** ✓ **(5) but** **(6) thunder**
"Stop right there. I wondered since (where) you had grown guts," James enunciated, his words full of (sarcastic), silence breaking the awkwardness.	**(7) when** **(8) sarcasm**
I turned back to face him, eye to eye. We were locked in a fiery stare. Time dragged – every second dragged like a snail, (reluctance) to go into history. I reprimanded him for his nefarious acts. He gave a guffaw and bent down slightly. I knew what was coming.	**(9)** ✓ **(10) reluctant**

Paper 2 :

Text 1 :

1. The very best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book, or even the iPad.
2. **(a)** They must be sincere.
   (b) If teachers are not sincere, they will not bother to correct the pupils.
3. The picture shows an iPad which is modern technology.

Text 2:

4. 1988
5. She has natural talent for teaching.
6. Her mother, aunties, cousin and sisters influenced her to teach.
7. She spoke English to her family members.
8. foundation
9. She tutored younger students in a group.
10. **(a)** As a lawyer, she could earn a lot.
    (b) "first drawn salary was slightly below a thousand dollars"

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