

Primary 5 · English · P5 Advanced Papers

English practice 1

Time **120 min** Marks **95** Questions **78**

Answers are printed in red after each question, with the working where it matters. Marks in brackets show how a marker would split them.

Section A: Grammar

10 marks

Part 1. Choose the correct option. Questions 1 to 10 carry 1 mark each.

- 1 I offered the two cousins some noodles, but neither of them _____ hungry. [1]

- (1) is
(2) are
(3) ✓ was
(4) were

'Neither' is singular, and the sentence is in the past.

- 2 The coach hurried over when she saw that Rina and _____ were struggling with the rope. [1]

- (1) ✓ I
(2) me
(3) mine
(4) myself

The pronoun is a subject, paired with Rina: 'Rina and I were'.

- 3 Mr Tan mistook his assistant _____ his brother, because the two look so alike. [1]

- (1) as
(2) ✓ for
(3) with
(4) over

The expression is 'mistake someone for someone'.

- 4 Aisha, _____ used to live next door, is moving away next month. [1]

(1) ✓ **who**

(2) that

(3) which

(4) whom

'Who' is the subject of 'used to live'. 'Whom' would be an object.

- 5 The singer, together with her band, _____ at the hall every evening. [1]

(1) rehearse

(2) ✓ **rehearses**

(3) rehearsed

(4) rehearsing

The subject is 'the singer'. A phrase after 'together with' does not make it plural.

- 6 Telling us about her trip, Mei asked if any of us had ever _____ over the valley in a hot-air balloon. [1]

(1) fly

(2) flies

(3) flew

(4) ✓ **flown**

'Had' needs the past participle, 'flown'.

- 7 She refused _____ that much on a pencil case, because she was careful with money. [1]

(1) spent

(2) ✓ **to spend**

(3) spending

(4) have spent

'Refuse' is followed by 'to' and the base verb.

- 8 Did Nora hold _____ grudge against her group for missing the deadline? [1]

(1) ✓ **any**

(2) little

(3) much

(4) enough

In a question, 'any' is used: 'any grudge'.

- 9 The long snake has _____ still in the corner of the tank all day. [1]

(1) lie

(2) lay

(3) ✓ **lain**

(4) laid

'Has' needs the past participle of 'lie' (to rest), which is 'lain'. 'Laid' belongs to 'lay' (to put).

- 10 "She rarely eats out on weekdays, _____ she?" asked the new helper. [1]

(1) can

(2) ✓ **does**

(3) doesn't

(4) couldn't

A negative statement ('rarely') takes a positive question tag, and 'eats' needs 'does'.

ANSWERS AT A GLANCE

1 3	2 1	3 2	4 1	5 2	6 4
7 2	8 1	9 3	10 2		

Section A: Grammar (continued)

5 marks

Part 2. Fill each blank with the correct tense of the word in brackets. Questions 11 to 15 carry 1 mark each.

A shopkeeper known for being careful with money moved to a town that flooded often. He, unlike his neighbours, (11) was (be) unused to such weather. He spent some of his savings on a storeroom upstairs, because tales of earlier floods made him nervous. Whenever the sky (12) darkened (darken) and the rain beat down, he would carry his goods up. Yet he always came back to find the street dry. Soon he began to feel that he (13) had wasted (waste) his money.

Then one afternoon, as he (14) was emerging (emerge) from the back room, he saw that a flood had reached his doorstep. Water was everywhere. Now that (15) is (be) more like it, he said, looking out. He was glad he had spent the money.

11-15 Write your answers in the blanks above.

[5]

Blank 13 is past perfect: the spending happened before he felt it. Blank 14 is past continuous: the action was in progress when he saw the flood. Blank 15 is present: it is what he says at that moment.

Section A: Grammar (word bank)

5 marks

Part 3. Choose from the box. Use each word once. Questions 16 to 20 carry 1 mark each.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| 1 at | 2 in | 3 over | 4 though |
| 5 with | 6 however | 7 while | 8 since |
| 9 through | 10 which | | |

Laksa is to many Singaporeans what pizza is to Italians. Over the past week, (16) in preparation for a cooking class, I had eaten laksa piled (17) at the stalls along the street, noodles in a spicy coconut gravy. I tried one bowl (18) which had a sharpness that made me pause, and another topped (19) with fish cake and cockles.

At home I had grown tired of instant noodles. It was time to learn. I wrote to a friend who runs a stall. It sounded easy. (20) However, I had not realised that making the gravy takes most of a morning.

16-20 Write your answers in the blanks above. Each word from the box may be used only once.

[5]

Blank 16 is the phrase 'in preparation'. Blank 17 is 'at the stalls'. Blank 18 is a relative pronoun for the bowl. Blank 20 must have a capital letter.

Section B: Vocabulary

5 marks

Choose the correct option. Questions 21 to 25 carry 1 mark each.

- 21** Nurses who volunteer abroad often treat people who are poor and those _____ by illness. [1]

- (1) infested
- (2) polluted
- (3) ✓ afflicted**
- (4) contaminated

'Afflicted' means harmed by illness. 'Infested' is for pests.

- 22** _____ the job of tidying her room, Nina slipped out to watch her programme. [1]

- (1) Waving
- (2) ✓ Shirking**
- (3) Diverting
- (4) Bypassing

'Shirking' means avoiding a duty.

- 23** Shoppers avoid that store because it charges _____ prices. [1]

- (1) ✓ exorbitant**
- (2) wealthy
- (3) extraneous
- (4) exaggerated

'Exorbitant' describes a price that is far too high.

- 24** The rooms of the old hotel were _____ after sixty years so that guests would be more comfortable. [1]

- (1) refined
- (2) reformed
- (3) refreshed
- (4) ✓ refurbished**

'Refurbished' means repaired and improved.

- 25** The leader said the fault in their project needed _____ action [1]
before it grew worse.

(1) ✓ prompt

- (2) precise
(3) efficient
(4) extreme

'Prompt' means quick, which matches 'before it grew worse'.

Section C: Synthesis and transformation

10 marks

Rewrite each item as one sentence using the word given. The meaning must stay the same.
Questions 26 to 30 carry 2 marks each.

- 26** Mr Rahim is the owner of the cafe. My aunt was speaking to him this afternoon. [2]
(whom)

ANSWER

Mr Rahim, whom my aunt was speaking to this afternoon, is the owner of the cafe.

Also accept 'Mr Rahim, to whom my aunt was speaking this afternoon, is the owner of the cafe.'

- 27** Father asked my sister, "Did you go to the bookshop today?" (whether) [2]

ANSWER **Father asked my sister whether she had gone to the bookshop that day.**

The tense shifts back: 'did you go' becomes 'had gone', and 'today' becomes 'that day'.

- 28** Ben likes the striped shirt more than the plain one. (prefers) [2]

ANSWER **Ben prefers the striped shirt to the plain one.**

- 29** Mrs Lee heard a crash. She ran into the kitchen to look. (Upon) [2]

ANSWER **Upon hearing a crash, Mrs Lee ran into the kitchen to look.**

The verb after 'upon' must be in the -ing form.

- 30** You must not tease the cat. Otherwise it will scratch you. (Unless) [2]

ANSWER **Unless you tease the cat, it will not scratch you.**

The condition flips. 'Unless you stop teasing' is a different meaning and scores zero.

Section D: Spelling and grammar

12 marks

The passage has thirteen errors. The first is corrected for you. Find the other twelve, and write the correction above each one. Questions 31 to 42 carry 1 mark each.

The queue for the buns*Adapted from a magazine article*

When Golden Bun opened its tenth staur in its sixth city last year, hundreds thronged the new shop to queue for the custard buns that were going at half price. Even if heavy winds and rain started pelting down on the crowds gathered outside and a storm warning was issued, the line showed no signs of ebbing.

Nothing, not even inklement weather, was getting between these dezert lovers and the buns from the well-known brand. "When the storm actually hit, there were hundreds of people still lining up against the rain," recalled founder Lina Goh. With such a crowd and the bad weather, tempers were sure to flaire and indeed, there was shoving, shouting and argueing.

Yet making it all about the bun has been Lina's guiding prinsepal for day one. She had worked in an office for a short while before deciding that office work was not for her. She wanted her own shop. The self-professed bun lover had tasted enough buns to know there was not one she truly enjoyed. They was either too sweet or too dense.

She spent months with a baker friend perfecting the recipe. After a year she finally had what could be consider her best bun. The first shop opened without fanfair in a quiet neighbourhood.

31-42 The twelve errors, in order, are listed in the answer.

[12]

- **though (for if)**
- **inclement (for inklement)**
- **dessert (for dezert)**
- **despite (for against)**
- **flare (for flaire)**
- **arguing (for argueing)**
- **principle (for prinsepal)**
- **deciding stays, but 'before decided' must be 'before deciding'**
- **were (for was)**
- **considered (for consider)**
- **fanfare (for fanfair)**

The worked example is staur, corrected to store, and it carries no mark. The twelve that score, in order: (1) if, write though; (2) inklement, write inclement; (3) dezert, write dessert; (4) against, write despite; (5) flaire, write flare; (6) argueing, write arguing; (7) prinsepal, write principle; (8) for, write from; (9) decided, write deciding; (10) was, write were; (11) consider, write considered; (12) fanfair, write fanfare. Award 1 mark for each correction written above the word.

Section E: Cloze

15 marks

Fill each blank with one word. Questions 43 to 57 carry 1 mark each.

The fungus and the ants

Adapted from a nature article

Most of the world's insects live in forests. With steady warmth and rain, many kinds have flourished for thousands of years. However, (43) ⁴³ **none** are better at surviving there than the ants. They are so numerous that millions can live in one patch of ground. (44) ⁴⁴ **Despite** this, forest ants do not have things all their own way.

The ants are always at risk from the spores of a fungus that uses them to spread. When an ant (45) ⁴⁵ **comes** across these spores while searching for food, the fungus enters its body and reaches its brain, turning it (46) ⁴⁶ **into** a helpless carrier. It can then steer the ant (47) ⁴⁷ **wherever** it wants. It also feeds (48) ⁴⁸ **on** the ant's spare tissue until it is ready to spread.

When that time comes, the ant climbs a plant until it (49) ⁴⁹ **stops** at a spot with the right warmth and dampness. A stalk then grows from the ant's head and the (50) ⁵⁰ **process** of spreading begins, lasting many days. The fungus uses up the ant's soft tissue, leaving (51) ⁵¹ **behind** only its hard outer shell. Fresh spores then burst out, and any ant nearby is in serious (52) ⁵² **risk** of death.

The fungus can wipe out a whole colony. Its main growing place then (53) ⁵³ **becomes** a graveyard for ants that have already died. Other ants carry these far away. Ants are not the only insects that fall (54) ⁵⁴ **prey** to it. Although there are hundreds of kinds of this fungus, each attacks (55) ⁵⁵ **only** one kind of insect.

Grim as this sounds, such attacks have a (56) ⁵⁶ **helpful** effect on the forest. The fungus stops any one insect from getting the upper (57) ⁵⁷ **hand** by becoming too numerous. The more common a species grows, the more likely it is to be struck by its own fungus.

43-57 Write your answers in the blanks above.

[15]

Accept: 44 In spite of is two or three words, so not accepted; 46 into only; 52 danger; 54 prey or victim; 56 beneficial or useful; 57 hand, as in 'the upper hand'.

Section F: Visual text

8 marks

Study the notice, then answer. Questions 58 to 63 carry 8 marks.

- 58** Read this notice about the Harbour Model Museum, which is under the arches of an old railway station. [1]

"Bring your old toys back to life. Want to show your children and grandchildren the models you once played with?"

Who is that line mainly aimed at?

(1) Teenagers (2) Grandparents (3) Toddlers (4) Primary school children

ANSWER (2) Grandparents

It speaks to people who have children and grandchildren.

- 59** The museum opens Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last entry is at 4 p.m. It is closed on Sunday and Monday. Sam reaches the area on Friday at 4.20 p.m. When is the earliest he can go in? [1]
- (1) Friday 4.25 p.m. (2) Saturday 10.10 a.m. (3) Saturday 11.15 a.m. (4) Sunday 10 a.m.

ANSWER (3) Saturday 11.15 a.m.

Friday's last entry has passed, and Saturday entry starts at 11 a.m.

- 60** What is the main purpose of the notice? [1]
- (1) To bring childhood memories back (2) To get people to visit the museum (3) To list every kind of old toy (4) To persuade teachers to book a workshop

ANSWER (2) To get people to visit the museum

- 61** The shop offers a free model engine with purchases over \$20, but only for the first 50 customers. Why does the notice say "only for the first 50"? [1]
- (1) To attract engine collectors (2) To point out what the shop sells (3) To push toy fans to buy something (4) To make people come quickly before the offer runs out

ANSWER (4) To make people come quickly before the offer runs out

- 62** The shop lists these as collectors' items: gauge trains, toy theatres, die-cast models, tin toys, radio-controlled aircraft and helicopters. It also sells ordinary pocket toys and puppets, which are not called collectors' items. Name the two that are not collectors' items. [2]

ANSWER Pocket toys and puppets.

63 Write T or F.

[2]

- (i) A diorama is best described here as a three-dimensional scene with small figures.
- (ii) The museum's workshops cannot be changed to suit a teacher.

ANSWER (i) T (ii) F

The notice says the education team can shape a workshop to a teacher's needs, so (ii) is false.

Section G: Comprehension

25 marks

Passage 1 carries 12 marks. Passage 2, below, carries 13 marks. Arun thought he might win the essay prize. The title, "Our Town, Today and Tomorrow", suited him perfectly. He planned, drafted and rewrote, then realised nobody could read his handwriting. A teacher had stopped him writing with his left hand, rapping his fingers with a ruler until he switched, and his right-handed writing was full of smudges and reversed letters. His form teacher, Mr Devan, told him kindly that a marker would never read his script, though he knew Arun was trying. Arun heard about the competition on the radio: a cash prize and a trip to the capital. His mother worried about his handwriting; his father said he had a chance. He enjoyed writing so much that he forgot the problem until he finished. He then asked Farid, a neat writer, to copy the essay out, promising him a share of the prize. Nothing in the rules said it had to be in his own hand. Farid agreed only after hearing it read aloud, copied it in two evenings, posted it and signed the form himself. On results night the winner named was Farid. The town celebrated its first national winner. Arun stayed away from the party, knowing Farid would rather he was not there.

Passage 1: The ice field

Adapted from a science report

- ① In June 1992, two walkers found a frozen body high in a mountain range on the border of two countries. At first the police thought it was one of the climbers who go missing up there every year. After the body was brought down, scientists made a startling find.
- ② He was about 5000 years old, the oldest frozen body ever found in those mountains, and he was named after the ice field where he lay. For the scientists this was a huge step. Tests showed he was not young for his time. At 158 centimetres he was the first well-preserved person from the late Stone Age found in that region. He lived before the Iron Age people found in the northern marshes, and he was older still than the royal burials in the desert. Those desert people were taller, though.
- ③ The study of how he died began at the spot where he was found. His tools and clothes were almost as interesting as the body. A researcher was struck by where everything lay. The body was face down, and his cap lay beside him as if it had fallen off.
- ④ Among his tools were a copper axe, a flint knife and a quiver holding arrows. The axe mattered most: its blade stuck out past the binding, with clear marks of cutting. Such an axe was valuable, both as a tool and as a sign of standing. The knife's handle was ash wood, still used for handles because it does not split easily. His unfinished bow was cut from yew, chosen for its spring.

- ⑤ His shoes were wide and waterproof, made for walking on snow. The soles used bear and deer hide, and dried grass inside padded the foot like a warm sock. They were so well made that some people later suggested copying them. He also wore a coat of animal skin, leggings, a fur hat and a loincloth.
- ⑥ He carried berries and two kinds of fungus. One, a shelf fungus, fights bacteria and was probably medicine. The other was a tinder fungus, part of a fire-lighting kit that held flint and a stone for striking sparks, plus a tool for sharpening the flint.
- ⑦ Tests found traces of blood from four other people on his gear: one on his knife, two on an arrowhead and one on his coat. A scan showed an arrowhead lodged in his shoulder, matching a small tear in the coat. The shaft had been pulled out, probably by a companion. He also had bruises on his hands and chest. From this, one scientist thinks he and a companion were hunters who clashed with a rival group. Weakened by blood loss, he set his equipment down neatly against a rock, collapsed and died.

- 64 What does "one of the climbers who go missing up there every year" tell us about climbing in that region? [1]

ANSWER

It tells us that climbing there was dangerous and that people failed to return every year.

- 65 Put these in order from earliest to latest: (a) the royal desert burials, (b) the frozen man, (c) the Iron Age people of the marshes. [1]

ANSWER **(b), then (a), then (c).**

The passage says he lived before the Iron Age people and was older than the desert burials, so he comes first and the Iron Age people last.

- 66 Give one quality of each material that made it right for the tool. [2]

Material	Quality
Yew	It has spring, so it bends and returns to shape.
Ash wood	It does not split easily.

- 67 Pick one feature of his shoes and explain how it helped him in the snow. [2]

ANSWER

Dried grass inside the shoe padded his foot and kept it warm, like a sock.

Also accept the wide waterproof sole, which let him walk on snow without sinking or getting wet.

- 68 Quote the sentence that shows his shoes might have influenced later footwear. [1]

ANSWER

"They were so well made that some people later suggested copying them."

- 69** Match the paragraphs to these headings: Survival Tools, Snow Gear, Telling Clues. [3]
The tools paragraph, the shoes paragraph and the blood-tests paragraph are in that order.

ANSWER

Tools paragraph: Survival Tools. Shoes paragraph: Snow Gear. Blood-tests paragraph: Telling Clues.

- 70** Find a word in the passage that means (a) stuck firmly inside, (b) made weak. [2]

ANSWER **(a) lodged (b) weakened**

The passage uses 'lodged' for the arrowhead and 'weakened' for the blood loss.

- 71** Quote the three-word phrase that shows the essay title suited Arun. [1]

ANSWER **suited him perfectly**

- 72** Give two reasons Arun stopped writing with his left hand. [2]

- **His teacher told him not to use his left hand.**
- **She rapped his fingers with a ruler, harder each time.**

- 73** Which word best describes Mr Devan: indifferent, encouraging or critical? Support your answer. [2]

ANSWER

Encouraging. He spoke kindly and knew Arun was trying his best even though he could not change his writing.

'Critical' is not supported: he was never unkind about the handwriting.

- 74** How did Arun's mother respond differently from his father to his entering the competition? Explain her response. [2]

ANSWER

She did not encourage him. She was worried a marker would not be able to read his handwriting, whereas his father said he had a chance.

- 75** What did Arun realise once he had finished writing? [1]

ANSWER

He realised nobody would be able to read his handwriting, so he could not win as things stood.

- 76** What does the idea of asking Farid refer to? [1]

ANSWER **It refers to Farid copying the essay out neatly for him.**

77 What finally persuaded Farid to agree? [2]

ANSWER

Arun read the essay aloud and Farid was surprised by how good it was, so he thought it was worth entering.

78 Show how Arun and the town responded after Farid was announced the winner. [2]

	Response	Reason
Arun	He stayed silent and kept away from the party.	He knew Farid would be embarrassed if he came.
The town	The town held a celebration.	It was the first time someone from the town had won a national competition.

Marking notes

- Sections A and B: 1 mark each. The grammar item must be the exact form.
- Section C: both marks only when the sentence is grammatical and the meaning is unchanged. One mark for the right structure with a small error.
- Section D: 1 mark for each of the twelve corrections written in the right place.
- Section G: award the mark for the point. Where a quotation is asked for, the words must come from the passage.

END OF PAPER