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| NAME: | CLASS: | NO: |
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# RAFFLES INSTITUTION

## 2018 END OF YEAR EXAMINATION

Subject : ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1  
Level : YEAR 3  
Date : 10 OCTOBER 2018 (Wednesday)  
Time : 0800 – 0915 (1 h 15 min)

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Additional materials: Plain and ruled writing papers

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Write your name, class, index number on the question paper, answer script and the plain paper.
2. You are to spend the first 10 minutes planning your essay on the plain paper provided.
3. Write your question number clearly on your answer script.  
Write in dark blue or black ink  
Responses written in pencil will not be marked.
4. Submit your work in **TWO** lots:
  - Question Paper
  - Answer Script and plan. Tie your plan to the back of your answer script with the string provided before submitting.

### Argumentative Essay [30 marks]

Write an essay on ONE of the following questions.

You are recommended to write between 500 – 800 words.

1. Do you agree that not enough is being done to help the disadvantaged in Singapore?
2. Young people in Singapore lack resilience. Do you agree with this statement?
3. People today are obsessed with being busy. To what extent do you agree that this is an accurate reflection of your society?
4. The school should be the place where a healthy lifestyle is promoted. Do you agree?
5. Should we be less competitive?
6. There is value in being quiet. Do you agree?

END OF PAPER

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| NAME: | CLASS: | NO: |
|-------|--------|-----|



# RAFFLES INSTITUTION

## 2018 END OF YEAR EXAMINATION

Subject : ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2  
Level : YEAR 3  
Date : 10 October 2018 (Wednesday)  
Time : 1015 -1205 (1 h 50 min)

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### INSERT

### INSTRUCTIONS

This Insert contains Text A, Text B and Text C.

# Text A

Study the poster below and answer Questions 1 to 4 in the Answer Booklet:

# 10 WAYS TO HELP OUR OCEAN

at home

around town

on the water

**1** **Conserve Water**  
Use less water so excess runoff and wastewater will not flow into the ocean.

**2** **Reduce**  
Choose nontoxic chemicals and dispose of all chemicals properly.

**3** **Reduce waste**  
Cut down on what you throw away.

**4** **Shop wisely**  
Choose sustainable seafood. Buy less plastic and bring a reusable bag.

**5** **Reduce vehicle pollution**  
Use fuel efficient vehicles, carpool or ride a bike.

**6** **Use less energy**  
Choose energy efficient light bulbs and don't overset your thermostat.

**7** **Fish responsibly**  
Follow "catch and release" practices and keep more fish alive.

**8** **Practice safe boating**  
Anchor in sandy areas far from coral and sea grasses. Adhere to "no wake" zones.

**9** **Respect habitat**  
Healthy habitat and survival go hand in hand. Treat with care.

anywhere, anytime

**10** **Volunteer**  
Volunteer for cleanups at the beach and in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed too!

oceanservice.noaa.gov

END OF TEXT A

## SECTION B [20 marks]

### Text B

The text below describes the narrator's experience as an immigrant.

Read the text carefully and answer **Questions 5 to 19** in the Answer Booklet.

1. The office of the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority of Singapore (ICA) thrums with the muted hum of a hundred conversations. I sit stiffly beside my new husband, wondering if he is upset. This is not the first time he has had to take time off from work to attend to my visa paperwork. 5
2. As a divorced mother with custody of a teenage daughter, I had thought long and hard about the implications of my decision to marry a widower with a little daughter. Over late night Skype calls, we decided that, by moving to Singapore where he worked, we could give our fledgling family a clean slate to start afresh, away from the curious eyes of family members. 10
3. The immigrant experience is always an adventure – ask anyone who has chosen to move to another country for any length of time. Travel has the capacity to rejuvenate our jaded senses by transporting us from a familiar place. Moving, on the other hand, is an opportunity to grow. The immersive experience in a different culture forces us to re-examine our behaviours and motives, questions our ingrained biases and, most importantly, pushes us to adapt, adjust and ultimately appreciate another way of living. Travel is exhilarating with its sense of novelty, while learning the nuances of living in a new place can quickly become tedious. There are language and cultural barriers, food and festival differences, disparities in work ethic and social ethos. 15  
20
4. By choosing to make my home in another country, I have also chosen to expose myself to the wonder and angst that I had experienced on another continent almost half a lifetime ago. 25
5. Wrapped in a new but inadequate shawl that I had bought in Bombay (as it was known then) after a rigorous search for "winter clothing" on a warm afternoon, I landed in Washington Dulles International Airport on a cold December evening. As a 22-year-old bride, I had much to look forward to and learn. 30
6. Within a week of my arrival, I bought snow boots, a winter coat, gloves and hat – clothes and accessories that I had only seen in magazines. Tests for a driving license, for English proficiency, and a standardised test to qualify for admission into graduate school didn't faze me. Every step towards self-sufficiency, no matter how arduous, was a welcome one. 35

7. Within a decade, I obtained a PhD, secured a job, became a mother. I was comfortable driving on freeways in America and bargaining with street vendors on my trips back to India. Preoccupied with charting the course of my life, I moved ahead believing that identity and belonging were personal matters, not to be measured in the context of society. However, this belief soon changed. 40
8. One afternoon, I waited in the eerie silence of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service office in San Francisco, while holding the terse letter asking me to report to the office to sort out some paperwork related to my green card <sup>1</sup>. The necessity of having to prove the legitimacy of my residence permit, after spending years in America – first as a student and later as a scientist at a reputed company – bothered me. The paperwork was eventually resolved, but I learned unequivocally that my belief in my right to belong was only my opinion. I made a promise to myself never to deal with immigration officials again. 50
9. I moved back to India the following year. Keeping the promise while living in the country of my birth was easy. By moving to Singapore, I have broken that promise.
10. Transitioning into this multicultural and multilingual country that is geographically closer to India has turned out to be much easier than the move to the US. Is it the technology that lets me email friends in other countries, FaceTime conversations with family and smartphone apps that help me ease into a new life? Or is it because I hear familiar words in casual conversations and formal announcements at train stations? Amidst saris and cheongsams, noodles and roti pratas, temples and mosques, I do not feel "foreign" or miss home as I did during my first stint. 55
11. This is our third trip to ICA where I am hoping to prove my "desirable" qualities by producing certificates of my credentials. The constant reiteration of my relationship to my husband, who has the required permit to live here, is an unwelcome reminder of my dependence on him. 60
12. I look around the ICA office and see my husband seated patiently beside me. "Think of this as a date," he jokes. His light-hearted take reminds me of the reason why I chose to move here. To be with him; to build a family; to create a new life together. We are doing all that. And it is really alright if I need to wait here a little longer to enable the dreams we share. 70

#### END OF TEXT B

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<sup>1</sup> (in the US) a permit allowing a foreign national to live and work permanently in the US



## SECTION C [18 marks]

### Text C

The text below talks about travelling.

Read the text carefully and answer **Questions 20 to 27** in the Answer Booklet.

1. Why do we travel? It is not the flying I mind – I will always be awed by the physics that gets a fat metal bird into the upper troposphere. The rest of the journey, however, can feel like a tedious lesson in the ills of modernity, from the pre-dawn X-ray screening to the lamentable airport malls peddling mundane souvenirs. 5
2. In 2008 only 30% of trips over 50 miles were made for business, telling us that travelling is not non-negotiable. Instead we travel because we want to. Because the annoyances of the airport are outweighed by the thrill of being someplace new. Because we need to rest from stressful work. Because the flights were on sale. 10
3. Travel, in other words, is a basic human desire. But here's my question: is this collective urge to travel – to put some distance between ourselves and everything we know – still a worthwhile compulsion? Because if travel is just about fun, then I think the new security measures at airports have killed it. 15
4. The good news is that pleasure is not the only consolation of travel. In fact, several new science papers suggest that getting away is an essential habit of effective thinking. It is about the tedious act itself, putting some miles between home and wherever you happen to spend the night. Thanks to modern engine technology, we can now move through space at an inhuman speed. There is something inherently useful about such speedy movement, which allows us to switch our locations with ease. 20
5. The reason such travels are mentally useful involves an unusual cognition in our neural connection, in which problems that feel "close" get contemplated in a more concrete manner. As a result, when we think about things that are nearby, our thoughts are constricted, bound by a more limited set of associations. While this habit can be helpful, it also inhibits our imagination. 25
6. What does this have to do with travel? When we escape from the place we spend most of our time, the mind is suddenly made aware of all those errant ideas that were suppressed. We start thinking about obscure possibilities that never would have occurred to us. Furthermore, this more relaxed sort of cognition comes with practical advantages, especially when we are trying to solve difficult problems. 30  
35

7. The larger lesson is that our thoughts are shackled by the familiar. As a result, creativity is traded away for efficiency. A bit of distance, however, helps loosen the chains of cognition, making it easier to see something new in the old; the mundane is grasped from a slightly more abstract perspective. 40
8. But distance is not the only psychological perk of travel. Earlier this year researchers at Insead, a business school in France, and at the Kellogg School of Management in Chicago reported that students who had lived abroad were 20% more likely to solve a computer simulation of a psychological task. 45
9. What does this have to do with living abroad? According to the researchers, the experience of another culture endows us with a valuable open-mindedness, making it easier to realise that a single thing can have multiple meanings. Consider the act of leaving food on the plate: in China this is often seen as a compliment, a signal that the host has provided enough to eat. But in America the same act is a subtle insult, an indication that the food was not good enough to finish. 50
10. Of course this mental flexibility does not come from mere distance. We should not just change time zones or zoom across the world only to eat at McDonald's. Instead, this increased creativity appears to be a side-effect of difference; we need to change cultures, to experience the disorienting diversity of human traditions. 55
11. So let us not pretend that travel is always fun. We do not spend ten hours lost in the Louvre because we like it, and the view from the top of Machu Picchu probably does not make up for the hassle of lost luggage. (More often than not, I need a holiday after my holiday.) When we get home, home is still the same. But something in our mind has been changed, and that changes everything. 60

END OF TEXT C



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| NAME: | CLASS: | NO: |
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# RAFFLES INSTITUTION

## 2018 END OF YEAR EXAMINATION

Subject : ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2  
Level : YEAR 3  
Date : 10 OCTOBER 2018 (Wednesday)  
Time : 1015 –1205 (1 h 50 min)

Additional material: Insert

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper consists of three sections.
2. Answer **ALL** the questions in Section A, Section B and Section C
3. Write your answers in the spaces provided in the Answer Booklet.  
Write in dark blue or black ink.  
Responses written in pencil will not be marked.
4. When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS** and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must use your own words to express it. Little or no credit will be given for answers which involve wholesale lifting of words or phrases from the passage.
5. Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar will be penalised in any part of the paper.
6. Submit your work in **TWO** lots.
  - Insert
  - Answer Booklet

|          |      |
|----------|------|
| Content  | / 43 |
| Language | / 7  |
| Total    | / 50 |

**SECTION A [5 marks]**

Refer to the **poster (Text A)** of the Insert to answer Questions 1 to 4.

1. What is the purpose of this poster? [1m]

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2. Suggest 2 ways in which the icons complement the texts. [2m]

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3. Which one activity out of the ten is not limited by time and place? [1m]

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Why is the web address of the sponsoring organisation printed on the poster? [1m]

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## SECTION B [20 marks]

Refer to **Text B** of the Insert to answer Questions 5 to 19.

### From Paragraph 1

5. **In your own words**, explain the phrase, "thrums with the muted hum of a hundred conversations" (line 2) by paying attention to the underlined words.

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6. Why might the narrator's husband be upset?

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### From Paragraph 2

7. Why did the narrator and her husband choose to move to Singapore?

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### From Paragraph 3

8. State **one** difference between traveling and migrating?

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**From Paragraph 5**

9. Why do you think the author used quotation marks in “winter clothing” (line 27)? [2m]

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**From Paragraph 6**

10. Which word in this paragraph has the same meaning as “unsettle”? [1m]

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**From Paragraph 7**

11. “Within a decade, I obtained a PhD, secured a job and became a mother. I was comfortable driving on freeways in America and bargaining with street vendors on my trips back to India.” (lines 37-39)  
What can you infer about the narrator’s life since moving to America? [2m]

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**From Paragraph 8**

2. What does the phrase ‘eerie silence’ (line 43) suggest about the narrator’s state of mind while she sat at the Immigration and Naturalisation Service office? [1m]

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13. What 'bothered' (line 48) the narrator about having to visit the Immigration and Naturalisation Service office?

[1m]

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**From Paragraph 9**

14. What does 'the promise' (line 52) refer to?

[1m]

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**From Paragraph 10**

15. Why do you think the narrator asks these questions in lines 57 - 60?

[1m]

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16. Identify two reasons why the narrator does not feel so foreign or miss home as much as she did during her first stint.

[2m]

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**From Paragraph 11**

17. Explain why this visit to the ICA was "unwelcome" (line 67) for the narrator.

[1m]

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From Paragraph 12

3. Identify a phrase that tells us that the narrator’s husband is not bothered by all this waiting at the ICA office?

[1m]

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9. “To be with him; to build a family; to create a new life together. We are doing all that. And it is really alright if I need to wait here a little longer to enable the dreams we share.” (lines 70-72)

What is the tone of the narrator?

[1m]

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### SECTION C [18 marks]

Refer to **Text C** of the Insert to answer Questions 20 to 27.

#### From Paragraph 1

20. Why does the writer start this passage with a question?

[1m]

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21. What are the ills of modernity (lines 3 - 4)?

[1m]

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#### From Paragraph 2

22. **In your own words**, state two reasons given by the writer to explain why people travel.

[2m]

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#### From Paragraph 3

23. To what does 'it' (line 15) refer?

[1m]

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**From Paragraph 10**

24. "We should not just change time zones or zoom across the world only to eat at McDonald's." (lines 53 - 55)

Explain the irony used in this example. [2m]

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25. Identify the side-effect of difference? (lines 55 - 56) [1m]

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**From Paragraph 11**

26. "(More often than not, I need a holiday after my holiday.)" (line 61)

What is the writer's purpose of using parenthesis? [2m]

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[8m]

**Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the benefits brought about by travelling and having lived abroad.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than 100 words (excluding the words given to help you begin).

Begin your summary as follows:

*People want to travel because...*

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears slightly aged or off-white. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.