

JURONGVILLE SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS 2023
Secondary 4 Express



STUDENT
NAME

CLASS

INDEX
NUMBER

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1184/01

Paper 1

21 August 2023

1 hour 50 minutes

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the text for **Section B**.

Section B

Read the printout of a webpage below and use the information to answer the question on page 3 of the Question Paper.



Contribute to the Community through Values in Action Projects



Digital Literacy Workshop

Help the elderly to keep up with technology

- Help the elderly familiarise themselves with basic IT skills through hands-on workshops at community centres
- Teach them how to use smart devices to access services, information and social media platforms to improve their quality of life
- Provide company to and interact with the elderly to understand their concerns.



Arts & Crafts Activities

Unleash the talents of young people

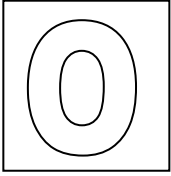
- Conduct art lessons with children from disadvantaged backgrounds by exploring different forms of art media and tools
- Encourage them to express themselves through creative activities such as cartoon illustration, calligraphy and toy-making
- Accompany children to visit art museums to provide them with an engaging experience with the arts.



Protect our Environment

Advocate for environment-friendly initiatives

- Spread awareness of the importance of environmental protection through green practices by giving talks to residents at community events
- Help to pick up litter in the neighbourhood to save the environment
- Participate in community clean-up activities to collect trash and sort the recyclables appropriately.



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Paper 1

21 August 2023

1 hour 50 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and index number in the spaces at the top of this page.

Write in dark blue or black ballpoint pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue, correction fluid/tape or highlighters.

Answer **Section A**, **Section B** and one question from **Section C**.

Write your answers in the spaces provided on the Question Paper.

The Insert contains the text for **Section B**.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the head of each section.

DO NOT OPEN THE BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

SECTIONS	MARKS
A	/10
B	/30
C	/30
TOTAL	/70

Setter: Ms Serene Soh

This document consists of **12** printed pages.

Section A [10 marks]**Question 1**

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about caregiving challenges. The first and the last lines are correct. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors.

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided. The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

Example:

I travelled to Kuala Lumpur on train.

by _____

My sister loves adventure films.

✓ _____

Many caregivers of the elderly have their own health problems. The

average age of caregivers are about 62. It is estimated that by 2030, about **1**

25 per cent of Singaporeans will be 65 years and oldest. The problems **2**

facing the elderly are not just medical one. Asset-rich but cash-poor, **3**

this patients are grateful for subsidies in healthcare, but what they fear **4**

most is to be afflicted through chronic diseases like dementia or stroke that **5**

leave them unable to cope mentally and physical, with conditions such as **6**

depression, and often accompanied by insomnia. A person with such **7**

ailments would need not only caregivers, and also the financial means to **8**

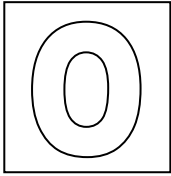
afford long-term treatment. When the caregivers, who are often spouses **9**

and close relatives, are also unwell, the problem is compounding. Thus, **10**

Singapore needs to be prepared for the growing caregiving challenges.

[illegible]

Please write your chosen question number (**3, 4, 5 or 6**) here:



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STUDENT
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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1184/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

22 AUGUST 2023

1 hour 50 minutes

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains Text 1, Text 2, Text 3 and Text 4.

Setter: Ms Kathleen Tan

This document consists of **6** printed pages.

[Turn over

Section A

Study the online poster (**Text 1**) and the commentary excerpt (**Text 2**) and answer Questions 1–4 in the Question Paper.

Text 1 is an online poster taken from a campaign run by the Texas Department of Transportation.



Text 2 is taken from a commentary on the Singapore Police Force website by a local government official.

Every drunk driver is a potential killer on our roads. He can cause great harm to himself and also innocent pedestrians, innocent motorists. In the first nine months of this year, on average, one person died each month arising from accidents related to drink driving. Every death is one too many.

Section B

Text 3

In the text below, the writer describes spending the day baking cookies as a child.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5–16 in the Question Paper.

- 1 The small kitchen, with its forest green tiles and scrubbed floors, stands pristine, except for the granite countertops that are covered in flour. I watch her roll out the cookie dough in deep, even strokes, like the ocean kissing the beach. Golden sunlight streams into the kitchen, filling it with warm light while her soft, gentle humming fills it with love. She turns to me with a soft smile and lifts me up to place me on a wooden step-stool, weathered but sturdy, so that I can reach the counters. I am in a navy blue sundress with bright yellow sunflowers on it, and she holds out an apron. I lift my little arms obediently to her and she ties it around my waist. A teddy bear clutching a rolling pin in one soft, brown paw is splashed across my tummy now. Beside me, she continues to roll, the muscles in her arms rippling with the pressure. The sunlight makes the sugar glisten and sparkle like glitter, and the room smells sweetly of the confections we are working so diligently to create. 5
- 2 She smiles at me and gestures at the cookie cutters, which are different from Mama's. These ones are silver, and they come in different animal shapes. Mama's are a deep copper colour in bells, stars and angels, which she got from her mama who got them from her mama. For eleven and a half months out of the year, they are stored in worn, gallon-sized bags with zipper seals that have grown rough to the touch. When they cascade out of the bags, they play a chorus of music that sounds like their own seasonal carol, clashing with *Joy to the World*, *Jingle Bells* and *Winter Wonderland* that will always play on repeat in the background. 15 20
- 3 But it's only summer now. And this woman is not Mama, who has curly blonde hair and bright blue eyes and fair skin that easily burns in the summer. She is Asian like me, her tawny skin the exact shade as my own. I trace my almond-shaped eyes and brush my finger down the slope of my button nose while I examine hers. She turns to smile at me and her eyes crinkle just like mine, into eye smiles as Mama calls it. 25
- 4 "How can you possibly see when you smile like in that way?" the school photographer used to say to me, which is why I stopped smiling in the yearbook photos. But this woman does not ask me anything like that; she knows and she understands.
- 5 Her long fingers indicate the cookie cutters, and I point at the biggest one: the giraffe. Mama says we always need to cut the big shapes first, and I like to follow Mama's instructions. The woman nods and cuts out the shape of the giraffe once before it is my turn. I grasp the cutter tightly and press it into the dough while the woman nods 30

encouragingly. But my slight build means she needs to press her hand into mine for extra strength and since she is standing so close, I can smell her perfume. The scent of almonds fills my nose and it is sweet and light, almost refreshing.

35

- 6 The woman's long, black hair – also so much like mine – cascades around her thin shoulders. She reaches up and ties it with a long, ruby red ribbon. I notice that she is wearing earrings: little pearls, like the clip-ons Mama gave me for my birthday. She is dressed impeccably, in a cream-coloured sweater and tan pants, not something Mama would wear. Mama would wear bright coloured sweatshirts and ripped jeans, or giant t-shirts with funny slogans and graphics on them. The woman is not wearing shoes in the house, not an Asian custom. Mama walks around inside and outside in Converse All-Stars that always seem to match her tops. 40
- 7 The woman is very sharp and precise with her movements, so unlike Mama's wild chaos that throws mess into every direction. When the timer sings loudly, we have filled the next cookie sheet and the woman pulls the first tray out before putting the next one in. She begins to arrange the cookies on a silver cooling rack, which Mama never uses; she just lets the cookies cool on the trays. Soon we are sitting at the round marble-topped kitchen table, with cold glasses of milk – a little protein to go with our treat, she tells me. The cookies are crunchy on the outside and soft in the middle, sweet and just a little bit spicy as they melt in my mouth. I bite the head off the giraffe, which makes the woman laugh loudly. 45
- 8 I want to hear more. I want more of this, of her. I know why she had to let me go last time, why she is only back in my life now. But I do not want to leave Mama, not yet anyway. Maybe when I am older. I tell her so, quietly because I am scared of how she will react. But she just smiles her gentle smile at me and nods her head, her black eyes just like mine filled with so much tenderness that I feel tears start to prick. She offers me a hug and as she envelopes me in her arms, the almond scent wafts around me like a weighted blanket. 55
- 9 Yes, not yet. But hopefully soon. 60

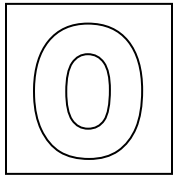
Section C

Text 4

The article below is about how more Singaporeans are forging closer bonds with their pets. Read the article carefully and answer Questions 17–23 in the Question Paper.

- 1 Every few hours or so while travelling overseas, Mrs Chan would look at her home's internet surveillance camera to check on her beloved "furkid" Coco Bean — only to find the brown bundle of fur waiting by the main door. It was an agonising sight, and she could not stop thinking about her pet toy poodle which had been adopted when it was barely a year old. So, Mrs Chan paid between S\$500 and S\$800 to settle the necessary paperwork and health check-ups to start bringing along her now eight-year-old pet on her long holiday trips. 5
- 2 It is not easy to travel with a pet as there is a lot of legwork involved. Due to certain restrictions, pet owners can only travel to certain places and use pet-friendly transportation, especially airlines that will allow pets to travel in the cabin. Additionally, besides ensuring the animals are properly vaccinated, it is a hassle to plan entire trips around beloved pets. However, for the growing number of pet owners in Singapore who are going above and beyond for their beloved animals, the trouble is all worth it to have their "furkids" accompany them. 10
- 3 These pet owners have declared that they see the animals as more than just pets. The emotional bonds forged have left them feeling more like parents to their furry, feathery or sometimes scaly pals. However, "pawrents" and pet advocates said that despite more people having pets and growing more attached to them, there remain some gaps in the pet ecosystem in Singapore pertaining to workplace policies, public transport and pet care services. 15 20
- 4 Their love for their pets has seen some pet owners going all out to provide the animals with the finer things in life. For some of them, beyond the time spent taking care of their pets in terms of their basic needs and affection, they also have different types of indulgences. Ms Trina Liang, for example, has not only helped her Singapore Special, Max, to open up to humans, but she has also spent more than 250 dollars on various neckerchiefs for him – a small repayment for the amount of love Max has given her. 25
- 5 For others, they do not hesitate to spend money on pampering and caring for their pets, especially when it comes to their health. These owners' love for their "furkids" has sparked an industry of luxurious services for pets, such as palliative care, medical therapy, funeral services and daycare centres. RehabVet, established in 2019 to provide rehabilitation services for animals, said that the demand for its services has grown by 400 per cent since 2020. Several lawyers have also indicated that they have seen growing interest in estate planning among pet owners, and have completed many such plans involving pet care in recent years. 30

- 6 Nevertheless, even as their attachment to their pets deepened, “pawrents” said they still face some challenges. They cited concerns about medical bills, lack of stronger regulations around some pet services and having to rely on crowdfunding for blood transfusions to save their pets’ lives in a medical emergency. Many pet owners also noted that it can be hard to find someone to trust their pets with, which leads to an almost exhaustive check of reviews and call for recommendations of safe, reliable pet-sitters from other “pawrents”. 35 40
- 7 They also noted that public transport options for pets are limited, and that some taxi drivers turn them away. In addition, there is little to no support for pet owners in the workplace. One human resource expert said that as people humanise their pets, it is not unexpected that some may seek compassionate leave to grieve for their pets’ deaths, though it is rarely (if ever) granted. One pet owner even recounted how when she lost her dog in 2021, many of her colleagues were snickering as she tried to work while grieving. 45
- 8 Member of Parliament for Nee Soon Group Representation Constituency Louis Ng said that while Singapore lags behind some countries in being pet friendly, there is hope for further progress. Some suggestions the animal advocate has brought up previously include an animal polyclinic to provide cheaper healthcare for pets and banning certain procedures that have been recognised as animal cruelty in some countries around the world, such as declawing and debarking. Mr Ng also raised other potential regulations to improve pet welfare here, such as ending "convenience euthanasia", where animals are euthanised without other training or healthcare options considered. 50 55
- 9 However, he noted that some suggestions can be difficult for the Government to implement due to the tight fiscal budget it has to work with. There are also "religious reasons" that must be taken into consideration. This is where non-governmental organisations have stepped up. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) for one has a community clinic that provides subsidised treatment, like free pet health screenings for low-income households. This has appeased many pet owners, who are also happy to see further moves towards making Singapore a more pet-accepting nation, such as allowing Housing and Development Board dwellers to own bigger dogs. It is possible that cats too will join the mix, should a public consultation by the Animal and Veterinary Service (AVS) this month produce the result that animal lovers are rooting for. 60 65



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Paper 2 Comprehension

22 AUGUST 2023

1 hour 50 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

Additional Materials: Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and index number in the spaces at the top of this page.

Write in dark blue or black ballpoint pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue, correction fluid/tape or highlighters.

Answer **all** questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided on the Question Paper.

The Insert contains the texts for all the sections.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

DO NOT OPEN THE BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

SECTIONS	MARKS
A	/5
B	/20
C	/25
TOTAL	/50

Setter: Ms Kathleen Tan

Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the online advertisement (**Text 1**) and the excerpt from a commentary article (**Text 2**) on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1–4.

- 1** Look at Text 1. Tick (✓) the most effective title for the poster.

	Stay Alive, Stay Safe
	Drive Aware, It's Not Just Your Road
	Drive With Confidence

[1]

- 2** The advertisement's catchphrase is "You survived. They didn't."

What effect do the words "they didn't" have on the reader?

[1]

- 3** Identify the sentence in Text 2 which highlights the severity of drink driving.

[1]

- 4** Look at Texts 1 and 2 and statements (a) and (b) below.

Decide whether the statements refer to Text 1, Text 2, both texts, or neither text.

Circle the answer you have chosen for each statement.

- (a)** The text aims to discourage readers from drinking and driving.

Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither

- (b)** The writer of the text adopts a formal tone.

Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither

[2]

[Turn over

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to **Text 3** on pages 3–4 of the Insert for Questions 5–16.

- 5** At the beginning of this text, the writer describes the room in which she is baking cookies. Explain how the language used in Paragraph 1 emphasises the welcoming atmosphere of the kitchen. Support your ideas with **three** details from the text.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

[3]

- 6** From Paragraph 1, give **two** examples that suggest the writer is quite young in the story.

(a)

(b) [1]

- 7** In Paragraph 2, Mama's cookie cutters are ones "which she got from her mama who got them from her mama" (lines 15–16).

What does this suggest about the cookie cutters?

.....

.....

[1]

- 8** Based on details in Paragraph 2, when are Mama's cookie cutters most often used?

..... [1]

- 9 “And this woman is not Mama ... She is Asian like me” (lines 21–23).

What does this suggest about the relationship between the writer and Mama?

[1]

- 10 “How can you possibly see when you smile in that way?’ the school photographer used to say to me, which is why I stopped smiling in the yearbook photos. But this woman does not ask me anything like that” (lines 26–28).

(a) Why do you think the writer no longer smiled for photos after what the photographer said?

[1]

(b) What does “like that” refer to?

[1]

- 11 Which word in Paragraph 5 suggests the size of the writer at that age?

[1]

- 12** In Paragraphs 6 and 7, the writer compares the woman to Mama in different ways. What do the following descriptions suggest about the two women's characters?

Descriptions		The woman	Mama
(a)	"She is dressed impeccably, in a cream-coloured sweater and tan pants, not something Mama would wear. Mama would wear bright coloured sweatshirts and ripped jeans, or giant t-shirts with funny slogans and graphics on them" (lines 38–41).		
(b)	"The woman is very sharp and precise with her movements, so unlike Mama's wild chaos that throws mess into every direction" (lines 44–45).		

[2]

- 13** "I want to hear more. I want more of this, of her. I know why she had to let me go last time, why she's only back in my life now. But I don't want to leave Mama, not yet anyway. Maybe when I am older" (lines 53–55).

(a) Which phrase implies that the woman is possibly the writer's birth mother?

[1]

(b) Why does the writer wish to wait until she is older before returning to her birth mother?

[1]

- 14** "...the almond scent wafts around me like a weighted blanket" (lines 58–59).

Why is this comparison effective?

[1]

[Turn over]

15 “But hopefully soon.” (line 60)

What is the effect of the writer using a short sentence?

[1]

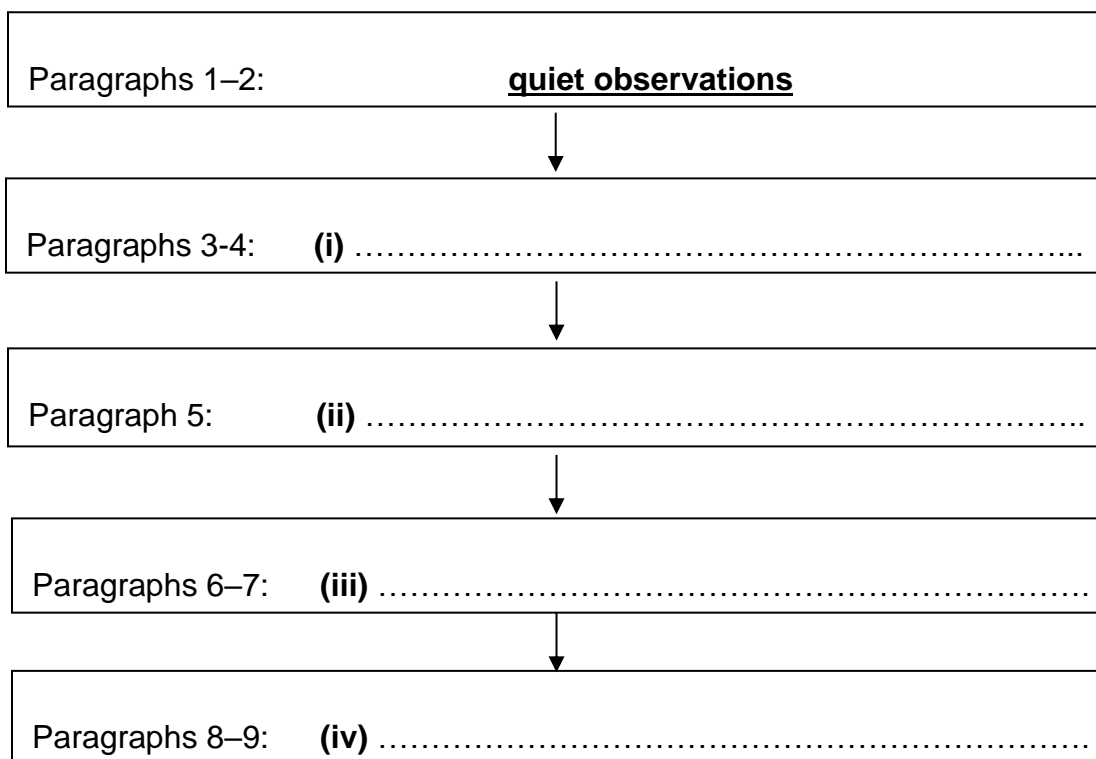
- 16** The structure of the text reflects the thoughts running through the writer’s head as she spends time with the woman. Complete the flow chart by choosing one phrase from the box to summarise the thoughts in each part of the text. There are some extra phrases in the box you do not need to use.

The writer’s thoughts

gentle curiosities
quiet observations
comfort in closeness
a possible new future

contrasts and contradictions
similarity and harmony
accepting the unfamiliar

Flow chart



[4]

[Turn over

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to **Text 4** on pages 5–6 of the Insert for Questions 17–23.

- 17** Which **one** word in Paragraph 1 informs us just how hard it can be to leave a pet behind?

..... [1]

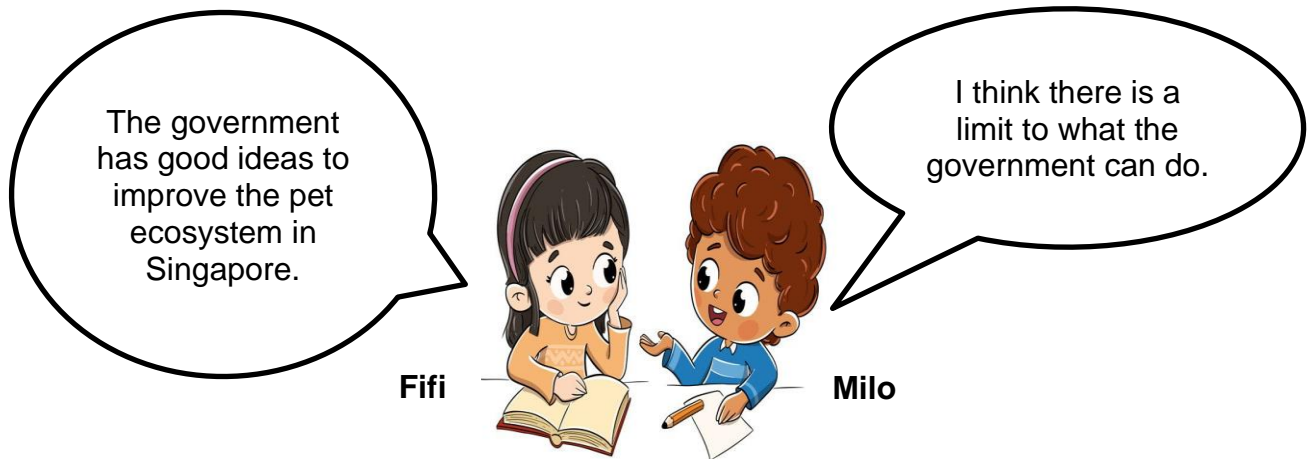
- 18** With reference to Paragraph 2, give **two** reasons why it is difficult to bring pets along on holiday trips.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

- 19** In Paragraph 3, the writer uses the phrase “feeling more like parents” (line 16) to describe the bonds between pet-owners and their pets. What does this suggest about how the pet-owners treat their animals?

.....
..... [1]

- 20 Here is part of a conversation between two students, Fifi and Milo, who have read the article.



- (a) Give **two** details from Paragraph 8 which Fifi can use to justify her opinion.

(i)

..... [1]

(ii)

..... [1]

- (b) With reference to Paragraph 9, give **two** reasons to support Milo's view.

..... [1]

- 21 "This is where non-governmental organisations have stepped up" (lines 60–61).

What is the writer's tone when she makes this comment?

..... [1]

[2]

- Use only information from Paragraphs 4 to 7.**

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words (not counting the words given to help you begin).

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[15]

No. of words: _____

Content	/ 8
Language	/ 7
Total	/ 15

END OF PAPER**[Turn over**