

Name: _____ Index Number: _____ Class: _____



TEMASEK SECONDARY SCHOOL

Preliminary Examination 2023

Secondary 4 Normal (Academic) Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1190/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

1 hour 50 minutes

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Do not open the booklet until you are told to do so.


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

Section A

Study the advertisement (**Text 1**) and the extract from a website (**Text 2**) and answer Questions 1–4 in Question Booklet 1.

Text 1 is taken from an advertisement from IKEA’s website.

How to identify an original
IKEA FRAKTA bag.



- 1) **Shake it.** If it rustles, it’s the real deal.
- 2) **Throw it in the dirt.** A true FRAKTA is simply rinsed off with a garden hose when dirty.
- 3) **High-capacity.** It can carry hockey gear, bricks, and even water.
- 4) **Price tag.** Only \$0.99.

Text 2 is taken from a website which posts articles about fashion news.

Luxury fashion brand Balenciaga may call its ‘innovative’ new giant blue bag the “Arena Extra-Large Shopper Tote Bag”, but there is no mistaking its similarity to IKEA bags’ oversized trapezoidal shape and glossy blue veneer. The bag is expensive — clocking in at \$2,145 — but in all honesty, not outrageously expensive for a designer piece. One also cannot deny the enormous leap upward in quality – it is crafted entirely of leather and handmade in Italy. However, whether it is worth buying a lookalike of a 99-cent bag is really up to the purchaser.

Section B

Text 3

The text below is about a woman who escaped from a hitch-hiker. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5–15 in Question Booklet 1.

- 1 During the seventy-minute train ride home, Carole looked up now and then to peer out of the window into the darkness. Beyond, she could see the black shadows of trees alongside the line stirring in the wind. She reflected that even the tamest countryside could seem intimidating at night and especially in bad weather. Out there in the blackness, she imagined sudden attacks taking place, the silent screams of pain, blood and death. This late at night, the normally tolerable trip could seem endless. 5

- 2 By the time she reached her destination, the weather had become wild. She was the only passenger to alight, making her feel slightly at risk. Her car had been parked among the furthest from the entrance. Though it was too dark to see more than a few metres ahead, she knew exactly where her car was and walked unfalteringly to it. As she put the key in the lock, she heard a soft voice directly behind her. 10

- 3 For a second her heart seemed to stop entirely. Then her brain began to function, offering reassurance that it was a woman's voice. Even so, she turned with fear curdling in her stomach, but as the person came closer, she relaxed. An elderly lady stood there, dressed rather shabbily. 15

- 4 "Excuse me, Miss. Can you help me? I arranged for a taxi to meet me from my train and it is not here. I saw your car and thought the driver would be able to help me. Are you going towards town?" 20

- 5 "Yes. I'm going to town." Carole began to feel distinctly sorry for the old lady to be stuck in the station at this time and in such weather condition, waiting for transport that obviously was not going to come. "Where do you live?"

- 6 "Well, it's almost in the town itself. You could drop me without going out of your way. Would you mind?" 25

- 7 Carole agreed and let the old lady into the car. When they were both settled, Carole leaned over and opened the glove compartment on the passenger's side and happened to glance down. She froze. The illumination from the glove compartment revealed that the backs of her passenger's hands were covered in a thick growth of dark hairs! Carole's mind screamed at her: *It's a man! Oh my God, it's a man!* Somehow she managed to remain outwardly calm, while her mind raced, trying to plan an escape. 30

- 8 Carole pretended to turn the ignition key a few times to start the car but it would not start. Feigning annoyance, she apologetically asked her passenger to give the car a tiny push to start it off. Surprisingly, her passenger agreed and went out of the car, leaving her handbag in it. Carole waited breathlessly as the passenger closed the door and went round to the back of her car. Instantly, she snapped down the inside locks, started the car, roared across the car park and onto the road. 35
- 9 After a mile or so, the mad fluttering of Carole's heart slowed. By the time she reached town, she was in a terrible quandary about the whole incident. Had she survived an encounter with a homicidal maniac or had her irrational fear led her to act in a terribly unkind manner? Either way, she decided her best course of action was to go to the local police station. As she reported to the sergeant on duty, she became increasingly sure that she had acted cruelly and stupidly. It had been an old lady; hairy hands were no sign of malice. She had left the old lady at the station with no means of getting home. 40 45
- 10 The sergeant agreed that it was probably the case and sent someone to the train station to investigate. In the meantime, he suggested to open the old lady's handbag to see who she was, in case she had left the train station. He snapped open the clasp of the bag to reveal a shaft of an axe that had been sawn short so that it would fit into the bag. It was the only thing there. 50

Section C

Text 4

The article below is about over-tourism in Japan. Read the article carefully and answer Questions 16–21 in Question Booklet 2.

- 1 Over-tourism in Japan has led the locals to coin a new phrase: *kanko kogai*, or tourism pollution, to refer to the issue. Will Tokyo be the next Rome, with streets littered with rubbish and noisy tourists drowning out the local culture? Or will Kyoto be the next Taj Mahal, its peace and tranquility stomped out by the busy hustle and bustle of large groups of people brandishing selfie sticks? 5
- 2 It is no secret that Japan is a fiercely mono-ethnic nation, with incredibly low levels of immigration and external cultural influence. This relative lack of diversity means that Japan has an extremely well-preserved and rich cultural heritage, and they are in no hurry to water this down, or blend it with other cultures in any way. It is obvious that tourists are fascinated by this culture, and flock to the island nation in the millions. In 2014, Japan received over 13 million inbound visitors. That number skyrocketed to almost 32 million just five years later. By 2020, the Japanese government welcomed 40 million visitors for the Tokyo Olympics – that is over 25 percent more tourists than the 28 million that visited the island nation in 2017. 10 15
- 3 What many believe is that Japan does not need more tourists. It needs more mindful tourists. With the influx of visitors to Japan, it became clear that a large proportion of tourists had little idea of local customs and do not put in the effort to better understand Japanese culture. It seemed many issues stemmed from tourists being disrespectful in order to gain validation on social media. 20
- 4 Geishas in training were harassed by tourists for selfies while on their way to work, leaving them in tears. The wonderful bamboo groves in Arashiyama, a UNESCO World Heritage site, were defaced by tourists etching their names into the bamboo. Inconsiderate tourists walked into restaurants just to take photos to post online, then left without ordering anything. 25
- 5 Seeing what unfolded in Japan can be heartbreaking, and thus understanding how to behave like, in essence, an ‘invisible tourist’ is crucial. In no way does this mean everyone should stay home and never travel. However, we can be more mindful about how we travel and do our best to minimize our tourist footprint on the communities of the places we visit. 30
- 6 First and foremost, be prepared to research, research, and research. Know what cities there are to visit and how to get around in each. Note that the cheapest option may not be the most sustainable. It would also be good to get out of the main touristy areas. Wander off the beaten path and get lost in the backstreets. This helps to dilute tourists from the most heavily visited areas. 35

- 7 Travelling as part of a large tour group may bring its conveniences and benefits. However, such tours often are not held accountable for their negative impacts. It also does not hurt to learn about the expectations regarding local Japanese etiquette and the significance of its attractions to make visits more meaningful. There is no point in getting a photo at a temple if nothing is learnt about its history and why it is important to the local culture. 40
- 8 Some people do understand and respect the need to maintain the natural beauty of locations. However, few consider the importance of conserving the cultural significance of the place they visit. If this continues, the risk of destroying the very reason people will want to visit is very real. 45

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Copyright Acknowledgements:

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| Text 1 | Adapted from IKEA Twitter |
| Text 2 | Adapted from 'IKEA Has a Tongue-in-Cheek Response to Balenciaga's Look-alike \$2,145 Bag' by Katherine Richter. |
| Text 3 | Adapted from 'The Hitch-hiker' by Francis Greig |
| Text 4 | Adapted from 'Overtourism: Did Japan become a victim of its own success?' by The Invisible Tourist |