

**CHIJ KATONG CONVENT**  
**END-OF-YEAR EXAMINATION 2023**  
**Secondary One Express**

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Paper 2 Comprehension

September 2023

INSERT

**1 hour 30 minutes**

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

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

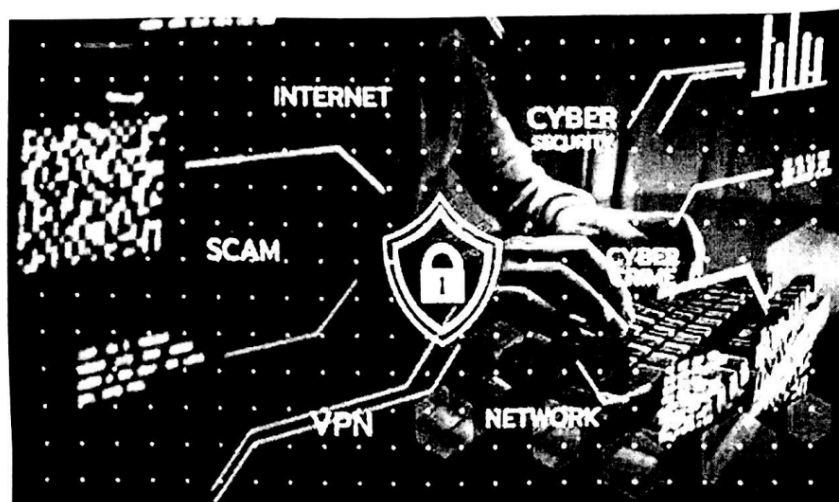
## Section A

Study the online advertisement (**Text 1**) and the blog post (**Text 2**) and answer Questions 1 – 4 in the Question Paper.

**Text 1** is taken from an online advertisement on cybersecurity.

Choose to protect against cybercrimes.

Don't be caught off guard and left vulnerable!



**We provide cybersecurity to prevent against cybercrimes. We offer complete coverage protection from hackers and scammers.**

TRUSTED BY MORE THAN 1400 LEADING COMPANIES AND STILL  
COUNTING...

**Text 2** is taken from a blog which comments on cybersecurity.

So, you think you're safe? Don't be too sure of that! You can never really get rid of threats posed by malware. You are your best defence against cybercrimes. Secure your online defence with the use of two-factor authentication, VPNs, secure passwords, and data protection. Hackers are simply too clever for you – they can strike when you least expect it. You need to practise good cybersecurity habits on your computers and digital devices. Prevent scammers from smiling all the way to the bank!

## Section B

### Text 3

The text below describes a group of people on a snake hunt.

Read it carefully and answer Questions 5 – 13 in the Question Paper.

- 1 Eventually eight of us made our way through the banana plantation. We were laughing and chattering excitedly at the thought of the treat in store when suddenly it occurred to me that I was the most inadequately dressed for the snake-hunting. I was wearing a thing pair of tropical trousers and a pair of tattered canvas shoes. Even the smallest reptiles would have no difficulty penetrating my skin with just one bite. However, before I could explain this to the group, we arrived at the edge of the pit. In the lamplight, it looked to me like nothing more than an extremely large grave. 5
- 2 My friend's description of the snake pit had been accurate enough but what he had failed to tell me was that the sides of the pit consisted of dry, crumbling earth, full of cracks and holes that offered plenty of hiding places for any number of snakes. While I crouched down on the edge of the pit, the lamp was lowered into the bottomless depths of the pit so that I could see the snakes. Up to that moment, I had cheered myself with the thought that, after all, the snakes might turn out to be a harmless kind. Unfortunately, when the light reached the bottom, this hope was shattered. The pit was simply crawling with young Gaboon vipers – one of the deadliest snakes in the world. 10 15
- 3 I counted eight Gaboon vipers in the pit, but their colours matched the lead-mould so beautifully that I could not be sure that I was not counting some of them twice. Just at that moment, my friend trodded heavily on the edge of the pit. A large lump of earth fell among the reptiles, who all looked up and hissed loudly. Everyone backed away hastily, and I thought it a very suitable opportunity to explain the point about my clothing. My friend offered to lend me his trousers, which were of thick cloth, and the strong pair of shoes that he was wearing. Now the last of my excuses was gone and I still had not the nerve to make my descent. We went behind a tree and exchanged trousers and shoes. 20

- 4 Hesitantly, I approached the pit. My audience was clustered around, twittering in delicious anticipation. I tied the rope around my waist with what I very soon discovered to be a slipknot 25 and crawled to the edge. My descent had not got the grace of a pantomime fairy. The sides of the pit were so crumbly that every time I tried to gain a foothold, I dislodged large quantities of earth. This fell among the snakes and was greeted with annoyed hisses. I had to dangle in mid-air, being gently lowered by my companions, while the slipknot grasped me ever tighter round the waist. Eventually I looked down and saw that my feet were about a metre from the ground. 30 I shouted to my friends to stop lowering me, as I wanted to examine the ground that I was to land on to make sure that there were no snakes lying there. After careful inspection, I could not see any reptiles directly under me. I shouted “Lower away” in what I sincerely hoped was a fearless tone of voice. As I started on my descent again, two things happened at once – firstly one of my borrowed shoes fell off and secondly, the lamp, died away to a faint glow of light. At 35 that precise moment, I touched the ground with my bare foot, and I cannot remember ever having been so frightened, before, or since.
- 5 There was one nasty moment when I bent down to pick up one of the reptiles and heard a loud hissing apparently coming from somewhere horribly close to my ear. I straightened up and found myself staring into a pair of angry silver-coloured eyes. After considerable juggling, I 40 managed to get this snake down on to the ground and pin him beneath my stick. Overall, the reptiles were just as scared of me as I was of them, and they did their best to get out of my way. It was only when I had them cornered that they struck viciously at the stick.
- 6 I laid down in the pit for about half an hour, and during that time I caught 12 Gaboon vipers. I was not sure, even then, that I had captured all of them, but I felt it would be tempting fate to 45 stay down there any longer. My companions hauled me out, hot, dirty, and streaming with sweat, clutching in one hand a bag full of loudly hissing snakes.

*Adapted from 'Encounters with Animals' by Gerald Durrell*

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Paper 2 Comprehension

September 2023

Candidates answer on the Question Paper

**1 hour 30 minutes**

Additional Materials: Insert

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write your name, class and registration number on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black ink.

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

Answer all questions.

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

The Insert contains the texts for Section A, Section B and Section C.

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

For Examiner's Use	
Section A	5
Section B	15
Section C	15
Total	35

### Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the online advertisement (**Text 1**) and the blog (**Text 2**) on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1 – 4.

- 1 Look at Text 1. Tick (✓) the statement which best summarises the main idea of Text 1.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cybersecurity prevents cybercrimes.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Everybody needs cybersecurity.	[1]

- 2 Identify the tone used in Text 1 which states 'Don't be caught off guard and left vulnerable!'

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

- 3 Text 2 refers to scammers 'smiling all the way to the bank!'  
What does it suggest about the aim of scammers?

\_\_\_\_\_ [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 intended reader of the text is a business owner.  
Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither

- (b) The text persuades people to safeguard against cybercrimes.  
Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither [2]

**Section B [15 marks]**

Refer to **Text 3** on pages 4 and 5 of the Insert for Questions 5 – 13.

- 5** In Paragraph 1, in what **two** ways was the writer ‘inadequately dressed’ (line 3)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]
- 6** Give **two** pieces of evidence from Paragraph 2 which suggest that the soil at the snake pit was dangerous.  
(i) \_\_\_\_\_  
(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ [2]
- 7** ‘Unfortunately, when the light reached the bottom, this hope was shattered.’ (lines 13 – 14)  
What does the phrase ‘this hope’ refer to?  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]
- 8** From Paragraph 3, give a reason why the writer was not sure that he counted the vipers correctly.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]
- 9 (a)** Identify a phrase in Paragraph 3 which suggests that the writer doubted his courage to go down into the snake pit.  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]
- (b)** Identify another word in Paragraph 4 which suggests that the writer was reluctant to go into the snake pit.  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]
- 10** In Paragraph 4, the writer describes his friends ‘twittering in delicious anticipation’ (lines 24 – 25).  
Explain **in your own words** what ‘delicious anticipation’ means.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

- 11 In Paragraph 4, as the writer continued with his descent, one of his shoes fell off and the lamp died. Why do you think these happened?

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[2]

- 12 Explain what the writer means by 'it would be tempting fate to stay down there any longer' (lines 45 – 46).

The longer the writer stayed in the pit, \_\_\_\_\_

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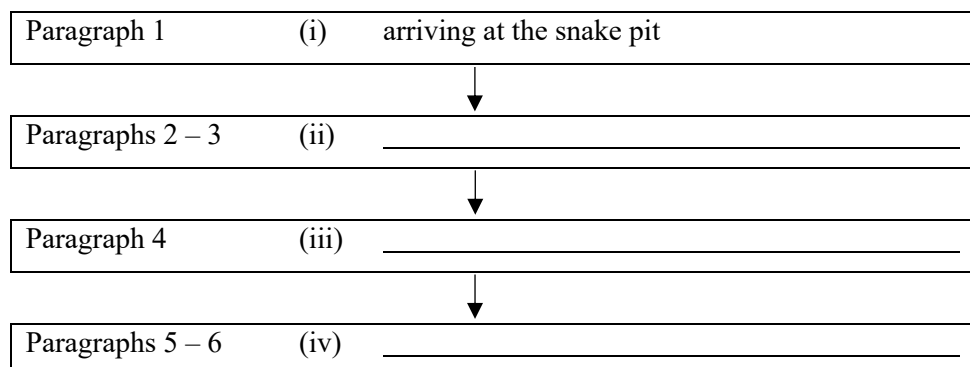
[1]

- 13 The structure of the text reflects the stages of the narrative. Complete the flow chart by choosing one phrase to summarise the main focus of each stage of the narrative. There are some extra phrases in the box you do not need to use.

**Main focus:**

descending into the pit	lying down in the pit
standing at the edge of the pit	catching the snakes
realising the danger	arriving at the snake pit

**Flow chart**



[3]



### Section B [15 marks]

Refer to **Text 4** on page 6 of the Insert and answer Questions 14 – 21.

<b>14</b>	In Paragraph 1, the writer refers to the penguins in cartoons and greeting cards as being ‘endearing’ (line 3). What are <b>two</b> characteristics of the penguins which make them endearing?	
	(i) _____	
	(ii) _____	[1]
<b>15</b>	From Paragraph 2, give <b>two</b> examples of how penguins are territorial by nature.	
	(i) _____	
	(ii) _____	[2]
<b>16</b>	In Paragraph 2, what do baby penguins eat?	
	_____	[1]
<b>17</b>	Give <b>two</b> pieces of evidence from Paragraph 3 that suggest penguins are good swimmers.	
	(i) _____	
	(ii) _____	[2]
<b>18</b>	Identify a phrase in Paragraph 3 which suggests that penguins have fit in well in their surroundings.	
	_____	[1]
<b>19 (a)</b>	From Paragraph 5, how many offspring do Macaroni penguins usually have?	
	_____	[1]
<b>(b)</b>	From Paragraph 5, why do gentoo chicks die in a poor season?	
	_____	[1]
<b>20</b>	In Paragraph 6, what does ‘voracious’ tell you about the amount Gentoo penguins consume?	
	_____	[1]

<b>21</b>	Identify the ways Gentoo penguins hunt.	
	<b>Use only the material from Paragraphs 6 to 7 of Text 4.</b>	
	Your summary must be in note form. Each point must not be <b>longer than 10 words</b> . The first one has been done for you.	
	Gentoo penguins...	
	make about 450 swims per day in search of food.	
<b>1</b>	_____	
<b>2</b>	_____	
<b>3</b>	_____	
<b>4</b>	_____	
<b>5</b>	_____	[5]

**END OF PAPER**

## Section A [10 marks]

### Question 1

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about vertical farming. The first and 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 (✓) 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.

Examples:

I arrived (to) my destination at 2 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

My mother always wears sensible clothes

\_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_

Vertical outdoor and indoor vegetable farms are sprouting up in Singapore. These farms used high-tech systems to maximise available 1 \_\_\_\_\_ physical space and create suitable conditions to grow more food with 2 \_\_\_\_\_ fewer resource. Sky Greens, a vertical outdoor farm, is using a rotating 3 \_\_\_\_\_ tier-based system that optimises light absorption and land use to 4 \_\_\_\_\_ produce tropically leafy greens. Indoor farms like Sustenir and 5 \_\_\_\_\_ VertiVegies, on the other hand, are using technology innovations to 6 \_\_\_\_\_ grow the steady supply of fresh produce in controlled environments, 7 \_\_\_\_\_ which are not vulnerable to floods, droughts and sun damage. Apart 8 \_\_\_\_\_ from increasing yield, technology is also used on vegetable farms to 9 \_\_\_\_\_ introduce new varieties of produce that are not previously grown in 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Singapore and not previously available year-round.

*Adapted from Singapore's Farmers: Going High-Tech to Boost our Food Security*

### Section B [30 marks]

**You are advised to write between 180 and 250 words for this section.**

## Question 2

You should look at the poster in the Insert, read the information carefully and plan your answer before you begin to write.

You have been asked by your teacher to encourage your class to participate in the post-exam activities organised by the school library. As the class chairperson, you have been tasked to choose the activity best suited for your class. Speak to your class about your choice and convince them to fully participate in the activity.

Write your speech to your class.

You must include the following details in your speech:

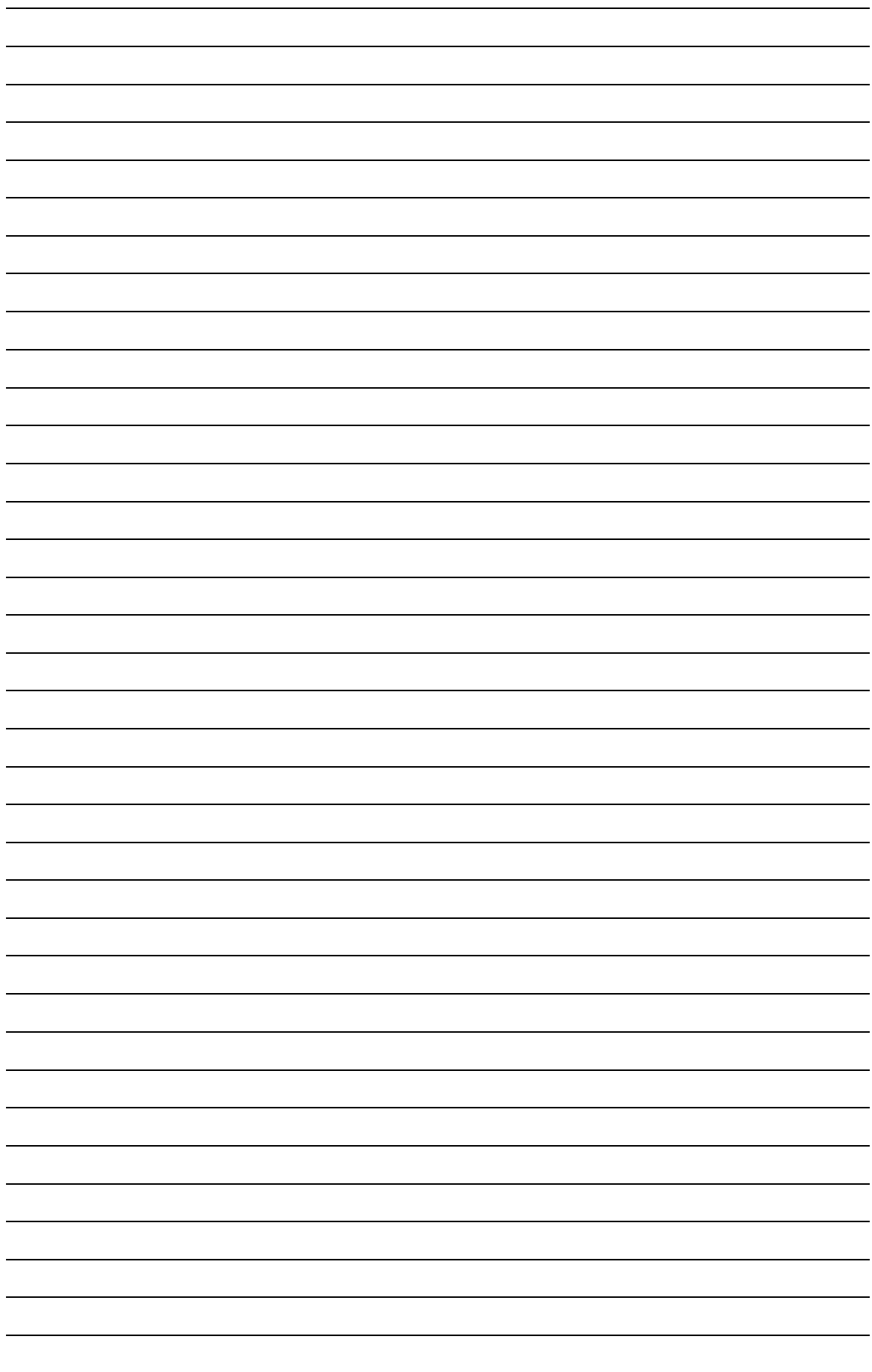
- which activity you have chosen **and** why
- what your classmates and you will be doing during the activity
- why this activity is exciting
- how the skills learnt will benefit your classmates

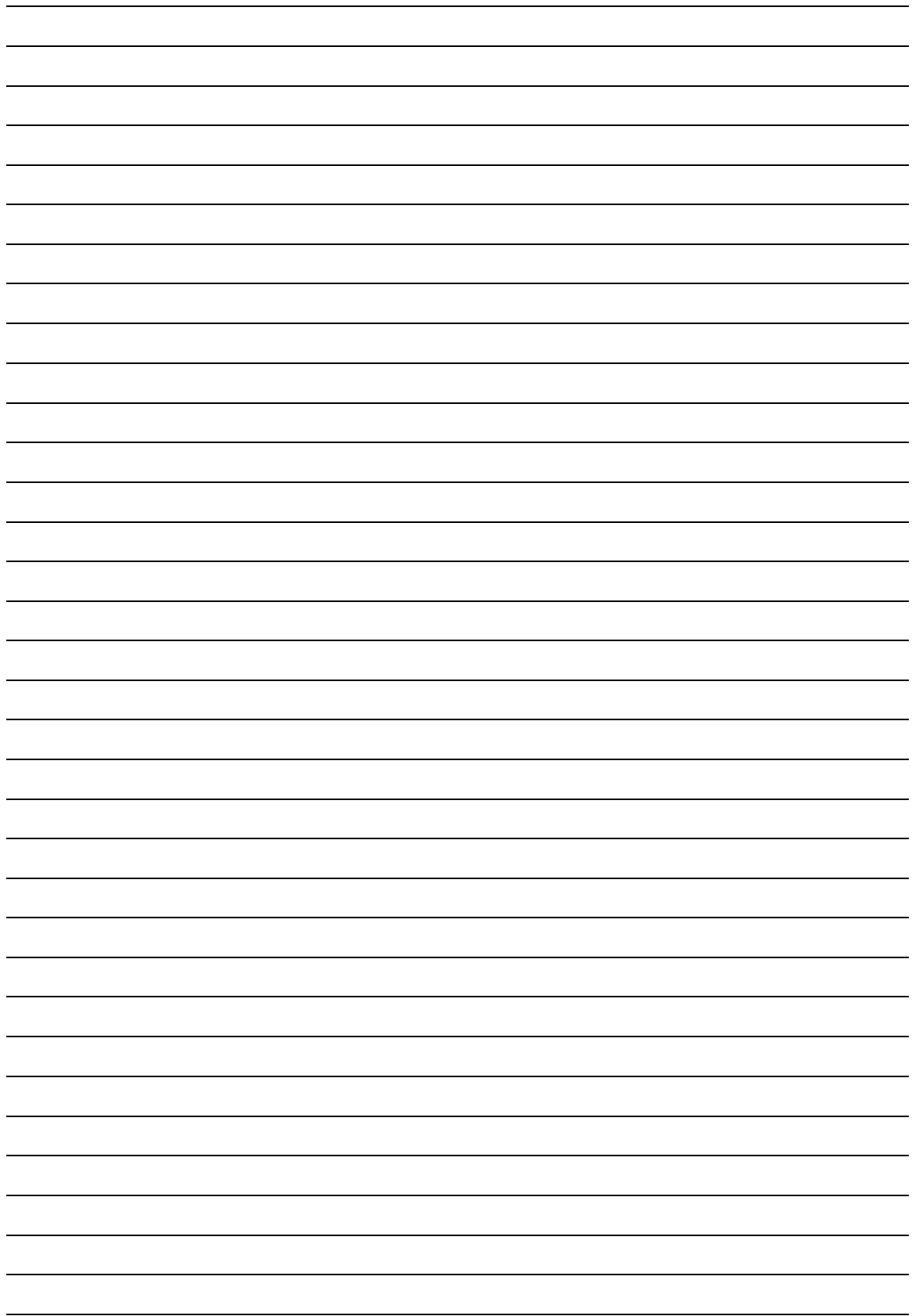
You may add any other details you think are helpful.

Write your speech in clear, accurate English and in a persuasive, enthusiastic tone to convince your classmates that it would be a great activity.

You should **use your own words** as much as possible.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving a small margin at the top. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.





### Section C [30 marks]

**You are advised to write between 200 and 350 words on one of the following topics.**

### Questions 3 – 6

- 3** Write about a time when an unfortunate incident turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Explain the turn of events.
- 4** Describe a time when you participated in a food donation drive organised by the school. Explain why the event was worthwhile for you.
- 5** Write about a time when you helped a neighbour to tidy up a common area. Explain why it was enjoyable.
- 6** Describe a time when someone else's mistake created a problem for you. Give details of how you overcame the challenge.

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

This image shows a blank 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.

