

Candidate Name _____

Class	Index Number



ST ANDREW'S SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2021
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS / 5 NORMAL ACADEMIC

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1128/02

Paper 2 Comprehension
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WEDNESDAY **11 AUGUST 2021** **1 hour 50 minutes**

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

Section B

Text 2

The text below describes a woman's feelings as she was preparing to move into her new flat. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5 to 13 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 It was no coincidence, thought Gina, gazing around her empty new flat, that Heaven was commonly assumed to be a big white room with absolutely nothing in it. Something about this clean, peaceful space made her feel calmer than she had in weeks. She stepped towards the big picture window with its panoramic view over the brown and grey rooftops beyond the high street, and experienced a strange elation like sparkling mineral water rinsing through her veins. 5
- 2 Gina turned slowly on her heel, assessing the available space, and stopped at the long wall next to the window. It demanded one really fabulous piece of art, something beautiful that she could sit, gaze at and get lost in. She did not have the right painting or print yet, but she had formed a middle-of-the-night-plan to get rid of everything she did not need from the old house, and buy one thing she really wanted for herself. 10
- 3 She had not expected to feel quite so positive about the first day of her new life, single, in a new place. The last few weeks had been hard, and Gina's bones ached with invisible bruises, but now underneath there was a first-day-of-school excitement. Fresh paint, empty rooms, smooth walls, ready to be filled, like a brand-new notebook. Some of it was adrenaline at having sold the house and rented this new flat in just a fortnight. Some of it was relief to be away from the atmosphere that had hung over Dryden Road after Stuart's bombshell, which, like an actual bombshell, had left a soft of miserable crater where Christmas was supposed to have been. Even though he had moved out immediately, his presence had lingered in every stray sock and framed holiday photo, of which there were many. Almost overnight, Gina felt as if she had woken up in the house of a happily married couple of strangers. 15 20
- 4 This flat would help her start again, she told herself. For the next hour or so, Gina sat in the delicatessen next to her flat and drank two coffees, watching the late-afternoon bustle of the high street. She tried to keep a vision in her head of her sunny, open flat and all its possibilities; what she was going to do with it; whether she should paint one wall a bright sunshine yellow to pin this positivity for days when she was not quite so energised. 25
- 5 She did not realise her dream was soon to be brutally smashed. When she returned, she found the flat completely crammed with cardboard boxes, from floor to ceiling. Gina was stunned by the unexpected invasion. It felt crushing, claustrophobic. The movers had left a narrow corridor through the spare room so she could get inside. The sitting room was now two-thirds filled, the white walls lost behind brown ones. She had to turn sideways to get into the kitchen. Her possessions loomed over her every way she looked. Gina's previous vision of sitting in the empty flat languidly considering one item at a time from a single box evaporated. 30
- 6 'Everything from the old house', she muttered to herself.
- 7 Before her shock could tip over into tears, she started pushing the boxes away from the big white wall, where her special painting was to go. She needed to be able to see that wall, even if every other one was blocked. 35
- 8 Her stomach rippled with nerves at the unknown months ahead. The nerves tended to ambush her, creeping up when she was not concentrating to dive-bomb her good mood like seagulls. Gina knew it was going to be tough, unravelling her life from Stuart's. There was not room for much, so she had to be selective. From now on, everything that came into this flat had to make her happy, or be useful, or ideally, both. 40

Adapted from "A Hundred Pieces of Me" by Lucy Dillon
[Turn over

Section C

Text 3

The text below describes a river in Arizona which is under threat. Read it carefully and answer Questions 14 to 19 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 Record heat in Phoenix adds pressure on the Salt River, a humble waterway with an ancient history. Less than an hour outside of America's fifth-largest city is a watery playground in a region known for a lack of water. Fed by high-altitude springs and streams a hundred miles to the northeast, the Salt River flows down from the mountains and through Phoenix, Arizona, before it joins the Gila River. 5
- 2 Most visitors to Phoenix aren't aware of the Salt River's wealth of outdoor adventures, from kayaking and tubing down the 12 miles of the Lower Salt to fishing for rainbow trout and redbreast sunfish to picnicking with family at Pebble Beach Recreation Area. Yet even savvy, heat-escaping locals don't know of another secret: how the humble Salt River helped create modern Phoenix. Starting around 600 A.D., the ancestors used stone tools to dig hundreds of miles of sophisticated irrigation canals in what is now known as the Salt River Valley. By creating the largest and most complex irrigation system in ancient North America, they transformed the valley agriculturally, making it easier to create a settled community. Yet their legacy, and even their descendants' ongoing presence, is just now beginning to be accurately understood. 10 15
- 3 "People really don't understand that they're standing on the shoulders of giants," says Angela Garcia-Lewis, cultural compliance officer with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. "The irrigation that we use today, the majority of the contemporary canals have been in existence for thousands of years." Beyond being a source of Phoenix's water, electricity, and recreation, the managed river is also a conservation corridor, particularly for endangered birds and reptiles like the western yellow-billed cuckoo and the Chiricahua leopard frog. 20
- 4 By 1450 A.D., the culture that archaeologists call Hohokam had created the largest expanse of irrigated land north of Peru along Arizona's Salt and Gila rivers. Their network supplied water for an estimated 110,000 acres at its peak. Some investigated canals are 15 feet deep and up to 45 feet wide. Many are still in use by the valley's cities. Recent archaeological finds in Tempe and Mesa, along with holistic, conservation-based exploration, are increasing the local public's awareness of the engineering feat that connects past to present. Irrigation means sustainable agriculture and industry, which leads to permanent settlements. Communities need dependable water to stay put, and the Salt River gives that to Phoenix. 25
- 5 The Salt has yet another surprise awaiting upriver: a forest. In a desert. Not just any desert forest, but one that explodes with biodiversity. A lush canopy of deciduous cottonwoods and willows soars above a mix of Sonoran scrub, cacti, desert grass, and the desert's typical trees, the scrubby, hardy mesquites. Like most desert rivers, the Salt River starts in more hydrated areas. It originates in Arizona's highlands from the streams of the Mogollon Rim and the White Mountains northeast of Phoenix. While Phoenix gets less than 10 inches of rain a year, the high country can get over a hundred inches of snow yearly. Dams and management keep the modern river flowing over 200 miles yearlong. Yet, while the ever-ready "oasis" description certainly fits the Salt River, it minimizes the significance of its unique, and shrinking, ecosystem. 30 35
- 6 So the Salt River not only maintains human life in the area, but is one of the last preserves for diverse desert wildlife. The majority of Arizona's bald eagles nest in the Salt River corridor. The endangered southwestern yellow flycatcher and western yellow-billed cuckoo share riverside realty to snap up insects. Reintroduced Southwestern river otters flip about with a variety of fish and reptiles. A sharp eye can glimpse bighorn sheep scrambling on the cliffs above the canopy. Most visitors hope to see the iconic feral horses. There's a profoundly romantic pull to the idea of carefully gliding by horses drinking from the river. And since receiving legal protection from removal and harassment in 2016, the designated "Salt River wild horse herd" is officially home. 40 45

- 7 Yet, their presence is complex for many. Even terms that afford federal protection like "native" and "wild" are debated, especially after Arizona's legislature specifically stated it was impossible to designate. The concerns about the horses' presence include animal safety and ecological impact. Several environmental groups believe the horses pose issues with overgrazing and habitat destruction. The Salt River Wild Horse Management Group, the private volunteer partner that helps manage the herd, contends the horses have had a stable presence for centuries and that they can have positive environmental impacts. 50
- 8 While often passionate, the debaters have something in common. Everyone is trying to protect the symbiotic balance of the ecosystem and river that also supports an area of over 4.5 million people. 55

Adapted from National Geographic

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