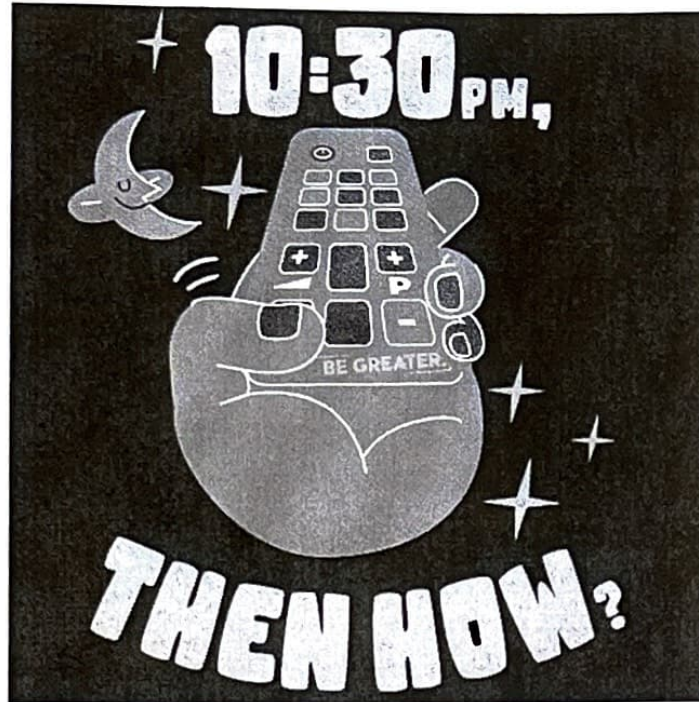


**Section A**

Study the poster (**Text 1**) and the social media post (**Text 2**) and answer Questions 1–4 in the Question Paper.

**Text 1** is taken from a poster to encourage good neighbourly relations.



We can enjoy our favourite shows and music late into the night – but let's be considerate and keep our volume down. Let's keep our homes peaceful and conducive for all both in the day and at night.

Be Greater. More than just doing small and random acts, kindness should be purposeful, and become second nature and sustainable.

Choose kindness. #BeGreaterSG #SGUnited

**Text 2** is taken from a comment on what can be done to be a good neighbour.

I treat my neighbours like my relatives. As long as I greet my neighbours with a smile and communicate with everyone openly, I will be able to find someone who requires my help. If it is within my means, I will help as much as I can. We don't have to be so calculating about everything. That's my secret to being a good neighbour!

## Section B

## Text 3

*The text below describes Kate and Nadia's encounter with the lions. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5–16 in Question Booklet 1.*

- 1 The last mists of sleep dissipated completely and Kate jolted upright on her cot, her throat constricting with a parched terror and her heart pounding with a wild rhythm of fearful anticipation. No doubt about it; something was out there, just on the other side of the cloth tent. Very carefully, trying not to make any noise, she felt in the darkness for her flashlight, which she always kept nearby. When she held it in her hand, she realised she was sweating in fear; her fingers were too moist to switch it on. She kept trying, but was diverted when she heard the voice of Nadia, with whom she shared the tent. 5
- 2 "Shh, Kate! Don't turn on the light," the girl whispered. 10  
"What is it?"  
"Lions. Don't be afraid," Nadia, who believed she could communicate with animals, answered.
- 3 The flashlight, which Kate had finally managed to pick up, dropped again from her hand. She felt her bones turn to mash, and a scream from her gut lodged in her throat. A single slash of a lion's claws would rip the thin nylon tent and the cat would be on them. It would not be the first time that a tourist had died that way on safari. During their treks they had seen lions so close that they could count their teeth; she had decided that she did not care to meet them in the flesh. An image flashed through her mind: prisoners in the Roman coliseum, condemned to be eaten alive by the beasts. Sweat ran down her face as she groped on the ground for the flashlight, by now entangled in the mosquito netting that hung around her cot. 15 20
- 4 Soon she heard the purring of a great cat and new scratchings. Then the tent shook, as if a tree had dropped on it. Terrified, Kate dimly realised that Nadia was purring back. Finally, she found the flashlight and with wet, trembling fingers she switched it on. She saw Nadia crouching down, her face against the cloth of the tent, enthralled, engaged in an exchange of deep purrs with the beast on the other side. The scream that had been stuck inside Kate escaped as a terrible howl that took Nadia by surprise, literally knocking her off her feet. Kate swept up the girl in one arm and began trying to pull her. New screams, this time accompanied by the chilling roars of the lions, shattered the quiet of the camp. 25 30 35



- 5 Within a few seconds, staff and visitors were outside, despite the specific instructions of Mushasha their local guide, who had warned them a hundred times of the dangers of leaving their tents at night. Kate was still tugging Nadia, dragging her outside as the girl kicked and struggled trying to get free. Half of the tent collapsed in the tug of war, and one of the nettings broke loose and fell over them, enveloping them completely. They looked like two larvae trying to break out of a cocoon. Alexander, Kate's grandson, and the first to arrive, ran to them and tried to untangle them from the netting. Once she was free, Nadia pushed him away, furious because her conversation with the lions had been interrupted in such an uncivilised fashion. 40 45
- 6 As that was going on, Mushasha fired his pistol into the air, and the roars of the lions faded in the distance. The guards lit torches, sheathed their weapons, and set off to explore the area around the camp. By then the elephants were in an uproar, and their keepers were trying to calm them before they escaped their enclosures and stampeded through the camp. 50
- 7 Joel, the group's photographer had by then been woken up by the noise of all the commotion. He ran outside yelling, his heart in his mouth.
- "Snakes! A python!" 55
- "Lions," Kate corrected.
- Joel stopped short, bewildered.
- "It's not snakes?" he hesitated.
- "No, only lions," Kate repeated.
- "And you woke me up for that?" sputtered the photographer. 60

## Section C

## Text 4

*Read the article carefully and answer Questions 17–22 in the Question Paper.*

- 1 The mushroom kingdom holds many shapes and secrets beyond those of the little white buttons and baby bellas found at the grocery store. Fungi are a versatile and adaptable group, which is why they offer a range of benefits to a variety of people. They are a multifaceted food source, providing fibre, protein, and other nutrients. They can be used to create dyes, build structures, or breed new strains of mushrooms. In essence, they are really cool, and they are inspiring biologists, artists, and engineers to develop practices that can make the world prosper. 5
- 2 Head to the supplement aisle in any health food store, and you are bound to find shelf space dedicated to the medicinal wonder of mushrooms. Research on fruit flies and mice shows that cordyceps, popular among consumers, has anti-cancer properties and possibly anti-aging effects, too. Reishi and turkey tail are coveted for their potential immune-stimulating effects, while lion's mane may help soften dementia, according to a small pilot study. Most of these benefits have only been investigated on animals or in test tubes however, making it challenging to draw conclusions on human health. If you are looking for guaranteed results, it is better to grab fresh, whole mushrooms from the produce section than spend all your money on pills and potions. 10 15
- 3 Though they are certainly delicious, there is much more you can do with mushrooms than eat them, including making pigments for fabric dyes, ink, and all varieties of paint. In fact, the vastness of the fungus kingdom covers every colour of the rainbow, says Julie Beeler, a naturalist, teacher, and artist. While the practice is growing in popularity, it has centuries of history. Fungi, particularly lichens—complex organisms created by a symbiotic relationship between a fungus and an alga—have been used in cultural practices across the world. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, all pigments were processed naturally. Since then, pretty much every dyed item we encounter has been coloured using synthetic dyes. “Mushrooms allow you to get back to natural practices that are more regenerative and sustainable for the environment and the planet as a whole,” says Beeler. 20 25 30



- 4 Mycelium—the network of fungal filaments that allows mushrooms to grow aboveground—can be used to create packaging, clothing, and even buildings; researchers are working on making the materials more robust and streamlining production. BioHAB, an architectural project in Namibia, 35 for instance, is salvaging the remains of cleared encroacher bush, an indigenous species that drastically reduces usable land and resources, to create a substrate for farming mushrooms. The waste from cultivating the fungi is then compacted into eco-friendly bricks. The end product is strong, flexible, insulative, and soundproof, and can be used to reinforce structures 40 in local villages, BioHAB's website states. Similarly, NASA is looking into mycelium-based construction materials for astronaut dwellings on the moon and Mars. These composites are light and transportable, protect better against radiation, could self-replicate in their new environments for an endless resource, and, at the end of their life spans, can be turned into 45 fertilizer.
- 5 Pivoting to mushrooms could, in part, help buffer the effect industrialisation has on the planet. Manufacturing is a major cause of environmental degradation, pollution, carbon emissions, and waste. Mushroom-sourced components can offer a break from petrochemicals and plastics if they can 50 be produced sustainably enough and brought to scale. But the field, which is still in its infancy, has a ways to go before it can make a significant contribution to the use of sustainable goods.

## Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the online advertisement (Text 1) and the social media post (Text 2) on page 3 of the Insert for Questions 1–4.

For  
Examiner's  
Use

- 1 Look at Text 1. Tick (✓) the most effective title for the image in this advertisement.

- ☐ Responsible media use  
☐ Kindness in your hands  
☐ Small acts to make a difference

[1]

- 2 The advertisement states 'let's keep our homes peaceful and conducive for all'.  
 Who does the word 'all' refer to?

.....

.....

[1]

- 3 Identify the sentence in Text 2 that reflects the message in Text 1 to 'Choose kindness.

.....

.....

[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) Readers are asked to join the writer in taking action.

[1]

Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither

- (b) The tone suggests the writer and reader are of different status.

[1]

Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither

## Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 2 on pages 3 and 4 of the Insert to answer Questions 5–16.

- 5 In Paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'jolted upright' suggest about the manner in which Kate woke up?

For  
Examiner's  
Use

.....  
.....

[1]

- 6 In Paragraph 1, what is i) unusual and ii) effective about the phrase 'fearful anticipation' (line 3)?

.....  
.....  
.....

[2]

- 7 In Paragraph 1, what is the effect of the sentence 'No doubt about it'?

.....  
.....

[1]

- 8 In Paragraph 1, why do you think Kate could not switch on the torchlight with moist fingers?

.....  
.....

[1]

- 9 "Lions. Don't be afraid," Nadia, who believed she could communicate with animals, answered. (lines 12-13)

What is the tone used by Nadia in the lines above?

.....  
.....

[1]



- 10 In Paragraph 3, Kate was very frightened as the lion prowled outside the tent, trying to get in. Explain how the language used in this paragraph showed Kate's fear. Support your ideas with two details from the paragraph.

.....

.....

.....

.....

[2]

- 11 (a) In Paragraph 4, what was Nadia trying to do with the lions?

.....

.....

[1]

- (b) What does the word 'enthralled' suggest about the way Nadia felt towards the lions?

.....

.....

[1]

- 12 In Paragraph 4, why was Kate trying to pull Nadia away?

.....

.....

[1]

- 13 In Paragraph 5, we are told that 'They looked like two larvae trying to break out of a cocoon' (line 42).

Why is the phrase 'looked like two larvae trying to break out of a cocoon' effective in conveying what happened to Nadia and Kate?

.....

.....

.....

[2]



- 14 In Paragraph 5, why was Nadia angry with Kate's grandson? Explain **in your own words**.

.....

.....

.....

[2]

- 15 Why was the reaction of the photographer unexpected in Paragraph 7?

.....

.....

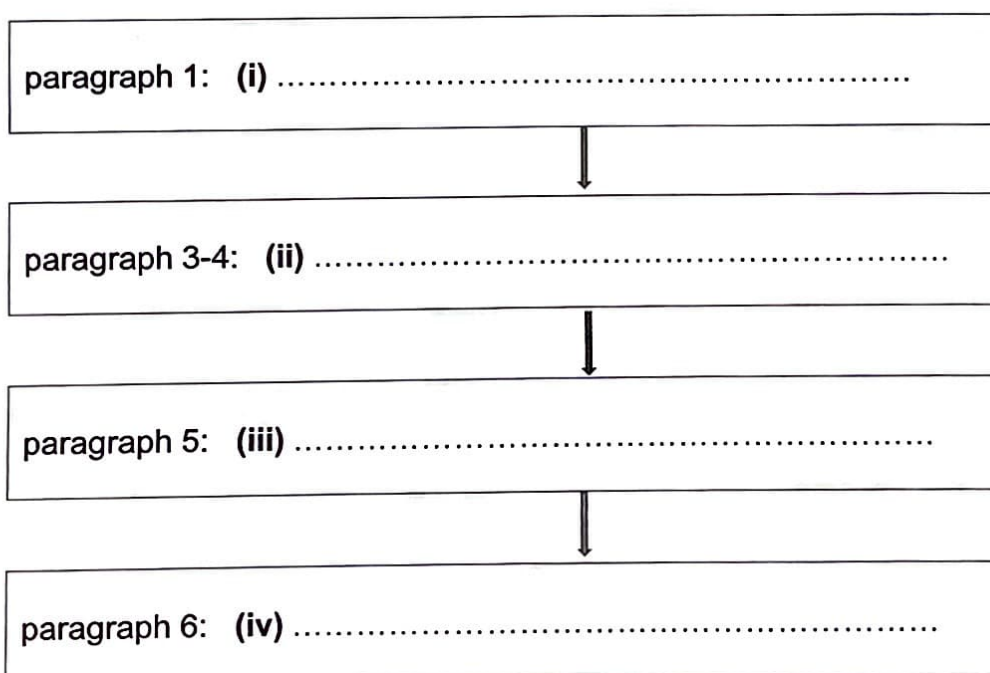
[1]

- 16 The structure of the text reflects the different happenings in Kate and Nadia's encounter with the lions. Complete the flow chart by choosing one phrase to summarise these different happenings. There are some extra phrases that you do not need to use.

**Different happenings in encounter with the lions**

Rippling effects	Unknown disturbances
Desperately trapped	Rude shock
Fearful Realisation	Unwelcomed visitors

**Flow chart**



[4]

## Section C [25 marks]

Refer to **Text 4** on pages 6 and 7 of the Insert for Questions 17–22.

**17** Paragraph 1 details the different uses for mushrooms.

For  
Examiner's  
Use

**(a)** Identify the word(s) in the paragraph that explain the given attributes of mushrooms:

Flexible : ..... [1]

Having different features : ..... [1]

**(b)** The writer describes mushrooms as 'really cool' (lines 6–7).

What is the writer's attitude towards mushrooms when he makes this comment?

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

**18** Here is part of a conversation between two students, Jack and Jill, who have read the article.



Jack

Mushrooms have medicinal properties that can help us!



Jill

There is little evidence to show they benefit human health!

**(a)** Give **two** details from Paragraph 2 which Jack can use to justify his claim.

**(i)** ..... [1]  
.....

**(ii)** ..... [1]  
.....

**(b)** From Paragraph 2, how would Jill support her view?

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



- 19 Paragraph 3 says that mushrooms can be used to make 'pigments for fabric dyes, inks and all varieties of paints' (lines 21–22). How do the current methods for making pigments differ from that in the past?

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

- 20 Referring to Paragraph 5, explain in **your own words** one major motivation for 'pivoting to mushrooms' (line 47).

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

- 21 (a) What does the phrase 'still in its infancy' (line 52) suggest about the use of mushrooms for sustainability?

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

- (b) Give one phrase in the same paragraph that conveys the same idea.

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

- 22 **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the different ways in which mushrooms can be used, and their benefits, as outlined in the text.

**Use only information from Paragraphs 3 to 4 of Text 4.**

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).

*One of the ways in which mushrooms can be used* .....

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

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