

Anglo-Chinese School
(Independent)



**FINAL EXAMINATION 2023
YEAR 2 (EXPRESS)**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 2 COMPREHENSION**

1184/02

INSERT

Monday

2 October 2023

1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

This document consists of 6 printed pages, including the cover page.

[Turn over

Section A

Study the online advertisement (**Text 1**) and the blog excerpt (**Text 2**) and answer Questions 1-4.

Text 1 is taken from a campaign about child abuse by Child Protection Services.



Text 2 is taken from a blog managed by The National Children's Alliance.

In the year 2013 alone, an average of 679,000 children were physically, sexually, emotionally, abused or neglected. While it is widely believed that the signs of child abuse are as obvious as a bump or bruise, many symptoms go unnoticed. The National Children's Alliance has helped over 315,000 child victims of abuse in the year 2014 and is dedicated to advocating for education about the signs of child abuse. Join our fight to protect our children today. Our courses are free for all.

Section B

Text 3

The text below is about an otter that killed the dog entrusted to Andy.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5-12 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 The otter was moving before the dog left the bank, swimming with desperate speed. It leaped for the falling pup, and, rising beneath it, fastened upon its throat. The dog reared to free its throat, but the otter overbalanced it, fighting with deadly coolness to get into deeper water. He was all about it, attacking with disconcerting swiftness, always manoeuvring it a little farther out. 5
- 2 The boy on the bank realised this; he grabbed a branch to use as a club, and jumping from the bank, began to splash toward them. The otter saw the boy coming and pulled the dog into deeper water. The dog tried wildly to free itself, but the otter fastened implacably on its haunches, pulled it down and entangled it in a pile of weeds at the bottom. The dog fought desperately in a world alien to it, but in which the otter was at home. But it was trapped; the air in its lungs fled in silver bubbles to the surface. 10
- 3 Standing up to his chest in the water, Andy Gates stared in anguish at the spot where the dog had gone down. He saw the bubbles burst to the surface, and a short time later, a swirl far out where the otter breached for air. At first he could not believe that the dog would not come up again, but time drew out and sadness filled his heart; he dropped the branch he was holding, his fists clenched at his sides and his blue eyes filled with tears. The world about him was suddenly a new and terrible place. He forgot that the dog had been brash and foolishly quarrelsome, that no one had ever been able to teach it anything, and that it had usually been a nuisance. All that he remembered was his brother, standing by the gate before he left for the South Pacific, saying, "Take care of the pup, Andy. We'll make a hunting dog of him when I get back." 15 20
- 4 He did not realize that Joe had said that to make them feel closer to each other for a moment and hold off the threatening tears, to make the parting easier for them both. The dog was a trust Joe had placed upon him and he had let it be killed. He turned and stumbled out of the water, tears blurring his sight. There was an aching emptiness within him, an emptiness which seemed to have swallowed up all his strength; halfway up the long hill, he had to stop, and stood panting, unconscious of the dry fragrance of sun-warmed hemlock on the morning air. 25
- 5 He stopped crying after a while, and grew aware of the birds that moved about him, the leaf shadows on the path, and the slow movement of clouds across the sky. But he did not go on. Like a schoolboy bereft of his sole loyal companion, he saw his surroundings as though from a great distance. Time stopped as his mind tried to rationalise the dog's death and soften the shock of it. The afternoon was growing late when he crossed the top of the hill and saw his father walking slowly between the house and the barn. 30
- 6 His father saw him and waited with his hands tucked into the top of his Levis. "Trouble, Andy?" he asked. 35
- 7 The boy's chin trembled helplessly. "Dad," he said. "There was an otter-" He could not go on and leaned against him, crying. "He went after the little one," he said, shaking with sobs, "and the big one drowned him. There was nothing I could do."

- 8 Finally, Andy said, "I was keeping him for Joe," and mumbled, "Joe left him with me. He was Joe's and mine." He began to cry violently again. "Joe's and mine," he repeated, remembering Joe at the gate, going away. "What do I do now? Please help me..." Andy pleaded. 40
- 9 That night, the boy lay on his bed. "I'll get the otter!" he vowed. The picture of Joe in his uniform smiled at him from the bureau, but he had stopped looking at it. He felt that he could not look at it again until he'd found the otter. As his father had said, he was not a cruel boy, but all his emotions confirmed the decision, made so suddenly, that the otter must pay with its life for the life of the dog. Blinded by rage, Andy made many plans of revenge but there was no pleasure, no anticipation of exciting sport, connected with any of them. 45

Adapted from *You've Got To Learn* by Robert Murphy

Section C

Text 4

The article below is about fast fashion.

Read it carefully and answer Questions 13 -17 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 'Fast fashion' has become prominent in fashion conversations in view of its significant global impact. Simply put, the term refers to cheaply produced and priced garments that copy the latest catwalk styles and get pumped quickly through stores in order to maximise on current trends. According to the survey by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the industry is the second biggest consumer of water and is responsible for about 10% of global carbon emissions – more than all international flights and maritime shipping combined! 5
- 2 The first global injustice of fast fashion is the environmental hazards during the production stage of the garments. E-commerce social fashion houses such as Shein and Asos sell clothes that contain petroleum-based, resource-intensive synthetic fibres such as polyester and nylon. These fibres are responsible for 35 percent of the microplastics contaminating our oceans and can take centuries to decompose in landfills. Textile dyeing also has negative results as untreated wastewater from dyes is often discharged into local water systems, releasing heavy metals and other toxicants that can adversely impact the health of animals and residents. 10
- 3 The high demand for cheap clothing has also led to many occupational and societal problems. Developing nations with poor political infrastructure and ineffective organisation systems have sadly become easy exploitation havens for fast fashion brands. Studies reveal a myriad of occupational hazards during the production process of garments with workers suffering debilitating and life-threatening illnesses. The fast fashion industry has also become a massive driving force in the slavery epidemic. Garment workers are recruited from some of the poorest villages. They are taken advantage of and made to work long hours without breaks or days off. They become trapped working in this 16 to 20 hour cycle as consumer demand continues to skyrocket with the ease of online purchasing platforms. 20
- 4 It is time humanity looks for ways to reverse these negative impacts. Retailers are encouraged to create clothing while producing as little waste and pollution as possible. A recent survey by the World Green Building Council found that 77% of organizations are looking to reduce their energy consumption and carbon emissions. Additionally, companies can create items made from sustainable fabrics that are more durable and are made of little to no microplastics, like linen, cotton, wool or silk. Not enough clothing companies abide by the "Reduce, Recycle and Reuse" mission like Patagonia, H&M, Tentree, and Reformation. Companies could also adopt a change in the business model by producing made-to-order items rather than bulk creations. 30
- 5 Consumers also have a huge part to play. A discerning buyer could consider buying clothes only from brands that are eco-conscious. Opting for a capsule wardrobe is advised, with fewer pieces that mix and match to create different outfits. The more one buys and consumes, the more waste is produced. This in turn promotes manufacture of fast fashion in bulk. If one takes better care of clothes, like sewing or repairing damaged clothing, this will prevent the need to toss them out sooner. Consumers should also try donating used clothes to a second-hand store or to a charity instead of tossing it out. Hosting a clothing swap amongst friends, buying or renting used clothing are also some ways to reduce wastage. 35

- 6 Governments must also step in to help to regulate the fast fashion industry and the climate harm it creates. For instance, governments must implement penal legislation dealing with water and waste pollution as well as set regulatory guidelines for zero carbon emissions. Expediting modern slavery laws will help protect its people against abusive practices of powerful fast fashion companies. Conversely, governments can also provide incentives to companies who act responsibly and fairly towards its workers, giving them breaks and fair salaries. All of these measures will send out a strong signal to fast fashion houses to make positive changes. 40 45
- 7 In conclusion, fast fashion is a negative phenomenon that has changed the fashion industry for the worst. It promotes distorted consumerism by encouraging the production of low-quality clothes while at the same time causing grave damage to the planet. The next time you wear a cheap garment, ask yourself if it was made with tender, loving care or with someone's blood, sweat and tears! 50

Adapted from <https://ehjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12940-018-0433-7>:
Environmental Health, "The global environment injustice of fast fashion", dated 27 September 2018