

The text below is about a peaceful evening at a park that was ruined by the inconsiderate behavior of others. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5 - 14 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 It was still warm in the late-afternoon sun, and the city noises came muffled through the trees in the park. Olivia put her book down on the bench and sighed contentedly as a sense of serenity filled her up like a balloon. Morton was reading the Times Magazine section, one arm flung around her shoulder, so relaxed he could feel himself melting through the gaps in the bench. Their three-year-old son, Larry, was playing in the sandbox, lost in his own world. A faint breeze fanned Olivia's hair softly against her cheek, the soothing gesture of a kindly friend. It was an oasis of calm. 5
- 2 The small playground, tucked away in a corner of the park, was all but deserted. The swings and seesaws stood motionless and abandoned, the slides were empty, and only in the sandbox two little boys squatted diligently side by side. How good this is, Olivia thought. They must get out in the sun more often; Morton was so city-pale, cooped up all week inside the grey factory-like university. She squeezed his arm affectionately and glanced at Larry, delighting in the pointed little face frowning in concentration over the tunnel he was digging. 10
- 3 The other boy suddenly stood up and with a quick, deliberate swing of his chubby arm, threw a spadeful of sand at Larry. It just missed his head. Larry continued digging; the boy remained standing, shovel raised, indifferent and inexpressive. He was, for all intents and purposes, a red-handed innocent. Olivia shook her finger at him. "We mustn't throw sand. It may get in someone's eyes and hurt." 15
- 4 The boy looked at her in unblinking expectancy and in a state of sheer incomprehension. He was about Larry's age but perhaps ten pounds heavier, a husky little boy with none of Larry's quickness of thought and sensitivity in his face. Where was his mother? The only other person left in the playground was a man on a bench a few feet away. 20
- 5 He seemed to envelope the whole bench as he held the Sunday comics close to his face. Olivia supposed he was the child's father. He did not look up, but spat once deftly out of the corner of his mouth. At that moment, the fat little boy swiftly threw another spadeful of sand at Larry. This time, some of it landed on him. Larry looked up at his mother, his mouth tentative; her expression would tell him whether to cry or not. Her first instinct was to rush to him and punish the other child, but she controlled it. She wanted Larry to learn to fight his own battles, but she had to say something. "Don't do that! You mustn't throw sand!" 25
- 6 The man on the bench moved his mouth as if to spit again, but instead he spoke. He did not look at her, but at the boy only. "Don't mind her, Joe," he said loudly. "Throw all you want. This is a public sandbox." She felt a sudden weakness in her knees as she glanced at Morton. 30
- 7 Morton had become aware of what was happening. He put his Times down carefully on his lap and turned his fine, lean face toward the man, smiling the shy, apologetic smile he might have offered a student in pointing out an error in his thinking. When he spoke to the man, it was with his usual reasonableness. "You're quite right, but just because this is a public ..." 35
- 8 The man lowered his paper and looked at Morton slowly and deliberately. His insolent voice was edged with menace. "If my son feels like throwing sand, he'll throw it, and if you don't like it, you can take your kid out of here." Olivia noticed the muscle in Morton's jaw tighten. He was rarely angry; he seldom lost his temper. She was suffused with a tenderness for her husband and an impotent rage against the man for involving him in a situation so alien and so distasteful to him. 40

Adapted from 'Sunday in the Park' by Bel Kaufman

Section C

Text 3

The text below is about interpretation of dreams. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 15 - 20 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 If dreams were movies, they would not make any money at all. They are often mundane, frequently fleeting and they are screened for an audience of just one. These nocturnal hallucinations tend to be most vivid during a kind of sleep called rapid eye movement. And even when we do not remember them, most of us typically spend around two hours each night dreaming.
- 2 Humans have been musing on the interpretations of these nightly mental jaunts for millennia. The ancient Egyptians thought of dreams as simply a different form of seeing, with trained dreamers serving as prophets to help plan battles. The ancient Greeks and Romans believed that dreams were equal parts predictions of impending events and visitations by the departed. Modern researchers, armed with brain imaging equipment, have taken things to a more technical level, establishing that dreaming is the brain's way of getting rid of excess data, consolidating important information and keeping us alert to danger. But even today, scientists still have not reached a consensus on the purpose of dreams. The study of dreams is particularly daunting because scientists often have to rely on hazy recounts from research subjects.
- 3 The least glamorous explanation for any dream is that it serves as a sort of data dump — a clearing of the day's useless memories and a caching of the valuable ones. Most of this fleeting imagery — an estimated 90% — we do not recall, which is consistent with the idea of dreaming as purging. "We dream to forget," wrote Nobel laureate Francis Crick in 1984.
- 4 Most contemporary dream theorists believe things are not quite so simple. Science has long suggested that dream content can be connected to emotional wellbeing while we are awake. Bizarre dreams laden with symbolism allow some dreamers to overcome intense memories or everyday psychological stressors within the safety of their subconscious. Nightmares, on the other hand, can be warning signs of anxieties that we might not otherwise perceive in our waking lives. Another view of dreaming comes from cognitive neuroscientist Antti Revonsuo who proposes that the brain responds to potential future danger by running what amount to 'fire drills' while we sleep just to keep us sharp. That may be the source of the persistent dream about failing to study for tests — with tests as a stand-in for a presentation a person has to write for work in his adult life.
- 5 A far more productive function of dreaming is problem-solving, as the sleeping brain continues to work on jobs the waking mind handled during the day. In one 2010 study on dreams, 99 people were administered a task that required them to navigate through a three-dimensional maze. During the course of their practice sessions, they were given a 90-minute break. Some were asked to engage in quiet activities like reading; others were instructed to try to take a nap. Those who did nap and dreamed about the maze showed a ten-fold improvement on the task in the next session compared to the other subjects. Then, there is the idea that dreams can be a canvas for creative breakthroughs when they help us solve a problem that requires vivid visualization. Pop culture is rife with creative types who have used dreams as their muse, whether it is Salvador Dali's iconic imagery of melting clocks or the nonsensical chorus of John Lennon's #9 Dream. Filmmaker Christopher Nolan even found inspiration for his reality-bending thriller Inception from his own experiences with lucid dreaming.
- 6 Another study on the dreams of over 1,000 individuals concluded that the weight and importance people attach to their dreams depend largely on their biases. People are more likely to remember negative dreams if they involve people whom they already dislike. In other words, people are motivated to interpret their dreams in ways that support their already existing beliefs about themselves, the world, and the people around them. The researchers found that such things as the confirmation bias and the self-serving bias can impact how people respond to their own dreams. Because people tend to take their dreams seriously, these dreams can also become something of

a self-fulfilling prophecy. If one dreams that he is going to fail an exam, he might be less motivated to study or even become so stressed out that he performs poorly.

- 7 Dreams may or may not have meaning, but the fact remains that interpreting dreams has become a popular pastime. Some people even base major life decisions on the contents of their dreams. Our nights would likely be quieter and our sleep more serene if we did not dream at all. But our minds would not be as rich nor our brains as nimble — if only in vivid fantasy. The screening room of the sleeping brain may sometimes wear us out, but like all good theatres, it will rarely leave us bored. 50

Adapted from What Your Dreams Actually Mean, According to Science by Jeffrey Kluger

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 2 on page 3 of the Insert for Questions 5 – 14.

- 5** In Paragraph 1, the public park is described as an 'oasis of calm'. Explain how the language used emphasises the peacefulness in the park. Support your answers with **three details** from the text.

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..... [3]

- 6** In Paragraph 3, what is (i) unusual and (ii) effective about the phrase 'red-handed innocent'?

(i) It is unusual because

..... [1]

(ii) It is effective because

..... [1]

- 7 In Paragraph 4, the writer says, "The boy looked at her in unblinking expectancy and in a state of sheer incomprehension. He was about Larry's age but perhaps ten pounds heavier, a husky little boy with none of Larry's quickness of thought and sensitivity in his face."

What words or phrases in the lines featured describe the boy?

Descriptions	Words or phrases from passage
Great sense of anticipation	
Lack of intelligence	
Not fully aware of what was happening	

[3]

- 8 In Paragraph 5, the writer says that the man 'seemed to envelope the whole bench'. In what way is this expression particularly effective?

[1]

- 9 Olivia wanted her son 'to learn to fight his own battles' (lines 28-29). What does this phrase suggest about how she expected her son to be like?

[1]

10 In Paragraph 6, the man says in response to Olivia scolding his son, "Don't mind her, Joe ... Throw all you want. This is a public sandbox." (lines 31-32)

(i) What is the tone of the man's comments?

[1]

(ii) What does the phrase 'sudden weakness in her knees' (line 32) suggest about how Olivia was feeling?

[1]

[1]

11 The writer says that Morton spoke to the other man with 'his usual reasonableness' (line 36). What does this tell you about how he had expected the other man to respond?

[1]

12 In Paragraph 8, which phrase does the writer use to show that the man was a threat to Morton?

[1]

13 In Paragraph 8, we are told that Morton is placed in 'a situation so alien and so distasteful to him'. Explain in your own words what this means.

[2]

- 14 The structure of the text reflects the main stages of Olivia's evening at the park. Complete the flow chart by choosing one phrase from the box to summarise the main event of the evening described in each part of the text. There are some extra words in the box you do not need to use.

Main stages

Tense stand-off

Complete solitude

Unexpected disruption

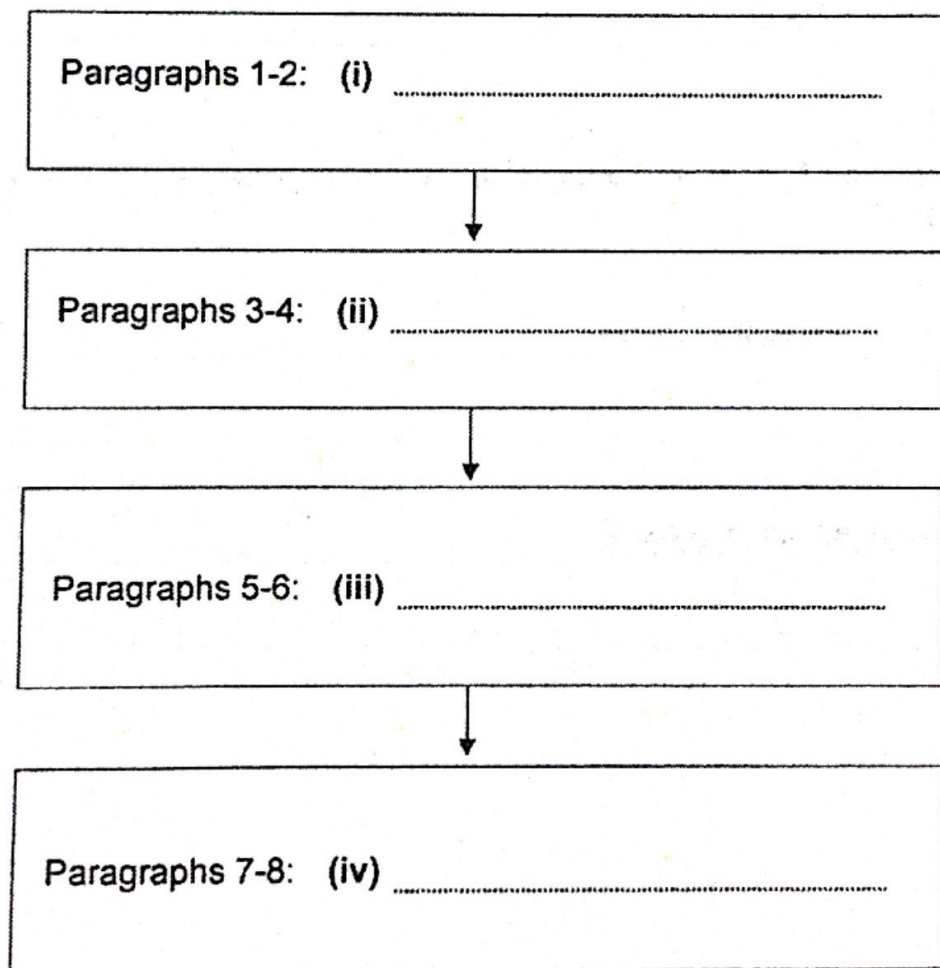
Undisturbed peace

Lack of excitement

State of satisfaction

Worrying development

Flow chart



[4]

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to Text 3 on pages 4 and 5 of the Insert for Questions 15 – 20.

- 15 Which one word in Paragraph 1 tells us that dreams are mostly ordinary?

[1]

16

In Paragraph 2, the writer gives examples of interpretations of dreams.

Give an example of interpretation related to each category:

Category	Interpretation
(i) Relating to forecasts of the future	
(ii) Relating to the supernatural	

[2]

- 17 Here is part of a conversation between two students, Jun Hong and Eleanor, who have read the article.

I believe modern-day interpretations of dreams are more accurate.



Jun Hong

I'm not so sure. I think these interpretations are still ambiguous.



Eleanor

- (i) From Paragraph 2, give one piece of evidence to support Jun Hong's view.

[1]

(ii) With reference to Paragraph 2, how would Eleanor explain her position?

[2]

18 'The least glamorous explanation for any dream is that it serves as a sort of data dump...' (line 14).

(iii) What does the term 'least glamorous' suggest about the explanation of dreams as data dumps?

[1]

(iv) Which **two** words from Paragraph 3 reinforce the idea of dreams being data dumps?

[1]

19 From Paragraph 7, what **two** things can happen to us if we do not dream when we sleep? Answer in your own words.

(i)

(ii)

[2]

- 20 Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the benefits of dreaming, and its limitations, as outlined in the passage.

Use only information from paragraphs 4 to 6.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not in note form). It must not be longer than 80 words (not counting the words given to help you begin).

Research has long established that dreams are linked to our