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ANGLICAN HIGH SCHOOL  
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2023  
SECONDARY FOUR



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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**1184/02**

**Paper 2 Comprehension INSERT**

**21 August 2023  
1 hour 50 minutes**

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

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

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**This INSERT consists of 7 printed pages.**

**Section A**

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

**Text 1** is a poster by the National Environment Agency (NEA) about dengue in Singapore.

# PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES AGAINST DENGUE.

ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE LIVING IN A DENGUE CLUSTER.

**APPLY**  
INSECT REPELLENT  
REGULARLY.

**WEAR**  
LONG SLEEVES  
AND LONG PANTS.

**SPRAY**  
INSECTICIDE IN DARK CORNERS  
AROUND THE HOUSE.

## STOP DENGUE WITH B-L-O-C-K.

**BREAK**  
up hardened  
soil

**LIFT**  
and empty  
flowerpot plates

**OVERTURN**  
pails and wipe  
their rims

**CHANGE**  
water in  
vases

**KEEP**  
roof gutters clear and  
place BTI insecticide

**Text 2** is taken from a social media post on the NEA's Facebook page.

Mozzies can breed anywhere with stagnant water. Let's remember to stay alert! Don't forget to check all corners at home regularly for potential mozzie breeding spots too. It's one of the easiest and most effective steps we can take to prevent dengue transmission. Together, we can stop dengue with B-L-O-C-K.

Have you done the Mozzie Wipeout today?

## Section B

### Text 3

The text below is the account of the writer and his companion, Dominique, who travelled to Nepal on a trekking expedition.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5 – 14 in the Question Paper.

- 1 People come from all points on the globe to the dreamland that is Nepal. I am a fisherman from the United States and have thought about this trip for almost a decade; Dominique sells carpets in Paris. We came together by chance, through airport delays at Moscow and in New Delhi. Though we had different expectations, we had a common theme. We had travelled to the Himalayas with a hunger to touch a bygone age. 5
- 2 Ready to renounce pavement and fibre optics, we wanted to be among people who would show us how to live more gently with our land. Ever since the exploits of pilgrim authors and adventurers like Reinhold Messner and Edmund Hillary, Nepal has been a utopia where life may be decisively changed. This is a weighty obligation for any place to fulfil.
- 3 When our plane landed, Dominique and I grabbed our bags and a taxi. Soon we were jolting through the dusty, swarming streets toward the heart of Kathmandu. We saw so many shrines that the city seemed like one large temple. Flowers, worshippers and garbage were everywhere. Nepalese slogged through the compost and cellophane, speaking the words of devotion. Plastic bags floated in the foul trickle of sewage that is Kathmandu's sacred river, the Baghmati, where people sprinkled themselves with it nonetheless. There was no doubt that the Nepalese are extremely religious people. 10 15
- 4 The city's voltage exhausted us. Horns blared; vehicles hurtled past at our elbows and rickshaws cut us off by stopping squarely in our path to offer their services. Everywhere a voice entreated us to stop and look, to change money, to buy a sweet mango. Men fell into pace with us, asking about our visit and our families, chatting for a while before launching into a hard sell for a hotel or trekking outfit. They were thin men, hungry with large eyes, and they said goodbye reluctantly. A street waif wanted to shine our shoes. He called after us as we moved away uneasily. 20
- 5 We escaped as soon as possible, in a jarring bus ride to mountains that lay beyond the haze of the city. This was the real reason we were here: to experience the Annapurna Circuit, the most popular trek in Nepal. The guidebooks had not prepared us for the candy wrappers that speckled the trail along the river. A cluster of plastic bottles spinning in the glacier melt appalled us. Rags, plastic slippers and cans littered the sand. "Why doesn't someone burn the rubbish?" Dominique asked his guide. For us, the sight of the garbage conflicted with the symbolism of the monasteries but the Nepalese did not share our sentiment or discomfort. The mountains had always been there. The monasteries seemed as old as the land. These things needed neither vindication nor protection from the reality of garbage. Our separation of sacred and profane did not seem to apply here. 25 30
- 6 As we gained altitude and distance, we had a hard time sleeping. This was partly because we were headed for the Thorung La Pass, which is nearly eight thousand feet 35

high. No one is confident about a safe passage. Time and water were the only things that helped the acclimatisation process. The lack of sleep and oxygen exhausted us. The altitude was catching up on me, diluting my connection to reality. Headaches and a sense of unreality dogged me in the afternoon.

<sup>1</sup> *a homeless, neglected, or abandoned person*

## Section C

### Text 4

In the article below, experts explain what greenwashing is and how consumers can protect themselves against it.

Read the article carefully and answer Questions 15 – 22 in the Question Paper.

- 1 Going green is good for business. Consumers are often willing to pay more for eco-friendly products than other comparable products on the market, according to market research. But not all environmental claims are created equally. “Greenwashing” is a form of misinformation often used to entice an aspiring green consumer. Companies promising to be sustainable, biodegradable, or environmentally conscious sometimes fail to meet the promises they make to consumers. “It’s basically just a form of lying,” says Ellis Jones, a sociologist specialising in greenwashing. 5
- 2 Greenwashing can be as explicit as an outright falsehood or as murky as a stretched truth. In the U.S., the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) regulates green advertising at the federal level, and has been filing lawsuits against companies who violate their environmental marketing guidelines since 1992. In recent years, the agency has stepped up efforts, filing similar suits against Walmart and Kohl’s for marketing rayon textiles as environmentally friendly bamboo, and Volkswagen for lying about their cars’ fuel efficiency. Other instances of greenwashing are harder to discern. Take carbon offsets, for example. To negate their own emissions, some companies send money to programmes like tree planting projects that theoretically offset carbon pumped into the atmosphere by planting more trees to suck it up. But drought and wildfires have destroyed some of these forests, and critics say offsets give companies permission to continue polluting. 15
- 3 Greenwashing is particularly common in the fashion industry, says Maxine Bédard, director of The New Standard Institute. Being sustainable is the latest trend, she says, and a way for the industry to attract consumers. “It is extremely prevalent. I think we’re at the apex of greenwashing in the industry. Consumer demand for sustainability is almost insatiable. It’s good news. It means many consumers want to do the right thing. The problem is they can’t always tell what the right thing is. However, learning about greenwashing and how it works will help consumers avoid giving their money to companies making false claims. Being a more informed consumer is certainly possible,” Bédard adds. 20 25
- 4 As more companies look to cash in on sustainable marketing, governments are also beginning to take more action to protect consumers. Since 2015, the FTC has taken action against 21 companies in the U.S. for using misleading environmental marketing. They also recently proposed two new regulations to regulate greenwashing in banking. In New York, a bill called The Fashion Act would require fashion companies operating in the state to abide by marketing guidelines. 30

- 5 In the meantime, experts have tips for how consumers can spot potential greenwashing. One way is to look for descriptions that specifically outline how a product is green instead of choosing products with words like “sustainable” and “natural” on their packaging. While not foolproof, certifications granted by credible third parties can also give consumers confidence in a product’s green claims. Jones says consumers should also look out for what he calls the “green halo effect” of companies donating to environmental causes without changing how they do business. “People should watch out for philanthropy. When companies are just focusing on donations, they’re just trying to distract from what they’re doing,” he adds. 35 40
- 6 Another tip he offers is to purchase items with minimal or recyclable packaging. This is as most companies using greenwashing tactics will still have their products in an unnecessary amount of packaging. When it comes to fashion, Bédard says to cut down on shopping for items you already have. After all, buying a new sweater labelled “carbon neutral” still produces more carbon than wearing a sweater already in your closet. Finally, shopping from local and independent stores also reduces the chance of purchasing a greenwashed product. 45