

**CEDAR GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL  
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2022  
Secondary Four**

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Paper 2 Comprehension  
Insert

**1128/02**

**25 August 2022**

**1 hour 50 minutes**

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

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

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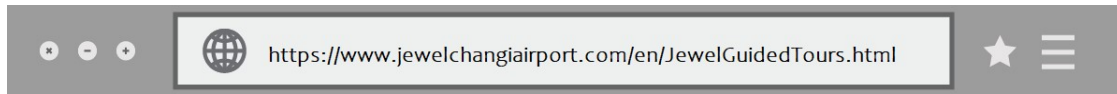
This document consists of **6** printed pages and **2** blank pages.



## Section A

## Text 1

Study the webpage below and answer Questions 1 – 4 in the Question Booklet.



## VISIT JEWEL TODAY!



## About Jewel

Discover Jewel! Embark on a journey to uncover lesser-known facts about Jewel and the exciting offerings available to everyone! Designed for the enjoyment of Singaporeans and tourists alike, Jewel is an air-conditioned destination with its inner worlds of fantastical indoor forest and experiential super-stores, global cuisines and art galore.



## Comfort and Convenience for Travellers

Embark on a journey to uncover lesser-known facts about Jewel and the exciting offerings available to everyone. Find out how Jewel enhances travellers' experiences by providing specialised services and a comfortable environment where every traveller can rest and relax at Changi Jewel Lounge.



## Exciting Attractions and Lifestyle Offerings

Experience a wondrous and unique world with first-of-its-kind attractions and shops suitable for the young and the young-at-heart. Come unearth some hidden gems with a mouth-wateringly diverse F&B selection and browse new products from an eclectic variety of retail shops for a fresh and memorable experience.

## BOOK A TOUR TODAY!



Apart from an intriguing storyline for each tour, our guides deliver customised content through the use of visual aids such as photos, videos and maps. Participants will be engaged in a two-way interaction with our friendly guides through quizzes and experiential activities.

## Section B

## Text 2

The text below describes a woman from a village who helps to take care of a house in the Mexican countryside, which was purchased by a journalist. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5 - 15 in the Question Booklet.

1	Rafaela Cortes spent the morning barefoot, sweeping both dead and living things from over and under beds, from behind doors and shutters, through archways, along the veranda, sweeping them all across the deep shadows and luminous sunlight carpeting the cool tile floors. Her slender arms worked the broom industriously through the air which was already thick with suffocating heat. Along the floor, her feet followed, printing their moisture in dark footprints that the tiles ate up. Every morning, a small pile of assorted insects and tiny animals — moths and spiders, lizards and beetles — collected, their brittle bodies tossed in waves along the floor, a cloudy hush of sandy soil, cobwebs, and human hair.	5
2	An iguana, a crab, and a mouse. And there was the scorpion, always dead — its fragile back broken in the middle. And the snake that slithered away at the urging of her broom, probably not poisonous, but one never knew. Every morning, it was the same. Every morning, she swept this mound of dead and wiggling things to the door and off the side of the veranda and into the dark green undergrowth with the same flourish. Occasionally, there was more of one species or the other, but every morning, each somehow always made its way back into the house. The iguana, the crab, and the mouse, for example, were always there. Sometimes they were dead; sometimes they were alive. As for the scorpion, it was always dead, but the snake was always alive.	10 15
3	On some days, the dust seemed to twirl before her broom, communicating a kind of dance that seemed to send a visceral message up the broom to her fingertips. There was no explanation for any of it. It also made no difference if she closed the doors and shutters at the first sign of dusk or if she left the house unoccupied and tightly shut for several days. Every morning when the house was thrown open to the sunlight, she knew that she and her son had not slept alone that night. Gabriel was kind and allowed her to bring along her son, Sol, to this house. Hummingbirds fluttered across the rooms, stirring the languid humidity settled by the night, frantically searching for escape through the open lace curtains, while crawling lives hid beneath furniture or presented themselves lifeless at her feet.	20 25
4	When she first came to the house, she couldn't find a broom to accomplish this daily ritual, not to mention for sweeping the clouds of cobwebs from the dark, rough-hewn rafters. Gabriel had left an American vacuum cleaner in a closet - an old steel Electrolux purchased at a thrift-store for thirty dollars. When the electricity wasn't shut off, Rafaela dragged the vacuum, the hard plastic wheels bumping over the clay tiles and the woven throw rugs, from one room to the next but soon she depleted Gabriel's supply of vacuum bags.	30 35
5	Recycling these bags was nearly impossible, and she did not have the heart to dump them without releasing the trapped animals inside. One day, attempting to use the vacuum cleaner without the bags resulted in jamming the gears with pieces of the crab, not to mention everything else, and that was the end of the Electrolux. When Rafaela told Gabriel that the Electrolux had died, there was an uncomfortable silence on the other end of the line, probably because Gabriel had had some idea that a stainless-steel vacuum cleaner was something incredibly wise to have in the salty humidity of Mazatlán and also because he had lugged it one thousand miles on one particularly sacrificial trip made in a borrowed Volkswagen van. The story about the crab seemed unlikely. His land was much too far from the sea. Yes, it sounded impossible, but why would Rafaela make such a thing up?	40 45



*The article below is about chili peppers. Read it carefully and answer Questions 16 – 22 in the Question Booklet.*

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5	The cookery writer Julia Child once claimed that eating too many chilis could burn off your taste buds. It can't. But sometimes eating chili or, worse, rubbing your eyes with capsaicin-coated hands, can make you wish it would sear off your pain receptors. However, in my case, something almost magical happens when I bite into a chili-spiced dish. There's the release of heat, a rising cascade of pain, but with it comes a forced awareness of my body. My nostrils clear, I start to sweat a little, and I develop a delightful, laser-like focus on what's going on inside of my mouth: flavours become more intense. Most significantly, the body's natural processes trigger internal opiates in the face of pain, which suggests that chili-pepper eaters are essentially drugging themselves. Our heart rates rise, our breathing increases, and our adrenaline starts to flow. We feel alive. It's the same thrill-seeking behaviour exhibited by bungee jumping, roller coasters, and horror movies. The thrill of pain rejuvenates us, while we secretly know all will be well in the end.	45  50  55
6	Indeed, people who enjoy chili peppers also tend to be more sensation-seeking – though not as much as people who are into fear. Yet, why we enjoy watching people eat chilis is another matter. Add to that the sense of camaraderie and community that naturally comes with food, and our Martian anthropologist may yet understand the ritual. Indeed, humans and only humans seem to enjoy events that are innately negative, that produce emotions or feelings that we are programmed to avoid when we come to realise that they are actually not threats. Either way, given danger without harm, gained for a handful of change in the comfort of your own kitchen, my response to the question of why anyone would eat a chili pepper is: why would anyone not?	60  65

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*Copyright acknowledgements:*

*Text 1 Adapted from <https://www.jewelchangairport.com/en/JewelGuidedTours.html>*

*Text 2 Adapted from *Tropic of Orange* by Karen Tei Yamashita*

*Text 3 Adapted from :*

<https://www.thrillist.com/health/nation/what-makes-some-people-like-spicy-food-and-others-hate-it>

<https://bigthink.com/life/why-people-like-spicy-foods/>

<https://aeon.co/essays/what-kind-of-masochists-want-to-burn-their-mouths-off>

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