



**BOON LAY SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**  
**2021**

<b>Name</b>	(      )
<b>Class</b>	

Subject	: <b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE</b>
Paper No	: <b>PAPER 2 - INSERT</b>
Subject Code	: <b>1128/02</b>
Level	: <b>SECONDARY FOUR EXPRESS / FIVE NORMAL ACADEMIC</b>
Date/Day	: <b>25 AUGUST 2021, WEDNESDAY</b>
Time	: <b>1100 – 1250</b>
Duration	: <b>1 HOUR 50 MINUTES</b>

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

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

## Section A

## Text 1

Study the poster below and answer Questions 1-4 in the Question Booklet.

The poster shows a group of people, mostly women, sitting in a large, dark metal livestock tank that is being used as a boat. They are on a river, with another similar tank visible in the background. The background features rolling green hills under a warm, sunset-like sky. The text 'LUCKY FOR YOU, THERE'S NOTHING TO DO HERE.' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

In Nebraska, we believe that only boring people get bored. So we invent our own fun. Like when we realised that a livestock tank could float, and thought, "It's a boat." Soon, "tanking" became the preferred method of meandering down our slow-moving rivers.

**Check out all these other totally not-boring things you can do in Nebraska.**

Like riding horseback on an honest-to-goodness ranch. Witnessing a Native American powwow. Attending a concert under Nebraska's night sky. Spending family time at a zoo or water park. Chasing pioneers, cowboys and historic sites along scenic byways. Relaxing in state parks, recreation areas and golf courses with epic views, from sparkling lakes and rivers to wide-open plains to monumental bluffs. Boredom-killers, every last one.

It might not be everybody's cup of tea, but if it sounds as good to you as it did to us, go to **VisitNebraska.com** for a free Travel Guide. And welcome aboard.

## Section B

## Text 2

*The text below describes the arrival of a girl at her grandparents' house in Kyoto, Japan. Read carefully and answer Questions 5-15 in the Question Booklet.*

- 1 Nori would say that her life had officially begun the day she laid eyes on the imposing property that rested serenely between the crests of two green hills. Stunningly beautiful, the house exuded magnificence at the height of its glory, and yet, despite this beauty, Nori felt her stomach clench and her gut churn. Her mother rarely took her anywhere, and somehow seeing the building – a blend of mystery and formidability - 5 she knew that something was waiting for her there that she would not like.
  
- 2 The faded blue automobile skidded to a stop on the street across from the estate. There were words engraved at the top of the main gate, embossed in gold lettering. "Okaasan, what do those letters say?"  
The woman seated beside her let out a stifled sigh. It was clear that she'd been a great 10 beauty in her day. She was still gorgeous, but her young face was beginning to reflect the toll life had taken on her. She would not meet her daughter's gaze.  
"Kamiza," she answered at last. "It says Kamiza."  
"That's our name, isn't it?" Nori chirped, her curiosity immediately piqued.  
Her mother let out a strangled giggle that made the hair on the back of Nori's neck 15 stand up.  
"Yes," she responded softly, eyes alight with a strange look that Nori's limited vocabulary did not have the means to name. "That is our family name. This is where my mother and father live, child. Your grandparents."
  
- 3 Nori felt her heartbeat quicken. Her mother had never before made any mention of 20 relatives or family. Indeed, the two of them had drifted along in solitude so long it seemed strange to Nori that they could actually be anchored to a tangible place.  
"Did you live here once, Okaasan?"  
"Once," her mother said dryly. "Before you were born. A long time ago."  
Nori scrunched her face up in a frown. "Why did you leave?" 25  
"That's enough questions now, Noriko. Get your things. Come."  
Nori obeyed, biting her lip to refrain from inquiring further. Her mother did not like questions. For the first time since she'd been roused at dawn that morning, Nori noticed that her mother was not carrying any bags.
  
- 4 "Noriko," she said, with such unusual affection saturating her tone that it left Nori in 30 near disbelief, "I want you to make me a promise. Promise me you will obey."  
The request caught her off guard. Not because it was unlike something her mother would say, but because not once in her life had Nori ever disobeyed. It didn't seem like something that needed to be requested. Her confusion must have been evident because her mother turned and knelt down so that they were nearly eye level. 35
  
- 5 "Noriko," she said, with an urgency Nori had never heard before. "Promise me. Promise me that you will obey in all things. Do not question. Do not resist. Do not think if thinking will lead you somewhere you ought not to be. Only smile and do as you are told. Only your life is more important than your obedience. Promise me this."  
Nori thought to herself that this conversation was very odd. A thousand questions 40 burned her tongue. She swallowed them back and nodded.
  
- 6 "Now listen. You will go inside the gate, Nori. Your grandparents will ask you your name. They will ask where I have gone and you will tell them that I did not tell you. That you don't know. Do you understand?"

Nori felt her mouth begin to go dry. Her heart fluttered against her chest, like a little bird trying to escape a cage. "Okaasan, where are you going? Aren't you coming with me?" Nori's voice began to scale up in panic. 45

"Nori, hush. You have no reason to cry. Stop crying this instant!"

She felt the tears that had begun to well recede inside her eye sockets with frightening speed. It seemed that they too were bound to obey. Her mother hesitated, searching for words for several long moments. Finally, she decided there were none and settled for patting her daughter twice on the top of the head. 50

"I'll watch you go. Go on. Get your things."

7 Noriko picked up her belongings and proceeded slowly towards the gate which towered menacingly over her. Her steps grew smaller and smaller as she inched disbelievingly up the walkway. She turned in desperation to her mother, who by now had made her way back to the car. 55

8 "Okaasan..." Nori whimpered, as noiseless as she could. She wanted to run back to her mother, but something kept her pinned to the spot. That something held her there, relentless and pitiless in the strength of its grasp. It did not let her move, nor breathe, nor cry out as she watched her mother give her one last, strangely bright gaze before getting back into the car and shutting the door behind her. She could not so much as blink as she watched the car speed down the street, around the corner, and out of sight. 60

*Adapted from Fifty Words for Rain by Asha Lemmie*

## Section C

## Text 3

*The text below is about global warming and how it affects us. Read carefully and answer Questions 16-22 in the Question Booklet.*

- 1 In the summer of 2003 an area of high atmospheric pressure camped out above western and central Europe. Superheated over the Mediterranean, the giant swirling air mass rebuffed incursions of cooler Atlantic air for several weeks. In France, temperatures rose steadily, topping out for eight days at an astonishing 40°C. As the heat built up, people began to die. 5
- 2 It was Europe's hottest summer in 500 years, scientists later determined, was clearly linked to climate change. Among the many climatic threats that scientists associate with global warming, an uptick in heat waves is the most intuitive and immediate. As greenhouse gases released by human activities continue to increase in the atmosphere, heat waves will become longer and individual days will become hotter. 10
- 3 The ultimate solution to global warming, of course, is to drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. If we fail utterly to do that, by 2100 the heat-related death toll could rise above 100,000 a year in the U.S. Elsewhere the threat is far greater: In India, for example, the death toll could reach 1.5 million. And even if we do rein in emissions, the planet will continue to warm for decades. A juggernaut is in motion, and it will fundamentally change how most of the planet lives. 15
- 4 Extreme heat has pernicious effects even when it isn't lethal. Researchers link higher temperatures with a greater incidence of premature, underweight, and stillborn babies, and heat exhaustion affects mood, behaviour, and mental health. Hotter weather makes people more violent, across income levels. It lowers children's test scores and shrinks productivity. 20
- 5 The International Labour Organisation predicts that high heat levels will, by 2030, cut total working hours by 2.2 percent, equivalent to losing 80 million full-time jobs, mostly in low- to middle-income countries. Even in affluent ones, low-wage outdoor workers—in construction or agriculture, for example—will be hit hard. 25
- 6 By 2050, a third of the world's population could be living in places that feel like today's Sahara, where the average high temperature in summer now tops 40°C. Billions of people will face a stark choice: Migrate to cooler climates, or stay and adapt. Retreating inside air-conditioned spaces is one obvious work-around—but air-conditioning itself, in its current form, exacts a steep price on the planet. It contributes to warming the planet, accounting for 1.25 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions in 2016. Not to mention, historically, residential air-conditioning has been considered a luxury, with especially frigid indoor temperatures signifying power and prestige. It's unaffordable to many of the people who need it most. 30
- 7 In India, when the temperature surpasses 40.5°C, government agencies advise people to stay inside and drink cool water. But the advice is not helpful to the tens of millions whose homes are hotter inside than out, who lack electricity to operate fans or misters—only 8 percent of Indian households have air-conditioning—or who, like Noor Jehan, don't have homes at all. 35
- 8 Jehan, 36, has lived outdoors, in a South Delhi park, all her life. She works even when the thermometer reaches 47°C. "When I come back home," she says, "there's no water to even take a bath to clean the grime and dust and cool down." Her drinking water source is more than a mile away. Her sister Afsana and her three children cope by placing mats 40

on the sidewalks, to rest or even sleep. “The passing cars create a bit of breeze,” Afsana says. But the sidewalks often don’t cool off until about 2 a.m.

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- 9 The problem of extreme heat is mortally entangled with larger social problems, including access to housing, to water, and to health care. You might say it’s a problem from hell.

*Adapted from Too Hot to Live by Elizabeth Royte*