



**RAFFLES GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL
SEMESTRAL ASSESSMENT (1)
2009**

Name: _____ () Class: P6 _____

13 May 2009

English Language

ATT : 1 h 50 min

Your Score Out of 95 marks		
	Class	Level
Highest score		
Average score		
Parent's Signature		

BOOKLET A

Instructions to Pupils

1. Write your Name, Class and Index No. in the spaces above.
2. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
3. Follow all instructions carefully.
4. Answer all questions.
5. Shade your answers in the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS) provided for questions 1 to 30 only.

Section A : Comprehension (Graphic Stimulus) (5 marks)

Study the following text and then answer questions 1 to 5.

RGPS Carnival 2009

Barbecues, grills, thrills & more

Sizzling steaks, tasty kebabs & delicious satays

Treat your senses to a fiesta of tastes,
aromas, sights and sounds!

All are welcome to witness the RGPS spirit at work
at Raffles Girls' Primary School on 21 Nov, Sat
from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Musical lovers

can choose to watch

'Chicken Rice' or
'Mee Goreng'

Performed by the
Primary 4 pupils

Venue: Hall

Tickets at \$5 per person

Time: 12.30 p.m. (Chicken Rice)

4 p.m. (Mee Goreng)

(no admittance for latecomers)

* Money collected from the
performances will be donated to
the RGPS Indoor Sports Hall

Building Fund



Have a hand at the
traditional game stalls
and win attractive prizes!

Chance of a lifetime!

**Dunk the teacher of your choice
at 'Slam Dunk'**

Queue up early to avoid disappointment

Teacher's Roster is available at the stall
(8 teachers to choose from)

**Savour delicious
home-made food
and traditional snacks
from up to 30 food stalls**

Venue: Canteen

**Plant lovers
can select from
a wide range of
potted plants at the area
outside the bookshop
Books on gardening are
also available**

Time: 8.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Check out our
Arcade Corner
at the marquee in the
basketball court which
houses 20 latest game
machines**

Important: Registration for the Parenting Talk & Balloon Sculpturing Workshop starts on 3 Nov.
Parenting Talk – Four 1-hour long sessions, last session commences at 3.15 p.m.

Warning: The Haunted Houses at the CCA Rooms are not meant for the faint-hearted!
Time: 9 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Coupons are available at

Raffles Girls' Primary School, 21 Hillcrest Road, General Office

Starting from 4 Aug, from 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Every \$20 purchase of coupons entitles you to a chance at our lucky dip

All other proceeds will go into the RGPS Community Involvement Programme Fund
For details, please enquire at 6321 9876 or visit our website at <http://www.rgps.moe.edu.sg/>

For each question from 1 to 5, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer.
Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

1. All the events and activities below are available at the carnival except _____.
 - (1) Musicals
 - (2) Gardening
 - (3) Parenting Talk
 - (4) Balloon Sculpturing Workshop

2. Mrs Lim has registered for the last session of the Parenting Talk. Which activity can she participate in after the talk ends?
 - (1) Play at the Arcade Corner
 - (2) Browse the gardening books
 - (3) Watch the musical 'Mee Goreng'
 - (4) Have some excitement in the Haunted Houses

3. Coupons for the carnival can be bought _____.
 - (1) at the food stalls
 - (2) by calling the school at 6321 9876
 - (3) online at the website, <http://www.rgps.moe.edu.sg>
 - (4) at the General Office of Raffles Girls' Primary School

4. Which of the following statements is true?
 - (1) We get to barbecue the food that we buy in the canteen.
 - (2) You can choose to dunk any teacher in the school at the 'Slam Dunk' stall.
 - (3) You will have two chances at the lucky dip if you purchase \$40 worth of coupons.
 - (4) You can win attractive prizes if you try your hand at the game machines in the Arcade Corner.

5. The main aim of the RGPS Carnival is to _____.
 - (1) promote the RGPS spirit
 - (2) showcase the Primary 4 pupils' musical talent
 - (3) raise funds for the building of the Indoor Sports Hall
 - (4) raise funds for the school's Community Involvement Programme Fund

Section B: Grammar (7 marks)

For each question from 6 to 12, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

6. All the girls in the group, except Lynn, _____ swimming in the pool at this moment.

- (1) is
- (2) are
- (3) was
- (4) were

7. _____ of the rice has been eaten already by the end of the day.

- (1) Many
- (2) Much
- (3) A few
- (4) Plenty

8. George was there and heard Samuel _____ to Mrs Tan for breaking her window pane.

- (1) apologised
- (2) apologises
- (3) apologising
- (4) was apologising

9. She ought to finish up her chores before going out with her friends, _____ she?

- (1) hasn't
- (2) shan't
- (3) couldn't
- (4) shouldn't

10. After the maid _____ the bathrooms, she _____ the floor.

- (1) cleaned ... mopped
- (2) had cleaned ... mopped
- (3) cleaned ... had mopped
- (4) had cleaned ... had mopped

11. He attacked his classmates with a sharp object and was _____ expelled from school.

- (1) however
- (2) although
- (3) nevertheless
- (4) consequently

12. You cannot have the best of both worlds. You must choose _____ the two.

- (1) among
- (2) beside
- (3) amongst
- (4) between

Section C: Punctuation (3 marks)

For each question from 13 to 15, choose the correct punctuation to complete the passage. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

Suddenly, Kim remembered. She remembered the man at the library. "He was very wet," she thought (13) He pushed me as he went into the library."

Was this the same man (14) She tried to remember the man at the library. He was tall. "Perhaps he has stolen my umbrella," she thought. "Why did he steal the umbrella?" she asked herself.

She wondered, "Does he know about the piece of paper in the handle?"

The man opened his newspaper.

"The umbrella was still between his knees (15) Kim bellowed.

Adapted from "The Lost Umbrella of Kim Chu" by Eleanor Estes

13. (1) [.] full stop
(2) [,] comma
(3) [. "] full stop and inverted commas
(4) [, "] comma and inverted commas
14. (1) [-] dash
(2) [.] full stop
(3) [;] semi-colon
(4) [?] question mark
15. (1) [. "] full stop and inverted commas
(2) [, "] comma and inverted commas
(3) [? "] question mark and inverted commas
(4) [! "] exclamation mark and inverted commas

Section D: Vocabulary (5 marks)

For each question from 16 to 20, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

16. They are very _____ parents. They get their children presents all the time.
- (1) lenient
 - (2) indulgent
 - (3) patronising
 - (4) overbearing
17. Only the most _____ doctors were engaged to treat the emperor during his sickness.
- (1) dutiful
 - (2) eminent
 - (3) imminent
 - (4) domineering
18. Peter started to feel _____ when he did not manage to get a job despite attending numerous job interviews.
- (1) indebted
 - (2) despondent
 - (3) confounded
 - (4) flabbergasted
19. The boxer _____ just in time to avoid the jab to his jaw by his opponent.
- (1) darted
 - (2) dodged
 - (3) withdrew
 - (4) restrained
20. Due to his carelessness, he _____ a finger when he was operating the machine. Fortunately, the finger could be reattached to his hand.
- (1) severed
 - (2) distorted
 - (3) fractured
 - (4) dismembered

Section E: Vocabulary Cloze (5 marks)

For each question from 21 to 25, choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined words. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

Tuna catches in the south-western Indian Ocean have shrunk. Increasingly brazen (21) pirates have blocked access to some of the world's richest tuna waters off Somalia. As a result, the earnings of fishermen have dwindled. (22)

Recently, the audacious (23) attack on some big ships alerted the world to the pirates' extended range of activity. A number of nations are sending ships to the pirate-infested area to fend off (24) the attacks, which have led some shipping companies to avoid the route via the Suez Canal and, at greater cost, sail around Africa instead.

The United States as well as China have deployed (25) warships to help suppress piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

Adapted from The Straits Times, 23 Jan 2009

21. (1) bold
(2) abashed
(3) abhorrent
(4) courageous
22. (1) fallen
(2) faded
(3) moderated
(4) disappeared
23. (1) risky
(2) daring
(3) appalling
(4) hazardous
24. (1) fight
(2) daunt
(3) deflect
(4) deviate
25. (1) decreed
(2) summoned
(3) dispatched
(4) orchestrated

Section F : Comprehension MCQ (5 marks)

Read the passage and answer the questions 26 to 30.

Lately, Janice has been getting severe headaches. She attributes them to inadequate sleep. Her examinations are coming in a month and because of that, she feels a little nervous. At night, she cannot get a full night's rest, often tossing and turning in her sleep. Sometimes, she even gets nightmares in which she dreams that she has failed her examinations miserably. She feels constantly tired during the day but staves off fatigue by drinking cups of strong coffee. Unknown to Janice, she may be suffering from excessive stress.

Stress can be defined as physical, mental or emotional strain. Stress is not a disease and is a normal part of everyone's life. Although stress is not necessarily good or bad, some reactions to stress are undesirable. The most common is anxiety. Anxiety is often accompanied by other symptoms like trembling, headaches, sweating, irritability, fatigue, nightmares, memory problems and sleeplessness. Insomnia and the inability to concentrate are common symptoms of anxiety.

Finding the cause of the anxiety is a required first step in resolving a problem with stress. We should avoid becoming dependent on 'mood-altering' drugs like Prozac when confronted by life's problems. These drugs will not provide a permanent solution or even a long-lasting one. While no special diet is required, we should also avoid caffeine and other stimulants to give our nervous system a rest.

Often what we need when we encounter problems or stressful situations is a listening ear and a comforting shoulder. Finding someone who will listen to us and counsel us on our problems is a good way to start. A supportive network of family and friends can help relieve anxiety. During a stressful situation, a calm, quiet atmosphere and comfortable environment can help soothe our frayed nerves.

Relaxation therapy calms our nerves through certain physical exercises. In addition, keeping to a regular energetic fitness routine which will release tensions and calm the mind will help to bring down our stress levels as well.

For each of the question from 26 to 30, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make a choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

26. Janice's headaches are due to her _____ .
- (1) nightmares
 - (2) lack of sleep
 - (3) nervousness
 - (4) drinking of coffee
27. Janice keeps herself alert despite feeling tired by _____ .
- (1) exercising
 - (2) doing a lot of work
 - (3) taking mood-altering drugs
 - (4) drinking cups of strong coffee
28. Although stress 'is not a disease and is a normal part of everyone's life' in line 7 and 8, we should reduce it because _____ .
- (1) it will cause anxiety
 - (2) it will cause muscle tension
 - (3) we will lose our friends
 - (4) we will rely more and more on caffeine
29. A word in the passage that has the same meaning as 'an inability to sleep' is _____ .
- (1) fatigue
 - (2) anxiety
 - (3) therapy
 - (4) insomnia
30. The first thing to do to resolve a stressful situation is to _____ .
- (1) exercise
 - (2) go on a special diet
 - (3) try to get some sleep
 - (4) find the cause of the anxiety

BOOKLET B

Name: _____ ()

P6 ()

Section G : Structural Cloze (10 marks)

There are 10 blanks, numbered 31 to 40, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted to avoid confusion during marking.

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE .

(A) and	(D) for	(G) or	(K) then	(M) to
(B) are	(E) from	(H) over	(L) these	(P) when
(C) even	(F) however	(J) than	(N) till	(Q) where

Tourists enjoy visiting old Chinatown. Very often, you will see them in trishaws, stopping _____ taking photographs as they pass through the narrow and cluttered streets of Chinatown.
(31)

The first thing you hear when you step into Chinatown during the day is the noise made by people, especially housewives haggling _____ the prices of goods. _____ goods are sold on the 'five-foot way'. You will see hawkers standing beside their stalls calling out to customers to buy _____
(32) (33) (34)

them. The whole place bustles with activity _____ the wee hours of the night. People are everywhere, either looking for things to buy _____, enjoying a meal at their favourite food stalls.
(35) (36)

Unfortunately, this part of Singapore suffers from poor hygienic conditions. Insects such as houseflies and cockroaches _____ commonly seen. The drains are dirty and clogged.
(37)

_____ the old folks do not seem to mind. This is _____ they can recollect old sweet memories. Many of them would rather put up with the squalid living conditions _____, move elsewhere.
(38) (39) (40)

Section H: Editing for Spelling and Grammar (10 marks)

Correct each word in bold for spelling and each underlined word for grammar. Write the correct word in the relevant box.

41)
A tragedy struck on 1 April 1988. The British Antarctic ~~experdefion~~ ship Southern Quest
42)
was swallowed by crushed ice after becoming trapped only 150 yards from open water. Crew
43)
members were on board until just five minutes before it gone down. Yesterday, her captain,
Graeme Phippen said, "We were caught in pack ice and realised we could go down. We got
44)
a lot of ~~equitmeent~~ off before I decided it was not safe for anyone to go on board again."
45)
Five minutes before, the ship sank.
46)
"It was crushed by the ice. No personal posesions were saved. It was a sad moment for
47)
all of us but everyone behaved in a very porfesional way."
48)
The twenty men and four women crew were later rescued by America coastguard
49) 50)
helicopters and took to McMurdo Base. It was a good thing there were no casureties.

Section I: Comprehension Cloze (15 marks)

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

Found in marshes, mangrove swamps and rivers of Asia, the fishing cat is one of the few cats that feels totally at home with water. (51) _____ small, round ears and an elongated muzzle to create a somewhat streamlined body (52) _____, it is well adapted to an aquatic lifestyle.

To (53) _____ their fishy prey, fishing cats wait patiently at the edge of rivers or streams and (54) _____ with intense concentration. The moment a fish, frog or crustacean swims (55) _____ the striking range, they will plunge into the water, and with lightning (56) _____, grab the prey with their paws. A lethal bite is (57) _____ before the victim is brought ashore. At other times, fishing cats stand in shallow (58) _____ and stare intently for passing prey.

The fishing cat is known to hunt waterfowl by swimming underwater to seize their legs. The diet of the fishing cat also (59) _____ small mammals, reptiles, and strangely, grass. It is also known to (60) _____ dead and decaying flesh.

In the wild, fishing cats build dens in tree hollows or ground cavities. Two or three kittens are born (61) _____ a nine-week gestation period.

The loss of wetland habitats and hunting are the main (62) _____ to fishing cats. Their flesh is eaten in many (63) _____ of Asia and their body parts are also used in traditional medicines. (64) _____ have been accused of killing calves and domestic dogs and therefore are eliminated (65) _____ pests.

Adapted from "A Field Guide To Night Safari"

Section J: Transformation / Synthesis (10 marks)

For each of the questions 66 to 70, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

66. Jason smelt smoke coming from the kitchen. He got up to investigate.

Upon _____

67. She was grateful to the medical team for saving her husband's life.

She was filled _____

68. The assessment paper is difficult. It takes a long time to answer it

To answer such _____

69. Many people regard the building as a superb piece of architecture.

The building is _____

70. Sally is the most hardworking employee in the company.

No employee is as _____

Section K: Comprehension Open-Ended (20 marks)

Read the passage below and answer questions 71 to 80.

<p>Semyon stood before the rail which had been torn up. He threw down his bundle of sticks. A train was due; not a freight but a passenger train. And he had nothing with which to stop it, no flag. He could not replace the rail and could not drive in the spikes with his bare hands. It was necessary to run, absolutely necessary to run to the hut for some tools. "God help me!" he murmured.</p>	5
<p>Semyon started running towards his hut. He was out of breath, but still ran, falling every now and then. He had cleared the forest; he was only a few hundred feet from his hut, no more, when he heard the distant hooter of the factory sound-six o'clock! In two minutes' time, train no. 7 was due. "Oh Lord! Have pity on the innocent souls!" In his mind, Semyon saw the engine strike against the loosened rail with its left wheel, shiver, career, tear up and splinter the sleepers- and just there, there was a curve and the embankment seventy feet high down which the engine would topple – and the third-class carriages would be packed...little children...all sitting in the train now, never dreaming of danger. "Oh Lord! Tell me what to do! ...No, it is impossible to run to the hut and get back in time."</p>	10 15
<p>Semyon did not run on but turned back and ran faster than before. He ran as far as the rail which had been pulled up; his sticks were lying in a heap. He bent down, seized one without knowing why and ran on further. It seemed to him the train was already coming. He heard the distant whistle; he heard the quiet even tremor of the rails; but his strength was exhausted, he could run no farther, and came to a halt about six hundred feet from the awful spot. Then an idea came into his head, literally like a ray of light. Pulling off his cap, he took out of it, a scarf, smoothed it out, tied it to the stick and hung out his red flag.</p>	20
<p>He stood waving his flag. The train was already in sight. The driver would not see him – would come close up and a heavy train cannot pull up in six hundred feet. And the blood kept flowing. Semyon pressed the sides of the wound together so as to close it but the blood did not diminish. Evidently, he had cut his arm very deep. His head commenced to swim, black spots began to dance before his eyes and then it became dark. There was a ringing in his ears. He could not see the train or hear its noise. Only one thought possessed him. "I shall not be able to keep standing up. I shall fall and drop the flag; the train will pass over me. Help me, O' Lord!"</p>	25 30
<p>All turned black before him, his mind became a blank and he dropped the flag; but the bloodstained banner did not fall to the ground. A hand seized it and held it high to meet the approaching train. The engineer saw it, shut the regulators and reversed steam. The train came to a standstill.</p>	35
<p>People jumped out of the carriages and collected in a crowd. They saw a man lying senseless on the footway drenched in blood and another man standing beside him with bloodstained rag on a stick.</p>	
<p>Kumar looked around at all. Then lowering his head, he said, "Bind me. I tore up a rail."</p>	40
<p>Adapted from <i>Writers at Work</i> Written by: Vsevolod Garsin</p>	

Name: _____ ()

P6 ()

Section K: Comprehension Open-Ended (20 marks)

Read the passage on Pg 16 and answer questions 71 to 80.

71. Why did Semyon try so desperately to warn the train driver to stop?

72. What was Semyon's initial intention when he ran towards the hut in line 5?

73. Which word in the second paragraph tells you that this was an overnight train with beds on it?

74. What did Semyon do to try and attract the train driver's attention?

75. State two side effects Semyon suffered after having cut his arm too deep.

76. What did Semyon think would happen to him when he said "Help me, O' Lord" in lines 31-32?

77. Which sentence in the passage tells you that Semyon's efforts had not been wasted after all?

78. Use an adjective to describe Semyon's character and explain how he had demonstrated this.

79. Who was Kumar in line 40?

80. Why do you think Kumar decided to own up in the end?

~~~~~ END OF PAPER ~~~~~

Prepared by: Mdm Serene Chan  
Mr Desmond Lee  
Mrs Irene Bong  
Mdm Melissa Yeo

# ANSWER SHEET

**EXAM PAPER 2009**

---

**SCHOOL : RAFFLES GIRLS' PRIMARY**  
**SUBJECT : PRIMARY 6 ENGLISH**

**TERM : SA1**

---

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q7 | Q8 | Q9 | Q10 | Q11 | Q12 | Q13 | Q14 | Q15 | Q16 | Q17 |
| 2  | 1  | 4  | 3  | 4  | 2  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 2   | 4   | 4   | 3   | 4   | 4   | 2   | 2   |

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Q18 | Q19 | Q20 | Q21 | Q22 | Q23 | Q24 | Q25 | Q26 | Q27 | Q28 | Q29 | Q30 |
| 2   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 3   | 2   | 4   | 1   | 4   | 4   |

**Raffles Girls' Primary School**

**Corrections for P6 English Language SA 1 Examination 2009**

**Structural Cloze (10 m)**

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 31. A | 32. H | 33. L | 34. E | 35. M |
| 36. G | 37. B | 38. F | 39. Q | 40. J |

**Editing – Grammar & Spelling (10 m)**

|     |              |
|-----|--------------|
| 41. | expedition   |
| 42. | crushing     |
| 43. | went         |
| 44. | equipment    |
| 45. | after        |
| 46. | possessions  |
| 47. | professional |
| 48. | American     |
| 49. | taken        |
| 50. | casualties   |

**Comprehension Cloze (15 m)**

| No. | Acceptable Answers               |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 51. | With / Having                    |
| 52. | shape / structure                |
| 53. | catch / capture                  |
| 54. | watch / focus / stare / observe  |
| 55. | within / into / inside           |
| 56. | speed                            |
| 57. | given / delivered                |
| 58. | pools / water / waters / streams |
| 59. | includes / comprises             |
| 60. | consume / eat / devour           |
| 61. | after                            |
| 62. | threats                          |
| 63. | parts                            |
| 64. | They                             |
| 65. | as / like                        |

**Transformation and Synthesis (10 m)**

66. Upon smelling smoke coming from the kitchen, Jason got up to investigate.
67. She was filled with gratitude / gratefulness to / for / towards the medical team for saving her husband's life.
68. To answer such a difficult assessment paper takes a long time.
69. The building is regarded as a superb piece of architecture by many people. (OR)  
The building is regarded by many people as a superb piece of architecture.
70. No employee is as hardworking as Sally (is) in the company. (OR)  
No employee is as hardworking in the company as Sally (is).

Comprehension Open Ended (20 m)

- 71) He noticed the rail had been torn up (1m) and was worried for the lives of the passengers on board. (1m)
- 72) He wanted to get some tools (1m) to repair the torn rail. (1m)
- 73) The word is "sleepers".
- 74) He soaked his scarf with his own blood (1m), tied it to a stick (1/2m) and waved it. (1/2m)
- 75) Any two of the following:
- His vision became blur. (OR)
  - Black spots began to appear before his eyes. (OR)
  - There was a ringing sound in his ears. (OR)
  - He could not see or hear things around him. (OR)
  - He became dizzy.
- 76) He thought he would lose consciousness (1m) and be run over by the train. (1m)
- 77) The sentence is "The engineer saw it, shut the regulators and reversed steam."
- 78) Any one of the following:
- He was brave because he risked his life to save others. (OR)
  - He was determined as he did not give up even though his arm was bleeding.
- 79) He was the man who tore up the rail. (OR)  
He was the man who held up the bloodstained flag when Semyon fainted.
- 80) He was ashamed of his actions. (OR)  
He regretted what he had done. (OR)  
He felt sorry for Semyon.