



**COMMONWEALTH SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2024**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 2**

Name: _____ ()

Class: _____

**SECONDARY FOUR EXPRESS/FIVE NORMAL
ACADEMIC**

1184/02

INSERT

**TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2024
11.30am – 1.20pm**

1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

This document consists of 6 printed pages including the cover page.

[Turn over

Section A

Study the campaign poster (Text 1) and the social media post (Text 2) and answer Questions 1–4 in the Question Paper.

Text 1 is a poster on sustainable fashion.



**DO YOU
REALLY NEED TO
BUY MORE?**

The average person consumes over 1 tonne of clothes in their lifetime. Over 84% of that ends up in a landfill as fashion waste.

#AddtoEarth

Do you really know the weight of your clothes?

Every thoughtless click on "add to cart" adds to your growing pile, but more importantly, it adds to the planet's growing mountains of discarded clothing.

It is estimated that fast fashion items are worn less than 5 times before being thrown away.

Be part of the solution.

Buy better, _____.

Text 2 is taken from a social media post about sustainable fashion.

← Post

 Cora Harrington
@ [redacted]

Let's not confuse sustainable fashion with just buying new clothes from sustainable brands. Buying a t-shirt for \$100 is NOT sustainable fashion. At the core of sustainable fashion is wearing what you already own and buying only what you need. It's reducing, reusing, recycling, and mending things when you can.

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Section B

Text 3

The text below describes the first encounter between a young man, Gerry, and one of his private tutors, Mr Kralefsky.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5–16 in the Question Paper.

- 1 Kralefsky lived in the top two storeys of a square, moldering, grand old house that stood on the outskirts of the town. I climbed the wide staircase and rapped a sharp tattoo on the knocker that decorated the front door. I waited, glowering to myself and digging the heel of my shoe into the wine-red carpet with considerable violence. Just as I was about to knock again there came the soft pad of footsteps and the front door was flung wide to reveal my new tutor. 5
- 2 I decided immediately that Kralefsky was not a human being at all, but a gnome* who had disguised himself as one by putting on an antiquated but very elegant suit. He had a large, egg-shaped head with flattened sides that were tilted back against a smoothly rounded humpback. This gave him the curious appearance of being permanently in the middle of shrugging his shoulders and peering up into the sky. His extremely large eyes had a fixed, far-away look in them as though their owner were just waking up out of a trance. His wide, thin mouth was stretched across his face in a smile of welcome, showing even but discoloured teeth. 10
- 3 'Gerry Durrell?' he asked bobbing like a sparrow, and flapping his large, bony hands at me. 'Gerry Durrell, is it not? Come in, my dear boy, do come in. Through here; this is the room we shall work in,' fluted Kralefsky, throwing open a door and ushering me into a small, sparsely furnished room. I put my books on the table and sat down in the hard chair he indicated. He leaned over the table, balancing on the tips of his beautifully manicured fingers, and smiled at me in a vague way. I smiled back, not knowing quite what he expected. 15 20
- 4 'Friends!' he exclaimed rapturously. 'It is most *important* that we are friends. I am quite, quite certain we will become friends, aren't you?'
I nodded seriously, biting the inside of my cheeks to prevent myself from smiling.
'Friendship,' he murmured, shutting his eyes at the thought, 'friendship!' 25
- 5 'Yes, yes, that's it,' he said firmly. 'I'm sure we shall be friends. I am by way of being an aviculturist, but only an amateur,' he volunteered modestly. 'Your mother tells me that you have a great love of natural history. This, you see, gives us something in common straight away... a bond, as it were, eh? I thought perhaps you might care to see my collection of birds. Half an hour or so with the feathered creatures will, I venture to think, do us no harm before we start work. Besides, I was a *little* late this morning, and one or two of them need fresh water.' 30 35

* *gnome*: legendary creatures, usually small and misshapen

- 6 He led the way up a creaking staircase to the top of the house and paused in front of a green door. He produced an immense bunch of keys that jangled musically as he searched for the right one; he inserted it, twisted it round, and drew open the heavy door. A dazzle of sunlight poured out of the room, blinding me, and with it came a deafening chorus of bird song. The attic was vast, occupying almost the whole top of the house. It was uncarpeted, and the only piece of furniture was a large wooden table in the centre of the room. But the walls were linked, from floor to ceiling with row upon row of cages containing dozens of chirruping birds. The birds, with their vibrant plumage, appeared as living jewels. Their sounds echoed through the room creating a spell of serenity. The floor of the room was covered with a fine layer of bird seed, so that as you walked your feet scrunched pleasantly.
- 7 It was as though Kralfsky had opened the gates of Paradise in the grubby corridor at the top of his house. Fascinated by this mass of birds I edged slowly round the room, pausing to gaze into each cage, while Kralfsky (who appeared to have forgotten my existence) seized a large watering-can from the table and danced nimbly from cage to cage, filling water-pots.

Adapted from 'My Family and Other Animals' by Gerald Durrell

Section C

Text 4

The article below examines the impact of EVs (electric vehicles) and the development of new technologies to power vehicles.

Read the article carefully and answer Questions 17–22 in the Question Paper.

- 1 EVs have been touted as the panacea to all our environmental problems — the zero exhaust emissions of EVs mean no more global warming and the air quality improves as no toxic gases or gases that trap heat are released when the vehicles are in use. For those viewing through the lens of optimism, proponents of EVs and environmentalists see EVs as having the potential to be the solution to all our climate woes. 5
- 2 Everything looks well and good until we look closer at the production process of EVs. Volvo, a German car manufacturer recently released research suggesting that greenhouse emissions during the production of an electric car is almost 70% higher than manufacturing a petrol one. This has left many reeling in shock and the cynics amongst us sniggering triumphantly at what we have always believed to be EV manufacturers' greenwashing*. 10
- 3 The culprit in this whole debacle seems to lie with the lithium-ion batteries fitted currently to nearly all EVs. Too much energy is used — from the manufacturing process to the charging and discharging process. Let's not forget how much energy is also wasted in moving the EV bogged down by the absurdly heavy battery. It seems a perverse choice of hardware with which to lead the automobile's fight against the climate crisis. 15
- 4 Then there is the electricity that EVs rely on. Petrol vehicles are regarded as environmental sinners for the fossil fuel they use contaminate the earth whilst its clean cousins use electricity with zero exhaust emissions. However, many countries still burn carbon-heavy fossil fuels to turn generators which produce the very electricity EVs use. Isn't it misleading to say that EVs are 'clean' then? 20
- 5 Maybe not. New developments in fuelling EVs are taking place as we speak. These include relying on wind and sun. EV users can now power their vehicles with electricity generated from these renewable sources which emit less carbon to the environment. Not only is this good news for the environment, EV users also need not feel guilty anymore. The only drawback, however, is the large amount of space that the wind turbines and solar panels require, which will remain a challenge for tiny nations like Singapore. 25
- 6 Another alternative energy source is hydrogen. As hydrogen is abundant, using it in batteries for EVs will bring the costs of producing EVs down. The charging time can also be cut down drastically. Further, hydrogen batteries would require much less energy to be used during the charging process. The significantly lighter weight of hydrogen batteries means that less energy is used when moving the EVs. 30
- 7 It gets even better; hydrogen can also be used as fuel in engines instead of batteries. The hydrogen engine, developed by JCB, a company that makes construction excavators and trucks, boldly ditches the battery concept altogether. Instead, trucks with these engines fill up with hydrogen as fuel. When hydrogen burns, it gives off a lot of energy. As it does not emit any carbon, it, therefore, does not cause harm to the environment unlike fossil fuels. Current filling stations that dispense fossil fuel can be converted to dispense hydrogen instead. This should be a win for environmentalists — for not only are the trucks using cleaner fuel, no additional infrastructure is needed. By using the current filling stations, wastage of resources 35

* greenwashing: the act of making false or misleading statements about the environmental benefits of a product or practice

is prevented. Imagine vehicles with such engines filling up at the very filling stations that once used to dispense petrol! 40

8 Sceptics of EVs remain unconvinced. They point the finger at the 'fast fashion' sales culture that has conditioned people into thinking that they need to upgrade to new models every three years. The reality is that three-year-old cars are still in great condition and with proper maintenance, cars ten years or older, can still run well. With such consumer culture, how can EVs be the saviour of our environmental woes then? 45

9 All is not doom and gloom for hope lies in the younger generation who have grown up in an era of heightened environmental consciousness and climate change at the turn of the century. They reject extreme consumerism in favour of sustainability as they believe that less waste is better for the planet. Being social media savvy, they will not hesitate to call out companies that encourage consumerism and promote a wasteful culture on social media platforms. As such, EV companies will be careful in the promotion of their products if they do not wish to incur the ire of this consumer base. 50

Adapted from 'Do electric cars really produce fewer carbon emissions than petrol or diesel vehicles?' by Jasper Jolly and 'I love electric vehicles – and was an early adopter. But increasingly I feel duped' by Rowan Atkinson