

Section A

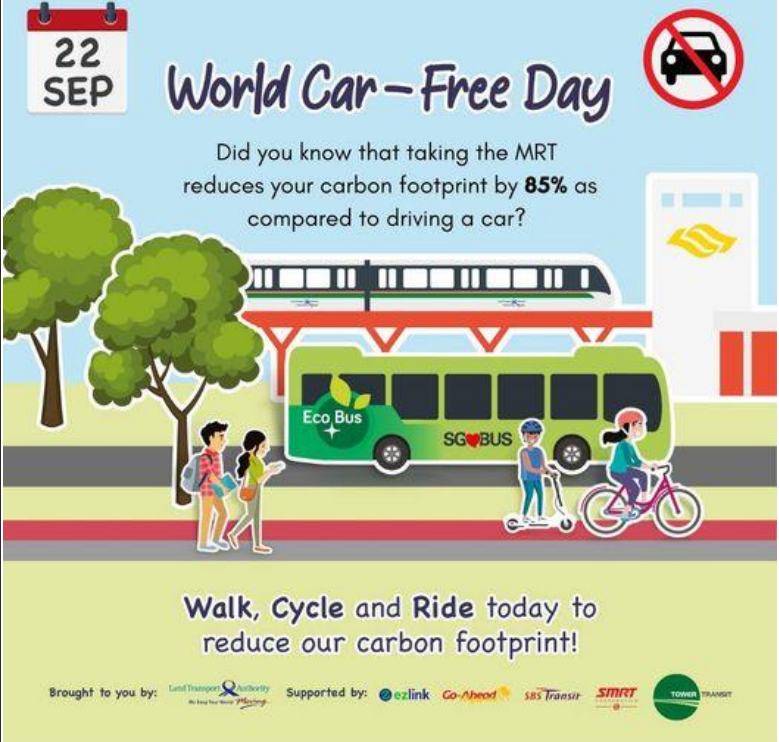
Study the online advertisement (**Text 1**) and the social media post (**Text 2**) and answer Questions 1 – 4 in the Question Paper.

Text 1 is taken from an online poster for the World Car-Free Day Campaign.

It's World Car-Free Day!

Let's make a conscious effort to be greener and give [#WalkCycleRide](#) a try today.

With our growing transport network, it is now even more convenient to get to the places you love. For a fuss-free journey on public transport, remember to tap on your contactless bank card, mobile phone, smartwatch, or your account-based EZ-link card!



The illustration shows a vibrant scene for World Car-Free Day on 22 September. At the top left, a calendar icon marks '22 SEP'. The title 'World Car-Free Day' is prominently displayed next to a 'no car' symbol. A text box states: 'Did you know that taking the MRT reduces your carbon footprint by 85% as compared to driving a car?'. The central image depicts a green 'Eco Bus' with 'SG BUS' branding, with an MRT train passing over it on an elevated track. Pedestrians, a person on a scooter, and a cyclist are shown using alternative transport. At the bottom, a call to action reads: 'Walk, Cycle and Ride today to reduce our carbon footprint!'. Logos for 'Brought to you by: Land Transport Authority' and 'Supported by: ezlink, Go-Ahead, SBS Transit, SMRT, and TROPICAN TRANSPORT' are at the very bottom.

Text 2 is taken from a blogpost on being car-free.

I've not owned my own car for about 20 years. My car use has been principally for adulting – moving house, collecting furniture, and stretching the working day by travelling before the first train starts and after the last train has gone. Being car-free has restricted my choices but has brought its own freedoms. While I can't drive to collect anyone from a late-night flight, I don't have to parallel park ever again. More importantly, I don't have to be forced into car ownership that I can't afford! With the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure, cheap public transport is available, and I can travel to places easily.

SECTION B**Text 3**

The text below is about a boy who tries to pass through an underwater tunnel in a foreign country.

Read it carefully and answer questions 5 – 14 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 It seemed to him that a long time had passed, and he swam out to where he could see his mother. Yes, she was still there, a yellow spot under an orange umbrella. He swam back to the big rock, climbed up, and dived into the blue pool among the fanged and angry boulders. Down he went, until he touched the wall of rock again. But the salt burnt his eyes so fiercely that he could not see. 5
- 2 He came to the surface, swam to shore, and went back to the villa to wait for his mother. Soon she walked slowly up the path, swinging her striped bag, the flushed, naked arm dangling beside her. "I want some swimming goggles," he panted, defiant and beseeching. She gave him a patient, inquisitive look as she said casually, "Well, of course, darling." 10
- 3 But now, now, now! He must have them this minute, and no other time. He nagged and pestered until she went with him to a shop. As soon as she had bought the goggles, he grabbed them from her hand as if she were going to claim them for herself, and was off, running down the steep path to the bay.
- 4 Jerry swam out to the big barrier rock, adjusted the goggles, and dived. The impact of the water broke the rubber-enclosed vacuum, and the goggles came loose. He understood then that he must swim from the surface of the water down to the base of the rock. He fixed the goggles tight and firm, filled his lungs, and floated, face down, on the water. Now he could see. It was as if he had eyes of a different kind—fish eyes that showed everything clear and delicate and wavering in the bright water. 15 20
- 5 Under him, six or seven feet down, was a floor of perfectly clean, shining white sand, rippled firm and hard by the tides. Two grayish shapes steered there, like long, rounded pieces of wood or slate. They were fish. He saw them nose toward each other, poise motionless, make a dart forward, swerve off, and come around again. It was like a water dance. A few inches above them the water sparkled as if sequins were dropping through it. Fish again—myriads of minute fish, the length of his fingernail—were drifting through the water, and in a moment he could feel the innumerable tiny touches of them against his limbs. It was like swimming in flaked silver. The great rock rose sheer out of the white sand—black, tufted lightly with greenish weed. He could see no gap in it. He swam down to its base. 25 30
- 6 Again and again he rose, took a big chestful of air, and went down. Again and again he groped over the surface of the rock, feeling it, almost hugging it in the desperate need to find the entrance. And then, once, while he was clinging to the black wall, his knees came up and he shot his feet out forward and they met no obstacle. He had found the hole. 35
- 7 He gained the surface, clambered about the stones that littered the barrier rock until he found a big one, and with this in his arms, let himself down over the side of the rock. He dropped, with the weight, straight to the sandy floor. Clinging tight 40

to the anchor of stone, he lay on his side and looked in under the dark shelf at the place where his feet had gone. He could see the hole. It was an irregular, dark gap; but he could not see deep into it. He let go of his anchor, clung with his hands to the edges of the hole, and tried to push himself in.

- 8 He got his head in, found his shoulders jammed, and moved them in sidewise. 45
He could hardly see anything ahead. Suddenly, something soft and clammy plastered against his face; from the corner of his eye he saw a dark frond moving against the greyish rock, and panic filled him. He thought of octopuses, of clinging weed. He pushed himself out backward and caught a glimpse, as he retreated, of a harmless tentacle of seaweed drifting in the mouth of the tunnel. 50
It was enough. He reached the sunlight, swam to shore, and lay on the diving rock. He looked down into the blue well of water. He knew he must find his way through that cave, or hole, or tunnel, and out the other side.

SECTION C

Text 4

The article below is about coffee.

Read it carefully and answer questions 15 – 21 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 It is a rich dark liquid that flows across the world and greases the wheels of our economies. It is one of the most traded commodities. And there are fears that, with a seemingly irrepressible demand, we may one day run dry. We are not talking about oil, but coffee. More than two billion “cups of joe” are drunk every day and for many, working life would feel impossible without it. As traditionally tea-drinking countries like China are seduced by coffee’s charms, it may soon become the world’s favourite drink. 5
- 2 The early drinkers were firm believers in its medicinal properties. Recent studies suggest that coffee can offer some protection from certain common diseases. A recent review of the evidence by Susanna Larsson at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden found that each cup of coffee per day is associated with a 6% reduction in the risk of type 2 diabetes. Laura Van Dongen at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, meanwhile, has found that regular coffee drinkers were at least 20% less likely to die from heart disease. 10
- 3 Even with today’s agricultural technologies, coffee is a notoriously difficult crop to grow. The plants that produce Arabica coffee beans are very sensitive to the climate: they thrive in a narrow temperature band and require plenty of rainfall. Just as the quality of wine depends on the terroir of grapes, the taste of each coffee blend will be shaped by the conditions in which the beans are grown. 15
- 4 The state of Minas Gerais in Brazil provides almost perfect conditions. The seeds are first planted in bags filled with nutrient-rich manure and compost. The farm’s location – 1,000m above sea level – offers the perfect wet and cool climate for the seeds to germinate. Even so, the young leaves are made of such delicate tissue that they have to be kept under shade to avoid too much direct sunlight. 20
- 5 After six months, the small trees are ready to be planted – but they still require meticulous care to ensure they receive enough water. Once they reach maturity, the plants will begin to blossom with white flowers that will eventually fall away to reveal the cherries that contain the beans. Overall, it takes around two and a half years until the first crop can be harvested. This means a long lag before the farmer can see a return on his or her investment. The plants are biennial - they will only produce a full yield every couple of years after that point. 25 30
- 6 The harvest only begins after a quality control manager has tasted the beans to ensure they are of optimum quality. Once they are taken from the trees, they are sorted, washed and graded and then laid out on a vast patio to dry. They are then vacuum-packed and loaded onto trucks, ready for transit.
- 7 Cultivation is only one part of the story – before they can be drunk, the raw beans must be cooked. Italy’s coffee culture is famous for its enviable espresso machines that extract more flavour from the grinds. Unlike a typical filter coffee, an espresso is brewed by forcing a lower volume of steaming water through the ground beans at high pressure. This results in a higher concentration drink, with the characteristic honey-coloured “crema” that floats at the top of the cup. 35 40

- 8 Espresso coffees can now be found in thousands of cities across the world. This is thanks, in part, to Howard Schultz, a manager at a little-known coffee shop in Seattle, who fell in love with Italian espresso during a business trip to Milan. He would later buy out the owners and launch an aggressive expansion campaign that would lead his company – Starbucks – to become one of the most recognisable brands in the world. 45
- 9 It was not just the flavour that had caught his attention, though; it was also the community that he saw within the coffee bars themselves. It represented a ‘third place’ – between home and work – where people could enjoy a luxurious snack while they gather and gossip. Unlike a pub, the coffee bar was a suitable meeting place at any time of the day, for any age group. 50
- 10 Today, even countries such as China – which have traditionally favoured tea – are now coming to appreciate coffee’s allure. As a sign of its growth, consider this: Starbucks opened their first store in Beijing 1999. Today, they open a new store in China every 15 hours.
- 11 Whereas most people had drunk instant coffee at home in the past, younger Chinese people are increasingly buying into its social appeal, as well as developing more refined tastes for artisan blends in specialty coffee shops. Sally Wu, the founder of Seesaw coffee, a chain of 22 specialty coffee shops, argues that the drink is now being appreciated in China like “fine wine”. 55

Acknowledgements:

Section A Text 1: Photograph from: <https://www.facebook.com/SMRTCorpSG/posts/its-world-car-free-day-lets-make-a-conscious-effort-to-be-greener-and-give-walkc/4574955702525623/>

Text 2: <https://backonmybikeblog.com/2020/10/09/car-free-in-a-crisis/>

Section B Text 3: Adapted from: Through the Tunnel by Doris Lessing

Section C Text 4: Adapted from: <https://www.bbc.com/future/bspoke/made-on-earth/how-the-world-came-to-run-on-coffee/>