

Section A

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

Text 1 is taken from an advertisement found on a personal finance blog.



Over the phone or via text messages, police officers will **NEVER** ask you to:

- transfer money to the police, bank accounts, or mobile numbers linked to bank accounts
- request for your banking, SingPass or CPF related information
- click on links that lead to bank websites
- install apps outside official app stores

Unsure if it's a scam?
Call the ScamShield Helpline at 1799.

I CAN ACT AGAINST SCAMS | SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE SAFEGUARDING EVERY DAY | NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

Text 2 is an excerpt taken from a social media post.

"I always thought it was something that happened to other people. I am educated and successful in my career after all. I received a phone call which claimed to be from the police, stating that my bank account had been hacked. I panicked because I had quite an amount there. I followed the instructions, confirming my telephone number via an SMS and was told to wait for updates. Nothing happened. Later that evening, when I recounted the incident to my family, my sister immediately asked me to call the bank to be sure because she said that the police would never ask for my bank details. True enough, I was scammed and lost over \$100,000. I was definitely very foolish."

Section B

Text 3

The text below is about an aging athlete, Daniel Carter, who struggled to compete in a marathon.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5–15 in the Question Paper.

- 1 Daniel Carter had once been the fastest runner in the city, his name printed in bold letters across newspapers after every competition. He had shattered records, basked in the roar of the crowd, and stood atop podiums with gold medals glinting in the sun. In his prime, he had raced with effortless grace, energetic and explosive in movement, as if the ground itself pushed him forward. But time had changed him. Now, at forty-two, his muscles ached before the race had even begun. The crowd no longer roared his name with the same enthusiasm. 5
- 2 He sat on a bench near the starting line, tightening the laces on his worn-out running shoes, the same pair he had relied on for years. They had carried him through victories and pain. He had neglected his training, and as a result, his muscles felt tight and unresponsive. His body, once a finely tuned machine, now felt like a foreign weight he struggled to control. He knew he was not in top shape, but sponsorships had dried up, and money was scarce. He had entered this marathon with the hope of winning the prize money to support his family. 10
- 3 The starting gun fired, and Daniel took off, his legs moving by instinct. The familiar rhythm returned, but it was weaker now, less certain. Around him, younger runners surged ahead, their fresh energy propelling them forward like gusts of wind. He tried to keep up, but his body was slower to respond. His breath came in ragged gasps, his feet felt heavier with every step. He was no longer the man who left competitors in his dust. Now he was struggling just to keep pace. He felt like a shadow of his former self, running against the tide of youth and ambition. 15
- 4 The kilometres stretched on. His breathing grew laboured, his limbs felt like lead. Sweat trickled down his brow, stinging his eyes. His chest burned with every step. He thought back to the days when running had been effortless, when he had barely noticed the distance passing beneath his feet. Back then, he had watched veteran runners struggle and had felt no sympathy. He had even dismissed them as men who had overstayed their time. Now, he understood. He understood the exhaustion, the frustration, the unrelenting weight of time pressing down on his body. 20 25
- 5 A sharp cramp seized his calf, sending pain shooting through his leg. He winced but kept pushing forward. The crowd lining the streets blurred, their cheers indistinct. His ears caught snippets of encouragement, but none of it was for him. The front-runners were nearing the finish line. The cameras flashed and he could hear the deafening applause as the leader crossed it, arms raised in triumph. 30
- 6 Daniel clenched his teeth and forced himself onward. The finish line was still distant, but he had come too far to stop now. His vision blurred, and his steps faltered. The pavement beneath him felt unsteady, the sounds of the race becoming distant. His legs betrayed him, his knees buckling. In an instant, he crashed onto the hard asphalt, pain jolting through his body.
- 7 Lying on the ground, he felt hands lifting him, voices murmuring in concern. A medic crouched beside him, asking if he was alright. He nodded weakly, though disappointment weighed heavier than his aching limbs. He had given everything, and it had not been enough. As he was helped to his feet, he saw his family waiting at the sidelines. His wife's eyes were filled not with disappointment, but with warmth. His children were smiling. They were proud of him. Not for winning, not for the records he once held, but for the fact that he had tried. 35 40

Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the online advertisement (Text 1) and the excerpt from a social media post (Text 2) on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1–4.

- 1 Look at the image and the text that appears across the face of the person in Text 1. What does the image of the man with his face partially covered suggest about scammers pretending to be police officers?

..... [1]

- 2 Look at Text 2. Tick (✓) the statement which best summarises the main message of Text 2.

☐

Always call the nearest police station to report suspicious calls.

☐

People can be scammed regardless of their education or economic background.

☐

Scammers will only target people with high income.

☐

When receiving calls from strangers, we must ensure that caller is not a scammer.

[1]

- 3 Give one way in which the tone of Text 1 is different from the tone of Text 2.

..... [1]

- 4 Look at Texts 1 and 2 and statements (a) and (b) below.

Decide whether the statements refer to Text 1, Text 2, both texts, or neither text.

Circle the answer you have chosen for each statement.

- (a) We must stay vigilant as the number of scam related crimes have increased.

Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither

- (b) The text mentions specific actions that the authorities would never take.

Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither

[2]

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 3 on page 3 of the Insert for Questions 5–15.

- 5 In paragraph 1, which sentence suggests that Daniel was not as popular as he used to be?

..... [1]

- 6 What do the following words in *italics* from Paragraph 1 suggest about Daniel's running ability in the past?

Based on the following words / phrase in <i>italics</i> ,	Daniel was...
'...raced with <i>effortless grace</i> ...' (lines 3-4)	
'... <i>energetic</i> and <i>explosive</i> in movement...' (line 4)	

[2]

- 7 What does 'they' in line (8) refer to?

..... [1]

- 8 Some readers might say that Daniel should not have attempted the marathon. With reference to Paragraph 2, find evidence that supports this view.

Identify **three** quotations from Paragraph 2 and explain how each quotation provides evidence for this view.

Quotation	How each quotation supports the view that Daniel should not have attempted the marathon

[3]

- 9 What does the phrase 'money was scarce' (line 11) tell us about Daniel's situation?

..... [1]

- 10 In Paragraph 3, the writer uses the expression 'He felt like a shadow of his former self.' (line 18). What does the expression suggest about how Daniel felt?

..... [1]

- 11 In Paragraph 4, Daniel is described as struggling in the race.

- (a) Identify **two** phrases that describe him panting.

..... [1]

- (b) Which word suggests that Daniel found it difficult to lift his arms and legs to run?

..... [1]

- 12 What does 'men who overstayed their time' (line 23) suggest about Daniel's attitude towards his older opponents when he was younger?

..... [1]

- 13 'A sharp cramp seized his calf, sending pain shooting through his leg'. What does the word 'seized' (line 26) suggest about how the cramp affected Daniel's leg?

..... [1]

Which of the following phrases from Paragraph 5 tell us that a runner had already completed the race? Tick [✓] **two** boxes only.

'His ears caught snippets of encouragement...'

☐

'The cameras flashed ...'

☐

'...their cheers indistinct...'

☐

'...he could hear the deafening applause...'

☐

'The crowd lining the streets blurred...'

☐

[2]

- 15 'Daniel clenched his teeth and forced himself onward. The finish line was still distant, but he had come too far to stop now. His vision blurred, and his steps faltered. The pavement beneath him felt unsteady, the sounds of the race becoming distant. His legs betrayed him, his knees buckling. In an instant, he crashed onto the hard asphalt, pain jolting through his body.' (lines 31–34).

Identify the words or phrases from the extract given above that correspond with the descriptions of how Daniel's fall towards the finishing line.

Descriptions of the race	Matching words or phrases from the given extract
wavered	
shaky	
drifting away	
pavement	

[4]