



FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOL (SECONDARY)

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2025
SECONDARY 4 NORMAL (ACADEMIC)**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SYLLABUS A)

1190/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

Date: 24 July 2025

Duration: 1 hour 50 minutes

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

Setter: Ms Wendy Low & Mrs Yvonne Tay

This insert consists of 4 printed pages including the cover page.

[Turn over]

NAME: _____ ()

CLASS: _____

Study the webpage (Text 1) and the extract from a blog (Text 2) and answer Questions 1 – 4 in the Question Paper.

Text 1 is taken from a conservation website.

You can make a positive difference to our world!

If you love nature and wildlife, you may want to join Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) as a docent.

What is a Docent?

The word 'docent' is derived from the Latin word 'doceo' meaning 'I Teach'. As a docent, you work with any of your preferred Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) Parks to promote interest in nature and wildlife among visitors. Docents are currently based at Discovery Stations located at Singapore Zoo, Night Safari, River Safari and Jurong Bird Park.



What are the Requirements?

To apply, you must be at least 18 years old. As a docent, you will take part in enriching sessions to learn about animals and conservation, speak with visitors at various points in the park, and explain key information to groups. The role involves stepping forward to start conversations and answer questions from the public. If you are someone who enjoys picking up new knowledge and speaking with others in a park setting, this opportunity may suit you well. An 8-week training programme will be provided. After training, you will need to commit to volunteering at least once a month for one year. For more information, please call 68900222 during office hours.

Text 2 is taken from an extract in the blog written by a volunteer with WRS.

I'm always curious about wildlife. I've never imagined that I'd personally receive training to handle birds, even vultures! My good friend introduced me to the 8-week programme at Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) last year. It's been an exciting year as I've gotten to encounter different kinds of wild animals and learn so much about them! At first, I was filled with apprehension and self-doubt. I am glad I stepped out of my comfort zone because now, I have no more fears! Do join us in this big family! You'll have no regrets!

~ A volunteer with WRS~

NAME: _____ ()

CLASS: _____

Section B

Text 3

The text below describes a hunt for monkeys. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5 – 16 in the Question Paper.

- 1 We are going on a monkey hunt in the heart of Peru's Manu National Park. My guide Elias is accompanied by his son Martin and his daughter Thalia. The jungle swallows us with ease on this sunny day. Five minutes into the jungle and we can hear the calls of titi monkeys. Although titi monkeys are target practice for children, the hunters do not break their stride. Another five minutes and we hear a troop of capuchin monkeys. Elias halts, even raises his bow, but ultimately lets them go. He is holding out for something more delectable. 5
- 2 We push deeper into the forest and inspect a cluster of fruit trees. A scattering of recently dropped fruits tells us that things are progressing as planned. Monkeys have been here. A whole hour crawls by. At last, Thalia's face lights up. "Spider monkeys," she whispers and licks her lips with unconcealed relish. I look in every direction but the right one. It is not until the monkeys start leaping through the trees that I get an inkling of their location. At first, I only mark the rustling amidst the crowded treetops, 30 to 50 metres above our heads. Then, I start catching glimpses of our flighty prey, romping through the dense foliage. The hunt is now truly on, and I am stumbling over a carpet of grasping roots, barrelling through walls of vines and skidding on greasy mud while trying to spot for snakes and monkeys. My companions glided through this absolute obstacle course with practised grace. Hunting animals on level ground is hard enough, I think. To bag a spider monkey, a hunter first must catch up with it, then shoot more than six storeys straight up at a tiny, unpredictably moving target. 10 15 20
- 3 Elias has a few natural medicines to improve his chances of achieving this feat. To sharpen his aim, he squeezes plant juice into his eyes. During the hunt itself, he chews some twigs coated with a fungus to clear his mind. However, this doubtful cocktail of performance enhancers is not a guarantee of success. The hunt is still challenging. Somehow, without me noticing, Thalia has danced ahead of us and is pointing at the dark, long-limbed shapes flitting away far above us. 25
- 4 The hunt draws towards an inevitable climax. Elias and Martin have their bows up, their muscles taut with tension. Then, with stunning abruptness and a burst of speed that I could not hope to replicate, Elias bounds ahead, drawing back an arrow in one fluid motion. Before I can even spot his target, the arrow is already whistling skyward. The projectile narrowly misses a female spider monkey that has paused to rest. Alerted to the danger now, all the monkeys scattered. There is no chance for a second shot. 30
- 5 By now, I collapse onto a rotting log, heaving for breath. My companions look at me in bemusement. I am about to say something funny to disguise the fact that I was utterly spent when suddenly the jungle explodes with a loudness of cries, urgent and nearby. "It's close," Martin whispered. 35
I surge to my feet, no longer tired.

(Adapted from 'Peru's World Apart' by Emma Marris)

NAME: _____ ()

CLASS: _____

Section C

Text 4

In the article below, the writer discusses the appeal of blind boxes. Read the article carefully and answer questions 17 - 21 in the Question Paper.

- 1 Blind boxes have become a massive hit with Gen Z and Gen Alpha, turning simple collectibles into a cultural phenomenon. These small, sealed packages that hide a surprise item inside are not just toys—they are an experience. For starters, the element of surprise is a big part of the appeal. In a world where instant gratification is the norm, blind boxes bring back the excitement of anticipation. 5
- 2 Beyond the surprise, blind boxes play into the love of collecting. Many come in themed series, encouraging buyers to get them all. The fact that some items are rarer than others heighten the appeal. For Gen Z and Alpha, finding a rare or exclusive piece is not just exciting—it is a way to stand out and share a unique achievement, often through social media. Platforms like TikTok and YouTube are full of videos where people reveal what is inside their blind boxes. It is not just about owning the item but sharing the experience. These videos are fun to watch, easy to create, and a great way to connect with others in the community. 10
- 3 The gamification aspect is another key draw. Blind boxes feel like a game where every purchase is a spin of the wheel. Will you get the rare piece or just add to your collection? This sense of unpredictability is engaging and mirrors the gaming culture that is so prevalent among these generations. 15
- 4 For brands, the potential here is huge. Storytelling can make blind boxes even more compelling. Instead of just selling products, companies can build intriguing narratives around their collections. Whether it is a fantasy world, a group of quirky characters, or a futuristic theme, as buyers open each box to piece together a story, they deepen their emotional investment for the blind boxes. 20
- 5 Rarity is another lever brands can pull. Including such items that create buzz drives repeat purchases. When people know there is a chance to snag something rare, they are more likely to keep coming back. Social media influencers can also amplify the craze. A popular creator unboxing the most recent blind box collection can lead to a high level of interest, especially among Gen Z and Alpha, who trust and look up to these figures. Brands can also lean into technology. Adding Quick Response (QR) codes that unlock digital extras and Augmented Reality (AR) features that enhance the unboxing experience blends the physical and digital worlds in a way that resonates with younger audiences. Eco-friendly packaging can also help brands win over environmentally conscious buyers and their parents. 25 30
- 6 Blind boxes are not just about the products inside—they are about the experience, the community, and the excitement of discovery. For Gen Z and Alpha, they represent fun, creativity, and a chance to connect. For brands, they are an opportunity to innovate and build strong emotional connections with a generation that values experiences over things. With the right strategies, blind boxes can go from a trend to a lasting success. 35

(Adapted from <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/blind-box-craze-why-gen-z-alpha-cant-get-enough-how-brands-can-alfxc>)

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