



ORCHID PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL

Preliminary Examination 2025

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SYLLABUS A

1190/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

24 July 2025

Secondary 4 Normal (Academic)

1 hour 50 minutes

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

This document consists of 6 printed pages.

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Section A

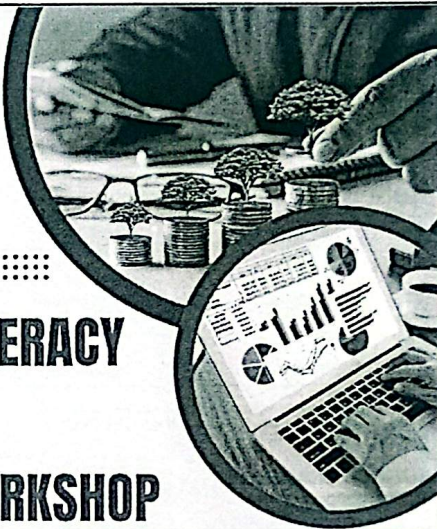
Study the advertisement (Text 1) and an extract on financial literacy taken from an online news commentary (Text 2) and answer Questions 1 – 4 in the Question Paper.

Text 1 is taken from a financial literacy workshop.

FINlit ACADEMY

PRESENTS

FINANCIAL LITERACY & BUDGETING WORKSHOP



This workshop covers topics such as creating and sticking to a budget, the importance of saving and investing, setting financial goals and making informed spending decisions.

You are never too early to learn the art of managing money.

By the end of the session, participants will have practical tools and knowledge to make smarter financial choices.

Date: 25 November 2025 (during the school holidays)

Time: 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Venue: Sunset Auditorium

Text 2 is taken from an online news commentary.

Moving the needle on financial literacy will truly require a village. Non-governmental organisations (NGO), the private sector, policymakers and the wider community all have a role to play. Companies across Asia are making efforts towards enhancing financial literacy among young people, starting in schools. In January 2022, our NGO launched a programme with insurer FWD, working with primary schools across Asia to give students access to volunteer-led financial management lessons. Games such as mobile board game app and comic book competition can play a pivotal role in imparting these principles. Parents also play a crucial role, because for financial literacy to really take root, it needs to be successfully modelled at home.

Section B

Text 3

In this extract, a man is on a journey to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5 – 14 in the Question Paper.

- 1 Even as a child of a family of mountaineers, Skylar found himself barely hanging on. He was no stranger to unforgiving terrain, but as he ascended past a certain altitude, something shifted. A strange pressure settled in his skull. His thoughts grew foggy, his limbs sluggish. Walking was a challenge; climbing felt almost impossible.
- 2 The weight of the air suffocated him, but even more so was the nerves of accomplishing what his family was not able to because of him for decades. But time was now of the essence with the sky quickly darkening. Ironically, Skylar had read countless accounts of climbers who had pushed well past the limits of reason. Some broke off from their teams, insisting they would catch up at the summit. "If I'm not there when you arrive, assume I didn't make it," was a phrase often tossed around with uneasy laughter. It was a joke—except it wasn't. It was, however, best viewed as an incentive to make sure these weren't the last words thrown back and forth. 5 10
- 3 "It's getting dark out. We need to find somewhere to rest," Skylar's sherpa¹, Sora, strongly recommended.
- 4 "We're almost at the top. It'd be a waste to stop now!" Skylar screamed through the snow. 15
- 5 "You cannot keep going. You must rest!"
- 6 Skylar did his best to protest, but the limits of the mind always win over the resolve of the body. As though it were clockwork, Skylar was stumbling over his own two feet. His head felt like it was crushing itself, squeezing his eyes from its sockets. To lighten Skylar's burden, Sora set up camp for the night. Even with the world spinning, Skylar tried to help, to prove he wasn't the same as every other tourist that desecrated the mountain with their presence. Fortunately, Sora's focus was on Skylar's wellbeing, not his pride. Skylar struggled for a short bit, but in his condition and the blanket on him that felt like he was under the entire weight of the Himalayas, he wasn't going anywhere. 20
- 7 At the break of dawn, Skylar and Sora briskly packed up their tent and continued their journey. Skylar had a strange satisfaction that he was in really good shape. Perhaps it was because the adrenaline of the moment refuelled his system, perhaps it was the fear that if he stopped to rest again, he might not get back up. Either way, every step brought him closer to his dream. It might have been the thin air playing tricks on him, but he could've 25

¹ a member of a Himalayan people who are skilled mountain climbers and who are often employed to help visiting climbers

sworn he heard the voices of his family calling him onward. He imagined their hands, cold 30
but comforting, resting gently on his tired shoulders. Even when he stumbled, he felt them
steady him. Skylar didn't consider himself spiritual, but in that moment, he could've sworn
he felt them ascending on the fractured slopes.

- 8 As the passage to the top ended and the peak of the world was underneath his feet, he 35
looked back and gave a thumbs up to Sora. Turning around, he crawled to the peak and
grabbed a fistful of chilled white powder. He fell to his knees, sprawled out, and started
laughing uncontrollably. All this time, he had been suppressing his emotions, burying the
thought of what would happen when he reached the top, focusing more on the destination
more so than the journey. Now that he had done everything he could've imagined, a
thought slowly crept into his mind: what now? 40

Adapted from Everest by Dylan Patrick

Section C

Text 4

In this article, the writer explains the migration of marine animals.

Read the article carefully and answer Questions 16 – 19 in the Question Paper.

- 1 Turtles are able to find the exact beach where they hatched even after an epic journey across the ocean. Whales navigate record-breaking migrations, traveling 14,000 miles of deep blue sea over 172 days. Hammerheads, manta rays, and many other smaller creatures also undertake incredible journeys across our seas. Despite the immense challenges involved, these animals still embark on these long-distance travels. The reason lies in the need for resources that are not available in their current environment. 5
- 2 One of the biggest reasons for migration is food. Baleen whales will migrate to northern latitudes during the spring and summer to feed in cold arctic waters, rich in krill and shrimp like crustacea. The long, tiresome journey from the south is made worthwhile for the feast of food that awaits them there. Turtles also make their way north, with species like leatherbacks spotted in the waters off Canada or Alaska. During the summer months, jellyfish, one of turtles' favourite food, are more commonly found in these waters. 10
- 3 Whales also migrate to find a mate. Whales feed in cold arctic and sub-arctic waters but that's not a suitable place to find a mate and give birth to their offspring. They could breed here but there are serious risks to the mothers and their calves with the cold water and predation by animals like orcas. Instead, they move from north to south during the winter months, giving birth to their young in shallow, warm waters such as lagoons. 15
- 4 Turtles return to the exact beach where they hatched, a behaviour called natal homing. The beach where a turtle hatches provides the specific environmental conditions such as temperature, sand composition and moisture that are ideal for successful incubation. By returning to these familiar nesting grounds, turtles increase the chances that their offspring will survive and thrive. 20
- 5 But how do they know where they are and where they are going? Turtles show remarkable navigation skills with pinpoint accuracy using a combination of external cues to calculate their position and route. When they are near the site of their hatching, turtles may use localised signals by detecting the incline and shape of the beach, the smell of the water or air and even the sound of the waves. 25
- 6 In deeper water, turtles must resort to other methods to find their way home. Loggerhead, green and leatherback turtles have all demonstrated the use of a 'magnetic map sense' like other long-distance migrants such as birds and butterflies. Along a coastline, the inclination and intensity of the magnetic field will vary, giving rise to a unique magnetic signature at a precise location. Scientists suggest that hatchlings imprint on this unique magnetic signature and use it to navigate back across the entire ocean years later. 30

- 7 However, long journeys come with obstacles that ocean migrants must face. Many important migratory routes for whales and other surface-dwelling animals like turtles and sharks, converge with areas of heavy maritime traffic. This cross over can lead to ship strike, which is harmful if not fatal to an animal. Furthermore, about 640,000 tonnes of discarded fishing gear, known as 'ghost gear', enters our oceans every year, posing the major threat of entanglement. 35
- 8 Rising sea surface temperatures due to climate change may also alter where migratory species find food and push them past their heat tolerance. This could disrupt the longstanding migration patterns between feeding and breeding grounds, breaking the delicate timing and coordination that many species rely on. 40
- 9 The migration of these marine travellers across the ocean highway ranks among the most extraordinary and perilous journeys on the planet. As human activity continues to endanger their path, deepening our understanding of these epic voyages has never been more urgent. Their survival depends on it. 45

Adapted from <https://oceangeneration.org/why-do-marine-animals-migrate>

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