S2 English Language Practice Paper (Set 3): email and story reading, word formation and collocation, tenses and conditionals, prepositions, summary and article writing

S2 English Language | Time: 60 minutes | Total: 100 marks | 22 questions

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Section A: Email Reading (16 marks)

Read the email below and answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. (a) On which day and at which place is Sports Day held? From what time to what time, and how many hours does it last? (4 marks)

It is held on Friday, 17 April at Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It lasts six and a half hours, that is 390 minutes (three and a half hours before noon and three hours after noon).

2. (b) In the individual events, Class 2A came first three times, second twice and third four times; Class 2B came first twice, second five times and third three times (individual events only). How many points does each class score, and by how many points does 2B lead? (4 marks)

2A: first places 3 x 5 = 15 points, second places 2 x 3 = 6 points, third places 4 x 1 = 4 points, so the total is 15 + 6 + 4 = 25 points. 2B: 2 x 5 = 10, 5 x 3 = 15 and 3 x 1 = 3, so the total is 28 points. 2B leads by 28 - 25 = 3 points.

3. (c) What is the maximum number of events one student may enter? What is the deadline for the entry form, and which two things must students bring on the day? (4 marks)

A student may enter at most five events, namely three individual events and two relays (3 + 2 = 5). The deadline is Wednesday, 8 April. Students must bring drinking water and a sun hat, and they must also wear sports shoes.

4. (d) There are twelve Form Two classes and each class enters eight events; how many event entries does the whole form make? Which sentence tells students not to bring glass bottles, and what kind of instruction is it? (4 marks)

The whole form makes 12 x 8 = 96 event entries. The sentence is "Glass bottles are not allowed on the ground." It is a prohibition: it states clearly what students must not do, and the wording leaves no room for doubt.

Section B: Story Reading (16 marks)

Read the story below and answer the questions.

5. (a) When did Ming's oar break? What happened to Ming and to the boat after that? (4 marks)

The oar broke at the 200-metre mark. Ming was thrown forward, the boat swung to the left, and Blue Wave dropped from second place to fifth.

6. (b) What two things did Fai do to help Ming? What do they show about Fai's character? Give one example. (4 marks)

Fai first pushed his spare oar along the boat to Ming, and then held the gunwale with both hands to steady the rhythm for him. This shows that Fai is calm, generous and team-spirited: he did not blame Ming or stop to argue, but gave his own oar away at once.

7. (c) The race is 500 metres long. How many seconds slower was Blue Wave than the winning crew? What was Blue Wave's average speed in metres per second? (Give the answer to 1 decimal place and show your working.) (4 marks)

2 minutes 18 seconds = 138 s and 2 minutes 30 seconds = 150 s, so Blue Wave was 150 - 138 = 12 seconds slower. Average speed = 500 / 150 = 3.3 m/s (to 1 decimal place).

8. (d) What lesson does Fai's last speech in the story teach? Do you agree? Support your answer with one example from a school competition. (4 marks)

Fai teaches that an accident is not one person's fault and that what matters is the willingness to keep going; supporting one another is worth more than looking for someone to blame. For example, when a teammate missed a shot in an inter-class basketball match, the others did not blame him but reviewed the tactics together, and the team played better in the next game.

Section C: Word Formation, Phrasal Verbs and Collocation (16 marks)

Answer all the questions.

9. (a) Fill in each blank with the correct form of the word in brackets. (1 mark each)

1. successfully 2. decision 3. careless 4. pride

10. (b) Complete the sentences with the correct form of these phrasal verbs: give up / take up / put off / look after.

1. give up 2. take up 3. put off 4. looks after

11. (c) Choose the correct collocation and write it on the line. (4 marks)

1. make a decision 2. do homework 3. heavy rain 4. strong wind

12. (d) Choose the most suitable word. (4 marks)

1. wood 2. calm 3. hard 4. disappointed

Section D: Tenses and Conditionals (16 marks)

Fill in the blanks or rewrite the sentences as instructed.

13. (a) Present perfect or past simple: fill in the blanks.

1. has trained 2. broke 3. Have ... rowed 4. has not lost

14. (b) First conditional: fill in the blanks.

1. rains / will move 2. do not hurry / will miss 3. will win / practise 4. brings / can finish

15. (c) Gerunds and infinitives: fill in the blanks.

1. rowing 2. to keep 3. Winning 4. to enter

16. (d) Rewrite the sentences as instructed.

1. The oar was too old to last through the race. 2. Tom asked Ming if he was ready. 3. The race was exciting, was not it? 4. Although Ming's oar broke, he kept rowing.

Section E: Prepositions, Articles, Question Tags and Proofreading (16 marks)

Answer all the questions.

17. (a) Fill in each blank with a suitable preposition.

1. on 2. for 3. at 4. at / at

18. (b) Fill in each blank with a, an, the or "-" (no article).

1. an 2. A / a 3. the 4. a

19. (c) Add a suitable question tag to each sentence.

1. was not it 2. have not you 3. did he 4. shall we

20. (d) Proofreading: each sentence contains ONE mistake. Write the correct word.

1. go -> went 2. since -> for 3. wear -> wore 4. finish -> finished

Section F: Writing (20 marks)

Complete both writing tasks.

21. (a) Summarise the story The Broken Oar in about 60 words. Include what happened before and during the race, the accident that happened to Ming, and how Fai responded. Do not copy whole sentences from the story. (10 marks)

Model summary (about 60 words): Blue Wave trained for three months before the final at Stanley. At the 200-metre mark Ming's oar broke and the boat swung left, dropping from second to fifth. Fai silently gave him his spare oar and held the gunwale to steady the rhythm. The crew pulled together and finished fourth. On the beach Fai told Ming the break was not his fault and that finishing mattered most. Marks: content 4, language 4, length and organisation 2.

22. (b) Imagine you are Chan Ka-ming of Form Two. The school magazine has invited you to write an article of about 120 words about this year's Sports Day. Include the date and place, the rules of the inter-class competition, the most memorable moment in your class and what you have learned. Use paragraphs and give your article a title. (10 marks)

Model answer (about 120 words): "A Day to Remember" - Our Sports Day was held on Friday, 17 April at Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground. All twelve Form Two classes took part and each class entered eight events. In the individual events a first place scored five points, a second three and a third one, while relay points counted double. The most memorable moment came in the 4 x 100 metres relay: our last runner fell but got up and finished the race. We came third, yet nobody complained. I have learned that taking part and supporting one another matter more than the medal. Marks: content 4, language 4, organisation and format 2.

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