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Education Bureau
Territory-wide System Assessment 2009
Secondary 3 English Language
Reading
Question Booklet

Instructions:

1. There are 8 pages in this Question Booklet.
2. Time allowed is 30 minutes.
3. Do not write anything in this Question Booklet.
4. **Answer all questions in the Answer Booklet provided.**

Part 1

Your teacher gave you this article to read during Health Week at your school.

Read the article about hospitals and answer the questions.

Hospitals

If you were asked what a hospital is, it's possible you would say that it is a place where doctors and nurses work. Well, you would be right about the medical staff. But have you ever thought about the other people who work there? They all do important jobs too.

5 There are secretaries, nursing aides, cleaning staff, cooks, engineers and more. Some hospitals even bring in teachers to give sick children lessons when they can't go to school.

10 Most patients who go to hospitals have to wait a long time before they can see a doctor. Doctors and nurses are always busy and have to attend to many patients needing help. Some of them are in hospital for a day; others need to stay there much longer. For those staying in hospital for a long time, they need to take clothes and perhaps a lot of books or comics to read. Friends and family often send cards and flowers to people they know in hospital before they visit them.

15 In many hospitals, patients, especially children, are often entertained by clowns. Everyone is happy to see a clown and no one walks by one without smiling. It is easy to hug a clown, and most of all, it is easy to talk to a hospital clown. Children seem to see clowns as somewhere between their favourite aunt and a teddy bear—gentle, comfortable, non-threatening, funny, and ready to play with anything and anyone.

Even though hospitals are full of people who are there to help, it seems odd that everyone wants to go home as soon as possible.

Choose the best answer and blacken the circle in the Answer Booklet.

1. Doctors and nurses are _____.
 - A. maintenance staff
 - B. clerical staff
 - C. medical staff
 - D. kitchen staff
2. According to the article, teachers are brought in to some hospitals because _____.
 - A. they help teach the staff
 - B. sick children cannot go to school
 - C. the nurses need help with patients
 - D. their students are sick in hospital

3. In line 8, who does the word 'them' refer to?
- A. doctors
 - B. nurses
 - C. teachers
 - D. patients
4. According to the article, who do most people like to see in hospitals?
- A. clowns
 - B. nurses
 - C. doctors
 - D. teachers
5. Most children are happy to see clowns because they _____.
- A. are helpful
 - B. are kind
 - C. dress up
 - D. tell stories
6. Hospitals help people, but most people cannot wait to _____.
- A. see a clown
 - B. talk to a teacher
 - C. leave
 - D. all of the above

Part 2

Your teacher gave you this poem written by Tom Li about himself.

Read the poem and answer the questions.



I study late into the night, no time to spare
As my mum, sick, sits sleepless in her chair.

The morning brings cries for anything sweet
But the kitchen cupboard holds nothing to eat.

5 My hunger must lie silent for another day
What more is there for me to say?

I put on torn, tattered trousers too short for me
Hoping no one at school will see.

10 Who will help poor Mum while I'm away
Care for her through another long day?

Thinking about Mum's worried face
I hear the teacher's words, but they leave no trace.

Choose the best answer and blacken the circle in the Answer Booklet.

1. What is the best title for the poem?
 - A. Torn Trousers
 - B. My Sad Life
 - C. The Empty Cupboard
 - D. Hope
2. According to the poem, the writer is someone who _____.
 - A. daydreams during class about his clothes
 - B. wishes for more friends
 - C. worries about his sick mother
 - D. does not want to study

3. In line 7, ‘torn, tattered trousers’ is an example of alliteration. What is another example of alliteration in the poem?
- A. too short for me
 - B. leave no trace
 - C. no time to spare
 - D. sick, sits sleepless
4. In stanza 3, lines 5–6, how does the writer feel?
- A. helpless
 - B. hopeful
 - C. unwell
 - D. sleepy
5. In line 9, ‘Who will help poor Mum while I’m away’, where is the writer?
- A. at the doctor’s
 - B. at a clothing shop
 - C. at a supermarket
 - D. at school
6. In stanza 6, lines 11–12, the writer’s thoughts are about_____.
- A. his teacher
 - B. his mum
 - C. what the teacher is saying
 - D. his studies
7. In line 12, the word ‘they’ refers to_____.
- A. what his teacher says
 - B. his classmates
 - C. what his mother says
 - D. his thoughts

Part 3

Peter is reading some articles for his English project.

Read the three articles and answer the questions.

Article 1

Fastens his beer, not child

An Australian driver was fined for using a seatbelt to fasten a pack of beer but not his child, who was in the car with him. The police said they were shocked when they pulled over the car in northern Australia. They found a pack of beer fastened between two adults in the back seat, while a 5-year-old boy was left sitting on the floor. The driver was charged for failing to make sure that the child was wearing a seatbelt and was fined \$450. A police spokesman said, 'This is the first time that the safety of beer seems to be more important than a child. I've never seen anything like this before.' He added that the incident was a 'timely reminder' to all drivers to make sure that 'all passengers are protected, especially children.'



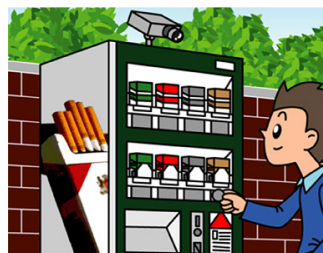
Choose the best answer and blacken the circle in the Answer Booklet.

1. In article 1, the police were surprised when they stopped the car because the _____.
 - A. car had no seatbelts
 - B. pack of beer had a seatbelt on
 - C. child was sitting on the back seat
 - D. driver did not fasten his beer
2. In article 1, line 9, 'this' refers to _____.
 - A. a driver not wearing a seatbelt
 - B. a driver fastening beer in the car
 - C. a child sitting on the floor of a car
 - D. beer being more important than a child
3. In article 1, line 10, a 'timely reminder' _____.
 - A. reminds people of something important at the right time
 - B. reminds people to have a good time
 - C. does not help people to get something done
 - D. reminds people to take their time

Article 2

Smokers face age test

Underage smoking is a big concern in Japan. To prevent the sale of cigarettes to teenagers, a Japanese company is developing and testing a vending machine which can check a smoker's age



5 through reading his or her face. If cigarette buyers fail the 'age test', the machine scans their picture identity cards to check their ages. The company believes that this new technology will stop kids from using someone else's identity card to buy cigarettes. The company claims that the accuracy rate of the vending machine could be up to 90%. The remaining 10% who would need to scan their identity cards in the machine are probably 'baby-faced adults'.

Choose the best answer and blacken the circle in the Answer Booklet.

4. In article 2, what is the purpose of the vending machine?
 - A. to stop underaged youth from buying cigarettes
 - B. to recognise the ages of adults
 - C. to read people's faces
 - D. to stop people smoking in public

5. In article 2, cigarette buyers will need to show their picture identity cards if _____.
 - A. they are Japanese
 - B. the machine has no cigarettes
 - C. the machine cannot tell their age
 - D. they don't look baby-faced

6. In article 2, line 11, 'baby-faced adults' refer to adults who _____.
 - A. act like babies
 - B. look younger than their age
 - C. look like babies
 - D. have babies

Article 3

Baby offered for sale on the Internet

A seven-month-old baby has been taken into care by Family Services in Germany after his parents offered to sell him for 1 Euro (about HK\$9) on an Internet auction site. The auction note stated, ‘Baby: pick up

- 5 in person only. I’m offering my nearly new baby for sale because it cries too much. Male, 70 cm long.’ The opening bid was 1 Euro. There were no offers in the two hours before the advertisement was removed. The mother insisted, ‘It was only a joke. I just wanted to see if someone would reply.’ However, the police did not think it was funny and they decided to look into the possibility of
- 10 child trafficking.



Choose the best answer and blacken the circle in the Answer Booklet.

7. In article 3, lines 4–6, the auction note showed that the parents wanted to sell their baby because he was too _____.
- A. long
 - B. rude
 - C. noisy
 - D. bad
8. In article 3, line 6, ‘There were no offers’ for the baby means that no one _____.
- A. liked him
 - B. wanted him
 - C. was looking for him
 - D. wanted to help him
9. In article 3, lines 8–10, which one of the following is TRUE? The police _____.
- A. thought it was a good joke
 - B. received some replies
 - C. thought it was a clever idea
 - D. would try to find out more

The following questions are based on **all three articles**.

10. Which of the following articles tells people about safety?
- A. Article 1
 - B. Article 2
 - C. Article 3
 - D. all of the above
11. The stories in the articles are from which three countries?
- A. Germany, America, Japan
 - B. Australia, Japan, France
 - C. Japan, Australia, Germany
 - D. France, Germany, Australia
12. Where would you most probably find articles like these?
- A. travel guides
 - B. leaflets
 - C. brochures
 - D. newspapers

END OF PAPER