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Education Bureau
Territory-wide System Assessment 2010
Secondary 3 English Language
Reading
Question Booklet

Instructions:

1. There are 9 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

You are doing a unit on poetry in your English class and your teacher has asked you to read this poem.

Read the following poem and answer the questions.

Zoom, zoom, look at me
Much faster than a honey bee
Whizz, whizz watch me go
No doubt, you'd say, I'm a pro

Over water, I love to fly
And in a flash, I buzz right by
I love the flowers and I love the sky
Oh my, I'm a happy little dragonfly

Whoosh, whoosh here I go
Always fast, never slow
So much quicker than bumble bees
Out of my way, if you please

I flit and flutter, here and there
Dashing, darting through the air
I speed about with such ease
Zip around the honey bees

Until one day I'll never forget
A little girl stopping to pet*
My slim, slow, twitching tail
'Oh look', she said, 'how tiny and frail'

Lara Clarese

*pet – to touch lightly and carefully

Answer all questions in the Answer Booklet provided.

1. 'Zoom' is an example of onomatopoeia. Give one other example from the poem.
2. In stanza 3, find one pair of rhyming words.
3. In stanza 4, which one of the following is closest in meaning to 'dashing' and 'darting'?
 - A. shaking and shivering
 - B. flitting and fluttering
 - C. turning around quickly
 - D. moving about quickly

4. In stanza 4, 'flit and flutter' is an example of alliteration. Find one other example in the poem.
5. In stanza 5, what does the little girl think of the dragonfly? It is _____.
- A. slow
 - B. weak
 - C. strong
 - D. clever
6. Who is the speaker in the poem?
- A. the bumble bee
 - B. the little girl
 - C. the honey bee
 - D. the dragonfly

Part 2

You are reading two book reports for your English class.

Read the book reports and answer the questions.

Book Report 1

By Terry Chan

Last week I read a book called 'Stranded'. This is a real-life story by Charles Watts about a couple stranded at sea. People will love to read this book.

One early morning, John and Kate take their little boat out to sea. John wants to do some fishing while Kate is hoping to see dolphins, as they are a common sight at this time of the year.

Unfortunately, the weather changes and they get caught in a violent storm. The powerful waves flip their little boat over and Kate struggles to stay on the surface. John realises she is not wearing her life jacket. Fighting against the wind and waves, John takes off his life jacket and manages to put it on Kate. Hours later, they are saved by a fishing boat.

Relaxing at home the next evening, they listen to a news story about their adventure at sea. However, what the news reporter does not mention is how brave John was to save Kate's life.

People can learn a lot from John's selfless act. He is a real-life hero.

Book Report 2

By Simon Lau

Jamie Lee Mak's 'Spirit and Courage' is a book about a man, Ray Chan, who saves a young boy from drowning in a lake. He becomes a hero to many people but, in my opinion, he takes advantage of the situation and desperately tries to become a celebrity.

On a holiday weekend, with families enjoying themselves at a lakeside park, Ray notices a young boy almost drowning in the lake. Within a few minutes of the boy's cries for help, he is in the water rescuing the drowning boy. Once Ray swims back to shore with the boy, the crowd cheers him as a hero.

Later, the local TV station sends a reporter and cameraman to interview the boy's parents and, of course, Ray Chan.

From that moment on, Ray is interviewed on television and the radio. As he becomes more famous, his story begins to change. He makes it sound as though he has saved the little boy from a raging storm at sea. Sadly, I cannot say this book is worth reading since Ray forgets all about the little boy. He only wants to make himself look like a hero.

Answer all questions in the Answer Booklet provided.

Book Reports								
Title	1.	<u>Spirit and Courage</u>						
Author	2.	3.						
Main character	4.	5.						
Setting - main event	6.	<u>lakeside park</u>						
Time - main event	<u>early morning</u>	7.						
The quotes (a-f) are from the two books. Put each letter (a - f) in the correct box. <u>One (c) has been done for you as an example.</u>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>8.</td> <td>9.</td> <td>10.</td> </tr> </table>	8.	9.	10.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>11.</td> <td>c</td> <td>12.</td> </tr> </table>	11.	c	12.
	8.	9.	10.					
11.	c	12.						
a. 'Keep your head up! Hold on tight to the boat!' b. 'What made you go in after the boy?' c. 'People see you as a hero for what you did.' d. 'I'm on another show next week.' e. 'Have you caught anything yet?' f. 'Hurry, hurry. Put this on!'								

13. What important information does the news reporter forget to mention?

- A. Kate sees the dolphins.
- B. John saves Kate's life.
- C. John catches many fish.
- D. Kate's life jacket is too big.

14. According to Simon Lau, Ray Chan only wants to be _____.

- A. loved
- B. helpful
- C. well-known
- D. the boy's friend

Part 3

Read the following short descriptions about magazines. Choose one which would be best for each young person.

<p>1. <u>Action Illustrated for Kids</u></p> <p>This magazine covers sports the way kids like it. Contains interviews with famous players, managers and coaches. Also includes awesome action photos and much more.</p>
<p>2. <u>Discover Nature</u></p> <p>Each issue features wildlife through magnificent photography, illustrations and descriptions. Educators agree that our word and picture format is a great way to sharpen a child's reading skills or encourage a beginning reader.</p>
<p>3. <u>Teen Ink</u></p> <p>See what millions of teens are talking about! Teens can submit writing, art and photos for publication. Articles about friends, jobs, pets and the environment are in each issue. Music, movie reviews, poetry and fiction are also featured.</p>
<p>4. <u>Highlights for Children</u></p> <p>This magazine contains science projects, jokes, riddles and crosswords that challenge young minds. Regular features like 'Hidden Pictures' and 'Spot the Differences' keep children coming back for more.</p>
<p>5. <u>Girl Talk</u></p> <p>The perfect magazine for girls ages 10 and up. Interesting interviews with actors and singers as well as easy-to-read articles on friends, fashion and self-esteem. Winner of the Parents' Choice award!</p>

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

1. Joanne enjoys reading to the 3-year-old boy she looks after. She helps him to understand the words and pictures in the magazines she buys for him. He loves looking at the pictures and is beginning to remember the names of many animals in the wild.

A good magazine for Joanne is _____.

- A. Teen Ink
- B. Discover Nature
- C. Action Illustrated for Kids
- D. Highlights for Children

2. Thomas knows the names of all the basketball players in the NBA and loves to read about them. He always keeps up with how well teams are doing by watching games on TV and through reading about their wins.

A good magazine for Thomas is _____.

- A. Teen Ink
 - B. Girl Talk
 - C. Highlights for Children
 - D. Action Illustrated for Kids
3. Jane, a 13-year-old secondary school student, is interested in reading about film and pop stars. She loves to find out what they do, where they go and what they wear. Her mother also likes magazines with good articles to help young girls.

A good magazine for Jane is _____.

- A. Highlights for Children
- B. Discover Nature
- C. Girl Talk
- D. Teen Ink

Part 4

Your Social Studies teacher has asked you to read this article about smoking for your next class project.

Read the article and answer the questions.

Recently, the government of Finland decided to introduce stronger laws against smoking, which will be stricter than the laws in Hong Kong. Hong Kong's anti-smoking laws have banned smoking in many public places, such as restaurants and shopping malls. In Finland, smoking will be banned in more places, including some cars. The display of cigarettes in shops will also be banned. The government in Finland said it wants to ban smoking 'once and for all'. 5

Many other places, such as Britain and Canada, have smoking bans, but they are not as strict as in Hong Kong or Finland. In some countries, there are separate areas in restaurants and bars where smoking is allowed. However, smoking is harmful to many people, including non-smokers, and is therefore not welcome at all. 10

Anti-smoking laws are being introduced everywhere since smoking is associated with many illnesses such as mouth and lung cancer as well as heart disease. Enforcing smoking bans in public places makes those areas safer and cleaner for everyone, particularly children. Banning smoking also means that it is less acceptable to smoke in public. Therefore, there has generally been a move to ban smoking around the world. 15

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

1. Which place has the strictest ban on smoking?
 - A. Britain
 - B. Canada
 - C. Finland
 - D. Hong Kong
2. In line 6, 'once and for all' is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. once only
 - B. forever
 - C. never
 - D. now
3. In line 7, the word 'they' refers to _____.
 - A. bans on smoking
 - B. many countries
 - C. Britain and Canada
 - D. Hong Kong and Finland

4. Look at the word 'strict' in line 8. Now, look at the dictionary entry for 'strict' below. Which meaning corresponds to the word in line 8?

strict adj.

- A. firm; stern, e.g. *strict parents*
- B. needing to be closely obeyed, e.g. *a strict rule*
- C. complete; absolute, e.g. *strict silence*
- D. faithful; following a rule or a way of living carefully, e.g. *a strict vegetarian*

5. How does smoking harm people?

- A. causes heart problems
- B. upsets non-smokers
- C. causes cancer
- D. all of the above

6. What would be the best title for this article?

- A. Smoking in Hong Kong
- B. Smoking and Cancer
- C. Smoking in Finland
- D. Anti-smoking Laws

END OF PAPER

