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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. Betty is interested in experiments and new inventions. She enjoys reading magazines that make her think and is very good at solving difficult puzzles.

A good magazine for Betty is _____.

- A. Girl Talk
- B. Discover Nature
- C. Action Illustrated for Kids
- D. Highlights for Children

2. 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
3. Mary has always been good at English and loves to write articles and poems. She hopes to be a writer one day, so she always sends short articles to her school newspaper or newsletter. She would be very happy if more people read her articles.

A good magazine for Mary is _____.

- A. Teen Ink
- B. Girl Talk
- C. Highlights for Children
- D. Action Illustrated for Kids

Part 4

Your English teacher has asked you to read a report from the Internet for a class discussion about the police.

Read the passage and answer the questions.

Police Action

For the past few weeks, the case of two innocent women arrested by police has been the lead story in all the newspapers and on TV news broadcasts.

At a busy shopping centre, two women, Ms Brown, 30, and Ms Austin, 29, were sitting in their parked car in front of the main entrance to a department store. All of a sudden, their car was sandwiched by two vehicles, stopping them from leaving. About eight men with guns jumped out and forced them to open their car doors. It was only later that the women found out that they were actually plainclothes police officers. 5

In a complaint made against the Police Department, the women claimed they were roughed up by the police. They said that the police hit their car, smashed a window, then slapped their faces and accused them of hiding drugs. They were finally taken to the police station. 10

According to police spokesperson Roger Hardy, it was simply a case of mistaken identity and the police had not slapped the women. They might have accidentally pushed the women and he apologised for their actions. However, the women still plan to take legal action. 15

When asked why they didn't open their car doors, the women said that the men did not look like police officers. They were thinking that the men were going to rob them, or even worse, hurt them.

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

1. According to paragraph 1, the case of the two women has become _____.
 - A. strong
 - B. unbelievable
 - C. uninteresting
 - D. popular
2. In line 5, 'their car was sandwiched' is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. sandwiches were left in the car
 - B. it was blocked between two cars
 - C. sandwiches were thrown at the car
 - D. parking space was tight for the car

3. In paragraph 3, the women said that the police _____.
- A. treated them badly
 - B. shot at them
 - C. tied them up
 - D. none of the above
4. The police spokesperson, Roger Hardy, agreed that the police officers _____.
- A. did not like the women
 - B. did not arrest the women
 - C. arrested the wrong women
 - D. thought the women stole the car
5. In the last paragraph, the women said they were afraid because _____.
- A. they thought the men wanted a ride in their car
 - B. they thought the men were going to attack them
 - C. they could not call the police
 - D. the car doors were locked

END OF PAPER

