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Education Bureau
Territory-wide System Assessment 2025
Secondary 3 English Language
Reading
Question Booklet

Instructions:

1. There are 16 pages in this Question Booklet.
2. Time allowed is 35 minutes.
3. Do not write anything in this Question Booklet.
4. **Answer all questions in the Answer Booklet provided.**

Part 1

The History Club is gathering information about the history of toilets and World Toilet Day. Read the extract from the club's newsletter to find out more about the topic and its history.

Read the articles and answer the questions.

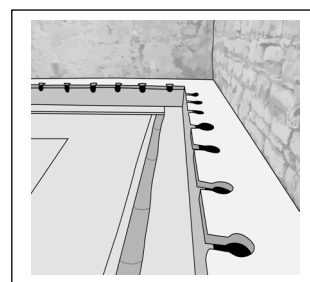
Article 1

THE STORY OF TOILETS

❶ Have you ever imagined what life would be like without toilets? There are lots of stories about the invention of toilets.

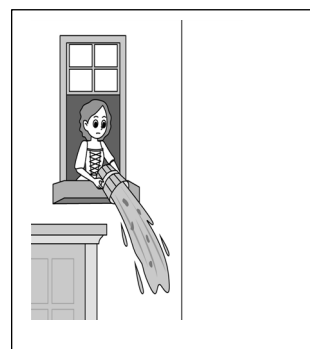
Ancient Flushing Toilets

❷ According to some historians, ancient toilets were invented in north-western India about 4,000 years ago. The waste was flushed into underground drains using a jug of water. Nearly 2,000 years later, the Romans built public toilet blocks with rows of holes to sit over. There were channels underneath, and water flowed through these channels to wash the waste away.



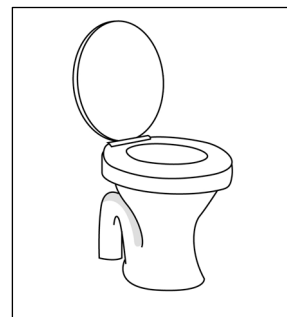
Chamber Pots and Night Soil Collectors

❸ In the 1400s, most people used a chamber pot, a portable toilet, and emptied it out of the window or onto the street. From the late 1700s to 1800s, people living in cities buried waste in their gardens. Night soil collectors took the waste away and buried it outside the city walls. They collected it at night to avoid the terrible smell. There were horror stories about people dying mysteriously of the 'night air'. Now, we know that the 'killer' was a mixture of toxic gases.



Flushing Toilets

❹ The first modern flushing toilet was created by Sir John Harington in 1596, but he only built two indoor flushing toilets – one for himself and the other for the Queen of England. Only in 1775 was the indoor flushing toilet with a brilliant new feature invented by an Englishman, Alexander Cummings. The toilet had an S-bend to trap water. This design sealed the toilet off from the smelly sewage underneath. In the 1800s, scientists found that human waste carried germs which could spread diseases. Governments started building sewage systems and public toilets to flush the germs away safely.



THE BEST 'SEAT' IN THE HOUSE

World Toilet Day

❶ In 2013, the United Nations (UN) marked 19th November as the annual World Toilet Day to raise global awareness of cleanliness.

Safe Toilets for All

❷ 'Safe toilets for all by 2030' is one of the UN goals. However, achieving the goal by 2030 is not without challenges. The rate of progress depends largely on creating more demand for proper toilets by educating people about their huge health benefits. It also depends on whether the materials to build toilets are available and whether there are enough cleaners to handle human waste.

❸ Given these challenges, achieving 'safe toilets for all' by 2030 may not be an easy task. So, those who are lucky enough to have their own toilets should take a moment to appreciate the best 'seat' in the house!

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

Article 1

1. The ancient toilets in north-western India were invented about _____ years ago.
 - A. 1,400
 - B. 1,700
 - C. 2,000
 - D. 4,000

2. The Roman public toilet blocks _____.
 - A. had channels underneath to wash the waste away
 - B. had soap and clean water for handwashing
 - C. were the first toilet ever invented
 - D. were used only by one person at a time

3. In the 1400s, many people _____.
 - A. flushed their waste into underground drains
 - B. used public toilet blocks
 - C. used chamber pots
 - D. buried their waste in their gardens

4. 'There were horror stories about people dying mysteriously.' 'Mysteriously' in paragraph 3 means the way people died was _____.
 - A. unknown
 - B. unsafe
 - C. horrible
 - D. sudden

5. The toilet with an S-bend _____.
 - A. was invented by Sir John Harington
 - B. sealed the toilet off from the bad smell
 - C. soon replaced the chamber pot
 - D. was used by the Queen

6. Governments started building sewage systems because _____.
- A. indoor flushing toilets had replaced chamber pots
 - B. germs in human waste could spread diseases
 - C. there were only two flushing toilets
 - D. toilets with an S-bend were invented
7. According to Article 1, how did people handle waste throughout history? Put the following in the correct order.
- 1. flushing toilets with an S-bend 2. building sewage systems
 - 3. using chamber pots 4. using toilet blocks
- A. 4→2→3→1
 - B. 4→3→1→2
 - C. 1→4→3→2
 - D. 2→3→4→1
8. The information in Article 1 could also appear in a/an _____.
- A. advertisement
 - B. movie review
 - C. dictionary
 - D. encyclopaedia

Article 2

9. The aim of World Toilet Day is to _____.
- A. highlight the importance of global cleanliness
 - B. increase the number of toilets
 - C. choose the best toilet in the world
 - D. mark 19th November as a public holiday
10. According to Article 2, the challenges to achieve 'safe toilets for all' include the _____.
- 1. demand for toilets 2. supply of materials to build toilets
 - 3. number of cleaners 4. size of population
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 and 3
 - C. 1, 2 and 3
 - D. All of the above

11. The writer is _____ about achieving the UN goal by 2030.

- A. doubtful
- B. excited
- C. fearful
- D. hopeful

12. What is the main message of Article 2?

- A. Readers should know how to select the best toilet.
- B. 'Safe toilets for all' is a UN goal in 2030.
- C. There will be less demand for toilets.
- D. Having a toilet at home is a blessing.

Part 2

You are going to write a diary entry about a picnic you had with your family. Your English teacher has given you a poem to help you get started.

Read the poem and answer the questions.

We Went to the Park

We went to the park for a picnic today.
The sky was quite cloudy, windy and grey.

We spread out our blanket with all of our food.
A couple of clouds couldn't ruin our mood.

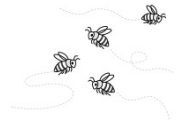
An army of ants came and started to munch
on all of the foods we had brought for our lunch.

Some bees started buzzing around our dessert.
Mosquitoes attacked us. Their stings really hurt.

A dog began barking. He chased us around
as squirrels and birds dumped our drinks on the ground.

A skunk wandered over. It started to rain.
We ran away screaming. This day was insane!

Completely defeated, we went home and cried.
I think that we'll have our next picnic inside.



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

Stanza One

1. The sky was _____ when the picnic started.
- A. bright
 - B. clear
 - C. dull
 - D. foggy

Stanza Two

2. The poet felt _____ when he said, ‘a couple of clouds couldn’t ruin our mood’.
- A. angry
 - B. hopeful
 - C. surprised
 - D. worried

Stanzas One to Three

3. Alliteration occurs when two or more words in a phrase or sentence begin with the same sound. It is used in ‘_____’.
- A. a couple of clouds
 - B. cloudy, windy and grey
 - C. ruin our mood
 - D. started to munch

Stanzas Four to Six

4. Onomatopoeia is a word that sounds like the thing it describes. ‘_____’ is an example of onomatopoeia.
- A. Attacked
 - B. Buzzing
 - C. Chased
 - D. Screaming

5. A lot had happened to the poet and his friends during the picnic before it started to rain. Put the events in correct order.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. A dog barked and chased them. | 2. A skunk moved around. |
| 3. Some bees buzzed around them. | 4. Some squirrels and birds spilt their drinks. |

- A. 1→2→3→4
B. 1→3→2→4
C. 3→1→4→2
D. 3→2→4→1

Stanza Seven

6. The poet went home feeling _____.

- A. excited
B. satisfied
C. frustrated
D. lonely

Stanzas One to Seven

7. The word that rhymes with 'cried' is '_____'.
'

- A. chased
B. defeated
C. insane
D. inside

8. The poet will most likely have the next picnic _____.

- A. at home
B. in a park
C. on a beach
D. in a playground

Part 3

Your class is doing a project about the fashion industry. Your teacher has given you two articles from a magazine to help you understand the current fashion industry and its impact.

Read the articles and answer the questions.

Article 1

CHOOSE WISELY BE ECO-FRIENDLY

Do you know that fashion is one of the world's most polluting industries?

❶ Making clothes requires a lot of water, chemicals, land and energy. For example, making a single pair of jeans requires 2,912 litres of water. Up to 35% of ocean microplastics come from fashion products. However, 40% of the clothing in our wardrobe is rarely or never worn. Only about 1% of it is recycled.



Why should eco-friendly fashion be the next big trend?

❷ Eco-friendly fashion refers to clothes that are designed, produced, distributed and used to reduce the negative impact on the environment. To serve this purpose, eco-friendly materials, such as organic cotton, are grown to produce fabrics without using toxic chemicals, including pesticides that damage the environment. Recycled fabrics are made from old materials to create new ones. Selecting these recycled fabrics can reduce the amount of waste dumped in landfills and the production of dangerous chemicals harmful to humans. Natural dyes, made from plants and minerals, are an alternative to chemical dyes for colouring materials.



How does upcycling help protect the environment?

❸ Fashion designers and consumers can mend and upcycle secondhand clothes into something new and unique, like turning a pair of torn jeans into a tote bag. Redesigning secondhand clothes not only prolongs their lifetime but also offers a fun way to express one's creative mind.

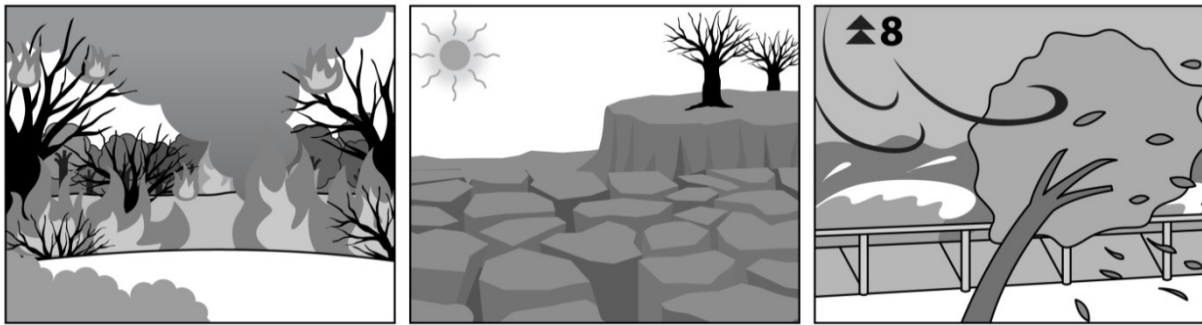
❹ Fashion can be wasteful and damaging, but we can all make a difference by choosing wisely.

THE RESPONSIBLE FASHION INDUSTRY

❶ The fashion industry has the responsibility to reduce its negative impact on the environment, protect workers and support animal welfare. However, it currently falls short of this responsibility, continuing to produce harmful waste and emit greenhouse gases. Moreover, many workers are paid poorly and animals are killed.

Why does the fashion industry need to be more responsible?

❷ The environmental impact of the fashion industry includes carbon production, leading to global warming and climate change. Global warming refers to an increase in Earth's average temperature. It has resulted in an increase in the melting of icebergs and rising sea levels, which could have a destructive effect on coastal regions. The potential future effects of global climate change include more frequent wildfires, droughts in some areas and an increase in the wind power from tropical storms.



How do we protect workers and animals?

❸ With a responsible fashion industry, workers are paid a living wage that covers expenses for necessities, such as food, shelter and healthcare. They are provided with safe, healthy working conditions. In addition, animals, like foxes and rabbits, need not die for fur coat production. Similarly, the skins of snakes and crocodiles are not made into shoes and handbags.

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

Article 1

1. Read paragraph 1. What message does the writer give to readers?
 - A. Buying more clothes than needed is the next big trend.
 - B. The fashion industry has created environmental problems.
 - C. People should not buy fashion products any more.
 - D. The fashion industry and consumers are eco-friendly.

2. Look at the word ‘products’ in paragraph 1. The meaning that best corresponds to this word is _____.

A. (n) the result of two or more numbers multiplied together <i>The product of 6 and 3 is 18.</i> C. (n) something which is used on someone’s hair to make it look or feel better <i>How often should I use this product to wash my hair?</i>	B. (n) a result obtained from experiencing something <i>She is a product of today’s generation.</i> D. (n) things which are made to be sold <i>This shop sells different dairy products.</i>
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3. Eco-friendly materials are used because they help _____.
 - A. develop pesticides
 - B. grow cotton
 - C. produce non-toxic chemicals
 - D. protect the environment

4. Eco-friendly fashion reduces harm to the environment in the processes of _____.

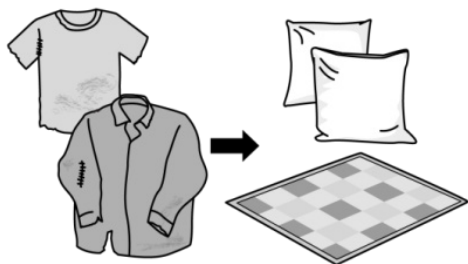
1. fabric production 3. colouring materials	2. fabric selection 4. advertising
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 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 and 3
 - C. 1, 2 and 3
 - D. All of the above

5. The new textiles called ‘recycled fabrics’ are made _____.
 - A. to last longer
 - B. to be used once only
 - C. from old materials
 - D. from chemicals

6. Which of the following is an example of upcycling?

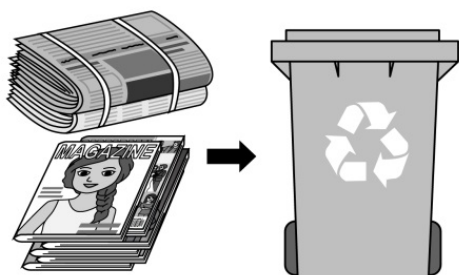
A.



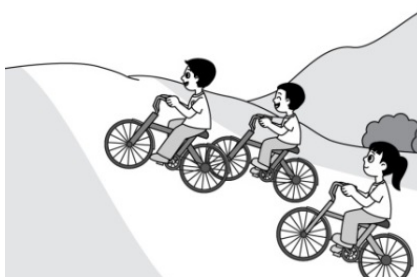
B.



C.



D.



7. The writer thinks that redesigning secondhand clothes _____.

- A. does not prolong their lifetime
- B. requires unique materials
- C. is a way to show creativity
- D. does not help reduce waste

8. According to paragraph 4, the writer is _____ eco-friendly fashion.

- A. overjoyed about
- B. bored with
- C. doubtful about
- D. supportive of

Article 2

9. According to paragraph 1, what are the main problems in the fashion industry?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. It does not pay the workers. | 2. It employs too many workers. |
| 3. It kills many animals. | 4. It produces harmful waste. |
- A. 1 and 2
 - B. 1 and 4
 - C. 2 and 3
 - D. 3 and 4

10. With rising sea levels, there will be more _____.
- A. coastal flooding
 - B. frequent wildfires
 - C. jobs for workers
 - D. melting icebergs
11. Global warming could have a destructive effect. 'Destructive' in paragraph 2 refers to _____.
- A. being helpful
 - B. being unhelpful
 - C. causing damage
 - D. making improvements
12. According to paragraph 2, _____ are the effects of climate change.
- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. increased rainfall | 2. severe storms |
| 3. frequent wildfires | 4. more icebergs |
- A. 1 and 3
 - B. 2 and 3
 - C. 2 and 4
 - D. All of the above
13. Global climate change can result in droughts in some areas. 'Drought' in paragraph 2 refers to _____.
- A. a large fire that spreads quickly
 - B. a period with little or no rain
 - C. a powerful wind event
 - D. a situation where water covers large areas
14. According to paragraph 3, a responsible fashion industry protects workers by providing them with _____.
- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a fair wage | 2. healthcare services |
| 3. safe working conditions | 4. warm coats |
- A. 1 and 2
 - B. 1 and 3
 - C. 2 and 3
 - D. All of the above

15. The main idea in paragraph 3 is that _____.
- A. it is important for the fashion industry to be more eco-friendly
 - B. coats and bags should not be made from animals
 - C. workers should work in healthy conditions with a good wage
 - D. the rights of workers and animals should be protected

Articles 1 and 2

16. The theme of the two articles is to promote _____.
- A. eco-friendly and responsible practices
 - B. eco-friendly materials and secondhand clothes
 - C. global warming and climate change
 - D. the welfare of workers and animals

END OF PAPER

