Part 1

Read three leaflets about day tours.

Answer questions **1** to **4** based on the leaflets about the nature of the tours (**A** to **C**).

Which tour

1. is suitable for thrill seekers? _____
2. offers activities which are indoors? _____
3. includes a night activity? _____
4. is suitable for food lovers? _____

A. Tasty Adventures	**B. Extreme Tour**	**C. Fun Tour**
• Departs 8 a.m. • Handmade chocolate tasting at Twix Dairyland • Sip local coffee and tour around Arad's coffee plantation. • A visit to Cheras Street Market after dark and choose what you want to eat for dinner. • Bring money for additional purchase of souvenirs, coffee, ice cream, chocolates, etc.	• Departs 10 a.m. • Skydiving – 15,000ft jump with up to 60 seconds of freefall • Lessons with expert skydiving instructor • Minimum age is 12 years • Weather dependent • Certification upon completion of activity	• Departs 8 a.m. • Get up close and personal with marine life at Underwater World Aquarium • Visit dressing room, studios and theatres during our backstage tour of Istana Budaya • Enjoy amazing views from SkyPoint Observation Deck.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 2

Read an email from a university student.

Answer questions **5** to **9** based on the email.

To: FinanceDep.BUC@edu.my

From: KimberlyLiew@edu.my

Subject: Financial Aid Appeal

To the office of Financial Aid,

My name is Kimberly and I was recently accepted into Winchester College. I am very much looking forward to attend the college this year. Thank you for providing me the details of the financial aid package. I am writing to respectfully request consideration of appeal to review my financial aid award package.

I am delighted to be enrolled at WC and am thankful for the financial aid package that the college has offered me. However, there is still a large financial gap for me to cover to be able to continue my studies at the college despite the college's generous offer.

I come from a single-parent family and have tow younger brothers. My dad passed away when I was 13 and my mom has single-handedly raised us since then. Although we are constantly in a tight financial situation, we made plans to figure it out especially for paying for college. Unfortunately, a month ago, my mother unexpectedly lost her job as a worker at a manufacturing company. I have attached a formal letter from her manager documenting the layoff.

My expectation is that my mother will regain employment in the near future, and we will be relieved from our desperate financial situation. However, I am writing with the hope that you will take these new circumstances into consideration while you review my financial aid package. Your help is greatly appreciated, and I thank you for taking the time to review my appeal.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for considering my request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information. I will respond promptly, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Liew

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. Kimberly sent the email because she wants to
A. apply for financial aid to help her studies
B. continue attending Berkerly University College.
C. request for a re-evaluation on her award package.

6. Kimberly's family knew they were in a tough financial situation but they are
A. hoping their situation will improve
B. receiving financial aid to help them out.
C. looking for a solution.

7. Kimberly's family is suddenly in need of additional financial aid because
A. Kimberly's mother lost her job
B. they only have one source of income.
C. Kimberly's part time job does not pay much

8. The purpose of attaching documentation of the layoff of Kimberly's mother is to
A. gain sympathy from the office of financial aid.
B. support her mother's unemployment status.
C. bring attention to her family's condition.

9. Kimberly welcomes the office of financial aid to contact her
A. as she looks forward to it
B. if in need more details.
C. to discuss the details of her request.

Part 3
Read an extract from a blog.
Answer questions **10** to **14** based on the extract.

29 September
During my recent exploration of the town I just moved into, I discovered an unbeaten path. A weathered sign announced that this was no ordinary footpath but part of a mountain trail. Immediately I formed several rationalisations. It would get me fit and be fascinating way to reacquaint myself with nature after dwelling in the city for years. After much contemplation, I decided to embrace the challenge. I bought some guidebooks and gained insights from people who have attempted the trail. It dawned on me that this was way beyond anything I had ever encountered.

2 October
8.00 a.m.
Early in the morning, I staggered a little under the heavy weight of my backpack as I hoisted it up onto my shoulders and embarked on what, I hoped, was not to be a treacherous journey. The path stretched out before me, leading down to a wooded valley and then coming up to the first big hill. I stopped every now and then, perhaps after trudging through every 30 metres of the trail, breathing heavily. I was completely out of shape. Every step was a struggle under the heavy weight of the backpack. The hardest part was coming to terms with the constant dispiriting discovery that there is always more hill. I continued to stagger on. I kept motivating myself with the thoughts of the sensational view at the pinnacle and not let the

LIVEWORKSHEETS

constant reminder of having to walk which is only a small fraction of the remaining path that lies ahead of me.

3.30 p.m.

I collapsed against a tree, drained of all my energy and my limbs were all aching badly. I had disposed of many items in my backpack along the way to reduce the load 1 was carrying. Now I am stripped down to just the bare necessities, hoping it will be sufficient for my survival upon this trail. I started looking for a decent area to set up camp and decided to call it a day as I was unable to carry on any further.

3 October

I woke at dawn. My breakfast consisted of a breakfast bar black coffee as most of my other luxury edible items such as cheese, peanuts, sugar and canned food, to name a few, were scattered along the earlier parts of the trail. After clearing the campsite, making sure not to leave any traces behind, I hoisted my backpack and continued my journey. Imagine carrying a profound heaviness of 15 kilograms on your back trailing through a path full of sharp rocks and unyielding roots. Next is 1427 metres to the top. It was a perilous and taxing journey. The concept of distance changes completely when you travel by foot. A kilometre becomes a long way, 10 kilometres a lifetime, 50 kilometres is an eternity. I was not thinking for most part of the journey, existing in a mobile Zen mode as if my brain was not actually part of my body below. Still I pressed on. After all, regardless of the outcome or what anybody says, I would have proudly announced I hiked the Appalachian Trail.

(Adapted from *A Walk in the woods, Reader's Digest,* June 1999)

10. The writer had to rationalise his decision to conquer the trail because

A. he knew the trail would be tough.
B. he has not exercised for a long time.
C. he was afraid he might not like exploring nature.

11. Why was the writer making frequent stops during the hike?

A. His pack was heavy.
B. The hill was very steep.
C. He was lacking of stamina.

12. What was most challenging for the writer during the hike?

A. Having to view the same scenery.
B. The need to track over numerous hills.
C. Overcoming the feeling of a never-ending journey.

13. Why did the writer not want to leave any traces behind?

A. He did not want anyone to follow his path.
B. He was trying to preserve the environment.
C. He was afraid to have left something behind.

14. What will probably happen next?

A. The writer will share his story with everyone.
B. The writer will attempt to complete the Appalachian Trail
C. The writer will need to seek immediate medical attention after the hike.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 4

Read two reviews about a cartoon book.

Answer questions **15** to **16** based on Review 1.

Review 1

Kampung Boy, published in Malaysia in 1979 by the legendary Malaysian cartoonist Datuk Muhammad Nor Khalid who goes by the pen name of Lat, is a masterpiece comic/cartoon/illustrated book. This book reminds me of a popular animated series *Upin & Ipin* which reached its peak of popularity around 2008 in Indonesia. I have to apologies for the reverse reference as it would be more accurate to say that the popular animated TV series was inspired by the simple rural life a Malay family as portrayed in *Kampung Boy*.

The storyline of the book is based on Lat's rural childhood, presented in a series of events which happens in the life of a young Malay Muslim boy. The story begins with the birth of the boy at the hand of his own grandmother, who is the official midwife in the village. Along with this comes other rituals for the newborn such as the shaving ceremony. As the boy grow older, he is sent for Quran lessons from the village's Quran teacher at his house. Another interesting ritual documented in the book is the circumcision ceremony which symbolises the journey into adulthood of young Muslim boys.

What we cannot miss the fact that there is a tin mining company which disturbs the peace and serenity of the village as it operates near the village of our main character. Even though there were no negative or positive comments on the mining company by Lat, it can be easily seen that the simple village life that they are used, to is being threatened by the company's expanding operations. The story ends on a grim note, illustrating the young boy's fear of no longer having a hometown to return to with the demolishing of his village if the mining company manages to really find tin there.

The humour and details of the illustrations are elements that captivate the reader and urge them to read more to get to the last detail of the story. This, perhaps is the reason why it has a large fan base. This book is for sure strong with giggle-inducing illustrations and shockingly honest details (that don't otherwise get presented verbally.) I can still recall several tongue-in-cheek presentations of incidents in the childhood of the character from the book.

(Adapted from https://timbalaning.wordpress.com)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

15. What do we learn about the reviewer's impression of the book?

A. He found it to be entertaining.

B. He found the contents to be very memorable.

C. He found the storyline to be similar to an animated TV series.

16. How are the contents of this review organised?

A.

Overview of the book.
↓
Highlights of the plot
↓
Setting of the story
↓
Evaluation of the book

B.

Setting of the story
↓
Overview of the book
↓
Highlights of the plot
↓
Evaluation of the book

C.

Overview of the book.
↓
Setting of the story
↓
Highlights of the plot
↓
Evaluation of the book

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Answer questions **17** and **18** based on Review 2

Review 2

The cartoons of Mohammad nor Khalid, or more famously known as Lat, is adorned with many of its quick-witted and clever observations on modern Malaysian society. Yet the roots of the nation's most popular social commentator lie remote from the high-tech modernity of Kuala Lumpur's city centre.

An illustrated memoir of a young Malay boy named Lat and his humble origins was published in the author's homeland in 1979 under the title *Lat, the Kampung Boy*. The world he presents in *Kampung Boy* is the story of his childhood while growing up on a rubber plantation in a rural Malaya in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Readers are invited into the village that Lat dwells in to experience his life, starting from his infancy up to his later boyhood, when he leaves his family to attend boarding school.

The detailed artwork and narrative offer fascinating and heart-warming insights into the life of a simple Muslim family living in the northern state of Perak, an area known for rubber plantations and tin mining at that time. The drawings are humorous and informative, depicting certain important stages in his young life related to family, receiving formal education in school, his pastime activities and religion, all conveyed simply yet effectively. Muslim ceremonies inserted into the storyline are enlightening and delightfully drawn.

Needless to say, Lat's family features heavily in the book. His mother depicted as a hard-working and solid housewife while the father is wittily illustrated as a character with boyish enthusiasm and bulk which puts one in mind of Baloo from Walt Disney's *The Jungle Book*.

Lat's attention to detail is impressive. His highly detailed art entices the reader to linger over each page, enjoying the story and experiencing life in another country. Lat offers his readers an insightful and unique perspective in the scenes through meticulous illustrations along with smart cohesion of careful text. His settings are frequently oversized and exaggerated when drawing himself from the perspective of a young boy. Readers are enlightened that life can still loom large even for a child living in a small kampung.

Hints of modernisation in Malaya after achieving independence is delivered through the introduction of cars, express trains and movie theatres but it is the sinister intrusion of the tin dredges that elevates the book from a simple story of Malayan rural folk into a commentary on the loss of innocence in the face of easy profit. The story closes with Lat heading off to boarding school, confronted with uncertainty of the future for himself, his family and also his village in the face of his young nation's quest for economic prosperity.

(Adapted from *http://stephentaylor-sightandsound.blogspot.com*)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

17. Why does the writer include information about Lat's origins? A. To explain his personality of avoiding attention or publicity. B. To highlight the source of inspiration for the setting of his book. C. To show his preference towards a traditional and quite lifestyle.	18. What do we learn about the characters in his book? A. They are a comical replication of his family. B. They are a typical representation of local village people. C. They are inspired by characters from the Walt Disney cartoon.

Answer questions **19** and **20** based on Review 1 and Review 2.

19. Which of the following is true of both Reviews? A. Both reviews compared the book with a film. B. Both reviews provided a detailed description of Lat's artwork. C. Both reviews highlighted the invasive mining companies as a prominent event in the story.	20. The two reviews suggest that the success of the book was based on A. its educative features on Muslim ceremonies. B. its funny take on events and detailed illustrations. C. the uncertainties that lie ahead portrayed at the end of the story.

Part 5

Read an article about the importance of education in life.
Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A** to **G** the one which fits each gap (**21** to **26**). There is one extra sentence which you do **not** need to use.

Education is one of the most important parts of our life. Happiness and prosperity are important elements to live by. Minds empowered by education are capable of conceiving good thoughts and ideas, and empower us with the ability to analyse a problem before making life decisions. We are faced with different kinds of survival challenges in life but education can help us fight and overcome failure and achieve success in life.

Education is of significance and value in our lives. From the moment we are born, we are educated about the essential things in life by our parents. A toddler starts learning how to walk, learns how to speak and develops his vocabulary based on what is taught by his parents. They teach him who are his family members and how to behave with different individuals, giving them due respect. **21.** _____. These qualities stay with him for his entire life in the form of conditioning.

Our initial education during childhood will directly shape us in the way we behave towards our parents and how much regard we have for our elders. **22.** _____. They guide their child not just into taking his first steps and learning how to walk; they also teach him the appropriate behaviour, morality and respect. He is taught about the rules of society and how,

LIVEWORKSHEETS

by following such rules, he is nurtured into a good human being. As the child ages, he has larger ambitions and more desires and his parents will make an effort to give him the best educational environment for him to realise his dreams.

23. _____. The main goal of having an education is to expand our knowledge. When the knowledge we have gained from education is used for practical purposes, only then will the significance of getting an education in the first place strike us. Taking a look at the existing education system today, you will notice that education has been reduced to an exchange of instructions and information and nothing more. **24.** _____. Today, we are a far cry from this ideology due to the rapid commercialisation of the education sector. Education is no longer for the mere purpose of exchanging information and pre-set instructions but a gateway that allows individuals to explore and stimulate their creative and imaginative capabilities.

25. _____. It is not just a simple matter of attending school or acquiring a degree In college. Good education goes beyond that. Being able to read or write, getting into college and graduating with a degree does not imply that an individual's education has been completed. Such process only equips an individual with the necessary knowledge that aids him to understand and be aware of what is important in the world, and since social norm dictates the need of a degree, he goes ahead and gets one. **26.** _____. After receiving an education, a person is able to battle the numerous social evils and feels empowered to eradicate such problems.

Based on my own personal perception and stemming from my experiences, I believe that an educated person is an individual with capabilities of adapting to situations based on the necessity of the hour. The ability to utilise skills and knowledge gained from an education to overcome challenges and tough obstacles in any aspect of life allows the correct decision to be made in that particular moment. That is what I believe makes a person educated.

(Adapted from *https://www.klientsolitech.com*)

A. Education is a medium of attaining knowledge.
B. So it wouldn't be wrong to say that a person's initial education begins at his home.
C. In earlier times, the motive of education was to infuse good values and morals into an individual's consciousness.
D. Such education provides him with the values and knowledge of the world, and enables him to become a better person.
E. In this process, he gets the capability to know what is important for him, what is wrong and what is right.
F. Today, it is extremely important to know about the significance of a good education.
G. Parents impart priceless knowledge about ethics and morals right from the beginning when the child has a tender mind.

LIVEWORKSHEETS