

PART E
READING 1

Directions: Read the following letter carefully and answer the questions that follow. Select the BEST answer. Shade the letter of the answer you have chosen on your Answer Sheet.

Betty Cantou
Harrison Primary School
Dennery Village

Mr. Frank Richardson
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education
Waterfront,
Castries
30th April, 2021

Dear Mr. Richardson,

It is clear that the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on society and especially schools, has been very impactful. First of all, there has been a sudden change in the way schools operate. This sudden shift to the use of digital devices for instruction has proven to be a major challenge. Secondly, being home and experiencing the lockdown has caused many to become depressed. Additionally, many people lost their jobs and cannot meet their basic needs. All of these issues

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have made me realize how severely the Covid-19 virus has adversely affected everyone including schools.

As a student, I have been struggling with my school work because of the change from being in the physical classroom to online learning. Many students, including me, do not own personal devices and so we were forced to learn how to navigate the platforms with very little training. On most days, I was not able to access the assignments that the teacher posted. I can tell you that *I am a fish out of water*. This has caused me to have a great setback in what I am expected to learn.

Also, I am finding it difficult to remain cheerful at home because I am an only child and I have no friends to talk to. This has made me desolate especially since my parents are frustrated as well due to having restrictions as to where we can go.

I must tell you that on some days, there was no food to eat and I missed having daily lunch at school. My parents are unemployed since the virus caused the closure of hotels. The strain of having no money means that they had to cut back on groceries so we don't always have food to eat.

The Covid-19 pandemic caused many people, especially students including me to suffer. Mr. Richard, I plead for you and your government to act swiftly to save poor students like myself.

Yours sincerely,

Betty Cantou

1. The author of the letter is a _____.

(a) parent (b) janitor (c) teacher (d) student

2. The letter seeks to _____ the Covid - 19 pandemic.

(a) list features of (b) suggest the causes of
(c) explain the solutions to (d) highlight the effects of

3. According to the letter, what was the main challenge for the author?

(a) Having daily lunch at school.
(b) Not being able to be with friends.
(c) Getting information about the pandemic
(d) The sudden change from face-to-face to online learning.

4. The sentence that best captures the main idea in paragraph two is _____.

(a) Students do not own personal devices.
(b) Training in accessing the learning platforms was lacking.
(c) Learning challenges are experienced within the physical classroom.
(d) The change from face to face instruction to online learning has been difficult.

5. Which word or phrase can be used to replace "navigate" (line 10)
_____.

(a) access (b) follow
(c) use successfully (d) transfer information

6. The phrase "*I am a fish out of water*" (line 12) suggests that the author _____.

_____.

- (a) could not swim
- (b) had high hopes for success
- (c) had great difficulty coping
- (d) was unable to focus on activities

7. The word "desolate" (line 15) as used in the passage, tells us that the author felt _____.

_____.

- (a) content
- (b) depressed
- (c) impatient
- (d) famished

8. The part of speech of the word "unemployed" (line 18) is a/an _____.

- (a) noun
- (b) verb
- (c) adjective
- (d) preposition

9. According to the passage, the main reason given for the frustration of her parents was _____.

_____.

- (a) a lack of income
- (b) using the digital devices
- (c) illness due to the pandemic
- (d) impatience with monitoring her studies

10. From the passage it can be inferred that the author _____.

- (a) ignores the requests for help
- (b) refers the matter to the Ministry of Health
- (c) does nothing to help students be comfortable
- (d) expects Mr. Richardson's aid in improving the situation for students

PART F
READING 2

Directions: Read the following story carefully. There are (10) questions based on the story. On your Answer Sheet, Shade the letter of the option that shows the Correct Answer.

I was sitting on a park bench when I saw the endless black cloud heading towards me. "Mom, look!" I screamed. My mom turned around and faced me. A look of pure horror was painted across her face. "Margaret, come on! We need to go now!" she shouted. We ran across roads and dried up crop fields. We did not dare look back.

5 Suddenly, I wasn't running away from the black cloud. Instead, I was face down in the dirt. Oh no! I had tripped over my shoelace. I slowly looked up. Where was my mom? The menacing cloud loomed closer and closer. I choked, feeling the gritty dust in my throat. I tried to crawl forward but needles shot through my legs.

I moaned in terror as in a time like this, my legs had chosen to fall asleep! No sooner had this 10 thought crossed my mind, that I felt a whiff of dust blow towards me, burning my eyes and making everything blurry. "Mom!" I screamed. "Mom!" I tried to yell again but was choked by more dust. "Mom," I whined, my heart racing. Where was she? I started coughing from all of the dust now clogging my parched throat and lungs.

"Margaret! Darling, come on!" My mom motioned me frantically to get up but I shook my 15 head. Seeing the panic in my eyes, my mom gripped me by the shirt and hauled me into her arms. We ran, fleeing farther away from the storm. After what seemed like forever, my mom stopped running. Screams and yells echoed off walls. I covered my ears.

A person right in front of us said, "Get inside quickly!"

My mom answered "Okay" and then I was carried into a building that looked like the town 20 hall.

My mom set me down in a corner, in the town hall and lay down next to me. "Mom?" I croaked.

"Yes, sweetie?" She answered in a voice like honey.

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"Is this storm going to happen ever again?" I asked, my voice still thick with dust. She did not
25 answer and I knew that she knew this wouldn't be the last time the black mountains of dust
attacked the plain states.

Adapted from Black Mountains of Dust - The Utah Education Network

1. The narrator of the story is named _____.

(a) Mom (b) Sweetie (c) Margaret (d) Darling

2. One fact which can be inferred from the first paragraph is _____.

(a) the narrator had a look of horror on her face.
(b) mom saw a black cloud then alerted the narrator.
(c) mom acted with little urgency at the narrator's shout.
(d) the narrator and her mother became alarmed at what they saw.

3. "The black cloud" referred to in line 5 is _____.

(a) fog (b) rain (c) dust (d) smoke

4. A word which is similar in meaning to the word "menacing" (line 7) is
_____.

(a) scary (b) severe (c) unhealthy (d) threatening

5. The word that best describes the narrator's feeling in paragraph 3 is
_____.

(a) sad (b) angry (c) frustrated (d) frightened

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6. The phrase "a voice like honey" (line 23) is an example of a _____.

(a) simile (b) metaphor (c) alliteration (d) personification

7. From the passage it can be inferred that _____.

(a) mom was sad to reach the shelter
(b) other people were already securing themselves from the storm
(c) there was reassurance from mom that the storm would not reoccur
(d) it was not the first time that the narrator was experiencing the storm

8. The narrator and her mom found safety _____.

(a) on a park bench (b) near a crop field
(c) in the town hall (d) at a neighbouring village

9. The text structure of the passage is _____.

(a) sequence (b) description
(c) compare and contrast (d) problem and solution

10. A most suitable title for the passage is _____.

(a) Running Away (b) Chasing the Storm
(c) The Threat of a Storm (d) An Exciting Adventure

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