

Ujian Akhir Sesi Akademik

Reading and Use of English (Paper 1)

1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions: This question paper contains **five** parts, which consist of **40** questions. Answer **all** questions. Read the instructions for each part and the questions carefully.

PART 1

You should spend about 15 minutes in this part.

Read the text carefully in each question. Choose the best answer **A**, **B** or **C**.
For each question, circle the correct answer **A**, **B** or **C** on your answer sheet.

1

Acne is a very common skin disease many of us know too well. Pores become clogged, usually by oils produced by the sebaceous glands, and the collection of dead skin cells in pores. If bacteria become trapped in the pore or hair follicle, inflammation occurs and produces red eruptions that can be quite painful and unsightly. Although acne is most prominent in adolescence, it can occur at almost any age as well as continue well beyond adolescence.



Acne is a skin condition that occurs when your hair follicles become plugged with

- A rashes and eruptions.
- B many sorts of bacteria.
- C oils and dead skin cells.

2

The irrational fear of the number 13 is called 'triskaidekaphobia'. It has been said that fear of the number 13 is linked to 12 being a number of perfection. For example, there are 12 months in a year, 12 hours on a clock and 12 zodiac signs, making 13 seem an irrational number that brings bad luck. Dinner parties of 13 people are still considered unlucky, and many hotels don't have a room number 13. Some major airlines such as Air France, Lufthansa and Ryanair, don't have a 13th row.



Which of the following shows that triskaidekaphobia is widely accepted among Western culture?

- A Most hotels omit the 12th floor.
- B Many airlines omit the 13th row in seating.
- C Having 13 uninvited guests at a table is a bad omen.

3



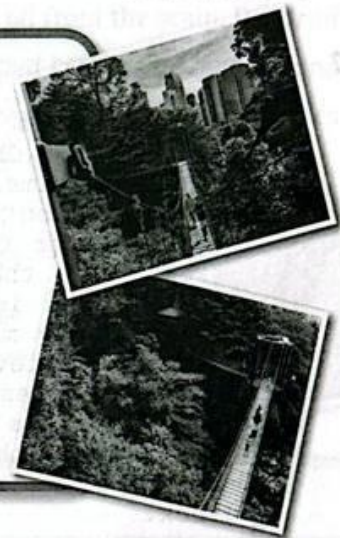
Itching occurs when nerve endings in the skin are disturbed, according to a Sheffield consultant dermatologist. The cause is usually dryness in the epidermis. But itching can also be caused by more serious conditions, such as liver or kidney problems, which can produce substances that irritate.

From the report above, all the following are causes of irritation of the skin **except**

- A dry epidermis.
- B liver disease.
- C nerve pain.

4

The canopy walk at the KL Forest Eco Park is an excellent way for visitors and locals to enjoy the forest without disturbing the flora and fauna. Such facilities are set up to promote ecotourism, thereby allowing Malaysia to preserve its natural habitats while reaping the economic benefits from the tourist industry.



The canopy walk was set up to

- A facilitate the study of ecotourism.
- B attract visitors and locals to walk in the park.
- C encourage tourists and locals to enjoy nature.

5

Burns : First Aid

Burns are tissue damage from hot liquids, the sun, flames, chemicals, electricity, steam and other causes. Kitchen-related injuries from hot drinks, soups and microwaved foods are common among children. Major burns need emergency medical help. Minor burns can usually be treated with first aid.

- 1 Remove clothing from burnt area immediately. Burnt areas swell quickly.
- 2 Immerse the burnt area in cool (not cold) running water for at least 10 minutes.
- 3 When you have cooled the burns, cover with a clean, dry gauze or cloth dressing.
- 4 Raise the burnt area. Lift the wound above heart level if possible.



Remove



Cool



Cover

The burnt area is immersed in cool running water to

- A kill the germs.
- B cool the burns.
- C wash away the dirt.

6



Hi Aiman! Have you been to the book fair at Amcorp Mall?

Are there any public transport?

Okay, I know which mode of transport I'll use on my visit. Thanks.

Hi Ben! Yes, I went there last weekend with a friend. We drove there and the traffic was terrible.

Yes. There are both bus and MRT services to the mall, but the schedule of the bus isn't very dependable.



On his visit, Ben would most probably

- A take the MRT.
- B drive his car.
- C take the bus.

7

Superstitions have been present among the Malays, the Chinese and the Indians for a very long time. The Chinese refrain sweeping the house on the first day of the Chinese New Year for fear that good fortune will be swept away; the Malays think that singing in the kitchen is not good for a girl as you will end up marrying an old man while the Indians believe a butterfly flying into the house signifies the arrival of visitors.

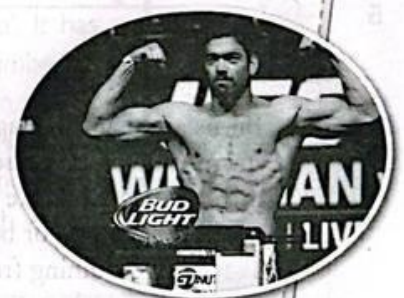
Westerners too, believe in superstitions like Friday the 13th is an unlucky day and breaking a mirror means seven years of bad luck.

Why should the task of sweeping not be done on Chinese New Year day?

- A They fear that they will not have good luck.
- B They will suffer seven years of bad luck.
- C There might be no visitors to their home.

8

It's unclear whether UFC Light Heavyweight Champion Lyoto Machida's daily habit is a form of superstition or self-torture, but every morning the Brazilian Shotokan karate master drinks his own urine. He picked up the practice from his father. He believes urine is a natural medicine that cleanses his body. While it sounds disgusting, Machida may be onto something – he has yet to lose a round in his professional mixed martial arts career.



From the extract above, we know that Machida

- A is a karate fighter.
- B drinks his own urine occasionally.
- C picked up some of his father's bad habits.

[8 marks]

PART 2

You should spend about 15 minutes in this part.

Read the text below and correct the underlined errors.

For each question, write the correct word in the space provided.

Dandruff : Learn The Basics

Our skin is designed to shed old skin cells and grow new (0) one. Dandruff, however, is a kink in this assembly-line process, (9) cause old skin cells on the scalp to build up and clump into the unsightly flakes that land on your favourite black shirt. Factors that may contribute (10) with dandruff include seborrheic dermatitis, dry skin and certain skin conditions. While you might associate dandruff with a dry, flaky scalp, it is actually caused by excess oiliness. The culprit here is a common group of yeasts (11) call *Malassezia* that grow on everyone, (12) but it feeds on oil from the scalp. Dandruff is more likely to develop at certain stages of life, such as in infancy (called cradle cap), and around puberty when oil (sebum) secretion increases, providing more food for yeast. Stress also increases oil production. Thankfully, you can (13) usual get this problem under control with over-the-counter products. Start by (14) shampooed your scalp frequently with a medicated (antifungals and salicylic acid) shampoo to reduce oiliness. (15) This shampoos boast a keratolytic agent, which helps to loosen and dislodge scales. The active ingredients are also able to slow down the (16) grow of the yeast that causes the flaking.



Example:

0	ones	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16		

[8 marks]

PART 3

You should spend about 20 minutes in this part.

Read the text below and complete the following mind map with **no more than three words and/ or a number** from the text for each answer.

Money Milestones for Children

Most children get their money habits and skills from their parents or guardians. Learning to plan ahead, wait for things they want, and finish what they start helps children achieve financial well-being. According to some studies, these skills are a foundation for behaviours that support financial well-being such as goal setting, planning, saving for the future, and sticking to a budget. Children need to learn the financial lessons as they grow. There are always some activities that parents can do with their children.

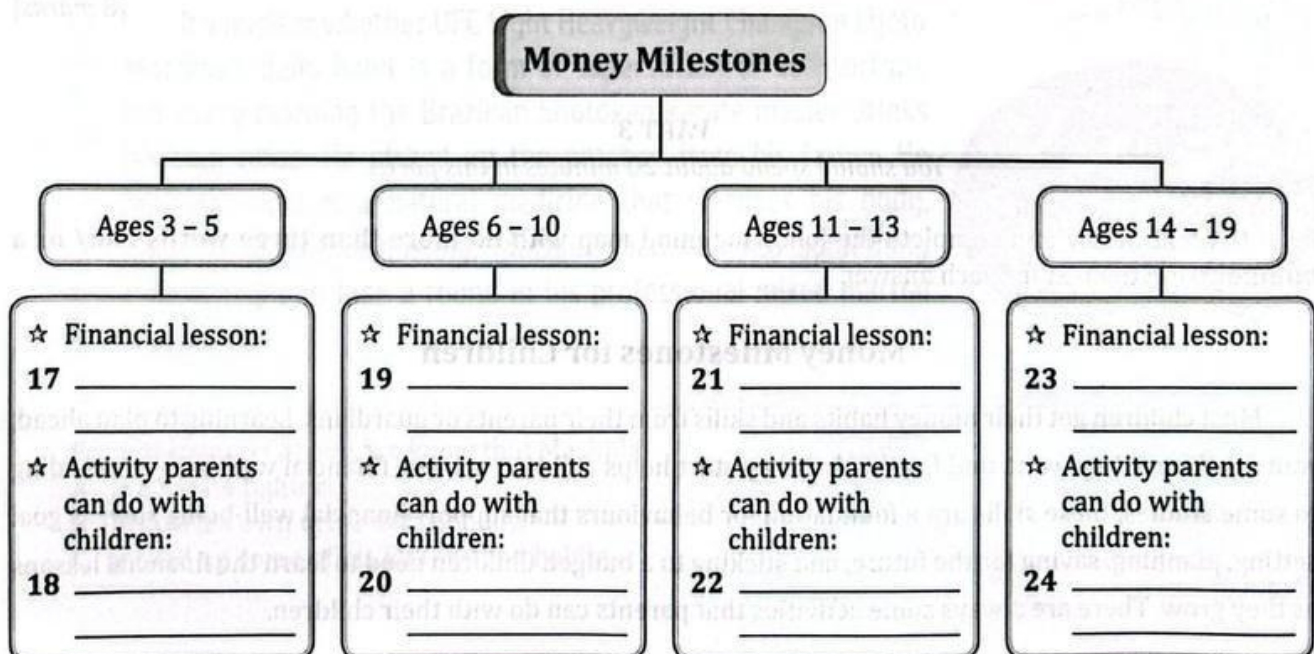
At ages 3 to 5, children are usually too young to understand abstract financial concepts. At this stage, they should learn the concept of having to wait before they can have something they want. Children need to learn that if they really want to buy a toy or treat, they should wait and save money to buy it. When children are waiting in line for a turn on the swings, or looking forward to their favourite holiday, point out that sometimes we have to wait for things we want.

Between the ages of 6 to 10, parents should help children absorb rules of thumb and day-to-day habits that shape how they earn, save and shop. At this stage, children learn the importance of making choices about how to spend their money. Children must understand that once they have spent the money on an item, the money is gone forever. So before they spend their money, they must have a plan in mind. This can be taught when parents and children are shopping for groceries in supermarkets. Practise making a list before you go to a store or on a shopping trip. Of course, you have to stick to the list.

At ages 11 to 13, the young teens should practise the habit of saving. Spending money is fun and it makes teens feel good. New clothes, Instagrammable cafés and expensive coffees are all great things. However, parents should tell the teens that the sooner they start saving, the faster the money grows from compound interest. Compound interest is earned from the savings and the interest that has been added to it. At this stage, parents can accompany their children to banks and open savings accounts. Experiment with your children to show the effect of saving different amounts at different interest rates.

Teenagers of ages 14 to 19 should start planning for education as it will allow them to get a head start on paying off their student loans. Parents and teenagers can calculate the expenses required to complete a course of their choice in colleges or universities. Saving money can help teenagers plan for future schooling that they might be considering. Wouldn't it be nice not to get into debt just to fund this further education? Even if they can't pay for it all, that is quite all right. Every penny counts. Having money saved as teenagers will broaden their horizon for what they might wish to pursue. Put another way, teenagers won't be as hesitant to consider a programme they might want to pursue just because of what it will cost.

Adapted from: *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*



[8 marks]

PART 4

You should spend about 20 minutes in this part.

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

Choose **no more than five words and/ or a number** from the text for each answer.

The Butterfly

'Mum, I'm back!' I called as I stepped into our flat after school. Usually, Mum would reply, urging me to take my bath, eat and then do my schoolwork. But there was complete silence. I walked into Mum's bedroom. She was in tears, sitting at her dressing table. She looked up and said, 'Your sister passed away this morning.' I stood there, not knowing what to say. I was ten years old and the concept of death had no real meaning to me.

I was trying to make sense of the situation when I found my sister's schoolbag on a small table in the dim corner of the bedroom. It looked as if it was waiting to be claimed by its owner. I moved my hands slowly across the bag, trying to sense my sister's presence. I opened it. Everything was neatly arranged — exercise books on one side, textbooks on the other, and her pencil case in between.

That evening, I stood on the balcony, watching every bus that pulled up at the bus stop. I was hoping to see her appear from a bus, but to no avail. 'Is she coming back?', 'Why can't she come back?', 'Where is she now?', 'Why did she have to die?' Mum could neither offer comfort nor any meaningful answers to my endless queries.

At about nine o'clock that evening, a black butterfly flew into the living room, fluttered around the hall and landed high on a wall. 'Don't chase it away,' Mum said. When I turned in for the night, the butterfly was perched in the same place, but the next morning it was gone. Only then did I remember what had happened two days ago.

That evening, my sister was in a hurry to finish an art project that was due the next day. She sat down at our dining table and started working on her painting. She divided a rectangular piece of drawing paper into twelve equal boxes. In each box, she painted the same butterfly in a bold black outline. Each butterfly had curly antennae and triangular wings with slanting lines and dots. She allowed me to help colour in the background of each box. Now, the day after sister's death, I remembered that the butterfly that had flown into our flat looked a lot like the ones in her painting.

Normally, I was still asleep when my sister left for school. But that morning, I woke up at 5.30. I walked out to find her rushing to school. That morning, she did not have time to finish her breakfast. I held the door open for her so that the light from the house could help her see her way down the stairwell. It was about six o'clock when she left. 'Bye, brother,' she called as she turned to go. I had no idea this would be the last thing she would ever say to me.

I believe the butterfly was actually my sister returning to pay us a visit before moving on to the next life.

Adapted from: Reader's Digest

For questions 25 to 32, choose **no more than three words and/ or a number** from the text for each answer.

25 The writer expected his mother to _____ with instructions to take his bath and meal, and do his homework.

26 The writer later learned that his sister had _____

- 27 After knowing of his sister's death, the writer touched and went through her schoolbag to _____.
- 28 The writer _____, hoping to see his sister step down from one of them.
- 29 _____ flew into the writer's flat one evening.
- 30 The writer's mother did not want her son to _____ the butterfly away because she felt the butterfly was probably the reincarnation of her daughter.
- 31 The butterfly that flew into the flat resembled those _____.
- 32 The writer got up earlier than usual and he held the door open for _____ to brighten the stairwell for his sister.

Questions 33 and 34

Complete the table below with a **phrase** from the text.

For each question, write your answer in the space provided.

Meaning	Phrase
33 without success	
34 went to bed	

[10 marks]

PART 5

You should spend about 20 minutes in this part.

Read the text below. Six sentences have been removed from the text.

Choose from the sentences (A — H) to fit each gap (35 — 40).

Why People Believe In The Unbelievable

Even if you don't consider yourself a particularly superstitious person, you probably say 'Bless you!' when someone sneezes, just in case the devil should decide to steal their soul, as our ancestors thought possible during a sneeze.

Superstition explains why many buildings do not have a 13th floor, preferring to label it 14A, 12B or M (the 13th letter of the alphabet) on elevator button panels because of concerns about superstitious tenants.

35 Therefore, they would ask for a different room. On top of this, some airlines such as Air France and Lufthansa do not have a 13th row. Lufthansa also has no 17th row because in some countries such as Italy and Brazil, the typical unlucky number is 17 and not 13.

Psychologists have found that superstitions derive from the assumption that a connection exists between co-occurring, non-related events. For example, the notion that charms promote good luck, or

protect you from bad luck. For many people, engaging with superstitious behaviours provides a sense of control and reduces anxiety. **36** This is particularly the case during times of economic crisis and social uncertainty, notably wars and conflicts. Indeed, researchers have observed how in Germany between 1918 and 1940, measures of economic threat correlated directly with measures of superstition.

Superstitious beliefs have been shown to help promote a positive mental attitude. They can lead to irrational decisions, such as trusting in the merits of good luck and destiny rather than sound decision-making. **37** Although these behaviours and actions appear trivial, for some people, they can often affect choices made in the real world.

38 Such as the Annabelle the Doll, who featured in 'The Conjuring' and two other films, is said to be inhabited by the spirit of a dead girl. A more traditional illustration is the curse of the pharaohs, which is said to be cast upon anyone who disturbs the mummy of an ancient Egyptian, especially a pharaoh. On top of this, numbers themselves can often be associated with curses. **39** The most famous case was the number plate 'ARK 666Y', which is believed to have caused mysterious vehicle fires and 'bad vibes' for passengers.

Superstition is particularly prevalent within sports, especially in highly competitive situations. **40** Within sports, especially football, gymnastics and athletics, superstitions have been shown to reduce tension and provide a sense of control over unpredictable, chance factors. Competitors reported praying for success, checking appearance in mirror and dressing well to feel better prepared. Players and athletes also engage with personalised actions and behaviours such as wearing lucky clothes, kit and charms. Famous sportspeople often display superstitious behaviours such as the basketball legend Michael Jordan and the tennis legend Björn Bork.

Adapted from: *theconversation.com*

- A Superstitions can also give rise to the notion that objects and places are cursed.
- B That explains why levels of superstition increase at times of stress and angst.
- C For a sportsperson, the main concern is quick recovery between training and matches.
- D Carrying charms, wearing certain clothes, visiting places associated with good fortune, preferring specific colours and using particular numbers are all elements of superstition.
- E Indeed, 13% of people in one survey indicated that staying on the 13th floor of a hotel would bother them.
- F Four out of five professional athletes report engaging with at least one superstitious behaviour prior to performance.
- G Although there is no single definition of superstition, it generally means a belief in supernatural forces.
- H For example, the figure 666 in a licence plate is often featured in stories of misfortune.

[6 marks]