

NAME _____

CLASS _____

SPM PRACTICE READING -Part 2 (Rational Cloze)

Questions 1-10 Read the text below and choose the best word for each space. For each question tick(/) the correct letter A,B,C or D

Happiness

Happiness is something we must work ____ (0) for. We must first believe that ____ (1) deserve to be happy and then go ahead to achieve that state of mind. Do not ____ (2) that only some people deserve happiness and think that it is your fate to suffer.

Surround yourself with ____ (3) people. Do not have negative people ____ (4) you. They will drag you down. When something goes wrong, try to figure out a solution instead of wallowing in self-pity. ____ (5) happy people do not allow setbacks to affect their moods.

Spend ____ (6) minutes each day thinking about the things that make you happy. These few minutes will give you the opportunity to ____ (7) on the positive things in your life. It is also important to take some time each day to do something nice for yourself. Whether you treat yourself to lunch, take a ____ (8) bath or simply go for a run, you will be putting yourself in a better mood.

Don't take yourself too seriously. Find a way to make light of mistakes that happen ____ (9) forget the bad things. Maintaining your health is another way to ad happiness. ____ (10), exercise has been known to release endorphins that give you a feeling of happiness fun things and learn to laugh. Don't forget to enjoy life. We all have only one life to live and savour. Make the of it.

O A working

B worked

C works

D work ✓

1

A us

B we

C he

D they

2

A believe

B believes

C believed

D believing

3

A sad

B busy

C angry

D happy

4

A over

B above

C around

D through

5

A Fully

B Truly

C Surely

D Strangely

6

A a few

B a lot

C many

D much

7

A prepare

B think

C watch

focus

8

A relaxing

B to relax

C relaxed

D relax

9

A so

B but

C and

D for

10

A Thus

B However

C Although

D Furthermore

SPM PRACTICE READING -Part 3 (Reading Comprehension)

Questions 11-18 You are going to read an extract from a story. For questions 11-18, tick (/) the correct answer (A,B,C or D).

I organised a school trip for the high school children last weekend. I have a friend named Monty Roberts who owns a horse ranch in the countryside. He often lets me use his house and ranch to teach the children living skills. I knew that the energetic children will learn something during our trip

On the first day of our stay, Monty gave a talk to the curious children. 'I want to tell you why I let schoolchildren on my ranch. It all goes back to a story about a young man who was the son of a travelling horse trainer. The father and son would go from stable to stable, race track to race track, farm to farm and ranch to ranch, training horses. The son loved the job as he loved horses passionately. Life at that time was hard. As a result, the boy's high school career was continually interrupted. He moved homes and schools and it was hard on him and his family.

When he was in high school, he was asked to write an essay about what he wanted to be and do when he grew up. That night he wrote a seven-page paper describing his goals. He hoped that someday that he would own a horse ranch. He wrote about his dream in great detail and he even drew a diagram of a 200-acre ranch, showing the location of all the buildings, the stables and the tracks. Then, he drew a detailed floor plan for a 372-square metre house that would sit on a 200-acre dream ranch.

The next day he handed it in to his teacher and two days later he received it back. On the front page was a large red F with a note that read, 'See me after class. He was shattered. The boy went to see the teacher after class and asked, 'Why did I receive an F?

The teacher said, 'This is an unrealistic dream for a young boy like you. You have no money. You come from a family which moves about all over the country. You have no resources. Owning a horse ranch requires a lot of money. You have to buy the land. You have to pay for the original breeding stock and later you'll have to pay large amounts of money to maintain them. There's no way you could ever do it.' Then the teacher added, 'If you will rewrite paper with a more realistic goal, I will reconsider your grade.'

The boy went home and thought about it long and hard. He asked his father what he should do. His father said, 'Look, son, you have to make up your own mind on this. However, I think it is a very important decision for you.' Finally, after a week, the boy turned in the same paper, making no changes at all. He said, "You can keep the F and I'll keep my dream'.

Monty then turned to the assembled group and said, 'I tell you this story because you are sitting in my 372-squaremetre house in the middle of my 200-acre horse ranch. I still have that school paper framed over the fireplace. He added, "The best part of the story is that two summers ago, that same school teacher brought 30 kids to camp out on my ranch for a week. When the teacher was leaving, he said, "Look, Monty, I can tell you this now. When I was your teacher, I was something of a dream stealer. I really wanted you to do well and not be disappointed by having unrealistic dreams. Perhaps that was wrong. I realise now that children should have those dreams and should work towards achieving them. I had no right to crush your dreams. Fortunately you had enough courage not to give up on yours."

Don't let anyone steal your dreams. Follow your heart, no matter what!' The students were rather quiet on the bus ride back. They seemed to have a lot on their minds. They thanked me for the trip. They said that they had thoroughly enjoyed working on the ranch and being close to farm animals. They also felt that they had benefitted much from Monty's words. They too had dreams and his words had been a great source of encouragement.

11. From paragraph 1, the term living skills can best be replaced with
 - A strategies to grow crops
 - B techniques to manage life
 - C methods to cope with stress
 - D ways to handle family problems
12. From paragraph 2, we know that the trainer's son
 - A loved training horses.
 - B always travelled from city to city.
 - C missed school because of his travels.
 - D allowed children on his farm for money.
13. From paragraph 3, we know that the trainer's son
 - A wanted to own a horse ranch someday.
 - B hoped to travel from place to place.
 - C dreamed of owning a huge house.
 - D had a plan for a fantasy farm
14. From paragraph 4, which phrase tells you that the trainer's son was serious about
 - A 'put a great deal of his heart into the project'
 - B 'next day he handed it in to his teacher'
 - C 'the boy with a dream'
 - D 'he was shattered'
15. From paragraph 5, the teacher rejected the boy's dream ranch plan because
 - A it was a baseless plan.
 - B the boy had no clear goals.
 - C the boy's ideas were not focused.
 - D the boy didn't have the money to back his plan.
16. From paragraph 6, the father allows the son to make his own decision so that
 - A he will not blame his father.
 - B he will learn to trust his decision.
 - C he can become more considerate.
 - D he can relate to his teacher better.
17. From paragraph 7, we know that
 - A Monty kept the original essay framed at his dream ranch.
 - B the teacher crushed Monty's dream of owning a ranch.
 - C the teacher was unapologetic of his earlier action.
 - D Monty gave up on his dream as it was unrealistic.
18. From paragraph 8, the most important lesson the students received from their visit was
 - A they enjoyed working with animals.
 - B they found working on the farm fun.
 - C they learned how to get along with others.
 - D they should also make their dreams a reality.

SPM PRACTICE READING -Part 4 (Gapped Text)

Questions 19-You are going to read a story about the impact of dedicated people on others. Six sentences have been removed from the story. Choose from the sentences A to H the one which fits each gap (1 to 6). There are two extra sentences which you do not need to use.

Inspiring Others

She was just an ordinary lady. I met her on one of my trips out of town. She called herself Tammy and she never gave me more information about herself. But she worked tirelessly. Nothing was too much for her.

I was amazed at Tammy's energy. She was not young. 19 Her eyes really twinkled with love and happiness. She walked with a sprightly step that did not reflect her age.

Of course there were things she would never tolerate and the staff received some hard comments when they were harsh to the people there. 20 Once a man came to drop off his mother and appeared unsympathetic to the mother's pleading look. Tammy told him off sharply. 'What goes around comes around, young man. Be good to your mother now. The man flinched and spoke more lovingly to his mother.

I have always wondered what brought Tammy into my life. She brought meaning and wealth to my poor life. 21 I realised then that sometimes people come into our lives and we know right away that they were meant to be there. They help us figure out who we are or who we want to become.

And sometimes things happen to us that may seem horrible, frightening and unfair at first. But later we find that without overcoming those obstacles we would have never realised our potential, strength, willpower or heart. 22

Many people we meet will affect our lives in some ways. Our personalities are shaped by all these encounters. Don't look back to past events for we cannot change anything. 23 Those incidents were meant to be.

In addition, the success and downfalls we experience help to create us into who we become. 24 In fact, they are probably the most poignant and important ones. They give us a rough time but they shape and mold us.

A	There is much to be learned from bad the experiences.	E	It is no use regretting what happened in our past.
B	She made me think and she made me care.	F	We must not have bad experiences at all in our lives
C	We really need to go through those obstacles to make us better people.	G	Her face was creased with lines but somehow, she had that smile that really lit her face.
D	She loved the comforts of a neat and modern home.	H	If she saw disarranged papers or rubbish around, someone was going to get a verbal lashing for sure.

SPM PRACTICE READING -Part 5 (Information Transfer)

Questions 25 -32

Read the descriptions of the destinations below and answer the questions that follow.

Popular Destinations

A - Museum of Culture

Those who are interested in culture can visit this museum that has interactive exhibits of all the cultures around the world. There is a gallery displaying famous cultural artworks and a theatre that shows Visitors can even try on selected traditional costumes.

B - Bloom Botanical Gardens

Breathe in the fresh air as you stroll through the beautiful gardens found here. Among them are the lake garden where you can have picnics with loved ones and the English garden where you can enjoy a tea party surrounded by roses.

C - The Zoo

With more than a 100 acres of land, the zoo is home to approximately 500 species of reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish and mammals. The zoo is divided into four main sections: Aqua Area, Savannah Sanctuary, Polar Park and Bird Barn. Visitors can either walk or go on a tram ride to each section.

D - Ibn Sina Planetarium

Learn more about planets and the outer space at the planetarium. There is an interactive exhibit of space rockets, shuttles and Moon rocks. Visitors can also try on an astronaut suit. After leaving the exhibition hall, visitors are treated to a show on space exploration at the planetarium's dome shaped theatre.

E - Aqua Life

Welcome to Aqua Life where you can view over 600 species of marine life. There are dolphins, manta rays, whale sharks, beluga whales, sea otters, penguins and thousands of other sea creatures. Experience diving with sharks or have a sleepover under water to make your visit more memorable.

F - Fantasy Theme Park

Go on exciting rides, get spooked in the haunted house and enjoy delicious carnival food. Fantasy Theme Park boasts the largest roller coaster ride in South East Asia. There are also free outdoor shows and performances by professional dancers and actors.

Questions 25 to 32

Which destination (A - F) fits the needs of the following visitors?

Statements	Paragraph
25 I enjoy long walks and I love flowers. - Ai Chin	_____
26 I want to watch shows about the galaxy. – Ziril	_____
27 I wish to see a lot of aquatic animals in one place. – Nick	_____
28 I like watching horror movies and enjoy a good scare. – Kala	_____

Questions 29 to 32

Complete the notes below using information from the text. Choose **no more than ONE word** from the passage for each answer.

What to do at the Popular Destinations

- People can enjoy _____ (29) with friends and family at the lake garden.
- Go through the gallery that displays _____ (30) of different cultures.
- Visitors can see _____ (31) species of animals kept in four separate sections.
- For more excitement, visitors can _____ (32) under the water.