

READING SET ECHO

Part 1

Questions 1 to 8

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

Charles School

Learn English in one of our three schools for the best experience at the lowest prices. Choose from London, Oxford or Cambridge. Practise your English, make friends and see England!

Intensive course

40 hours per week, Weekdays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Part-time course

16 hours per week, Weekends 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Exam preparation

Extra focus on grammar and vocabulary, and exam practice.
19 hours per week, Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Prices (per week)

Intensive: RM500

Part-time: RM190

Exam preparation: RM300

1. Tina signed up for the part-time course. Which days does she need to be in school?
 - A. Monday to Friday
 - B. Saturday to Sunday
 - C. Monday to Saturday

Rengoku Japanese Restaurant

Note: Please be polite to the staff and the other customers or you will be asked to leave the restaurant.

Dear all,

The restaurant is severely short-staffed. Therefore, there is no table service. Please choose a table number before ordering your food at the counter. The menu is displayed on the big screen on top of the counter. Please pay for your food when you order. You may pay with cash, Touch 'n Go e-wallet or card. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

2. Based on the notice, what should people at the restaurant do first?
 - A. Go to the counter
 - B. Find a table

C. Be polite

To: The Director of Seremban Town Council

Dear Sir,

I am very disappointed with the state of the Bukit Hijau Recreation Park. It is time for serious action. It is an eyesore with all the graffiti - it is vandalism and definitely not art. The benches are broken and the grass is all overgrown. The playground is in a sorry state and dangerous for children. The Town Council needs to look into this matter and make the necessary changes immediately.

James

3. James wrote this letter to the Director of the Seremban Town Council to
- A. Inform him that the area has been vandalised.
 - B. Ask him to make some changes to the Bukit Hijau Recreation Park.
 - C. Complain about the terrible state that the Bukit Hijau Recreation Park is in.

Husband, wife killed in car crash

PETALING JAYA: A newlywed couple were killed in a crash with a lorry at KM342 of the North South Expressway. The victims, who died at the scene, were identified as C. Prakash, 27, and M. Malini, 25. They were heading to Penang for their honeymoon and to visit their grandparents there. According to the lorry driver, who suffered minor injuries, the accident happened when the driver of the car was speeding and trying to overtake the lorry. The car driver lost control of his vehicle and crashed into the divider causing the car to overturn.

4. Based on the newspaper report
- A. The victims were heading home after their wedding.
 - B. The lorry driver was injured when he tried to overtake the car.
 - C. The accident occurred because the driver of the car was speeding.

4, 18 & 25
SEPTEMBER 2023
Intake **NOW OPEN**
Let's #go2msu

Special Packages*
Pay **ONLY RM300** on registration fee*
Up to **100% Scholarship** on tuition fee*
*terms & condition apply

Explore what programme suits you **BEST!**
Book your session today.

msu Transforming Lives

5. The purpose of this advertisement is to
- attract students to enrol in Management and Science University.
 - remind the students to pay for the tuition fee
 - give free education to the students who apply for the September intake.

Mom, what do you think of my dress? Do you like it? Maybe I can wear it tonight?

You can't wear this dress! It's too revealing!

You never like anything I wear! You dress like Grandma!

Well, you're not going to church dressed like that!

6. Which dress is most likely the one Sarah is wearing?
- Knee-length turtleneck dress.
 - A mini sleeveless dress.
 - Long lantern-sleeve dress.

GEMILANG WATERPARK MALAYSIA DAY VOUCHER**www.gemilangwaterpark.com**

Get a RM15 reduction on ticket prices with this voucher. Tickets available at the online platform.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- Minimum purchase of 6 tickets
- Valid every day except public holidays
- Available to Malaysians only
- Offer ends on 30th September

VOUCHER CODE: GW-1245

7. Which of the following is true?
- A. The voucher can only be used when buying tickets at the counter.
 - B. The voucher is valid when purchasing 5 tickets.
 - C. The discount is for locals buying the tickets on online platform.

PASIR GUDANG: Schools in the area have been given the green light by the Johor Education Department to delay schooling hours or cancel classes if the air pollution index (API) reaches an unhealthy level following fires in a nearby forest.

Its Director said the heads of the affected schools have the authority to make the decision. "What is most important is the health of the students," he told the press today.

8. Which of the following statements is true?
- A. The air pollution index is at an unhealthy level.
 - B. The school principals can choose to cancel classes.
 - C. All schools have been ordered to delay schooling hours and cancel classes.

Part 2

Questions 9 to 18

Read the text below and choose the **best** word for each space. For each question, mark the correct letter **A, B, C** or **D** on your answer sheet.

WhatsApp was founded in 2009 and since then, it has (0) become part of the day-to-day life of the people globally. Among all forms of messaging platforms, WhatsApp 9 the most popular messaging app currently. 10 can share messages, photos and videos with their friends and family members instantly without any charges. 11, this does not mean that WhatsApp is perfect. Even though it is loaded with amazing 12, we still need to look at the pros and cons of this app.

The biggest benefit of WhatsApp is that it is free. There are no charges incurred. It 13 us to save a lot of money. Another benefit of the app is that it is user-friendly. People who are not tech-savvy are able to use WhatsApp with ease - thus why it is preferred by the young and old. When it comes to the internet, the most frustrating part is the advertisements. However, WhatsApp users do not face such difficulty at present, there are no advertisement that pops 14 when in use. This app plays an important role in facilitating communication. Information can be shared by creating a group on WhatsApp with multiple users. It is the fastest and most stable way to 15 information to many people at one go.

However, WhatsApp runs mainly on smartphone and one needs to have internet connection to access this application. Another 16 is that some users consider all information shared on WhatsApp to be accurate which can lead to the spread of rumours and misinformation. Furthermore, it has led to making people 17 from the real world. Different style of language used by WhatsApp users comprising 18 and abbreviations has tremendously degraded our linguistic competence.

This application has advantages, as well as disadvantages. Nevertheless, we must be wise users who can manoeuvre through the innovation and technological advancement which are now a staple in our daily life.

0. **A.** become **B.** became **C.** coming **D.** becoming
9. **A.** is **B.** are **C.** was **D.** Were
10. **A.** Players **B.** Users **C.** Customers **D.** Owners
11. **A.** However **B.** Also **C.** Thus **D.** Besides
12. **A.** character **B.** design **C.** interface **D.** features
13. **A.** makes **B.** affects **C.** enables **D.** influences
14. **A.** up **B.** in **C.** down **D.** by
15. **A.** disseminate **B.** integrate **C.** evaluate **D.** exterminate
16. **A.** setback **B.** drawback **C.** feedback **D.** switchback
17. **A.** apart **B.** disconnected **C.** divided **D.** severed
18. **A.** slurs **B.** stutters **C.** senses **D.** slangs

Part 3

You are going to read an extract from an article. For **questions 19 to 26**, choose the correct answer (**A, B, C or D**) and mark the correct letter **A, B, C or D** on your answer sheet.

I was very excited when Linda Bong invited me over to visit her family for the Chinese New Year. You see, Linda Bong is of Peranakan descent. I have never been to a Peranakan home so I eagerly accepted. The Peranakan or Baba Nyonya are the early descendants of the Chinese who came to the Malay Peninsula, settled down and assimilated into the local culture. The Baba Nyonya culture is an interesting mix of the Chinese tradition, the Malay language and Chinese and Malay customs and cuisine. The Nyonyas are usually dressed in sarong and kebaya and the family converses mainly in Malay.

Linda explained that a long time ago, her great grandfather was very rich and an elite member of society like most of the other Babas. The Babas were arrogant as they were proud of their luxurious lifestyle and their envied status in society. Unfortunately, in the early 1930s, the Baba heritage started to decline. During the Depression, the Babas who owned large rubber estates suffered great losses. Then, during the Japanese occupation of Malaya, the Babas shared hardships and discrimination along with the non-Baba Chinese. The non-Baba Chinese who were accustomed to hard work managed to recover. However, the rich Babas, *born with silver spoons in their mouths*, were unable to cope and went into a period of decline. They lost most of their property and wealth and became quite poor.

I listened in fascination as Linda's mother described the Baba Nyonya traditional wedding ceremony. Matchmaking was a norm of the Baba Nyonya tradition. People were proud to be matchmakers as these matchmakers were well rewarded with cash and other possessions. Engagement gifts usually varied. Linda's mother received a bowl of glutinous rice balls in syrup, candles, meat, a wedding dress, shoes and two diamond rings. In return, her family had to give the groom a silver belt, a pair of men's slippers embroidered by the bride and a fan to carry on the wedding day. Their wedding was a lavish twelve-day affair. The bridal chamber was in the bride's house and five days before the wedding, a teenage boy was asked to roll back and forth from one end of the bed to the other, three times. This boy had to be born in the year of the dragon and have both parents still alive. Sadly, these traditions have disappeared today.

Nevertheless, the Baba Nyonya dialect can be considered as one of the still surviving traditions today. The Baba Nyonya speak Baba Malay, which is a *colloquial form* of Malay. It borrows liberally from the Hokkien dialect. It is also a striking evidence of the Malay and the Chinese culture. Although those who speak Baba Malay may mispronounce certain words, their overall accent and intonation are definitely more Malay than Chinese.

Another heritage that has survived is the Nyonya cuisine. Nyonya cuisine that is basically Chinese shows a strong Malay and Indian influence. Curries, condiments and belacan are part of the Nyonya cuisine. Also, the unique architecture of their homes and the designs of the furniture are a reflection of the Baba Nyonya culture. The Baba Nyonya remember their ancestors and pay respect to their ancestors. They hang portraits of their ancestors in their homes as part of their reverence for their ancestors. They also burn paper money and other paper representations of material possessions for their dead so that their dead may not want for anything in their afterlife.

19. In paragraph 1, which of the following statement is **true** about the Peranakan?
- A. They were the first Chinese descendants who changed the local culture.
 - B. Their culture is a mixture of the Chinese and Malay traditions.
 - C. The Babas wear sarong and kebaya.
 - D. They only speak Malay.
20. In paragraph 2, the early Babas were described as the following except
- A. wealthy
 - B. snobbish
 - C. poor
 - D. had respectful social status
21. The expression '*born with silver spoons in their mouths*' indicates that the Babas
- A. were born in an affluent family.
 - B. were raised in a family that was rich in customs and traditions.
 - C. were fed using a silver spoon since young.
 - D. were expected to be rich.

22. In paragraph 2, what happened to both the non-Baba Chinese and the Babas during the Japanese Occupation?
- A. They suffered great losses in rubber plantations.
 - B. They were being discriminated.
 - C. They were unable to cope with the hardship.
 - D. They lost their property and wealth.
23. In paragraph 3, the Babas want to be the matchmakers because
- A. it was a norm in the culture.
 - B. it made them proud.
 - C. they would get cash and other gifts in return.
 - D. they would get a variety of engagement presents.
24. The Baba and Nyonya traditional wedding ceremony includes the following except
- A. matchmaking process
 - B. exchanging engagement gifts
 - C. preparing a lavish bridal chamber for 5 days
 - D. getting a selected teenage boy to roll back and forth on the bridal chamber
25. In paragraph 4, what best describe the phrase '*colloquial form*' ?
- A. formal language
 - B. friendly language
 - C. everyday language
 - D. old language
26. Which Baba and Nyonya legacy that had vanished nowadays?
- A. Wedding rituals
 - B. Dialect
 - C. Cuisine
 - D. Ancestral worship

Part 4

Questions 27 to 32

You are going to read an article about a student who went for a leadership camp for the first time. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A to H** the one which fits each gap (27 to 32). There are two extra sentences which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Recycling - A Way of Life

Due to the Movement Control Order (MCO) as a result of the COVID -19 pandemic, there has been an increase in takeaways as people are prohibited from eating in food outlets. 27.

Maggie finds ways to repair things and when they have outlived their original purpose, tries to use them as something else by turning them into practical items. Her habit of recycling things has paid off in her business of selling hydroponic products. She makes use of the carrier bags and bubble wraps that she collected over many years, so she cuts costs for her business and saves the environment at the same time. 28. "They work great as seedling starter kits because the cover prevents evaporation of water and provides a dark environment for the rooting process to take place," she explained.

She has always held dear to the principle of "reduce, reuse and recycle."

29. Recyclables such as plastics, aluminium and papers are sorted out before being sent to a collection centre. She strongly believes that if each of us could remember that we are actually just borrowing the planet from our children, we will be more aware of the rubbish that we leave behind for our future generations.

She encourages her colleagues to bring their own reusable containers for their takeaway lunch at work, because it is disheartening to see the rubbish bin in the office pantry filled with disposable plastic containers and polystyrene boxes. She makes an effort to be a conscious consumer. 30. It is because she believes that an environmentally conscious retailer will take into consideration the amount of packaging they use and their contribution to the landfill.

31. As a child, she helped her parents to collect glass bottles to sell them for 10 cents each, and after accumulating, she used to buy ice creams and snacks. 32.

Her daughter, who has a passion for art and crafts, creates decorative items using disposable and single-use plastics. She likes making handicrafts and goes online for DIY crafting ideas.

(Adapted from www.thestar.com.my)

- A. She loved helping her parents in earning extra for the family.
- B. She reduces consumption and reuses things to reduce wastage.
- C. She collects plastic food containers and polystyrene boxes from bins to plant seedlings in her garden.
- D. This has led to increase in plastic containers being use to pack food and drinks that would give rise in solid waste.
- E. She is more frugal than her siblings, hence she collects cardboard boxes and aluminium cans to be recycled.
- F. For example, she observes the amount of unnecessary packaging an outlet uses and avoids going to those that use excessive packaging.
- G. The disposable plastic food containers and polystyrene boxes that she collects from her colleagues are used to plant seedlings.
- H. It was Maggie's parents who instilled in her the practice of sustainable living.

Part 5

Questions 33 to 40.

Read an article about “Inspiring Heroes” and answer the questions that follow.

Inspiring Heroes**A ALEX**

Alex is a doctor who cares deeply about people's health. He teaches kids and grown-ups how to stay healthy by eating good food and being active. Alex also plants trees in his neighbourhood to make the air fresher and cooler. His efforts help keep our bodies and our planet healthy.

B SARAH

Sarah is a farmer who grows fruits and vegetables without using harmful chemicals. Her farm is like a little piece of paradise for plants and animals. Sarah's fresh, healthy food is good for our bodies and the environment.

C DAVID

David is an environmental activist. He organizes clean-up events in his community and advocates for policies that reduce pollution and protect our environment. David's dedication inspires others to take action.

D MIA

Mia, who is a wildlife biologist. She studies animals in their natural habitats and works to conserve endangered species. Her research helps us understand the importance of preserving biodiversity for our planet's health.

E JANE

Jane is a scientist who works hard to protect the environment. She studies how pollution can harm our planet. Jane has helped find better ways to clean our air and water. Thanks to her work, our air is cleaner, and our rivers are safer to swim in.

F CARLOS

Carlos is a ranger who protects forests and the animals living in them. He makes sure people don't cut down too many trees. Thanks to Carlos, the forests stay lush and full of life, which is good for our planet and all the creatures that call it home.

Questions 33-36

Which paragraph (A-F) describes the following job description?

Mark your answers on **the separate answer sheet**.

Job	Paragraph
33. Do research and observe the behaviour of animal.
34. Organise public cleanup and create awareness on pollution.
35. Protect flora and fauna.
36. Grow organic fruits and vegetables.

Questions 37 – 40

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

Mark your answers on **the separate answer sheet**.

What we could do to help save our Mother Nature

- Practice 3R which is Reuse, Reduce and Recycle
- Be (37)_____ by joining any public clean-up or activities that are related with environment.
- Avoid using (38)_____ chemicals or fertilizer in planting vegetables.
- Appreciate the (39)_____ greenery of our forest by reducing illegal logging.
- We should (40)_____ energy by switching off lights when we are not using it.
- Fix leaky faucets, take shorter showers, and avoid wasting water.

(8 marks)

END OF QUESTION PAPER