

ANSWERS

PEMBELAJARAN ABAD KE-21 ACTIVITY

Activity 1

(Suggested answer)

WWF stands for World Wide Fund for Nature. It was formerly known as the world Wildlife Fund. WWF is one of the world's leading conservation organisations. It has been working for over sixty years to protect the environment. It has more than five million members globally. Its works are to protect our forests, oceans, fresh water, wildlife, food and climate. At the same time, it also protects and restores the habitats of endangered species, along with conserving the natural resources that we all depend on.

Activity 2

(Accept any suitable answer)

Activity 3

(Suggested answers)

Pro and Cons of Social Media

Pros

- They make interaction with loved ones easier.
- It is easier to get information about current issues through them.
- They help in boosting a person's self-esteem.

Cons

- Teens are easily exposed to cyberbullying.
- Decreasing face-to-face interaction between people.
- They encourage minimal emotional connection between people.

Activity 4

(Suggested answers)

- 1 We should respect our parents.
- 2 We can spend our free time with them doing interesting activities together such as going for a vacation, eating out, shopping etc.
- 3 We can help them with house chores such as cleaning the house or taking care of the younger siblings while they are busy.
- 4 We can study hard and get good results to make them happy.
- 5 We can celebrate special occasions with them. For example, celebrating birthdays or Hari Raya with them.
- 6 We can take care of them when they are old and accompany them to make sure they are not lonely.

Activity 5

(Accept any suitable answer)

Activity 6

(Suggested answers)

- 1 Spread awareness that tigers are dying by joining forums or a wildlife organisation.
- 2 Be a responsible tourist when visiting a tiger reserve area. Follow the forest department guidelines.
- 3 Don't use products derived from forests such as timber and paper.
- 4 Stop hunting of tigers for their skin and other body parts.
- 5 Report to the authorities or police if there is illegal trade of wildlife.
- 6 Don't buy or use goods made of tiger skin.
- 7 Donate money to tiger conservation causes or organisations to fund research and educational programmes.
- 8 Save our forests as they are natural habitats for tigers.

Activity 7

(Accept any suitable answer)

Activity 8

(Accept any suitable answer)

TOPIC 1: DIRECTED WRITING

SPM PRACTICE 1

(Suggested answer)

To: The Principal, SMK Aman Suria

From: Dhinesh a/l Suppiah

Date: 12 OCTOBER 20_____

Report of Clean-up Event in SMK Aman Suria

Our school, SMK Aman Suria recently held a clean-up event on 1 October. The aim of the event was to create a more hygienic environment and to beautify the school surroundings. This would create a better learning environment for our students.

The day began with the students arriving on an early Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m. The students came in small groups. They gathered by the assembly area in their respective classes as they waited for the first event of the day to begin. By 7:30 a.m., the teacher-in-charge for the day, Encik Rosman, gave a brief speech. He then told them the agenda for the day. After that, the class teachers began to organise and divide their students into their respective groups.

Each group of students was assigned a task. Some groups were in-charge of cleaning the windows in certain sections of the school, while others were tasked with cleaning the drains. The teachers oversaw the students' efforts. They helped their students wherever it was necessary. The students worked well together to clean the school. The overall atmosphere was friendly. The students were filled with determination and the spirit of cooperation to clean up their beloved school.

At the end of the day, the school looked as good as new. The students were very proud of their work and congratulated each other. Their teachers also praised them for their work. We can safely conclude that the students who participated in the event learned the value of cleanliness and cooperation. All in all, the clean-up event was an overwhelming success. It was great to see the encouraging response.

Prepared by:

Dhinesh a/l Suppiah

Class Monitor of 5 Bestari

SMK Aman Suria

SPM PRACTICE 2

(Suggested answer)

How to Improve Your Time-Management

by: Andy Wong Chun Keat

As students, most of us have many different tasks that we need to deal with. They can easily overwhelm us, especially if we are unprepared. However, with the right time-management skills, we can face these challenges and easily overcome them. Hence, we should adopt a few time management techniques in order to reduce the burden of our daily workload.

Firstly, we can create a timetable. We should be able to plan our activities with a well-planned timetable. A timetable should help us create good habits. Eventually, we will be able to do them without thinking. Our tasks will also become easier once they have been broken down into more manageable chunks. We should also take breaks in between to re-energise ourselves.

Besides that, we can also set aside incentives and rewards for ourselves. This is to ensure we can meet our deadlines. These rewards can be based on the difficulty of the task. We can give ourselves better rewards for more difficult tasks. This will give us an incentive to work harder at our current projects.

Furthermore, we should create a list of tasks based on their priority. Write down the tasks in a book or on a piece of paper. Work with higher priority should be placed at the top of the list and highlighted to catch our attention. Tasks that have a lower priority should be written in a descending order. We should complete tasks that are more important before moving on to the lower priority tasks.

Moreover, we can manage our time better as students by creating a to-do-list. We should write down a list of tasks to be completed with a checkbox beside each task. Tick off a task from the list once it has been completed. This list should be kept somewhere easily noticeable. This shall ensure that we will not forget what we are required to do. These are only some of the few time-management ideas that can help us as students. With these tips and techniques, we will be better equipped to deal with the challenges of student life and hopefully, be able to excel in our studies.

SPM PRACTICE 3

(Suggested answer)

A very good morning to our Principal Puan Hasmah, judges, teachers and fellow friends. Today, I will be speaking on the importance of recycling. As climate change gets worse, we must all do our part to protect the environment. We should all recycle to reduce the damage done to the environment.

One of the benefits of recycling is that it reduces pollution in the environment. By recycling old materials to produce new goods, we can use fewer materials. Less energy will be used as we will produce fewer goods. This in turn lowers the amount of air pollution released into the atmosphere as we will need to burn less fossil fuels to produce electricity.

Besides that, recycling our goods will reduce the amount of waste produced. We will not need to send them to landfills as we will be using old materials to create new goods. Through this, we will be able to produce more goods instead of dumping materials in landfills. With less waste, there will be lower chances of polluting in the environment. This is especially good in the case of plastics which are non-biodegradable.

Furthermore, recycling improves the cleanliness of our surroundings. We can sort our garbage to be recycled. This will ensure that there will be no rubbish scattered around. We should make sure that we have recycling bins readily available. This will give people more incentive to recycle their items. Our cities will become much cleaner.

Lastly, recycling also has social benefits in that it can improve our character. Recycling will enable us to become more considerate of the environment and our surroundings. It will also make us think about how we use our resources. This will allow us to become more sensitive to the needs of our environment. As seen from these arguments, recycling is indeed important for the Earth and our society. It is an important step that we must take to ensure a bright future for the generations ahead. We must begin to recycle to protect our environment and future.

Thank you.

SPM PRACTICE 4

(Suggested answer)

How to Have a Healthy Diet
by: Arjun Shankar

Having a balanced diet is absolutely important to help us stay healthy. Thus, we should familiarise ourselves with the appropriate and necessary components of our meals. This will help us prepare delicious and healthy meals.

Firstly, we should have carbohydrates as the primary base of our meals. Examples of carbohydrates include rice, potatoes, bread and pasta. Carbohydrates provide our bodies with glucose which is needed to give us energy. It is important for our brain as it uses over 20 per cent of our body's energy. Try to get your carbohydrates from wholegrain starchy foods as they contain a lot of fibre.

Secondly, we should take a substantial amount of proteins, such as eggs, tofu, meat and fish. Proteins repair muscles and regenerate cells in our bodies. However, we should try to avoid eating fatty meats and go

for the lean ones. We can also consider having oily fish like catfish in our meals as they contain many beneficial oils such as omega 3 fatty acids.

In addition, we should have more vegetables in our meals. Vegetables are important sources of fibre, which serve many important functions for digestion. Fibres can clear up our bowels and regulate our bowel movements. This will prevent constipation. They also keep our bodies clean, feel fuller for longer, and improve our cholesterol and blood sugar levels.

In conclusion, we should consider these tips to have a healthy diet. One should always remember that moderation is the key to maintaining a healthy and balanced diet.

SPM PRACTICE 5

(Suggested answer)

To: The Principal, SMK Sri Mawar

From: Abdul Rashid Mahmud, Head Prefect Date: 28 September 20_____

Report of Charity Drive in SMK Sri Mawar

Our school recently held a large charity event on 20 August 2018. The main aim was to raise funds to support the children living in the orphanage. The event began with the arrival of visitors early in the morning. Many of them brought used items that were still in very good condition to be donated to the orphanage. These items were taken by the students on duty. They sorted the items into their respective categories before placing them into the appropriate containers.

There were plenty of guests who bought coupons from the stands set up the previous night. The coupons were used to buy food and drinks, or to play games at the stands. The sales proceeds will also go to the orphanage. The students who attended to the visitors were very kind and friendly to the orphans. They spoke to the visitors cheerfully and laughed at their jokes. They worked hard to ensure that the event would be a success.

Based on the events observed on that day, we can conclude that the charity drive was a huge success. The drive was able to raise RM15,000 in total. This was far more than we could have ever expect. Furthermore, the guests left the charity drive feeling satisfied due to the hard work of our students and the lively atmosphere. Lastly, we can certainly say that our students have learned the value of cooperation and kindness.

We hope that future events hosted by our school will be a success. Such events are not only an excellent opportunity for education, but also to strengthen the bond between the school and the local neighbourhood.

Prepared by:

Abdul Rashid Mahmud
Head Prefect
SMK Sri Mawar

SPM PRACTICE 6

(Suggested answer)

60 Jalan SS22/26,
47400 Damansara Utama,
Petaling Jaya,
Selangor

The Green Earth Magazine,
29, Jalan Perwira 7,
Taman Perwira,
56100 Kuala Lumpur

4 SEPTEMBER 20_____

Ways of Reducing Pollution

Dear Sir/Madam,

I recently read an article published in your magazine entitled 'The Many Dangers of Pollution'. While I agree with the issues raised, I believe that you have missed out on finding potential solutions to this serious issue. The purpose of my letter is to present some ideas for readers to think about on how they can help reduce pollution.

- One of the steps to reduce pollution is by recycling old materials. This will reduce the need to obtain new materials to produce goods. This is especially important with plastic goods as they are non-biodegradable. Plastics can pose a danger to animals and the environment including the ecosystem in the sea. Recycling will also lead to fewer places that will be cleared for landfills.
- Besides that, we must also think of using renewable energy to reduce pollution. Most of our electricity is currently being produced by the burning of fossil fuels. This releases pollutants such as carbon into the atmosphere. Excessive carbon is the main cause of global warming. By using renewable energy such as solar power, we will not need to release pollutants into the air to produce electricity. This will also reduce the chance of oil spills in the ocean as we will need to transport less oil around.
- Another way of reducing pollution would be to reuse old items and goods. For example, we can use old plastic bottles to store water or old plastic buckets as pots for plants. We could also use used aluminium cans as desk organisers or pencil holders.
- Finally, we can simply use less electricity in our homes to make the environment less polluted. One of the ways is to switch off our electrical appliances when they are not in use. Instead of using lights, we can use natural light. If you are in a dark room, try to draw your curtains open to let the light in. Another way is to open your windows to keep yourself cool indoors.
- These are just a few things that we can do to reduce pollution. I hope you and your readers have found this letter very helpful in thinking about pollution issues.

Yours faithfully,

Maria
(Maria Wong)

SPM PRACTICE 7 (Suggested answer)

A very good morning to our school principal Puan Siti, beloved teachers and my fellow friends of SMK Taman Bahagia. As the President of the Science and Technology Club, it is my pleasure to give a speech today on 'How the Internet Can Improve Education'.

Many of us use the Internet in our daily lives. With its ability for instant communication, the Internet is truly a technological marvel of our time. The Internet plays an important role, especially in the area of education.

First and foremost, the Internet is filled with many learning resources that can be easily accessed online. There are many websites that contain information relevant to our studies. In fact, most websites provide fun and simple study notes. This will help us to understand our lessons better. We can also access exercises for any subject online. By doing so, we can test ourselves on our knowledge of the subject.

Moreover, with the Internet, we can form study groups easily. Online communication tools such as Skype allow us to make group voice calls. This is especially useful for those of us who are living far apart. Group calls allow us to communicate easily. We can ask each other questions about the subject of our study in a group call. We can also help each other according to our strengths and weaknesses.

Besides that, we can also receive online tutoring on the Internet. There are many such websites for different topics of study in Malaysia. This can be useful for anyone who needs help from an educator outside of school. We could also exchange contact information with a teacher to request assistance after school hours.

These are just some of the ways you can use the Internet to improve your education. I hope I have got everyone thinking about other ways of using the Internet effectively to improve your studies. The possibilities for this wonderful technology are endless.

Thank you.

SPM PRACTICE 8 (Suggested answer)

Good morning to our dear principal Puan Azizah, teachers and fellow friends. As the President of the Culture Club, it is my pleasure to announce that our school will be holding a student exchange programme with schools from other countries. This programme will be held in April for one month.

One of the aims of the programme is to expose students to different cultures from other countries. This will help you learn tolerance and how to live in harmony in an increasingly globalised world. You will get a lifetime opportunity to increase your knowledge of the world. You will gain new experiences and make friends as well.

Furthermore, this exchange programme will give students exciting learning opportunities. Not only will you experience a different school environment, but you will also learn about various cultures. You will get to learn about things and subjects not found in our local syllabus. For example, someone going to Japan will have the chance to learn about Japanese history and culture.

Those who are interested must complete the necessary registration procedure. You should first get the application form which will be provided by your form teacher. After that, you should fill in the form and obtain your parents' permission. They must sign the form. You can submit the form to the school office once you are done. Be sure to do this as soon as possible. The deadline for registration will be at the end of February this year. Places are limited.

I hope that many of you will consider participating in this programme. This is a fantastic opportunity to broaden your horizons. You will experience new cultures that will enrich your lives as students.

Thank you.

FOCUS ON HOTS

Activity: Directed Writing (Suggested answer)

To: The Principal, SMK Taman Jaya
From: Hafez bin Harun,

Date: 1 December 20____

Report on Health and Safety in SMK Taman Jaya

I have conducted a survey on 'Health and Safety' in SMK Taman Jaya. The aim of this survey is to make our school environment a healthier and safer one for our school community.

The dengue menace is a serious one. Several students have been hospitalised this year and diagnosed with dengue. The problem is due to clogged drains in the school compound.

Our toilets are dirty and overcrowded. Our school population is now 1,800. When our school was first built, we only had 500 students. We have only two toilets with five cubicles each. This is not sufficient for a school of 1,800 students.

Tree branches have fallen onto the school field. What if a huge branch breaks off and falls when students are at play on the field? It may injure them.

I would like to propose several measures. First, we should organise a Clean-Up Day not only to clear the clogged drains, but also to rid the school compound of other breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

We should get the Parent-Teacher Association to raise funds to build additional toilets. The students are extremely unhappy with the present state of our toilets.

Finally, we should get the help of the city council to trim the trees in our school compound. We are strongly against tree-cutting as we want to protect the environment. We only want the aged, overhanging branches to be cut off without killing the trees.

We hope that the school authorities will look into these matters and take the necessary remedial action.

Prepared by:
Hafez bin Harun
Head Prefect
SMK Taman Jaya

TOPIC 2: CONTINUOUS WRITING

SPM PRACTICE 1

(Suggested points)

1 Write a story about someone helping a stranger.

Introduction

- Ahmad was on his way back from school – road was relatively empty
- Suddenly he heard a loud crash behind him – turned around and saw motorcyclist lying on the road – a car with a large dent on his side.

1st paragraph

- Rushed to the side – saw a large pool of blood – motorcyclist was clutching his hand – bleeding profusely
- The driver was panicking – said he didn't see the motorcyclist – didn't know what to do – babbling incoherently

2nd paragraph

- Ahmad instantly leaped into action – asked driver to call for an ambulance – remembered his first aid training – breathed in deep to calm his nerves
- Approached motorcyclist – Ahmad inspected his injury – noticed that his face was covered with blood – there was a deep gash on his left arm

3rd paragraph

- Didn't have any bandage or cloth around – asked the driver if he had any – driver shook his head
- Ahmad quickly ripped a piece of cloth from his own shirt – used it to bandage the motorcyclist's arm

4th paragraph

- The driver wanted to move the motorcyclist but Ahmad stopped him – Ahmad remembered he had been taught that it was dangerous to move someone after an accident – they had to wait for the ambulance to arrive
- The ambulance arrived soon – paramedics rushed out – carefully placed the motorcyclist on a stretcher and moved him into the ambulance – the ambulance then drove out of sight

Conclusion

- Next day, Ahmad was summoned by the principal while he was at school – surprised to see an elderly couple in the office when he entered
- The principal and the couple who were the parents of the injured motorcyclist, commended Ahmad for his actions – praised him for his quick thinking

2 Some people believe that students should take up part time jobs during their school holidays. What do you think?

Introduction

- School holidays are an interesting time for many students – provide a unique opportunity for students to do many different things – among these many things would be taking up a part time job
- I believe that students should have a part time job – there are many benefits to it – more than just making money

1st paragraph

- Students will be able to learn about what working life is like and will be better prepared for it – they will also learn many new skills that they will not have previously encountered.
- For example, students working as waiters will know how to clear and clean tables, carry trays of food and serve their customers – they can also develop their people skills by interacting with their customers

2nd paragraph

- A part time job can also help students develop their character – a workplace will have many different demands on student – they will have to learn how to fit in over time by working there
- For example – time discipline and management – students will have to follow the schedule of a workplace in order to successfully perform their tasks – they will also have to finish their work on time

3rd paragraph

- Besides that a part time job opens doors to new opportunities for students – students will be able to describe the skills acquired from their past work experience to potential employers – students will get to find what type of work they enjoy doing
- It also lets students network with people in the working world – these acquaintances might be able to help them in the future

4th paragraph

- Part time jobs will also allow students to be able to help support their families – students will be able to earn money which can be used to cover their families' expenses
- This will enable them to ease the burdens of their parents – it will allow students to spend more time with their families

Conclusion

- As shown above, there are indeed many benefits to having a part time job – students should definitely consider getting a part time job in order to improve themselves

3 'People should develop skills beyond what is taught in school'.

Write about skills you can develop outside of school and how they can help you.

Introduction

- While the school teaches students a lot of things – many other things that a student will not be prepared for in life
- Students should learn things that are not covered in school – to become more well-rounded individuals – lead a more fulfilling life – makes their family and friends happier

1st paragraph

- One skill students could learn would be first aid and medical skills – learn by going through courses organised by the Red Crescent
- You never know when it will be needed – could save someone's life

2nd paragraph

- Students could also learn cooking and baking – ask their parents to teach them – attend cooking classes outside
- Help parents cook – bake pastries and cakes for friends and loved ones to show appreciation for them – puts a smile on people's faces

3rd paragraph

- Students should also learn housekeeping skills – will become important when they grow up – they will need to know how to take care of their homes when they are living alone
- They can also help their parents take care of their houses – ease their burden by helping to clean and tidy up their houses

4th paragraph

- Something else that students could take up would be gardening – gardening is a pleasant activity – helps calm the mind
- Students can beautify their surroundings with this skill – they could also plant fruits and vegetables – to be shared with their friends, families and neighbours

Conclusion

- There are indeed many more things that a student could learn outside of school – students should explore and see what they can pick up
- Such skills will definitely prove to be useful for students in the future

4 Write a story about how you were rescued when you were trapped in a flooded cave.

Introduction

- One day, I had gone on a camping trip with my classmates
- We were trekking through the jungle when there was a sudden heavy downpour of rain

1st paragraph

- Rushed to find shelter – we were very frightened due to the loud crashing and rolling of thunder
- One of my friends named Jeffery called out to us and pointed to a cave

2nd paragraph

- We ran in there to take shelter – we were initially relieved

- None of us noticed that the entrance was flooding – when we did, we ran deeper into the cave to avoid the water – Soon it was apparent that we were lost

3rd paragraph

- It was very dark – we huddled close together – Faizul brought out a torch light – It lighted the way for a while but eventually ran out of power
- We were very scared – kept close together to make sure we were not separated from each other

4th paragraph

- Suddenly we heard an unfamiliar voice calling out – several figures emerged from the water – a group of rescuers had come to save us
- They explained that we would have to swim through the flooded parts of the cave to get out – carefully gave us instructions – told us to follow them – each of us paired with a diver who would guide us and share oxygen from their oxygen tank

Conclusion

- After a long and hard struggle we were able to escape from the cave – there were medical staff to examine us as soon as we got out
- We were shaken but relieved to have made it out alive

5 What are some of the ways to make friends?

Introduction

- All of us need friends in our lives to support us – through the hard times and through the good times
- However, it can be difficult at times to open up and make new friends – With the proper mindset, we can make new friends

1st paragraph

- Firstly we should set a target – by setting a goal of making friends, we can create an incentive for ourselves to act to achieve the target
- Make sure the people who we want to be friends with are reasonable and approachable

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, we should also attend social events – these events will give us an opportunity to meet all sorts of new people – many people will be attending them
- Try to pick a social event that is relevant to your own interest – makes it easier to open up – ‘birds of a feather flock together’

3rd paragraph

- We should also be aware of cultural differences – this can help ensure that we will avoid misunderstandings with other people
- Approach these people with awareness and sensitivity towards their culture – this will help ensure a pleasant meeting – increases the likelihood that you can become friends with them

4th paragraph

- We should also develop good interpersonal skills – this will help us appear to be more approachable and be good listeners so that people will open up to us
- For example, we could try smiling whenever we meet someone new – we could also try to find interesting topics to speak with other people

Conclusion

- These are just some of the ways to make new friends
- As long as we keep at it and don't give up, we will be able to succeed in our efforts of making friends.

SPM PRACTICE 2

1 Describe a traditional celebration that your family takes part in and how you feel about it.

Introduction

- There are many traditional celebrations in Malaysia – my family celebrates Chinese New Year every year
 - It is always an exciting time with delicious food, music and games
- 1st paragraph
- We would always travel to Malacca on New Year's Eve to visit my grandparents to reunite with the rest of the family

- The car ride would take several hours – it would always feel much shorter than that due to the cheerful festive music that my parents would play during our journey – enjoyed the beautiful scenery

2nd paragraph

- Upon arriving we would be greeted enthusiastically by our grandparents – we would receive red packets from them
- We would then unpack our luggage in a room prepared for us

3rd paragraph

- Slowly more families would arrive – the adults would be moving around to hand red packets to the children before moving on to prepare the New Year's feast
- I would play games with my cousins and we would always rush out to watch the lion dance performances that would be held outside of my grand parents' house and in the neighbourhood

4th paragraph

- After the New Year's feast with the whole family, I would play with some firecrackers with my cousins – We all had great fun watching the tiny explosions
- At midnight, there would always be a beautiful display of fireworks

Conclusion

- We would continue to stay in our grandparents' house for the next few days before returning home
- I would always feel satisfied but a little sad at the same time, at the end of the trip

2 'One good turn deserves another.'

Describe an experience when this was true for you.

Introduction

- One day I was on my way back home from school when I saw a group of boys shouting and laughing loudly
- I moved in closer – shocked to see that they were kicking a small puppy

1st paragraph

- I approached the boys and reprimanded them for their actions – they initially wanted to resist – when they saw that I was bigger and older than they were, they quickly backed off
- I went over to pick up the hurt puppy – I decided that I should nurse it back to health

2nd paragraph

- Brought the dog back home and bandaged it – I then went to purchase some dog food to feed the dog – it ate the food hungrily
- I decided that I wanted to take the dog in – I discussed with my parents – after many hours of talking, they finally decided to let me keep the dog

3rd paragraph

- We named the puppy 'Biscuit' – Biscuit was timid at first and was not eager to play with us – it would always hide under somewhere small and cramped where we couldn't reach it
- However, it grew more friendly over time – eventually it would always rush out to greet me with barks and a wagging tail whenever I came home

4th paragraph

- One day, I was at home cleaning my room when one of the shelves suddenly collapsed on me – I was in pain so I cried out for help but thought it was futile as I was the only one at home
- However, brave Biscuit was there and it quickly rushed out of the house to get other people to help me

Conclusion

- My parents rushed into the house with Biscuit leading them and they removed the pieces of the collapsed shelf that were weighing down on me – they took me to the hospital to check if there were any broken bones
- It touched me that Biscuit still remembered the time when I helped him – as a member of my family, he had returned the favour – truly, 'one good turn deserves another'.

3 If you could try to make the world a better place, what would you do?

Introduction

- If I could try to make the world a better place, I would become a medical researcher to help in the fight against diseases

- Many people are currently suffering from all types of diseases – these problems need to be addressed though no single individual is capable of fixing them alone

1st paragraph

- One of the first things I would do to make the world a better place would be to make sure that the cures for preventable illnesses are readily available
- Many poor countries do not have easy access to medicines – as a result, there are many people who die of sicknesses for which we have the cures.

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, I would like to make sure that people are vaccinated – vaccines are important in keeping the population immune to various potentially deadly illnesses
- I would also hope to invent new vaccines that can make people immune to diseases for which we do not have the vaccination

3rd paragraph

- Furthermore, I would like to invent cures for diseases that we do not currently have any cures for
- Diseases such as cancer or Alzheimer’s are known to cause people much suffering and grief – I hope that we will be able to free them from such pain

4th paragraph

- I would also like to improve the public’s knowledge of various issues related to health and safety
- With improved literacy on these issues, we can be more effective in combating deadly diseases

Conclusion

- These would be just some of the things to consider if we want to better our world
- I hope that many people are working towards such goals right now.

4 Write a story about a student finding a lost pet.

Begin your story with: “*I was walking along the road on my way to...*”

Introduction

- I was walking along the road on my way to the grocery store when I heard a soft whimpering sound
- Saw a dog with a collar – That indicated that it belonged to someone

1st paragraph

- I looked around – there wasn’t anyone around – I went nearer the dog slowly and carefully – Initially worried that it would bite me – However, the dog was friendly
- I was very deeply worried about the dog – decided to take it back home – keep it safe while I looked for the owner

2nd paragraph

- My mother shouted in surprise when I brought the dog home – I explained to her what had happened– once she understood my reasons, she decided to get some food for the dog
- I brought the dog into the house and gave it a wash – my mum brought the dog a bowl of cooked minced meat – the dog ate it hungrily

3rd paragraph

- The next day, my mother and I took a photo of the dog – printed out notices to inform people about the dog
- Put up the notices around the town and close to where I had found the dog

4th paragraph

- We took care of the dog for the next few days – we played fetch with it – gave it a lot of pats on the head and back
- We grew closer to the dog – the dog seemed happy and contented – wagged its tail rapidly and barked gleefully

Conclusion

- One day there was a knock on the door – the dog instantly rushed out to meet the visitor enthusiastically – the man introduced himself as Mr Cheong and told us that he was the owner of the dog

- We felt a little sad to part with the dog but were happy that it was going home with its owner

5 How can we cultivate good reading habits in young people?

Introduction

- The reading culture in Malaysia has been on the decline over the past few years
- More and more bookstores are closing down – Hence, we must find a way to improve the reading habits of young people

1st paragraph

- Allow young people to read interesting works of fiction in English Classes – let them into the library to pick the books that they want to read – have them write about what they have read
- This will help them to improve their vocabulary and prose

2nd paragraph

- Launch reading campaigns – have plenty of fun and interactive activities that involve reading for students to engage in – make sure that there are lucrative prizes to encourage children to read
- These campaigns can attract many people as they will be able to get a lot of public attention and exposure

3rd paragraph

- Parents can also get their children to attend reading and writing workshops – give their children an environment where they can explore the world of books with others – also gives them an opportunity to apply the knowledge gained from reading by practising to write
- These workshops are also run by experienced people who knows everything about reading

4th paragraph

- Parents should be responsible in helping to cultivate their children’s interest in reading when they are young
- Parents could read interesting stories aloud to their kids – have their children read along with them – this will make reading an interesting activity for their children

Conclusion

- In conclusion there are many ways to get young people to read more
- Reading is an important part of a person’s life and can determine where they will go in the future – it is imperative that we help to improve the reading habits of our young people

SPM PRACTICE 3

1 Describe a day when you had to nurse a member of your family back to health.

Introduction

- One day, my parents were on for a business trip – leaving only my little sister and I at home
- However, I heard a loud crash while I was surfing the web on the computer– I rushed out and saw that my sister had collapsed on the floor

1st paragraph

- I quickly rushed to my sister and picked her up – I asked her what happened – she told me that she was feeling dizzy and nauseous
- I took her temperature and found that she was burning up – she had a terrible fever

2nd paragraph

- I took her to the doctor as I was worried that it might be a more severe illness than just a fever – I supported her as we slowly walked to a nearby clinic, giving her words of encouragement as we made our way there
- Eventually, we reached the clinic – thankfully there weren’t many people in the clinic during that weekend – we made an appointment and waited patiently for our turn

3rd paragraph

- Soon, they called for my sister and we made our way into the doctor’s room – the doctor examined my sister and said that it was just an ordinary cold
- I felt relieved and asked the doctor if he had any medicine for my sister – he nodded and prescribed her some antibiotics

4th paragraph

- After that, we returned home – my little sister was reluctant to take the medicine at first – I made some rose syrup for her to drink with the medicine to make it easier for her to swallow it down.
- I made porridge for lunch and dinner and had my sister eat and rest in bed – while she complained at first – telling me that she still wanted to play – soon she stopped as she was too tired to continue

Conclusion

- I continued to take care of my sister even taking some days off from school to look after her
- When my parents returned from their trip, they were relieved to see that all was well

2 'Fast food can be bad for your health.' Do you agree?

Introduction

- I agree with the statement that fast food can be bad for health
- There are many reasons to support this statement

1st paragraph

- Firstly, fast food meals are often not part of a healthy diet – often you find that they only contain of meat and starchy foods
- Plenty of fast food meals do not serve enough vegetables which are essential for healthy bowel movements

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, fast foods are often fried and very oily – these deep fried foods contain excess fats that will disrupt our body's blood circulation system if we consume too much of them – high in cholesterol
- The oils they use are often used many times – as fast food places value speed above all else, it is unhygienic

3rd paragraph

- Moreover, many fast food places do not serve water with the meals – they instead serve all kinds of sugary drinks – This is because it is cheaper for them to do so as they have many contracts and deals with soft drink companies
Eating fast food every day will increase our risk of getting diabetes as we do not have other drinks to quench our thirst

4th paragraph

- Fast food meals are also bad for our health as they use an excessive amount of condiments, mayonnaise and ketchup
- These condiments contain chemicals that are not good for our bodies and can have unpredictable effects when taken in excess

Conclusion

- In conclusion, eating too much of fast food can affect our health
- Cause problems such as heart disease, obesity and high blood pressure – switch to healthier options

3 How can people keep themselves healthy?

Introduction

- Many of us would like to improve our health – however the thought of even attempting such a task can be scary
- With ever increasing knowledge and technology, there are now more ways for an individual to keep themselves healthy – here are just a few of them to get one started

1st paragraph

- Firstly, one can sign up for a gym membership to exercise – these gyms are equipped with state of the art machines to help us with our exercises
- These gyms also have professional coaches who will be there to guide anyone unfamiliar with the usage of the machines – they can also help out with planning your training regime

2nd paragraph

- Another way to keep healthy would be to maintain a balanced diet – Our bodies require certain nutrients to function properly – a deficiency of any one can result in us getting sick
- Keep a balance of meat, vegetables, fruits, rice and bread as they contain the essential nutrients our bodies need – meat contains protein to build and repair tissues – vegetables and fruits contain fibres which aid in bowel movement – rice and bread contain carbohydrates and glucose which provide energy

3rd paragraph

- One of the most neglected ways of keeping oneself healthy is hygiene – This is because it is so simple that it is often overlooked
- By cleaning our surroundings and ourselves, we can prevent illnesses and infections from bacteria and viruses – as they say 'prevention is better than cure'

4th paragraph

- We can also keep ourselves healthy by taking nutritional supplements – these can be used to provide extra nutrients which we may otherwise be lacking in
- This ensures that even if we missed a meal or our diet is not balanced, we will get enough essential nutrients our bodies need

Conclusion

- As you can see, there are many ways to keep oneself healthy – all we need is the right attitude and approach to health and the willingness to change our lifestyle for a healthier body

4 Write a story about someone who decided to become a doctor and her journey to get there. Begin your story with: 'Salmah had always wanted to help people ever since she...'

Introduction

- Salmah had always wanted to help people ever since she was young
- As a child she would watch shows and documentaries about doctors saving the lives of their patients through their medical knowledge and skills – she admired them deeply

1st paragraph

- When Salmah had begun her schooling, she had briefly forgotten about her dream – Most of the lessons didn't really interest her and she would not pay attention to them
- Then one day, she met a teacher named Puan Azizah – Puan Azizah was a passionate teacher who would often ask her students to think hard about what they wanted to do with their lives – Her lessons were always fun and interesting

2nd paragraph

- Salmah then recalled her ambition that she had when she was young – she had then decided that she was going to become a doctor
- Salmah consulted Puan Azizah about her dreams – Puan Azizah listened to her and decided to encourage her but with caution – She told Salmah that the path to become a doctor be difficult – the profession itself would have many challenges

3rd paragraph

- Salmah took Puan Azizah's words to heart and began studying hard – While she was in school she would work hard – When she was at home, she would read books about doctors
- With her newfound passion, Salmah was able to pass her school examinations with flying colours – Eventually, she applied to many prestigious universities to further her studies

4th paragraph

- Salmah was eventually offered a place to study medicine at the University of Oxford – she proudly announced the news to her parents and Puan Azizah – She promised that she would work hard at it
- Salmah then attended the University and dedicated herself to her studies – Eventually she was able to graduate with distinction – even had the chance to give a speech at her graduation ceremony

Conclusion

- Today Salmah is a surgeon working in Malaysia once again – she is happy that she is able to help so many people with her skills

5 'Prevention is better than cure'.

Describe an experience when this was true for you.

Introduction

- One day when I was young I was playing football on a muddy field – I was playing with some friends from school and we all played very roughly – I was especially proud of my skills and played very aggressively
- I tried to tackle my friend but missed – crashed onto the ground – felt a sharp pain around my ankle

1st paragraph

- My friends rushed up to me and asked if I was alright – some of them made fun of me for falling onto the ground
- Being a prideful child, I told them I was fine and we continued to play – At first I was proud that I could ignore the pain – I played as normal – the pain seemed to have faded away as I was playing

2nd paragraph

- Eventually we all returned home once the sky had darkened – on my way home, I suddenly felt the sharp pain in to my leg again
- I slowly made my way back home – I was greeted by my mother at the front door – at first, she had just come out of the kitchen to tell me to prepare for dinner – then she noticed my strange and unusual behaviour – asked me if I was alright – I told her I was fine and went to take a shower

3rd paragraph

- The next day, I went to school – it was hard to put on my shoes – felt a large swelling on my ankle – ignored it and went to class
- I sat through the lessons while trying to ignore the pain – however soon the pain became unbearable – screamed in pain – felt like my ankle was on fire – the teacher teaching my class noticed – called my mother

4th paragraph

- My mother arrived in school –brought me to the hospital – had a doctor examine me
- The doctor said that I had sprained my ankle – If I had seen him any later, I would have to have my leg operated on – That made me very frightened

Conclusion

- It was this incident where I learned that ‘prevention was better than cure’
- I would play football more carefully – I promised myself that I will not ignore any injuries but check on them fast

SPM PRACTICE 4

1 Describe an experience you had volunteering for a charity.

Introduction

- Last month I was able to participate in a charity drive to raise money for the poor and homeless
- There were many people who attended – Many people were eager to help their fellowmen

1st paragraph

- The drive was held on a Saturday – in the park of my neighbourhood – the drive was a collaboration between the Neighbourhood Association and the Cahaya Charity Group
- We began by setting up booths and a stage in the park – It was hard work – but rewarding

2nd paragraph

- There were many games booths where people could play games – others sold delicious food and thirst quenching drinks
- The proceeds from the drive would be given to the Cahaya Charity which will be used to support the poor and the homeless

3rd paragraph

- People came from all over – I manned a food stand that served cold lemonade to thirsty customers – There was cheerful music and an emcee announcing the various events that would be held throughout the drive.
- I had to work fast as there were many people –more than anyone had initially anticipated – But I felt invigorated because I knew that my efforts would ultimately pay off

4th paragraph

- Many of the attendees brought old clothing and other things such as books and bags – most of these were in good condition – I had even brought quite a few items myself
- The items that were to be donated were sorted out into their respective categories and placed on a lorry that would deliver them to the orphanage once the event was over

Conclusion

- At the end of the day, the guests attending the event left with smiles on their faces
- As I was dismantling my booth, a representative from the orphanage came to thank me for my assistance – I waved him goodbye – it was a fun and rewarding day

2 ‘It is the responsibility of students to keep their classrooms clean.’ Discuss.

Introduction

- I agree that it is the responsibility of students to keep their classrooms clean
- While there are many reasons for this, we should also note that there are many ways for students to perform this duty

1st paragraph

- Students should be responsible to keep their classrooms clean because they are using the classrooms themselves
- Thus it falls upon them to maintain the cleanliness of the class that they are using

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, this will also build a student’s character – There are many factors students must consider in order to successfully keep their classrooms clean
- For example – distributing and delegating duties amongst their fellow classmates – time management – students need to learn how to allocate their time to clean the classrooms in between lessons or before school starts

3rd paragraph

- There are also a number of techniques that students should keep in mind in order to keep their classrooms clean – For example, rotating cleaning duties
- By rotating the duties, no one student will be overwhelmed by the responsibilities of their tasks – this will ensure that no student will tire out

4th paragraph

- Furthermore, students should also learn to use the appropriate cleaning tools to keep their classrooms clean – this will ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness when they are cleaning the classrooms
- Learning how to use these cleaning tools will also ensure that students will be able to use these skills at home.

Conclusion

- Therefore, there are many reasons as to why I would think that students have the responsibility of keeping their classrooms clean

3 What is the importance of having good role models?

Introduction

- Young people are thrown into the world with so many things to consider – this can be especially overwhelming for young minds
- There are many reasons as to why young people need to have good role models

1st paragraph

- Firstly, role models are important because they can help form and shape the characters of young people – role models can teach young people how to think, act and judge for themselves
- Having a role model can ensure that young people will be able to act appropriately

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, role models can also help young people to discover their passion in life – having a direction in life is very important to build the future
- A role model can help young people find the right path to fulfil their ambitions – It is important to lay the foundation for the next generation of people who will be the future leaders

3rd paragraph

- Role models are also important for inspiring young people and motivating them to be productive – this will ensure that the young will be practising and improving on important skills – inspires young people to constantly better themselves

- By inspiring young people to work hard, they will be better equipped to face challenges

4th paragraph

- Role models can also give advice and act as moral guides for young people – teach them and impart their knowledge to the next generation – give young people an understanding of the world around them
- Since young people lack knowledge about the world – they need help to make sense of the world around them

Conclusion

- In conclusion – there are many reasons as to why it is important for young people to have role models

4 Write a story about how you and your friends saved someone from a life-threatening situation. Begin your story with: *'It was just an ordinary day. I had just started...'*

Introduction

- It was just an ordinary day. I had just started making my way home from school with my friends
- We were casually chatting with each other – laughing at our jokes – suddenly we saw someone collapse on the side of the road

1st paragraph

- We carefully approached the man – we quickly looked around to see if there was anyone else around – no one – the road was deserted
- One of my friends, Joseph was part of the Red Crescent society – went to check on the man's condition

2nd paragraph

- As Joseph was checking on the man – I called for an ambulance – I quickly explained the situation to the call operator – gave them our location
- The operator told me to calm down – told me not to move the man as it would be dangerous

3rd paragraph

- Joseph realised that the man's breathing was shallow – believed that the man was suffering from an asthma attack – we quickly searched the man's pockets for an inhaler
- We found the inhaler and used it on the man – the man's breathing improved

4th paragraph

- Soon the ambulance arrived – the paramedics rushed out of the vehicle and quickly examined the man – the paramedics asked us a series of questions about the man and about how we found him
- They then brought the man into the ambulance and rushed off to the hospital

Conclusion

- The next day, the principal called us to his office while we were at school – he told us that he had been informed about our actions by the hospital
- He told us that the man was doing fine – commended us for our swift actions

5 'A stitch in time saves nine'.

Describe an experience where this was true for you.

Introduction

- When I was young, I used to love eating all kinds of sweet things – I liked eating desserts like ice-creams, puddings and other sweet treats
- Never bothered about oral hygiene, did not bother to brush my teeth – neglected washing up everyday

1st paragraph

- One day, I experienced a terrible aching in the back of my mouth – I tried to ignore the pain and continued eating my sweets – did not clean my teeth
- Soon, the pain became intolerable and I started to cry – my parents came to check on me

2nd paragraph

- They then realised that I was having a toothache – They decided to bring me to the dentist – have my teeth checked up

- I was very frightened when I heard what their plans were – Eventually they managed to calm me down – I finally agreed to go to the dentist

3rd paragraph

- We went to the dentist the next day – The dentist was a kind young woman who asked me to sit on the dentist chair – I reluctantly went to sit there and let her examine my mouth
- She discovered that one of my teeth had rotted and she told my parents that she would have to extract it

4th paragraph

- After an hour of going through a very painful process, she was finally able to remove my tooth
- The dentist praised me for not crying throughout the entire process – she wanted to reward me with a lollipop but I declined

Conclusion

- I learned to not delay dealing with a problem as it would get worse over time – as they say: 'a stitch in time saves nine.'

SPM PRACTICE 5

1 Describe what you did for the Earth during Earth Day.

Introduction

- As our planet is suffering from many environmental problems, I decided that I would do my best to take care of the environment
- Also got my friends and family involved in my plans

1st paragraph

- The first thing we did for Earth Day was to save on electricity – we turned off all the unessential electrical appliances in our house – drew the curtains open to let the light in – opened the windows to let the air in
- Even without our electrical appliances, our house was comfortable – It was well lit and cooling

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, we also decided to start recycling – we began sorting our garbage for it to be recycled – looked up information on the internet whenever we were not sure
- We were able tidy up our house which looked neat and organised once we were done

3rd paragraph

- We also installed solar panels on the rooftop of our house – we wanted to reduce pollution – normally the electricity we received would be generated from the burning of fossil fuels which pollutes the atmosphere
- Solar panels generate electricity from sunlight which does not cause any pollution – solar energy is also renewable, so we do not need to obtain new sources of energy

4th paragraph

- Furthermore, we also took our food waste to the garden to create our own compost – instead of simply throwing it out to be transported to a landfill – we could instead give back to the earth
- We later used the compost to fertilise our gardens

Conclusion

- We spent our Earth Day doing our best to do our part to keep the Earth and her ecosystem healthy

2 'Caring for nature is caring for ourselves'.

Do you agree? Support your opinion.

Introduction

- I agree with the statement that 'Caring for nature is caring for ourselves'.
- There are many reasons as to why this statement is true

1st paragraph

- Firstly we are dependent on a healthy ecosystem to feed ourselves – a disruption in our ecosystem could cause damage to our crops and endanger our farm animals
- For example – the overuse of pesticides will result in the death of bees – many plants are dependent on bees for pollination – without bees, many trees will not be able to bear fruit and produce seeds

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, caring for nature is like caring for ourselves because it will allow us to leave a legacy for our future generations – there are many animals that are threatened with extinction
- If the animals become extinct, the next generation will not be able to see these creatures

3rd paragraph

- Furthermore, if we care for nature, we will be able to protect the trees and plants of our planet – the trees and plants are responsible for maintaining the health of our atmosphere – these plants take in carbon dioxide released by human and animals in our planet and convert it into oxygen
- With a clean atmosphere we will be ensured of clean lungs

4th paragraph

- Moreover, caring for the environment is like caring for ourselves because the environment also provides the natural resources that we require to live our lives
- For example – many of our medicines are derived from plants and animals – without them we would not be able to produce these lifesaving medicines

Conclusion

- Based on the reasons above, we can safely say that we have to care for the environment like we care for ourselves

3 Why is it important to develop renewable energy?

Introduction

- As our energy reserves run dry and our environment degrades as a result of pollution, it is becoming even more apparent that renewable energy will become an important factor in our lives
- There are many reasons as to why we need to develop our renewable energy

1st paragraph

- One of the reasons why we should develop renewable energy is that we are running out of fossil fuels – fossil fuels are needed to generate electricity – fossil fuels are limited and prices will increase as it starts running out
- Renewable energy will be cheaper in the long run – not only will it never run out, technology will only get better at generating electricity

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, it is also important to develop renewable energy as it is a clean source of energy – fossil fuels are our primary energy source – must be burnt to generate electricity – pollutes the atmosphere
- Renewable energy does not produce any sort of pollution when it is generated – renewable energy such as the wind, waves and light from the Sun are all part of the natural cycle of the planet

3rd paragraph

- Furthermore, we should develop renewable energy to stop climate change and global warming – these changes to our planet are dangerous to all life on it – it will irreversibly alter our weather patterns
- Ocean levels will rise thereby flooding cities – other parts of the world will become too hot to live in – we will experience more extreme weather conditions like hurricanes, typhoons and hailstorms

4th paragraph

- Moreover, another reason to develop renewable energy would be to prevent the collapse of our ecosystem – as fossil fuels release pollutants into our atmosphere – global temperature will increase – changes the balance of our ecosystem
- As climate change will destroy the delicate balance of our ecosystems – many plants and animals will face the threat of extinction

Conclusion

- From the reasons stated above, I believe that it is important to develop renewable energy sources

4 Write a story about a girl who wanted to grow a plant and the challenges she faced.

End your story with: ‘... Amy was proud of her efforts to grow her plant.’

Introduction

- One day while Amy was at school, her teacher Puan Salmah announced that their school was going to have a competition
- The competition was to have different students grow a plant of their own before presenting it to be judged by a panel of judges after two months

1st paragraph

- Amy went home to tell her mother about the competition – her mother listened to her and gave her some advice on how to take care of a plant
- Then, she gave her a seed to be used to grow a plant

2nd paragraph

- Amy then went to the botanical store to purchase a bag of soil – She went through the different types of soils and fertilisers that were available
- The store clerk was very helpful and told her the differences between each type of soil

3rd paragraph

- Amy came home and filled her pot with the soil that she had previously bought – planted her seed into the soil – she placed it in the garden outside her house
- She tended to the seedling everyday – she watered it every day and watched the plant grow slowly

4th paragraph

- Her plant sprouted – soon, there were bright green leaves and beautiful flowers – she trimmed her plant to keep it neat
- Made sure to provide it ample fertiliser

Conclusion

- On the day of the competition, the judges praised the beauty of Amy’s plant – they decided to award her the prize for first place
- Amy was proud of her efforts to grow her plant

5 ‘Time and tide wait for no man.’

Describe a situation your own experience when this was true.

Introduction

- When I was a young boy, in my first year in secondary school, I was still living with my grandmother
- My grandmother was a gentle and kind old woman – she was very wise and would give me a lot of useful advice whenever I was in trouble

1st paragraph

- One day, I was playing around with a ball, indoors – though my grandmother had advised against it, I still played with the ball nonetheless
- Unfortunately I was not paying attention – kicked the ball which flew and knocked over a large vase

2nd paragraph

- There was a loud crash as the vase shattered against the floor – I stared at the ruins of the object in a daze – I was terrified of what had happened and worried about what my grandmother would think
- Eventually I approached the shattered remains of the vase – I realised to my horror that it was a keepsake of my grandfather’s and it was one of the last things my grandmother had to remind her of him

3rd paragraph

- I quickly cleaned up the floor – When my grandmother came home from shopping, she noticed that the vase was not around anymore – she asked me about the vase
- I felt immensely guilty but lied to her that a wild cat had come into the house and knocked it over – She simply kept quiet and nodded

4th paragraph

- However, I soon found out from my parents that my grandmother

had not actually gone shopping – She had gone to the hospital because she was sick

- Instantly I was frightened that I would not get the chance to apologise to my grandmother for breaking her vase – I realised that my grandmother was old and did not have much time left in the world

Conclusion

- I went to my grandmother and told her the truth – I also apologised to her profusely – she accepted my apology and told me to tell the truth from then on – she also apologised for not telling me about her condition
- It was then that I understood the meaning of ‘time and tide wait for no man’.

SPM PRACTICE 6

1 Write a story about a time in someone’s life when technology played an important part.

Introduction

- Emily and her sister, Sarah were very close as siblings – it was almost as if they were joined at the hip – they did everything together from playing to studying
- Emily had always dreamed of becoming a scientist while her sister was content to be a baker – one day, she received a scholarship to study at the University of Oxford – Emily decided to take the opportunity and flew to the United Kingdom to study

1st paragraph

- Emily was very excited when she first arrived – everything seemed new and interesting to her – from the ancient buildings and architecture to the people and the food
- She would devote herself to her studies while also exploring the culture around her – she would try out every new dish she encountered

2nd paragraph

- However, she soon became homesick – she started missing her family and friends along with everything that she enjoyed when she was back home
- She also yearned for some of her favourite local food like *nasi lemak* and *roti canai* – She began performing poorly in her studies due to her homesickness

3rd paragraph

- One day, her sister got in touch with her through her social media account – Emily was happy and relieved to hear from her sister again and instantly poured out her feelings to her
- Her sister patiently absorbed all that she had to say – she suggested that she should download a chat application for her smartphone so that they could communicate with each other much more easily

4th paragraph

- Emily agreed and downloaded the application into her phone – soon they were chatting about all sorts of things that had happened in their daily lives – They even started sharing pictures of the meals they were having – Sarah would often express how jealous she was that her sister got to try out all those interesting and delicious looking dishes
- Eventually, Emily began to cheer up and started doing well in her studies once again

Conclusion

- Emily is now an accomplished scientist – she still keeps close contact with her sister who remained in Malaysia to run her own bakery – The two sisters often make trips to visit each other

2 ‘Digital literacy is important for people in our current age.’

What do you think?

Introduction

- I believe that digital literacy is important in our current age
- There are many reasons as to why digital literacy is important for the average person

1st paragraph

- Firstly, in our increasingly digitised world, computer literacy is needed for us to perform many tasks that are essential in the workplace in our current age
- Understanding how to use programmes such as Word or PowerPoint is absolutely necessary for the average white collar worker

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, digital literacy is important because we now do most of our communications through electronic devices like smartphones and computers
- We must understand how to use emails, social media and communication apps if we want to be able to function in society

3rd paragraph

- Moreover, digital literacy is important for education in our current era – the internet allows people to easily access information – allowing students to find study notes on topics that they are struggling with
- Educators can also make their learning environments more dynamic – for example, they can play educational videos in a classroom to help their students understand a subject

4th paragraph

- Furthermore, digital literacy is important for people in our current times as it allows us to stay connected with current events – Most people get their news from social media these days – Such news can be obtained instantaneously
- Many news organisations have accounts in social media sites like Twitter and Facebook which provide us with a relevant source of information

Conclusion

- As seen above digital literacy is important for everyone in our modern times – it extends to many different facets of life

3 ‘Video games can be beneficial.’ Do you agree?

Introduction

- Yes I agree that video games can be beneficial
- Though most people have a prejudice against playing video games, there are indeed many benefits to it that are usually not discussed

1st paragraph

- Firstly, one of the benefits of playing video games is that it will improve the map reading skills of players – Many games includes maps to help players navigate through its digital environments
- This skill translates directly into real life allowing people who have played video games to be able to read maps more proficiently

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, research has shown that video games improves the problem solving skills of players – Many games includes puzzles and problems that their players must tackle – Dealing with these problems will improve people’s capacities to solve the problems that they face
- With improved problem solving skills, people will be able to easily approach problems that they face in life be it in work or study much easier.

3rd paragraph

- Furthermore, video games have also been known to enhance the memory of players – Video games requires its players to memorise many different instructions and commands for them to play the game – this lets people train their memory
- An improve memory can help students memorise the topics of their studies and allow people to navigate through their everyday lives with ease

4th paragraph

- Moreover, video games can improve the coordination and reaction speed of people who play them – As video games are an interactive medium, players must often immediately respond in complex ways to the environment that is simulated
- This can be helpful for people who would like to try physical sports which requires these things

Conclusion

- In conclusion video games can be beneficial as playing them can improve people in many ways

4 Write a story about your experience with a hobby that you enjoy. End your story with: "...to practice it for the rest of my life."

Introduction

- My hobby is photography – I have loved taking pictures ever since I was young when my father let me use his smartphone to take a picture of him with my mother
- There are many things I enjoy about the hobby – though taking photos might sound easy, there are actually many interesting aspects to it

1st paragraph

- One of the things I enjoy about photography is simply the art of it – Photography allows me to try and think of ways to see the world from a different perspective – Some of the most beautiful photographs around are of people simply taking photos of ordinary things from a new and interesting angle
- It feels very rewarding whenever I am able to capture a good picture

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, I also enjoy photography because it allows me to bond with my friends and family – my father is actually a professional photographer and always gives me good advice to help me in my photography
- I also share my photos with my friends who will often praise them or give me their impressions and criticisms about them – they are very encouraging and it makes me happy whenever they get excited or happy over one of my own photos

3rd paragraph

- Furthermore, photography has a significant technical side to it which I enjoy – before I take a picture I must take into consideration, many factors such as the type of lens I must use or adjusting the white balancing of my camera
- This part of photography requires intense concentration on to solve a specific problem

4th paragraph

- Lastly, I enjoy photography because I get to share my works with the whole world – I usually upload my photos on the internet which are viewed by people across the world
- My father and I feel happy whenever we see a positive comment about my work – it encourages me to improve on my work

Conclusion

- Photography is one of my major passions in life – I hope I get to practice it for the rest of my life

5 What can be done to improve the infrastructure of schools?

Introduction

- Schools are important as they are needed to cultivate the next generation of people who will inherit the country – as such the infrastructure of education is important in preparing young people for the future

- We must improve the educational infrastructure of our country

1st paragraph

- Firstly, we could improve on the electronic equipment in our schools – to improve computer literacy among students – for example, schools can provide – electronic tablets – add computers to the library – have lessons conducted using electronic devices
- This will prepare children for a globalised and digitised world

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, we can also improve the sports infrastructure for our students – we need better training facilities and equipment to produce better athletes – many schools in our country are lack good sports facilities – athletes are able to train properly
- For example – we can build indoor basketball and badminton courts so that athletes can practise regardless of rain or shine – build proper indoor running tracks where runners can train

3rd paragraph

- Moreover, we can also improve the libraries in our schools – libraries are important palaces where students can study – they provide a conducive environment for reading as it is quiet – people can concentrate
- Select better reading materials for libraries – give students a chance to discover and learn outside the classroom – ensure the rooms are well lit

4th paragraph

- Furthermore, we should improve our school's medical facilities – the health of students should be the primary concern of the school – healthy students will be able handle their studies better – will also be able to accommodate students with special needs
- Include lifts for students who are using wheelchairs – have a school nurse to take care of sick children

Conclusion

- As stated above, there are many ways we can improve the infrastructure of our schools
- Based on these suggestions, we can improve the education and infrastructure of our schools

SPM PRACTICE 7

1 Write about someone interesting who you know.

Introduction

- I find my cousin John to be a very interesting person
- He is a very adventurous person – He is currently living in Australia – He has participated in many adventure sports and has learnt many interesting skills – All which are fascinating in their own ways

1st paragraph

- One of the interesting things that my cousin practices is rock climbing – my cousin John has travelled across the world to challenge himself – He enjoys testing his skills in rock climbing and the mental and physical challenge that comes with it
- While rock climbing might seem to be a very reckless activity – John tells me that it requires a lot of discipline to practice – one must carefully check their safety equipment before going for a climb

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, my cousin John is also a surfer – he has taught me his surfing techniques during one of my visits to Australia – My cousin has had plenty of opportunity to learn the sport as he lives near the beach – he is very skilled and can ride on the waves easily from his years of experience
- I have often seen him maintaining his surfboard whenever he is on the beach

3rd paragraph

- Furthermore, John is also an avid gardener – he keeps a garden of vegetables in his backyard at his house in Australia – they are all beautifully maintained – he often uses his vegetables to cook for us whenever my family and I are visiting and gives the extras to his neighbours
- He is very knowledgeable about all sorts of different farming techniques – has many books on gardening and vegetable farming in his house

4th paragraph

- My cousin also works part-time as a professional barista – He had obtained his certification as a professional barista after training and learning tirelessly at a barista workshop – he is capable of brewing all sorts of different type coffee, be it cappuccinos, lattes, or long blacks
- He is very good at making latte art – makes many beautiful patterns out of the foam of the coffee – the coffee he brews is always aromatic and delicious

Conclusion

- My cousin John is the most interesting person I know as he is a very adventurous person who not only tries all sorts of different activities, but sticks with them until he becomes skilled at them

2 How do you plan to improve your relationship with your family?

Introduction

- Our families are amongst the most important people in our lives.
- Therefore it is important for us to improve and maintain our relationship with our family members

1st paragraph

- Firstly, one of the ways we can improve our relationship with our family is to do our house chores together – house work requires a lot of coordination and planning between each member
- This activity will provide us with an opportunity to communicate with our family – as we need to work together to get the house cleaned – having a common goal will ensure that we can communicate with our family members

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, we can also go on holidays with our family members – visiting new places will allow us to strengthen our family ties as it will give us new things to do together and new experiences to bond over
- For example, we could visit Pulau Tioman with our family – participate in recreational activities with my family there – like scuba diving or kayaking

3rd paragraph

- Moreover, we can celebrate special occasions together with our family – special occasions such as a family member's birthday will allow us to show our love towards them
- These special occasions will allow us to renew the importance of our relationship with our family

4th paragraph

- Furthermore, we can do recreational activities with members of our family – recreational activities will allow us a space to interact with one another – give us happy memories for us to bond together with
- Recreational activities such as playing board games together gives family members an opportunity to interact with one another – collaboratively and casually

Conclusion

- These are just some of the ways we can improve our relationship with our family members – it is important to cherish and love the people closest to us

3 Describe the challenges faced in the life of someone you admire.

Introduction

- I greatly admire Mahatma Gandhi who was known mostly for being the leader of the Indian independence movement
- He faced much opposition throughout his life due to his heritage as well as his activism

1st paragraph

- Firstly, one of the first challenges that Gandhi had to face when he was young was the poverty that he faced – He did not have much prospects of furthering his studies due to the lack of money
- He had dropped out of the cheapest college he could afford – He decided to study law in London at the advice of a family friend

2nd paragraph

- Another challenge that Gandhi had to face was during the time when he was studying to become a lawyer in London – He was pressured to abandon many of his traditional values during his time there – However, he recalled the promise he had made to his mother and maintained his traditional beliefs and practices
- He continued to eat vegetarian meals throughout his studies – abstained from alcohol

3rd paragraph

- Besides that, Gandhi also had to face racial discrimination and repression by the British Government during his stay in South Africa – Many white people treated him badly simply because of the colour of his skin – forced to sit on the floor next to the driver when taking the stagecoach
- Gandhi protested against this unfair treatment – he helped organised the Indian community in South Africa – Conducted many activist activities while he was there

4th paragraph

- When Gandhi finally returned to India, he began to organise non-violent protests against the British Government – famously challenged the British salt tax with the 400km Dandi Salt March
- His protests would eventually lead to the Independence of India from the British Empire

Conclusion

- Gandhi struggled all his life to improve the life of others – ultimately paid for it with his life
- Greatly admire his kindness and determination as well as his commitment to non-violence even in the face of repression

4 Write a story about meeting a pen pal from a foreign country.

End your story with: “...we still remained good friends even after she had returned.”

Introduction

- Erina is a pen pal of mine who lives in Japan – we have been exchanging emails for over two years – we are good friends and would share everything about our lives together
- One day, I received an email from Erina telling me that she was coming to visit Malaysia – I was excited and offered to meet up with her – asked my parents if they would let her stay at our house they agreed

1st paragraph

- Erina arrived at the airport during an early and cold Saturday morning – My parents and I were waiting for her at the arrivals area – We held up a card where her name was written so that she could easily find us – We greeted Erina and helped her bring her luggage to the car
- We drove back to our house and helped her to unpack her things into the room that we have prepared for her

2nd paragraph

- We let her rest in the room for the remainder of the morning – Then, we brought her to visit many of the famous sites of KL – We went to visit the KL Twin Towers – went into the shopping mall – rode the elevator up to get a good view of the city
- We took quite a lot of memorable photos – Also bought many souvenirs

3rd paragraph

- Besides that, we also took her to try out the many types of cuisines that can be found in Malaysia – We let her try Malay cuisine like satay and *nasi lemak* along with *mamak* cuisine like *roti canai* – Erina enjoyed all of her meals
- She stated that she loved the unique flavours in the country

4th paragraph

- On the day before the day of her departure, Erina gave us some souvenirs that she had brought from Japan – she also decided to teach us how to make some Japanese dishes – we went to the supermarket to purchase the ingredients
- Erina taught us how to make Japanese rice balls, miso soup and Japanese hot pot – we merrily ate the results of our efforts for dinner

Conclusion

- We drove Erina to the airport and saw her off
- We still remained good friends even after she had returned

5 What is the best way to stay safe when you are camping out in the wilderness?

Introduction

- While camping out in the wilderness can indeed be fun, it does come with many potential dangers.
- Hence, it is important that we take the necessary precautions to stay safe while we are out in the wilderness

1st paragraph

- Firstly, we can bring with us the appropriate navigational equipment – As forests and jungles are places that are far removed from civilisation – it is thus much easier to get lost in a forest
- Items like compasses and maps can help us find our way out of the wilderness or back to our camp site

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, we should also check the weather forecast before heading into the wilderness – Bad weather such as a heavy torrential rain could potentially cause any number of natural disasters – like landslides or floods
- Check the weather forecast several days ahead of your trip

3rd paragraph

- Furthermore, we should also bring extra supplies when we are camping out in the wilderness – As there may be plenty of unexpected incidents that will result in the loss of supplies – necessary to carry an excess of basic provisions – it could be lifesaving in the right situations
- Remember to bring extra food and water – also pack in extra clothes and footwear – extra camping materials

4th paragraph

- Another way to stay safe while camping out in the wilderness would be to avoid hiking into the jungle or forest alone – safety in numbers – hiking safely across the wilderness requires a lot of teamwork
- Never wander off alone – walk in a single file when trekking along the path – do periodical head counts to make sure no one is missing

Conclusion

- These are just a sample of the many ways one could stay safe while camping out in the wilderness

SPM PRACTICE 8

1 Describe how you celebrated an important event for a family member and how you felt about it.

Introduction

- When my brother, James was finally graduating from his university with a PhD in physics, my family and I were extremely excited and happy for him
 - We decided to hold a party in celebration of his graduation
- 1st paragraph
- The first thing we had to do was to invite his friends – we even managed to get a hold of one of his professors to agree to come along to join the fun – we decided to prepare a surprise party right after his graduation itself
 - We sent out invitations and made sure that there were no misunderstandings – ensured that everyone invited could make it

2nd paragraph

- We then began to prepare the food and drinks for the upcoming event – my parents ordered food from a reputable caterer – we ordered a myriad of wonderful dishes like pies, roasted chicken and salads along with many tempting desserts like cakes, puddings and ice cream
- Our parents also decided to bake a special cake for James – we wrote ‘Congratulations on Graduation!’ on the icing of the cake

3rd paragraph

- My brother left early for his university on the day of his graduation – the rest of my family told him that we would catch up with him soon – we sprang into action immediately after he had left
- We decorated the house with bright banners and ribbons – we then called some of his friends to help make preparations for the food and drinks while we were out for the graduation ceremony

4th paragraph

- After the ceremony, my brother wearily pulled the door open – he was greeted to a chorus of ‘congratulations!’ and a shower of confetti – he was very much surprised, and pleasantly so – his friends rushed up to personally congratulate him
- He was a little sheepish and shy about the whole event but was eventually able to loosen up – we all enjoyed the food and drinks in the party

Conclusion

- At the end of the day, we were all tired but happy
- It was a celebration that none of us would ever forget

2 ‘Do on to others what you would have done to yourself’. What do you think?

Introduction

- I believe that this statement is a good maxim to live by
- There are many reasons for this

1st paragraph

- Firstly, this maxim is known as the golden rule – it is almost universally shared by many of the world’s religions – the rule states that we should be reciprocal to each other based on how we treat each other
- As it is a rule that is shared by many peoples – it is a rule that can unite us together – lets us establish an understanding with each other

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, the statement also allows us to understand that there are consequences for our actions – if people follow the maxims of the statement – they will not treat other people badly as it will invite people to treat them in kind
- This will ensure that people will strive to treat other people with kindness

3rd paragraph

- Furthermore, this statement also tells us to empathise with other people – it has us acknowledge that other people have feelings to and invites us to picture ourselves in their shoes
- This lets us think about how other people might feel about our treatment of them – leading us to be more sensitive about our actions

4th paragraph

- Moreover, this maxim could even work on selfish people if they are out there – as they would treat other people well as they themselves would like to be treated well
- Hence this rule can even make people with less savoury motive act kindly

Conclusion

- Therefore, I believe that following the principles of the statement above will prove to be beneficial to most people

3 What important values should a doctor have?

Introduction

- Being a doctor is a very demanding profession
- As such it requires many values and the right temperance for one to be able to carry out their duties successfully

1st paragraph

- Firstly, one must have a lot of empathy as a doctor – Doctors are required to interact with many sick individuals who will not be at their best moods – many of them might even be scared and frightened
- A doctor should not only care for the body but also the heart

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, a doctor must also have patience and perseverance to conduct their duties – many doctors are on call at any time of the day to attend to emergencies – their surgeries, diagnoses and treatments will also require them to typically work for extended periods of time
- This ultimately requires a doctor to have as much perseverance in pushing through their tasks

3rd paragraph

- Furthermore, a doctor should be diligent in carrying out their duties – as the task of a doctor requires careful thought and precision to be able to treat a patient safely – the slightest error, could potentially cost the patient their life
- A doctor must therefore give careful attention to the tiniest of details in all of their work

4th paragraph

- Finally, a doctor must be an honest individual – As a doctor, one is placed into a position of power over their patients – This may tempt them into using their power to take advantage of their patients for quick material gain

- However, it is unjust for a doctor to take advantage of another person's health and life to earn a profit – as one would be acting no different from a robber – as one will be threatening a life for their own benefit

Conclusion

- These are just some of the values a person must hold if they wish to become a doctor

4 Write a story about something unexpected happening.

Begin your story with: *'That day began just like any other. I had just...'*

Introduction

- The day began just like any other. I had just finished my extracurricular activities in school and was making my way home
- Suddenly I heard a loud explosive sound above me

1st paragraph

- I turned around and saw smoke rising from one of the windows of a building behind me – it was a small two-storied house – worst of all, I could hear the cries of a young child coming from the building

2nd paragraph

- The first thing I did was to call the fire department – the operator calmly listened as I stammered my way through the details of the event – she asked a few extra questions before telling me to stay where I was and wait for help – the operator then hung up
- I had initially planned on listening to the operator's advice – However, the panicked screams of the child in the building pressed me into action

3rd paragraph

- I quickly rushed into the building – I crouched low as to avoid inhaling most of the smoke as I had learned that smoke always rises – I called out to the child but only got loud sobs and cries in response as I made my way to the source of the sound – could also crackling of fire and the growing intensity of its heat
- I found the child huddled against the corner of a room standing away from the fire

4th paragraph

- I quickly rushed towards the child and took his hand – I told him that everything was going to be alright – I then took the child and evacuated from the building
- Soon after the fire department arrived and helped to put out the fire – the firemen told me that they would look after the child – I sighed in relief and returned home

Conclusion

- The next day, I was called to the principal's office – He told me that he was informed of my heroic actions by the fire department
- The principal praised me and told that he would be announcing my actions to the rest of the school on next week's assembly

5 'Slow and steady wins the race'.

Describe an experience when this was true was true for you.

Introduction

- When I was young, I had wanted desperately to be an artist
- I greatly admired the works of many great artists like Leonardo da Vinci and Vincent van Gogh

1st paragraph

- I had persistently nagged at my mother to allow me to take an arts class – she had initially assumed it to be the simple flight of fancy of a young child but eventually relented anyway
- I was enrolled to an art centre and enthusiastically absorbed every technique and bit of knowledge it could get

2nd paragraph

- I would practice my art every day and even stay late up late into the night to practice my drawings – however, I was never satisfied whenever I compared them to the works of the artists whom I admired
- I resolved to get as much practice as I could whenever I was free – I would even try to practice during lunch and dinner, much to my mother's annoyance

3rd paragraph

- Eventually the constant strain finally took a toll on me and I collapsed from exhaustion – My mother had cried out in panic and rushed me to the hospital – there the doctor examined me and gave me my prescription
- The doctor ask me why I was pushing myself so hard – I told me my reasons –he listened intently before finally asking if I had heard the phrase 'slow and steady wins the race' – I said yes and he told me not to rush things and to take them slowly

4th paragraph

- I was released from the hospital the next day and thought deeply about what the doctor had said – I eventually decided to follow the doctor's advice – I broke up my time for art with periods of rest and relaxation
- Much to my delight my art was steadily improving – I was less upset and became more patient with my works

Conclusion

- Today, I have become a successful artist whose works can be found in many art galleries
- While my art may not have reached to a level that can be compared to my idols, I still work consistently to improve my art.

SPM PRACTICE 9

1 Describe a time when you had to go to the hospital.

Introduction

- I had always enjoyed participating in extreme BMX bike sports
- One day, I had forgotten to wear my knee guards when I was preparing to practice for an upcoming competition

1st paragraph

- Though I was initially wondering if I should return home to retrieve my knee guards – dismissed my worries – I was confident that I would be able to flawlessly execute my stunts as I have had for the past few months
- However, I made a mistake during one of my stunts and crashed violently onto the ground

2nd paragraph

- I heard a loud pop coming from my left knee – there was a horrible sensation of pain that shot through my knee – I cried out in pain – clutching my knee
- The other bikers from nearby rushed to my aid – one of the senior bikers was also trained by the Red Crescent Society and treated me with first aid – another biker called the ambulance for me

3rd paragraph

- The ambulance arrived shortly – paramedics rushed out – lifted me onto a stretcher and carried me into the ambulance – rushed me to the hospital
- The doctors came to examine me and declared that they would need to perform an operation on my leg – while I was frightened there was nothing I could do – meekly accepted the verdict of the doctors

4th paragraph

- I was rolled into the operating room and anaesthetised before the operation – drifted peacefully into unconsciousness – The next time I woke up I was in the recovery room
- Received many visitor from my friends and family all wishing me well – While I was happy, I was also ashamed that I was causing everyone so much trouble

Conclusion

- I made a promise to myself to always seriously take safety precautions before I start biking – It took many months before my leg was fully healed
- I have never injured myself since that day

2 'People should learn first aid.' What do you think?

Introduction

- There can be many times in life when we may need first aid
- Thus, there are many reasons why I believe that people should learn first aid

1st paragraph

- Firstly, one of the reasons people should learn first aid is because there may be unexpected emergencies – Our knowledge of first aid may be needed and could potentially save lives
- Accidents do indeed happen when we least expect it – so it is best to be prepared

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, we should also learn first aid because it can improve the survival rate of victims – Applying first aid treatment on a casualty early could mean the difference between life and death for them
- The statistics from many reputable sources have shown that first aid treatment does indeed improve the rate of survival for many individuals

3rd paragraph

- Furthermore, learning first aid can improve your job prospects and overall employability in the future – knowledge on first aid shows employers that you are capable of dealing with stressful situations and will be adept at learning new skills
- Knowledge of first aid can help you meet the requirements for many jobs

4th paragraph

- Lastly, learning first aid can help boost your confidence when an emergency happens – Often times, people may freeze up out of shock or fear whenever there is an emergency costing precious seconds that may endanger the lives of others
- A knowledge of first aid may give an individual the confidence to act instantly during an emergency

Conclusion

- Based on the reasons and explanations provided, it is true that people should indeed learn first aid

3 Why exercise is important?

Introduction

- Exercise is immensely important to not only our wellbeing but also to our lives
 - Below are just some of the reasons as to why exercise is important
- ### 1st paragraph
- One reason that exercise is important is that exercise can improve our fitness – Exercise helps to develop and strengthen our muscles – it will improve our physical capabilities
 - With the improvement of our physical abilities, we will be able to perform our daily activities with ease

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, exercise is also important because it will improve our health – through exercise, we can improve the cardiovascular system in our body – exercise also reduces the risk of us contracting several diseases

3rd paragraph

- Furthermore, people who exercise will be able to keep their minds fresh and sharp – people who exercise are known to report having better moods, more energy and will also experience more relaxed sleep
- Exercise can thus be highly beneficial for those of us who will be conducting other activities

4th paragraph

- Moreover, exercise is also important to us because it can provide us with an opportunity for more social contact – exercise will often take us outside of our houses and into the neighbourhood park or gym
- These public spaces are an excellent place for people to get to know each other – especially for people with similar goals

Conclusion

- Based on the reasons above, exercise is important for us

4 Write a story about a village beginning with:

“The village had been suffering from a drought for many...”

Introduction

- The village had been suffering from a drought for many weeks

- Many of the residents were worried about their water supplies and decided that they would have to work together if they were going to pull through this crisis

1st paragraph

- The villagers convened in a village assembly – they discussed the appropriate course of actions that they would need to take to survive the drought – each villager came up with their own proposal and presented it to the rest of the village
- They argued about it for a few hours – agreed to some tentative measures first – before resuming to discuss their other courses of action

2nd paragraph

- Their first course of action was to request help from neighbouring villages – While the other villages were a significant distance away from them – they knew that not all of the other villages were affected by the drought
- They delegated the duty to a few young men who left for the other villages – riding donkeys

3rd paragraph

- The villager then decided that they were going to have to pool their resources together if they were going to persevere through the crisis – they shared water with each other
- Everyone in the village shared their water freely with each other, regardless of how much water each individual villager had stockpiled – Everyone knew that each of them could potentially fall into an unsavoury position in the future – so they shared their water with each other to maintain a sense of unity so that no one will abandon each other when they will need help in the future

4th paragraph

- Help came from the neighbouring villages – they came in large caravans, bringing with them large reserves of water – everyone from the village greeted them merrily
- They decided to throw a small feast in honour of their guests – though they were prudent with their use of water and food – the village chief came out to give a speech to honour their guests

Conclusion

- Eventually the drought finally ended
- To this day the villages in that area would help each other out whenever one of them was in trouble

5 Healthy Habits

Introduction

- Our health is very important for us to be able to live our lives to the fullest
- Thus, it is important to maintain various healthy habits

1st paragraph

- Firstly, one of the healthy habits that we can build is exercising everyday – there will be many benefits to our health if we were to exercise every day
- For example, we will be able to reduce the cholesterol levels in our body – we will also be able to lower the risk of many diseases like diabetes through exercise

2nd paragraph

- Besides that, another healthy habit that we could cultivate would be to maintain a balanced diet – we should ensure that our meals contain a balance of starchy foods, meats and vegetables – this will ensure that our bodies have all the necessary nutrients that is required for it to function
- We should base our meals with sources of carbohydrates like rice, noodles and potatoes – supplement it with meats like chicken and fish, and vegetables like lettuce and spinach

3rd paragraph

- Furthermore, a healthy habit that is very mundane but nonetheless important is to maintain the hygiene of our surroundings – Hygiene is the biggest contributor to our health and thus should not be neglected
- We should do all we can to keep germs and bacteria from growing – wash our bodies everyday – wash dishes immediately – brush our teeth – keep our bodies clean

4th paragraph

- Finally, a healthy habit that we can also maintain is to avoid overeating – avoid eating too much sweets like ice cream and fatty and oily foods like potato chips and French fries
- Not only can overeating increase the weight of your body to unhealthy levels, but also increase the risk of many diseases

Conclusion

- These are just some of the few habits that you can maintain to keep yourself healthy

TOPIC 3: GRAPHIC STIMULI AND SHORT TEXTS

SPM PRACTICE 1

- 1 A
- 2 A
- 3 B
- 4 C
- 5 A
- 6 B
- 7 A
- 8 A

SPM PRACTICE 2

- 1 C
- 2 D
- 3 D
- 4 A
- 5 C
- 6 C
- 7 D
- 8 A

SPM PRACTICE 3

- 1 B
- 2 B
- 3 D
- 4 D
- 5 D
- 6 A
- 7 A
- 8 D

SPM PRACTICE 4

- 1 B
- 2 C
- 3 B
- 4 C
- 5 D
- 6 B
- 7 C
- 8 D

SPM PRACTICE 5

- 1 D
- 2 D
- 3 C
- 4 C
- 5 D
- 6 C
- 7 D
- 8 B

SPM PRACTICE 6

- 1 D
- 2 B
- 3 B
- 4 C

- 5 D
- 6 C
- 7 C
- 8 A

SPM PRACTICE 7

- 1 D
- 2 B
- 3 D
- 4 D
- 5 B
- 6 D
- 7 D
- 8 A

SPM PRACTICE 8

- 1 B
- 2 B
- 3 C
- 4 A
- 5 D
- 6 D
- 7 C
- 8 A

SPM PRACTICE 9

- 1 D
- 2 B
- 3 D
- 4 C
- 5 A
- 6 D
- 7 A
- 8 A

SPM PRACTICE 10

- 1 C
- 2 A
- 3 D
- 4 C
- 5 A
- 6 A
- 7 A
- 8 D

TOPIC 4: RATIONAL CLOZE

SPM PRACTICE 1

- 1 C
- 2 D
- 3 A
- 4 B
- 5 C
- 6 A
- 7 D

SPM PRACTICE 2

- 1 B
- 2 A
- 3 D
- 4 D
- 5 C
- 6 A
- 7 B

SPM PRACTICE 3

- 1 B
- 2 A
- 3 D
- 4 C
- 5 A
- 6 D
- 7 B

SPM PRACTICE 4

- 1 C
- 2 D
- 3 A
- 4 B
- 5 B
- 6 D
- 7 C

SPM PRACTICE 5

- 1 C
- 2 B
- 3 A
- 4 C
- 5 A
- 6 B
- 7 C

SPM PRACTICE 6

- 1 C
- 2 B
- 3 A
- 4 B
- 5 D
- 6 D
- 7 D

SPM PRACTICE 7

- 1 A
- 2 B
- 3 C
- 4 B
- 5 D
- 6 C
- 7 A

SPM PRACTICE 8

- 1 B
- 2 C
- 3 C
- 4 A
- 5 A
- 6 D
- 7 C

SPM PRACTICE 9

- 1 B
- 2 C
- 3 B
- 4 A
- 5 C
- 6 A
- 7 D

TOPIC 5: INFORMATION TRANSFER**SPM PRACTICE 1**

- 1 Summit Lake

- 2 In High Places
- 3 The Animals' Agenda
- 4 The Lawrence Browne Affair
- 5 The Birdwatcher
- 6 The Book Barn
- 7 The Animals' Agenda
- 8 The Birdwatcher
- 9 The Girl Who Was Taken
- 10 In High Places

SPM PRACTICE 2

- 1 Breakdown
- 2 The Treatment
- 3 VEEP
- 4 Supergirl
- 5 Arctic Circle
- 6 Quick Reviews
- 7 Arctic Circle
- 8 Supergirl
- 9 VEEP
- 10 The Treatment

SPM PRACTICE 3

- 1 Black Rainbow
- 2 Rachel Kelly
- 3 Autobiography
- 4 The writer/Rachel Kelly
- 5 It is the writer's personal journey through depression and her road to recovery.
- 6 journalist
- 7 competent
- 8 treatments
- 9 poems
- 10 A well-written book which gives a glimmer of hope

SPM PRACTICE 4

- 1 follow orders
- 2 learn to think
- 3 badminton or tennis
- 4 handle stressful situation
- 5 Sports (team events)
- 6 instils discipline
- 7 work together and trust each other
- 8 learn good sportsmanship
- 9 self-discipline
- 10 perseverance

SPM PRACTICE 5

- 1 The Malaysian Naturalist
- 2 The Malaysian Nature Society
- 3 RM140
- 4 T-shirt
- 5 Jacket
- 6 nature
- 7 volunteering
- 8 nature parks
- 9 Nature Study Library
- 10 nature-oriented activities

SPM PRACTICE 6

- 1 The Minds that Made Our World
- 2 The Universe
- 3 Ideas for Young Inventors
- 4 Stress Management
- 5 How Things Work
- 6 Young Scientists

- 7 the Universe
- 8 practical science
- 9 How Things Work
- 10 Ideas for Young Inventors

SPM PRACTICE 7

- 1 Rashid the Rapper
- 2 Dr Jonathan Gul
- 3 Liew Ling Ling
- 4 Hema Sukumaran
- 5 Ginnie Heng
- 6 Liew Ling Ling
- 7 children's charity causes
- 8 our city/Bandar Baru
- 9 financial benefit/money
- 10 celebrity/famous

SPM PRACTICE 8

- 1 Lighthouse
- 2 Sam Kino
- 3 Novel about a family conflict
- 4 (a) Service to the needy/Humanitarianism/Caring for the needy
- 5 Abby Goh
- 6 Abby's parents/Mr Goh/Mrs Goh
- 7 Penang/Malaysia
- 8 do something for the needy
- 9 use her father's money to fund "Lighthouse"
- 10 Strongly recommended/It is a book that will inspire readers to be more caring towards the needy.

SPM PRACTICE 9

- 1 National Health Week Poster Competition
- 2 National Health Foundation
- 3 To promote a healthy lifestyle among Malaysians
- 4 A healthy Body + A Healthy Mind = A Happy and Healthy Me
- 5 Open to all students in Malaysian secondary schools
- 6 Competition
- 7 holidays/trips/tours
- 8 cash
- 9 form
- 10 date

SPM PRACTICE 10

- 1 chest pain, rapid heartbeat, nausea and dizziness
- 2 depression, moodiness, social withdrawal and loss of appetite
- 3 raises blood pressure
- 4 suppresses the immune system
- 5 increases the risk of heart attack
- 6 speeds up the ageing process
- 7 regular exercise (sessions)
- 8 relaxation techniques
- 9 developing a strong support network/being close to family and friends
- 10 devoting oneself to a worthy cause/voluntary service

TOPIC 6: READING COMPREHENSION & SUMMARY

SPM PRACTICE 1

Reading Comprehension

- 1 He worries that they are given too much.
- 2 (a) To feed birds seemed quite unnecessary when the city had more important social problems to solve.
(b) He felt that birds belong to the world.
- 3 (a) i. He wanted her to look at their new visitor, a bright green parrot, on the bird feeder.
ii. The phrase is 'just won a million dollars'.
- (b) Sunbirds must be uncommon in this part of the city.
- 4 (a) He was referring to the birds.

- 5 The change: They researched on the Internet and found out more birds.

Reason: He has become more interested in something other than himself. By doing good, he has changed to become a better person. (*Accept any suitable answer*)

Summary

One morning, my husband signalled at me to look at the bird feeder. I saw a green parrot which studied us. We studied him as he ate grains. My husband was very delighted. Every day, we waited eagerly for the birds' arrival and tried to identify them. My husband smiled and was less stressed. He filled the feeder carefully and was unhappy if the birds did not eat. We chatted about birds and their habits, and became more informed about them. Our world was completely focused on birds. Watching the beautiful parrot brought relief and joy to us. Now, my husband smiles more often and treasures nature. We have rediscovered love and kindness and live better. My husband's bird feeder fed the birds and made a difference to us.

(129 words)

SPM PRACTICE 2

Reading Comprehension

- 1 She was disappointed with her examination results as she could not get a scholarship.
 - 2 (a) The phrase is 'pass with distinction as usual'.
(b) She had been complacent/easygoing.
 - 3 (a) Her mother was going for knee surgery and he would need money for that.
(b) i. 'His gentleness made...'
ii. She was moaning and impatient.
 - 4 (a) It refers to problems or challenges in life.
(b) She must not let her problems control her.
 - 5 Lesson: There will always be problems in our life but we can control our reaction to them in a positive manner. (*Accept any suitable answer*)
- Reason: We can be strong and learn to bear our problem. (*Accept any suitable answer*)

Summary

Su Lin's father took her to the kitchen and filled three pots with water. When the water boiled, he placed potatoes, eggs and ground coffee beans in the different pots. When they had boiled, he took the contents and asked Su Lin to see the results. She noted that the potatoes were soft and the egg was hard while the coffee beans had changed the water to create something new. The items had faced the same boiling water, but each one reacted differently. He advised her to consider how she was going to deal with her problems. He told her that problems are always there, but they must not control us. We must be strong and learn to bear our pains. The way we react to problems decides our life.

(130 words)

SPM PRACTICE 3

Reading Comprehension

- 1 He was in the gymnastics room.
- 2 (a) The word 'devastated'.
(b) He should have recovered or gone back to an active life but he didn't.
- 3 (a) Buildings lack suitable facilities to cater to the needs of the disabled.
(b) i. They purchased an adjustable bed./They built another bathroom.
ii. They installed a lift in the house./They purchased a wheelchair-accessible van.
- 4 (a) It was a van using a computer system.
(b) They were leading a normal life while his was a tough one.
- 5 Characteristic: Dan is resilient and determined to handle the problems.

Reason: He drives a car, has graduated with a degree and is still studying.
He intends to write a book.

Summary

Dan and I spent some quality time together but Dan must have found it hard to see his friends leading a normal life while he could not. He learned to accept and adjust to the new changes with difficulty. I too learned some lessons from this experience. I had to sit quietly beside Dan just to be there for him. I learned to operate a lift and get his wheelchair into a van. I learned about resilience through Dan's handling of his problems as a disabled person. Furthermore, I learned about emotional maturity from Dan as we laughed and cried through our problems. I learned to be patient and to think of other people's needs first. I learned to prioritise matters and to be appreciative of what I had.

(128 words)

SPM PRACTICE 4

Reading Comprehension

- (a) A good family and loving friends
(b) when they do not have family support.
- (a) he gave his kidney to him.
(b) 'beyond the call of friendship'
- (a) He should make us feel good about ourselves.
(b) He should not make fun of you or ridicule you.
- i. They can keep quiet./They can choose to ignore the story.
ii. They can ask their friend directly about it.
- i. We can look after their houses when they are out of town.
(Accept any suitable answer)
ii. We can run some errands for them. (Accept any suitable answer)

Summary

Good people do not spread stories about their friends and will keep quiet if they hear something unpleasant. They will not believe everything they hear and will ignore such stories. They will ask their friend directly about the story and will try not to hurt him. They will avoid talking behind the friend's back. When a friend wanted to tell Socrates some news about his friend, Socrates told him that he has to pass the Triple Filter Test. Socrates asked him if the story was true and the man said that he was unsure. Then Socrates asked if the story was something good or useful in any way. The man told him it was not. Socrates then said that there was no need for him to listen to this story.

(130 words)

SPM PRACTICE 5

Reading Comprehension

- (a) He is looking for his mother.
(b) His dream of studying medicine in the Philippines is put on hold.
- (a) He thinks that she may be in a coma or has lost her memory.
(b) 'renewed his hope'
- (a) The cousin had a panic attack.
(b) He wanted to give space for his family and for himself.
- i. He saw corpses in the river.
ii. He saw that the nearby houses had been ripped from their foundation.
- i. They can send helpers to search for the missing people. (Accept any suitable answer)
ii. They can send cash and essential foodstuff to them too. (Accept any suitable answer)

Summary

The family stayed together since the earthquake and helped each other. The babies cried and a teenage cousin had a panic attack during the aftershocks. Kikawada spent some nights with friends, but he was concerned about his missing mother. He was unsure where she was when the earthquake hit. His sister, Mai, spoke to her in the minutes between the disasters. He found a changed landscape in his hometown and he was

not sure where his house was. All the pumps at the petrol station were gone. Corpses were strewn across the river. Homes had been destroyed and the neighbour's house had crashed into their home. A tanker lay on its side beside a damaged tractor. Kikawada hoped to sell and go off once his mother had been found.

(129 words)

SPM PRACTICE 6

Reading Comprehension

- He learned to be honest and respectful towards others, especially people of religious beliefs.
- (a) He, too was poor, but he promised to support Abdul Kalam's (university) education.
(b) His application to join the Indian Air Force was rejected.
- (a) i. He wanted to be able to give his siblings/family a better life.
ii. He wanted to show his family/siblings that poverty was not a barrier to achievement.
(b) The phrase is 'mild-mannered idealist'.
- (a) He had the chance to do his postgraduate studies./He could learn from the best (aerospace) scientists.
(b) He had been rejected by the Indian Air Force but now, he was designing fighter planes for it.
- Personal quality: Determination/Diligence/Tolerance/Sincerity/Humility /Brilliance /Creativity

Evidence: **Did not give up his desire to be a space scientist/Worked very hard at university and as a space scientist**

Summary

Abdul Kalam's father died when he was in secondary school. He was supported by his elder brother who was also poor. His brother saw him through university. Kalam's ambition was to be a fighter pilot, so he was greatly disappointed when his application was rejected. However, he became a successful designer of fighter planes. Ultimately, he was named President of India. Abdul Kalam was born poor, but he showed us that poverty was not a barrier to achievement. Though rejected by the Indian Air Force, he persevered as a space scientist and ultimately, succeeded in becoming a great designer of fighter jets. He was a man of peace who also had respect for all faiths. Finally, he was an honest leader who did not practise corruption.

(130 words)

SPM PRACTICE 7

Reading Comprehension

- They are interested to know more about her recycling efforts/projects/initiatives.
- (a) "You/We have to do something about the rubbish in our village".
(b) There was war in the country./The government had other priorities./The government could not afford to pay for rubbish disposal. (Accept any suitable answer)
- (a) i. She wanted to empower women./She thought women would do a better job than men.
ii. It was the message that the women had to work together to support the waste disposal system/the recycling project.
(b) 'out of her own pocket'
- (a) The government/local authorities provided land for the storage site, so Mokalled was able to stop using her garden as a place of storage for recyclable rubbish.
(b) It meant that no one wanted the dumping site to be located near their homes/premises. (Accept any suitable answer)
- Group: Kaffaremen village/ Jaarjoua town
Action: They have started recycling projects to dispose of their rubbish.

Summary

Zeinab saw that there was dirt everywhere and the children lived in unhygienic surroundings. During the war, all waste collection had ended.

She approached the governor but he did not support her ideas. She organised a team of woman volunteers. They went from house to house to enlist support for the project. The response was good and thus, Call of the Earth was founded. Unfortunately, they had no equipment and no infrastructural support. Worse, the villagers were not happy to pay anything. So, Zeinab and her volunteers paid US\$40 a year each to finance the project. Zeinab's friend, Farhat, used her own lorry and later, they rented an additional lorry. There was no storage site, so Zeinab had to use her own garden as storage space until another space was found.

(130 words)

SPM PRACTICE 8

Reading Comprehension

- 1 She had died while giving birth to her sixth child.
- 2 (a) He had decided to send them back to India (to live with Joseph Reddy).
(b) He felt that the children had a brighter future in Malaya.
- 3 (a) It tells us that his savings were very little.
(b) Kanu felt that Joseph Reddy was old and had health problems. The old man might be a burden to Kanu.
- 4 (a) i. Kanu was strangely removed and remote from his children./ He rarely spoke to his children.
ii. He was more interested in reading the newspaper than in his children.
(b) Kanu saw that his children were making great progress under their grandfather's care. This brought about a change in his attitude.
- 5 Joseph Reddy was a truly caring person who loved his family members. He sacrificed his whole life for his grandchildren without expecting any reward. (Accept any suitable answer)

Summary

Joseph Reddy decided to come to Malaya when his daughter died after giving birth to her sixth child. At first, his son-in-law had planned to send his children to India. However, Reddy felt that the children would have a brighter future in Malaya. So, he came to Malaya and devoted himself selflessly to the care of the six children. He played the role of mother to the children. He not only cooked for them but also walked them to school and supervised their studies. He also took them to church on Sundays. He did all this despite his own health problems. His work inspired the grandchildren. Seeing this, Kanu, the father had a change of heart and began to take up leadership of the family.

(125 words)

SPM PRACTICE 9

Reading Comprehension

- 1 He wanted to identify with them (the homeless persons)./He wanted to be accepted by the homeless persons./He wanted to connect with those who had been excluded from medical care.
- 2 (a) He was shocked to discover how ill the homeless people were.
(b) A third-world country is a less developed one./It is a country with low standards of living.
- 3 (a) The phrase 'can lead to complications'.
(b) i. It is now a city-wide operation/programme/movement./It supports communities in starting programmes of their own.
ii. The group has reached more than 10,000 individuals./Its network includes dozens of teams in the United States and around the world.
- 4 (a) He wants to respect the patient's need for privacy./He doesn't want to invade the patient's space with a lot of people.
(b) It refers to the student volunteers who work with Dr Withers/him.
- 5 Characteristic: Humane/Humanitarian/Selfless/Visionary/Inspiring (Accept any suitable answer)

Reason: He cares for the poor/the homeless./He does not use his knowledge to earn more for himself./He dreams of building a better world for the needy./He inspires young people to work for his ideals rather than for selfish gain. (Accept any suitable answer)

Summary

It all began in Pittsburgh, United States where Dr Jim Withers, observed that there were thousands of homeless people without access to medical care. He was determined to help them, so he started reached out to them wherever they took shelter, especially in camps for the homeless. His aim was not only to bring medical care to them but also to respect their privacy so each medical team consisted of not more than five people. It was also his aim to return the homeless to mainstream medical care. Operation Safety Net has expanded beyond Pittsburgh to other US cities and is now a global movement. It has also inspired many young student volunteers to dedicate their lives to social and medical work for the needy.

(128 words)

SPM PRACTICE 10

Reading Comprehension

- 1 (a) Hundreds of thousands died./Millions became poorer./Villagers borrowed money from loan sharks
(b) They were unable to settle their debts/repay their loans.
- 2 (a) It means 'unable to read and write'.
(b) She was a good cook.
- 3 (a) To enable the poor to become independent and free./To eradicate poverty.
(b) It is able to make a modest profit./It is able to recover its loans./It is able to help many poor people achieve freedom and independence.
- 4 (a) They have benefited from various microcredit schemes.
(b) He was the first businessman ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
- 5 i. They provide loans for businessmen. (Accept any suitable answer)
ii. They help people to save for the future. (Accept any suitable answer)

Summary

The famine in Bangladesh caused great suffering and made millions poorer. It led to debt slavery and social misery. Muhammad Yunus, an economist, decided to do something about it. After much thought and discussion with the poor villagers in his area, he identified 42 of the poorest families. He helped them settle their debts for a mere US\$27. Amazed at the results, he founded Grameen Bank in 1983. This bank targets the poor rather than the rich. This bank has given small loans to more than 6.6 million people in Bangladesh, mostly village women. The bank targets the poor rather than the rich. It has not only helped overcome poverty but has also recovered its loans and is a profitable bank. It has also enabled poor people to achieve independence and financial freedom.

(127 words)

FOCUS ON HOTS

Reading Comprehension

Activity 1

- 1 'lived on the fringes of poverty'
- 2 He felt that he had lost his dreams, security and his future.
- 3 Value: The writer respected his father greatly.
Reason: He taught them about love, responsibility and hard work.

Activity 2

- 1 'Unquenchable zest for life'
- 2 Method: I will try my best to deal with it and ask for help from my parents. I will also pray for help.
Reason: I know that my caring parents will advise me well and my faith will help me.

Activity 3

- 1 He is away a lot and wants to spend his time happily when he is at home.
- 2 Attitude: One must appreciate the person who took a lot of trouble to make those biscuits.

Reason: We should not make a fuss about small things and forget to enjoy the more important things.

Activity 4

- 1 He wanted them to be a source of strength to each other.
- 2 Quality: The carpenter was a man of vision as he built a bridge which improved the relationship between the two brothers.
- Lesson: We should always try to bring understanding among people and not encourage break-ups. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

TOPIC 7: LITERATURE COMPONENT

SPM PRACTICE 1

- 1 (a) They should be dismayed because a terrible mistake had taken place.
(b) They didn't say anything as it was their duty to follow orders.
- 2 They were brave and bold.
- 3 Yes, I think they did the right thing as it was their job as soldiers to follow orders and do what they were told. They were loyal to their country and were willing to sacrifice their lives. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

SPM PRACTICE 2

- 1 (a) She wants to tell us that the grandmother and granddaughter are different.
(b) Their strong, loving relationship is reflected clearly.
- 2 The persona (as a young child) views death in that light. The place where dead people go to is seen as awful and unthinkable.
- 3 She sees her grandmother as a kind person [kind, old smile] who is also very courageous [looks her own death in the eye]. She remembers her fondly [in the photo with me] and the photograph keeps her still alive and breathing. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

SPM PRACTICE 3

- 1 'small' and 'tall'
- 2 Her sharp blue eyes look her own death in the eye.
- 3 Her grandmother died as she thought she would.
- 4 Theme: Love for a grandparent
- 5 Reason: The persona loves and admires her grandmother and regrets that she has gone to that awful place of death. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

SPM PRACTICE 4

- 1 Valley of Death
- 2 They rode bravely to their death.
- 3 'Volleyed and thundered, Stormed at with shot and shell'
- 4 Opinion: Too many soldiers and others die in the tragedy of war.
Reason: It is a high price to pay in a war and appears unnecessary. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

SPM PRACTICE 5

- 1 (a) The soldiers of the Light Brigade.
(b) They had been trained to obey./They were ready to die for their country./They did not realise how dangerous it was.
- 2 They could be killed by cannon fire./Shells were exploding./They could be shot.
- 3 They had no right to protest or disobey./They could not question their superiors./They had to practise blind, unthinking obedience. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

SPM PRACTICE 6

- 1 (a) The narrator/persona and her grandmother.
(b) It suggests that the persona/narrator was an adopted child./It suggests that the persona and her grandmother were of different races./It suggests that one was white while the other person was black.
- 2 "She went to that awful place grandmothers go."/"Somewhere unknown, unthinkable."

- 3 Her grandmother is remembered as a cheerful and strong person./Her grandmother is remembered as a kind and confident person. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

SPM PRACTICE 7

- 1 They were ordered to charge into the valley and get the enemies' guns. They rode bravely to their death.
- 2 'Forward the Light Brigade'
- 3 They were trained to obey./They were patriotic to their country./They had a strong sense of duty./They were blind in their obedience. *(Accept any suitable answer)*
- 4 Quality: Bravery/Brave/Discipline/Disciplined/Patriotism/Patriotic
Reason: They were ready to face death./They obeyed the command without question./They were ready to die for their country. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

SPM PRACTICE 8

- 1 "Her sharp blue eyes look her own death in the eye." 'Forward the Light Brigade'
- 2 "Somewhere unknown, unthinkable"
- 3 The photograph
- 4 Reason 1: The poet was an adopted child who was warmly accepted by her grandmother./Her grandmother was very kind to her. *(Accept any suitable answer)*
Reason 2: The poet was of a different race/ethnicity, yet was loved and accepted by her grandmother./Her grandmother was very protective of her./Her grandmother was a source of strength/inspiration to her. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

SPM PRACTICE 9

- 1 'the valley of Death'
- 2 (a) 'Theirs not to reason why'
(b) They were the soldiers in the Light Brigade.
- 3 Action: I would have obeyed the orders./I would have deserted./I would have called for an investigation if I survived the battle. *(Accept any suitable answer)*
Reason: I would have had no choice in the circumstances./One who survives, lives to fight another day./Someone had blundered. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

SPM PRACTICE 10

- 1 Kind old smile; Sharp blue eyes
- 2 It has become round and hunched.
- 3 She was three years old.
- 4 Inter-racial relationship: She accepts the fact that people of different races can live harmoniously. *(Accept any suitable answer)*
Reason: She accepts and loves her white grandmother. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

FOCUS ON HOTS

Literature Component: Poem

Activity 1

- 1 She has become smaller and hunched.
- 2 She knows very little about it and doesn't want to think about it.
- 3 (a) It reminded her of the loving grandmother she had.
(b) We should love and respect our grandparents and enjoy their company. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

Activity 2

- 1 The word 'rode'.
- 2 They were expected to obey without question.
- 3 They charged ahead in spite of the cannons (on three sides)./They rode into the 'jaws of Death'./They rode into the 'mouth of Hell'.
- 4 Reason 1: They were full of patriotism. / They had no choice. *(Accept any suitable answer)*
Reason 2: War was accepted as a way of life at the time./They were misguided to believe in blind patriotism. *(Accept any suitable answer)*

LITERATURE COMPONENT NOTES

POEM

1 The Living Photograph [Jackie Kay]

Synopsis

This poem is about the two images of the persona's adoptive _____ grandmother _____ – one seen in the photograph when the persona was three years old and another image of her grandmother as she became _____ older _____ and finally passed away. The persona seems to say that the earlier image of her grandmother is the one that will live on. This poem resonates with the memories of many young people who have lost their beloved grandparents. It seems to tell us that memories of the people we love will live on.

Themes

Appreciation and Affection for a Grandparent

- The grandmother's physical decline in later years does not reduce the admiration the child has for her, even after the old lady's death.
- The persona still fondly _____ remembers _____ the warmth and kindness of the grandmother when she looks at her photograph.
- The persona took care of her grandmother when she had gone exceedingly frail due to her advanced age.

In Search of Identity

- There is no sign that the persona is greatly troubled by any identity crisis.
- The grandmother is able to assure the persona that there is no _____ colour _____ distinction in this family.
- The persona is adopted into her family but ultimately feels that the persona is a part of the family nonetheless.

Mystery of Ageing and Death

- A child coming to terms with the facts of old age and death.
- There is also the child's incomprehension about death as reflected in the words "somewhere unknown, unthinkable".
- The persona's grandmother _____ shrinks _____ in size and physically declines as the years pass by.
- The persona's grandmother knew that her death was coming as shown in the line, "Her sharp blue eyes look her own death in the eye."

Filial Piety

- The persona does not judge her grandmother by what became of her in her last years.
- She decides that her grandmother must be remembered when she was in her prime.
- The persona takes care of her grandmother as she advances into her age.

Themes

Moral Values

Filial Piety

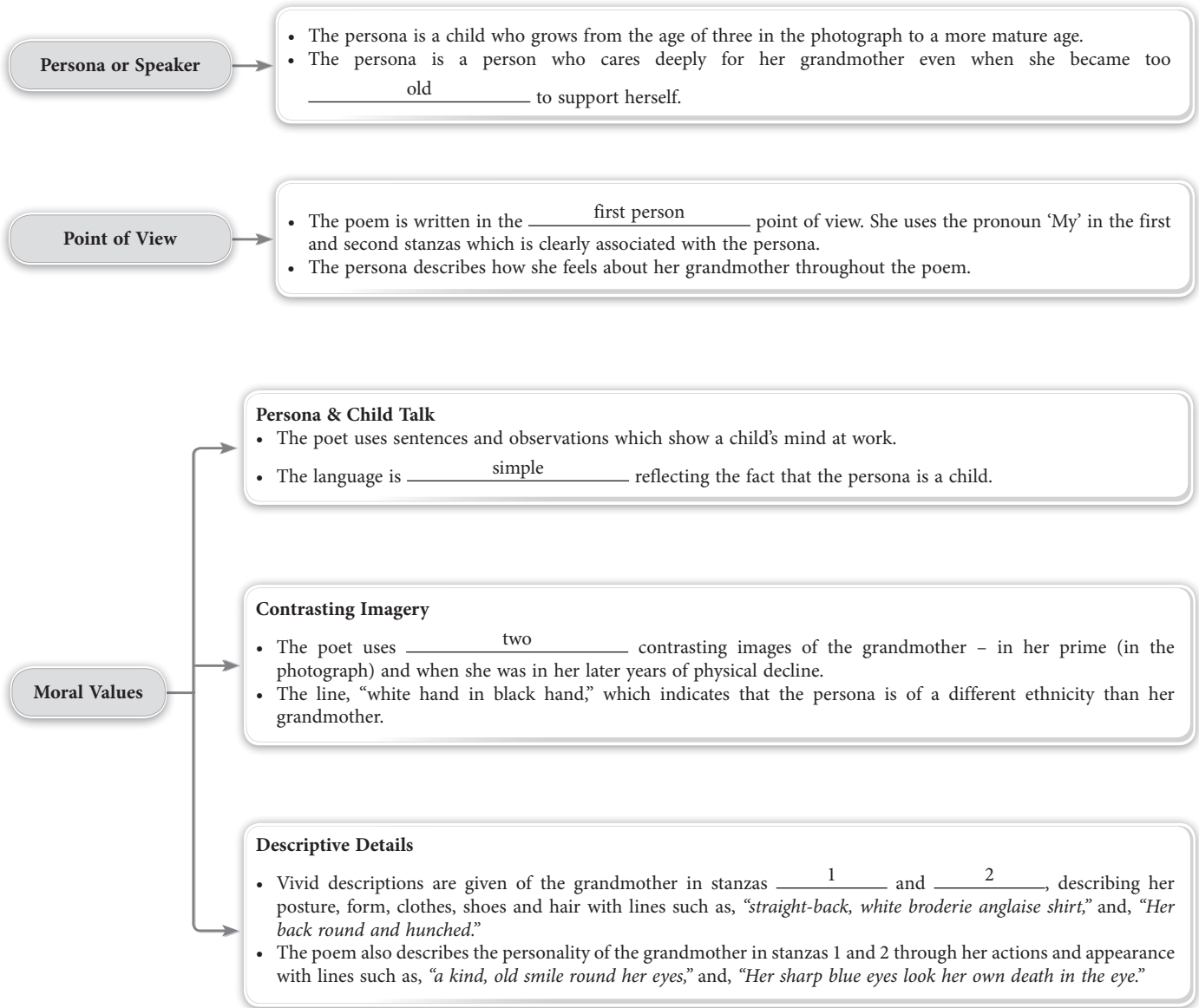
- We must be filial to our elders.
- As her grandmother declines physically and mentally with age, the persona is determined to remember her in better times.
- We should care for our _____ elders _____ when they have grown too weak and old to take care of themselves.

Inter-racial Harmony

- We must accept people of different race or colour.
- The poem shows the grandmother's acceptance of her grandchild without any racial prejudice.
- The persona treats her grandmother as her own irrespective of the colour of her skin.

Tone/Mood

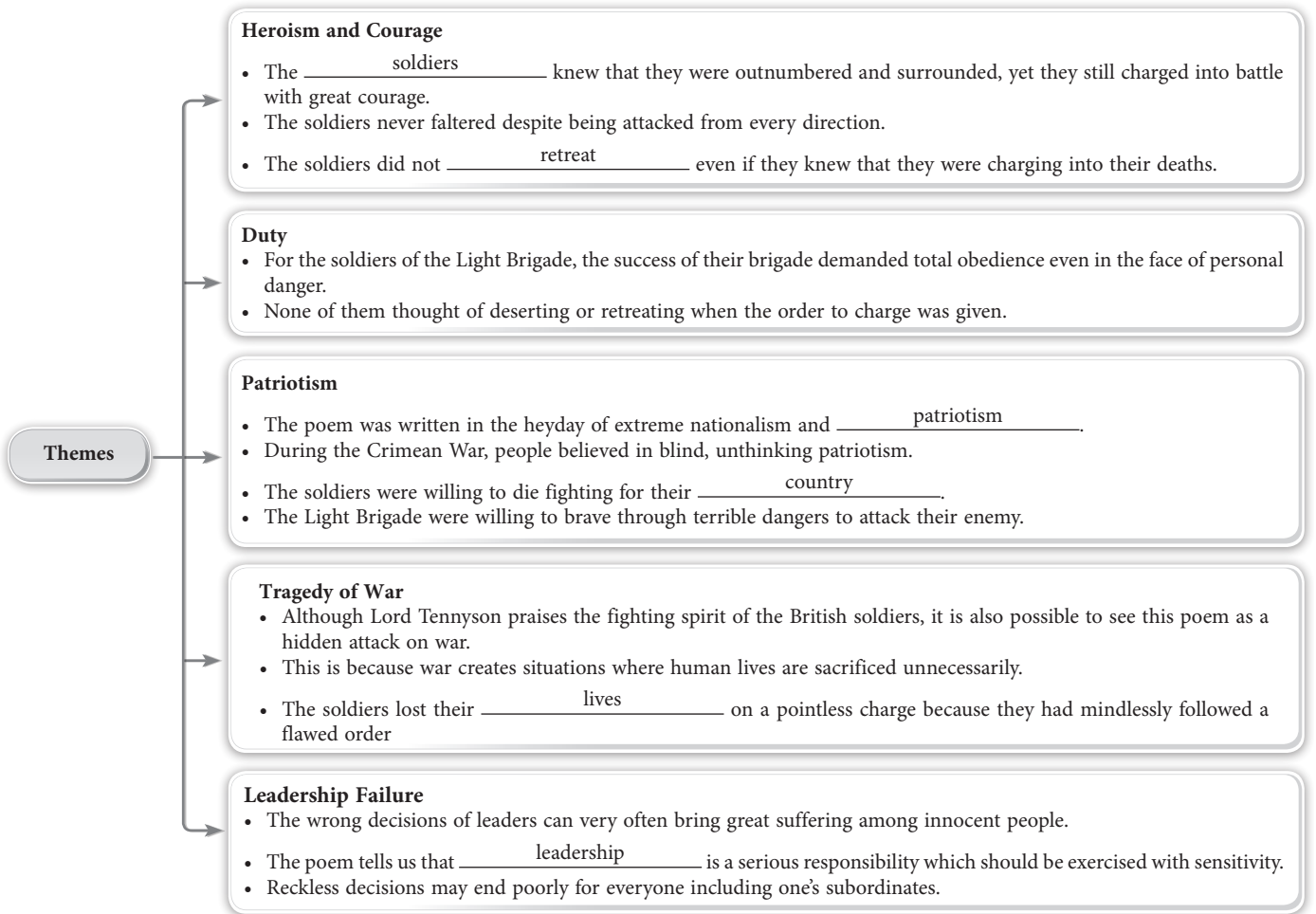
- The persona's voice is childlike, but confident and optimistic despite reference to the grandmother's death.
- Although there is a reference to death, the poem is cheerful and happy in tone. It is a poem of sweet dignified remembrance.
- The tone in the poem is full of warmth, love and kindness as the narrator recalls the gentleness of her grandmother.
- The tone is _____ nostalgic _____ as the persona remembers living with her grandmother during better times.



2 The Charge of the Light Brigade [Alfred, Lord Tennyson]

Synopsis

The poem is about the attack of a British light cavalry against enemy forces during a _____ battle _____. The soldiers are ordered to charge forward into a valley where the enemy forces are. The order given seems wrong because they would be surrounded by enemy forces in front, and on either side of them. Furthermore, the enemy forces are armed with _____ cannons _____ and _____ rifles _____ while the British light cavalry unit only has light arms (sabres and batons). Nevertheless, the soldiers obediently follow the command. As soldiers it is their duty to follow orders.



Moral Values

Patriotism

- We must be patriotic and ready to make sacrifices for our country.
- The poem tells of the spirit of self-sacrifice shown by the soldiers even though they knew they might not _____ survive _____ this battle.
- We must be ready to serve our country.
- We must swear allegiance to our nation even in the face of danger.

Duty

- We must have a sense of _____ duty and obligation _____ in our work.
- The soldiers remained faithful and true to their officer's _____ command _____ even though they knew someone might have blundered.
- We must display obedience while never stepping out of line.

Anti-war sentiment

- We should not go to war as it costs unnecessary loss of lives.
- The poem can also be seen as a subtle attack on the wastage of lives in war.
- Following orders blindly can result in pointless loss of lives.
- The soldiers did not even know why they were _____ fighting _____ and _____ dying _____ in that battle.

Tone/Mood

- The poem has a _____ war battle tone _____ which reflects the movement and sound of the charge.
- The overall mood is one of collective action, rather than individual.
- The tone of the poem is sombre due to the _____ sad _____ and pointless loss of life.
- There is an element of heroism in the poem due to how the soldiers boldly rode towards their deaths.

Persona or Speaker

- The poem is written by an omniscient (all-seeing) narrator who reports not only the action but the thoughts and spirits of the 600 men as a collective unit.
- The poem is written in the third person. It has an omniscient point of view and is thus able to shift from the feelings of the men to reveal the positions of the cannons.

Point of View

- The poem is written in the _____ third person _____ point of view.
- The poet is able to see events across the entire battlefield rather than simply through the perspective of a single person.

SHORT STORY**1** Leaving [M.G. Vassanji]**Synopsis**

Leaving, set in Tanzania, is about a young man's dream to go abroad to _____ study _____. His mother is reluctant to let him go for various reasons. Her husband's early death had made life difficult, but she had managed to bring up _____ five _____ children by herself. Two of the older girls are married and Firoz the older brother is working in a big shop. She wants the younger two to do well in their studies and thus, sells the store to move to Upanga, a smaller and quieter town.

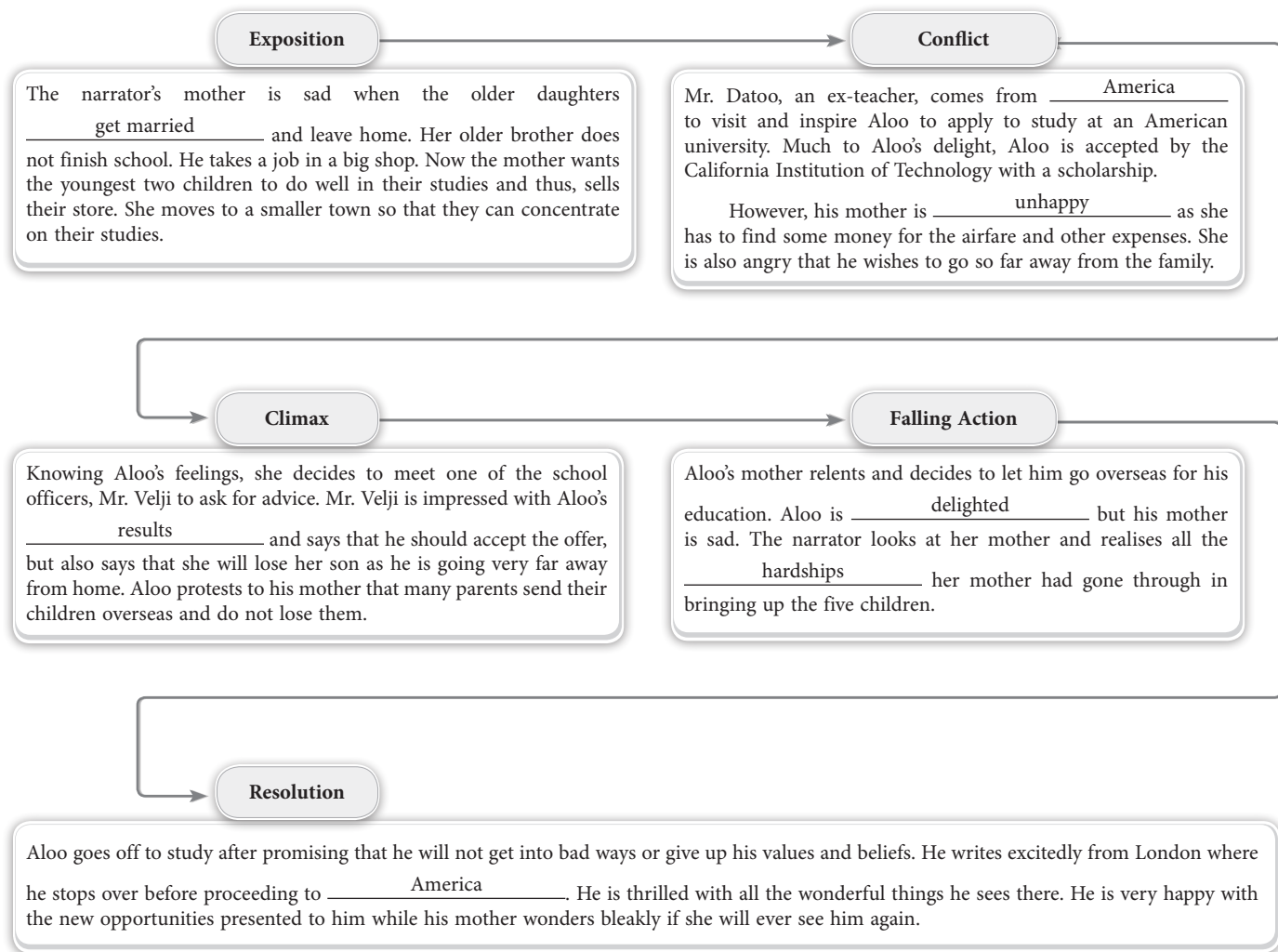
An ex-teacher from America, Mr Dato, inspires Aloo and he decides to apply to the universities there. To his great joy, Aloo obtains a scholarship to study _____ medicine _____ in America and thus, wishes to reject the offer to study agriculture locally.

His mother, however, is unhappy to let him go so far away. She tells him that they will still need some money to pay for the air ticket and other expenses. She also feels that it will be hard to let him go from home. She is dismayed and feels betrayed that he wishes to go without considering her feelings.

Seeing his eagerness, Aloo's mother decides to talk to the _____ school officer _____ to get some advice. Mr. Velji, the officer tells her that Aloo will get a good education abroad but that she may lose her son. Aloo states firmly that children going abroad do not get lost.

Aloo's mother advises him not to give up his values and beliefs before she can allow him to go. Aloo is thrilled to be in a foreign land and writes home excitedly on seeing _____ London _____ where he stopped over on the way to America. His mother wonders sadly if he will ever return to the family again.

Plot



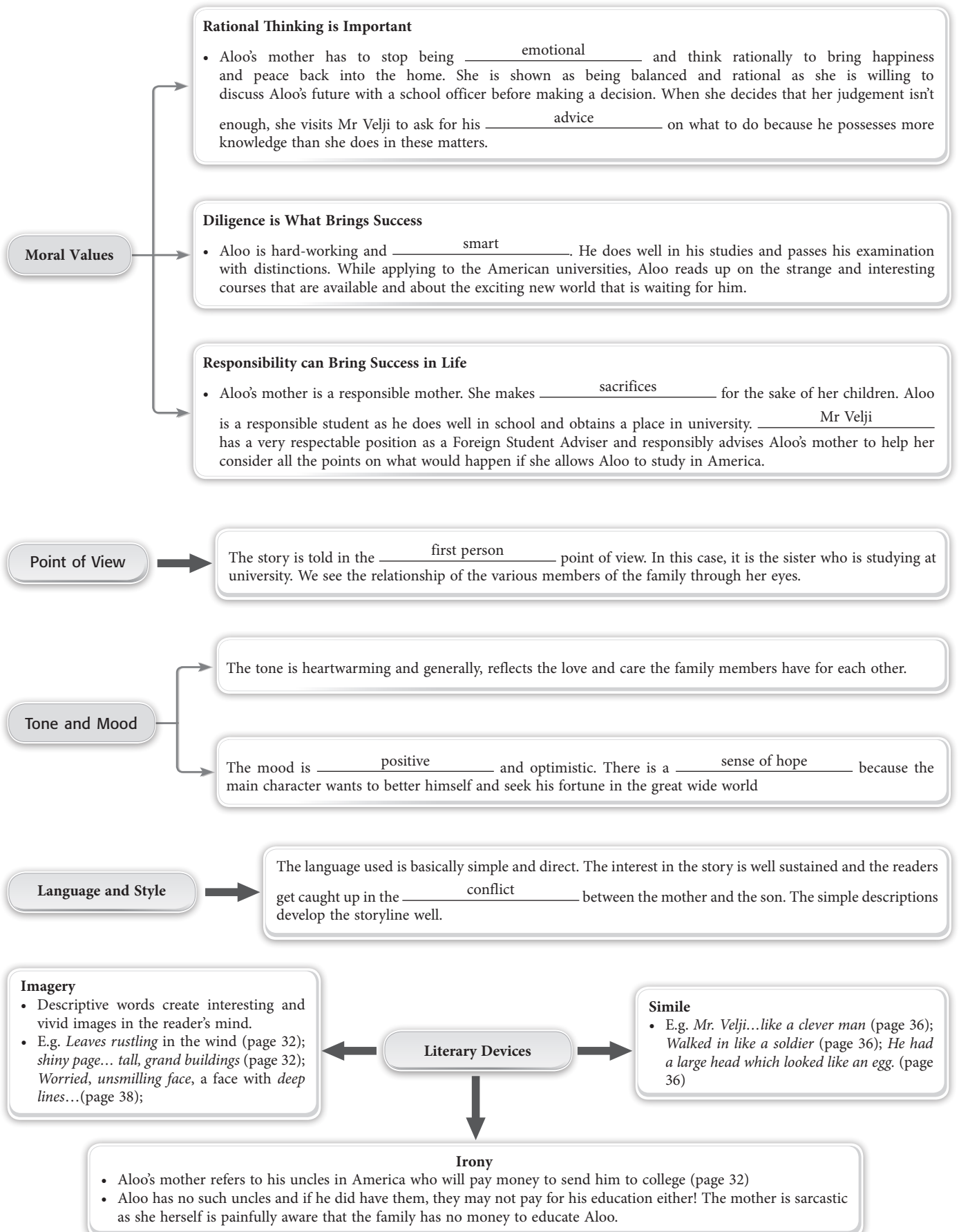
Setting

	Setting
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> _____ Upanga _____, _____ Tanzania _____, a place far away from the city. It is a place where they can hear the sounds of insects and small animals, without the sounds of buses, bicycles and cars. They are close to the wild land. The narrator says that it is a lonely, frightening place, with only a few _____ houses _____ around them.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aloo's family is interested in education and self-improvement. His mother is very hardworking and wants the best for her _____ children _____. The people are generally _____ poor _____ and cannot afford a good education unlike the richer people in the city. The mother is keen to break out of the poverty cycle through education.
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is set in the present. The story takes place over the course of several weeks.

Characters

Character	Description
Aloo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The _____ youngest _____ in the family. Gifted student; gets straight A's in his results. Wins scholarship in America but is disappointed when his mother is reluctant to let him go. A loving son. Cries when his mother expresses her fear that she may lose him. A curious young boy who wants to learn about agriculture and other cultures. Very _____ adventurous _____ and wants to experience new things in America. Has a deep bond with his mother, promising to return once he finishes his studies. Thinks a lot about his family, sending a letter to them just after living in America for a week.
The Mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lost her _____ husband _____ at age 33. Very hardworking; raises 5 children and concentrates on improving the lives of the younger two. Loves her children so much that she finds it hard to let them go. A very good mother, if she is selfish, it is out of love. A caring mother who is concerned about the well-being of her son. Considerate of her children's environment, moves to the _____ countryside _____ so that they can concentrate on their studies. Sentimental; keeping pictures of times before her husband had died.
The Narrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The youngest _____ daughter _____ in the family. It is from her point of view that we see the family. Smart and studies at the university. Caring; sees her mother's pain and understands what she has gone through. Supportive and loving too. _____ Observant _____; notices the feelings of both her mother and brother when they might not have realised the other's feelings. Grateful to her mother who had struggled to raise her and her brother on her own.
Mr. Velji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A school officer, with a large head and small neat body; wears _____ black glasses _____ and looks clever. He is impressed with Aloo's results and advises him to take up the offer to study in America. Warns the _____ mother _____ that she may lose him. Considerate of both the feelings of Aloo and his mother. Thinks about the best future for Aloo's education.

Themes	
Seizing an opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aloo has a chance to _____ improve _____ himself. If he fails to take it, such an opportunity may not come again. Mr Velji recognises that taking the scholarship will be good for his future education.
Making sacrifices for the family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aloo's mother sacrifices her chances of a _____ second _____ marriage because she will lose custody of her children. Instead she decides to move to the countryside to take care of her children on her own so that they can study better. She sacrifices again by letting Aloo go to America out of love for him and because she wants him to do well in life.
Not losing one's values and beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aloo promises not to marry a _____ white girl _____ or take up smoking and drinking. Migrating in search of greener pastures will always remain an option.
Family, heritage and traditions matter in every home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aloo belongs to a warm and loving family. His mother cares for his well-being and he cares about her. Moving from one continent to another does not mean that one should give up _____ traditions _____ and _____ customs _____ followed for centuries. Aloo and his sister would play card games with their mother to keep her company whenever they notice that she is getting lonely.
Conflicts arise but can be overcome with rational thinking and consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aloo wants to study in America and his mother is unwilling to let him go. However, rational thinking prevails and she agrees to let him go as it is for his own good. When she was overcome with emotion, Aloo's mother sought the advice of Mr Velji as he was knowledgeable on such matters.



2 Tanjung Rhu [Minfong Ho]

Synopsis

Respect for the elders and traditional practices matter in Tanjung Rhu, a short story by Minfong Ho. Times can change, people can change but some things remain. Mr. Li who had lost his mother is nostalgic as he looks at the ships in the _____ harbour _____.

He uses the _____ binoculars _____ that he had bought for his mother to look at the ships and count them.

When he had given them to her, his mother had told him that she had everything she needed. However, she had been excited to think that she could see her _____ husband's _____ old shipyard with the binoculars. Mr. Li had reminded her that it had been torn down years ago. However, she tells him that she can always see Tanjung Rhu 'behind my eyes'. He invites her to his office so that she can see Tanjung Rhu from there. It was their home when they were not rich; a place where there was the smell of delicious food and the comfort of holding someone's hand.

The next morning, Li's mother tells Li that if something is to be done, it must be done right and carefully. She follows the rituals at the _____ altar _____ while the granddaughter comments that "she always has do just what she want". Mr. Li tells his daughter to be more respectful of his mother.

At the office, Li's mother sees the ships with the binoculars, but remembers moments when she walked with a _____ little boy _____ who counted the ships. Mr. Li tries to communicate with her but it is too late. She is very ill. He wonders about those times and is sad that he never took the time to listen to her. His daughter seems to understand his mother better. After his mother's _____ death _____, Mr. Li follows the same rituals at the altar as his mother did. He feels at peace.

Plot

Exposition

It is just after his mother's _____ death _____ and Mr. Li feels an emptiness – as if he had not done something. He looks out of the office window with his binoculars and counts the ships in the harbour as he had always done. He remembers that he had bought the _____ binoculars _____ for his mother. However, he told his wife that he had bought them for the children. His wife, Helen, was occupied with her tea parties.

Conflict

Li's mother tells Li that she does not need things one buys as she has all that she needs. However, she is _____ happy _____ to think that she can probably see Tanjung Rhu with the binoculars. She wants to see her husband's old _____ shipyard _____ in Tanjung Rhu, but Li reminds her that it was torn down _____ 30 years ago _____. She says that she can still see the shipyard in her mind. She agrees to go with him to see his office.

Climax

The next day, she prays at the family altar as he wants to tell her husband that she is visiting her son's _____ workplace _____. Her granddaughter, Ying, tries to help her with the rituals to hurry her up but she will not be hurried. She must do it exactly as she did it before. Mr. Li makes his daughter listen to his mother's conversation with his late father. From the office windows, Mr. Li's mother is not able to see the ships. However, she sees in her mind, a small boy walking on the _____ beach _____ while counting the _____ fishing boats _____. She sees their old hut and herself walking on the beach with the crabs they had caught.

Falling Action

Mr. Li wishes he could go back to those times when he could smell the _____ salt _____ and _____ fish _____, and rice cooking over the _____ wood fire _____, he remembers a time when he walked, holding someone's hand. He wishes he had asked about it, but she is dying and remembers little. His daughter, Ying, tries to help him reach her. However, it is too late.

Resolution

Mr. Li realises that he has to do one more thing. He has to go home and take care of the altar. He goes _____ home _____, pays his _____ respects _____ at the altar and finds comfort in praying at the altar as his mother had done before.

Setting

Setting	
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is set in <u>Singapore</u>. • The family's home overlooks Tanjong Rhu, where one can see large ships sailing around. • The family is fairly affluent as Mr. Li is a shipyard owner although at one time, he was living in a hut in Tanjong Rhu. • The <u>hospital ward</u> when the family is visiting their very ill grandmother.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Li has tea parties with her friends, a social practice of the rich where rich cakes and perfumes are a constant feature. • The son is studying at <u>Cambridge</u> while his daughter is going to <u>New York</u> soon. • The house, the altar and their lifestyles reflect their wealth and position in society. • Mr. Li works at an office overlooking Tanjong Rhu, reflecting his high-income status.
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is set in the recent past and could apply to the present times too. • It is probably set close to the end of the 20th century, though it also could be during the 21st century.

Character	Description
Mr. Li	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 63-year-old, rich shipyard owner who has just lost his mother. He likes to count ships at the harbour. • A caring man – bought binoculars for his mother so that she can see faraway things better. • Loves his mother and <u>scolds</u> the daughter for being rough with his mother. • Works at an office overlooking Tanjong Rhu. • Cares deeply about his father even though it has been years since he has passed away. • Successful enough in his work to be able to send his children <u>overseas</u>.
Mr Li's mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gentle lady, who has come out of tough times and is now <u>old and frail</u>. • She has no need for things and wants <u>love and care</u>. • Has a <u>strong belief</u> in age-old customs and does them carefully and respectfully. • Has a longing for the past, remembering the times when her child was young. • Conservative and did not want to have her cataracts removed through an operation. • She is helpful despite her advanced age, and helps the family to feed their chickens.
Ying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Li's daughter. Young and modern, but very kind and <u>understanding</u>. • Shows <u>sensitivity</u> towards the grandmother; understands her needs better than others. • She is a very kind girl; donates <u>blood</u> to her grandmother when she had been taken ill.
Helen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She is Mr. Li's wife. She enjoys <u>tea parties</u> with friends, much to the displeasure of Mr. Li. • Makes fun of her husband when she thinks that he had bought the binoculars for his <u>children</u>, in front of her friends.

Themes

Traditions and Rituals Count in Life

- Being modern does not mean that old customs and practices should be cast aside.
- Mr. Li's mother follows rites and rituals at the altar meticulously while his granddaughter wishes to hurry her. Her son allows her to do what she wishes, but appreciates the real value of it only after she is gone.

Filial Love is an Important Quality to Uphold

- Mr. Li loves his mother and wants to please her. Just as she looked after him when he was young and held his hand, he wants to hold her hand and guide her now.
- There is much love and understanding in this family despite temporary lapses.

Material things do not Really Count

- Li's mother says that she does not need the binoculars as she can always see the things that matter in her mind.
- She has what she needs and things don't matter. She does not need the things that can be bought.
- Ying donated blood to her grandmother when she had fallen seriously ill.

Moral Values

- People should show respect to their elders. Mr. Li reminds Ying to show respect to his mother. He himself does things to please her.
- Mr. Li prays at the altar as an act of respect to the memory of his parents.

Traditions should be Maintained

- Respect to the ancestors must be shown for they will bless the living.
- Mr. Li's mother performed her traditional rituals in the right order.

Kindness and Consideration Matter

- Ying feels that what she does for her grandmother is more meaningful (she donates blood) than what the second aunt brought for her.
- Ying stayed by her grandmother's side grooming her and brushing her hair while her grandmother was resting on the hospital bed.

Point of View

The story is written in the third person point of view. We see everything through Mr. Li's eyes and perspective.

Tone and Mood

Since the theme is serious and tugs at the heartstrings of the reader, the tone is generally reserved and sombre. Love and warmth are subtly woven into the story and there is a gentle sensitivity that moves the reader. One comes away with a sense of loss, but with hope for a better future.

The mood in the story is also nostalgic, with Mr. Li and his mother's deep longing for many things in the past. The mood in the series can grow tense whenever Mr. Li and his daughter argue with each other, showing the differing values between their generations.

Language and Style

The language used is _____ simple and brisk _____. The realistic descriptions deal with ordinary and commonplace things but are _____ charming and touching _____. Li's mother's memories are 'behind her eyes'. She uses 'the see far glasses' to see _____ Tanjung Rhu _____. The writer's prose becomes almost poetic and is most suitable for the story of _____ loss and nostalgia _____.

Imagery

- Many passages deal with the descriptions of places which form a perfect backdrop for the emotions at play.
- E.g. His face smooth and ageless (page 27); *The coldness of seaweed around his ankles* (page 30); *The wind catching their sails* (page 30); *Thin silver line...night and day, sea and sky...*(page 33)

Proverb

Li uses a _____ Chinese _____ proverb to tell his daughter that his mother has lived long enough to have gone through _____ many experiences _____ and definitely knows more. *She has eaten more salt than you have eaten rice.* (page 26)

Literary Devices

Flashback

Li's mother looks back on the old days and remembers Tanjung Rhu with much fondness. (pages 23 - 28) *Li himself remembers the things that happened in Tanjung Rhu and wishes to go back in time.* (page 30)

Simile

Similes make the descriptions more vivid.

E.g. *She's fixed at their centre like a tree... countless fruits had grown* (page 22); *Eyes... as blank as office windows* (page 28); *The old woman's eyes stared out at him, like colourless stone* (page 31)

PLAY

1 The Right Thing [Martyn Ford]

Synopsis

A man is lying in the street. He has a _____ heart _____ condition. Three passers-by encounter the man, but they are not bothered about him. They all feel it is not their responsibility to help the man. Then the woman in blue arrives. She _____ reprimands _____ them for their inaction. She orders them to get help for the man. The three passers-by are stunned by her manner and orders. Yet, they do what she told them to do. Then, when the _____ ambulance _____ arrives, the woman in blue walks away. The three learn that the fallen man is the famous _____ TV chef _____, Michael Scott. The three congratulate themselves on having _____ saved his life _____. As for the woman in blue, the three speak ill of her for having "done nothing". Is this a fair judgement?

Plot

The play is a simple one with only one scene enacted in an open street. The play is patterned on the story of the Good Samaritan. It is superimposed with the mystery of the identity of the woman in blue. The audience is made to examine its conscience by evaluating the behaviour and actions of the protagonists.

Exposition

A man is lying on the street. First a woman, _____ Rebecca _____ walks past him and stops. She hesitates to help, walks off and goes back to the man again. Then another man, Patrick walks past and stops to look at the man. Patrick asks Rebecca if the man is _____ dead _____. She states that she does not think so. They argue over who should help the man first.

Conflict

Then, _____ David _____ walks past and asks about the man. All three of them _____ argue _____ over who should help him. They are _____ reluctant _____ to help as it is not their problem.

Climax

A woman _____ in blue _____ comes and barks orders at the three of them to help. She tells David to call for an ambulance. Next, she asks _____ Rebecca _____ to get some water from a nearby house. Then, she tells Patrick to feel the man's pulse. The man stirs and says 'pills'. Rebecca tells Patrick to search the man's pockets. Patrick is initially hesitant but ultimately does what the woman wants. He finds a bottle of _____ pills _____ in the man's pocket. Rebecca comes back with water. The woman in blue tells Patrick to give the man his pills with water. The man finally _____ wakes _____ and thanks Patrick for his help.

Falling Action

Then, the woman in blue quietly goes away. David tells the rest that the _____ ambulance _____ is on the way. The man identifies himself as Michael Scott, a famous TV chef and thanks all of them for helping him. He explains to the ambulance crew that he had a heart problem. Though he was now feeling better, the _____ medical _____ crew still insisted that he should follow them to the _____ hospital _____ for further examination.

Resolution

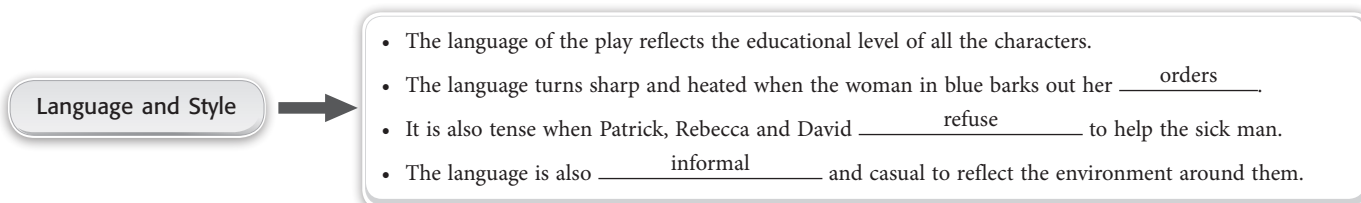
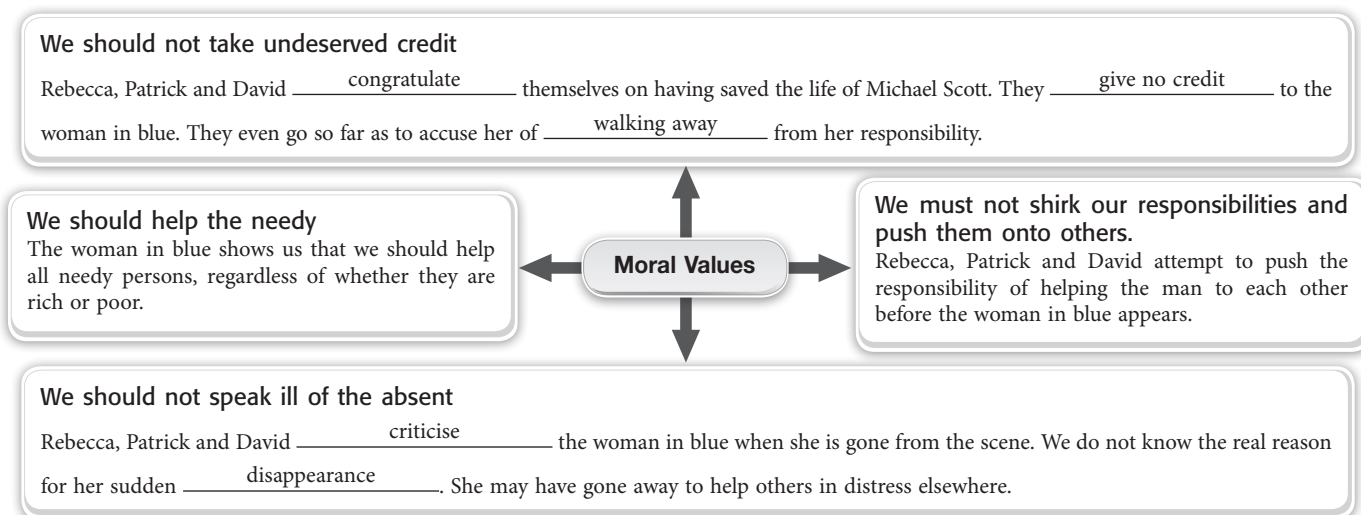
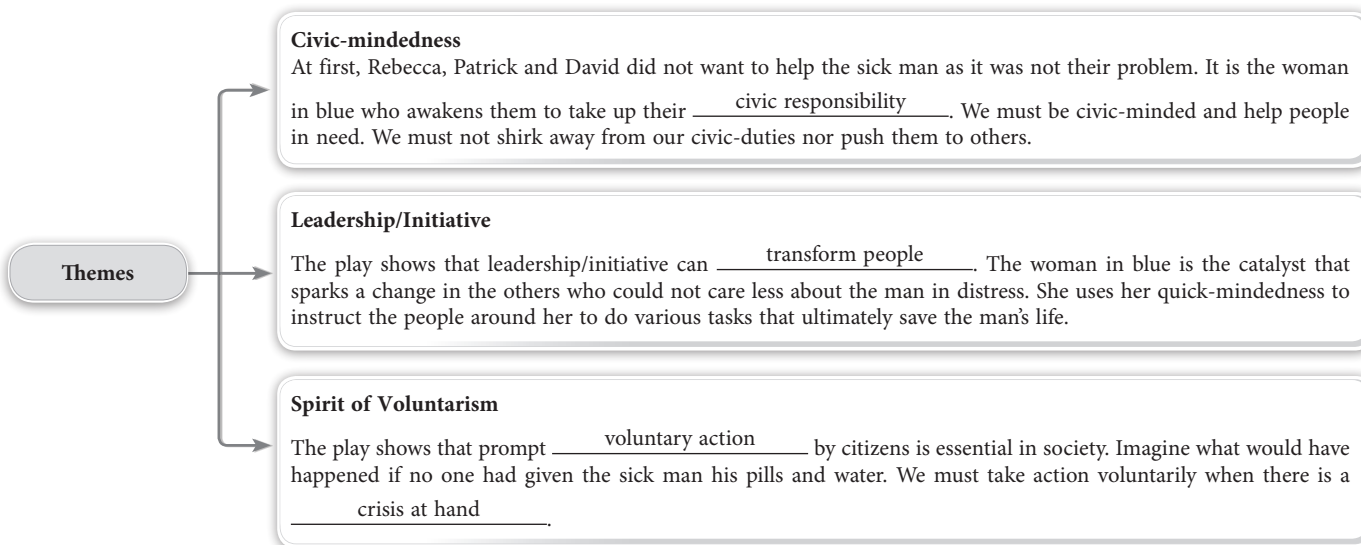
The three of them claim to have _____ rescued _____ the man. They speak ill of the woman in blue for not helping out. They feel they have helped the man and were there for him. They _____ praised _____ themselves for doing the right thing.

Setting

- Set in _____ modern times _____ possibly in the 1960s to 1980s. There is no mention of mobile phones or computers.
- The urban setting of the play includes mention of _____ cars and ambulances _____.
- The character names also suggest an English-speaking environment.

Character

Character	Description
The woman in blue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She is the conscience of the play. Although she is nameless, she is firm and <u>assertive</u> in her demands. • She is quick-witted and is able to figure out the tasks that need to be assigned to the others. • She displays fine leadership skills and is able to get the other people around her to perform various tasks.
Rebecca, Patrick and David	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are all <u>passers-by</u> who at first do not want to get involved in helping the fallen man. They all try to <u>escape responsibility</u> until the woman in blue orders them to get things done. • However, after they discover the fallen man's identity, they <u>congratulate</u> themselves on their good deed. • They also speak <u>ill</u> of the woman in blue and take credit for helping the man on the street. They agree it is the right thing to do.



END-OF-YEAR TEST

PAPER 1

Section A: Directed Writing

(Suggested answer)

Good morning to our form teacher, Mrs Leela and my classmates.

I have some good news for the class. The school wants us to go on a study trip next month. This study trip is part of the Career Counselling programme of our school. We are given two options for the trip. Mrs Leela, our Form Teacher, has asked us to take a vote to choose one of the two options.

The first option is a visit to the Bernam Oil Palm Plantation located two kilometres away from our school. This is the lower cost option, but certainly not lower in terms of educational value. This trip will entail no cost to us. It will be a day trip, so there is no need for accommodation. Transport will also be free as we will be going on the school bus.

Please think about it. You are given one week to consult your parents, we will be taking the vote only after you have consulted your parents.

The second option is a visit to the Futura Car Assembly Plant in Shah Alam, 250 kilometres from our hometown. This will be a two-day-one-night trip as the plant is a vast industrial complex. We will need to stay at a hotel and we will also need to charter a bus. This means we have to pay RM100 per head for the trip. That is actually quite cheap as the trip is subsidised by the school.

Well, now comes the moment for me to express my preference. The Bernam Oil Palm Plantation is located within our district. Some of you may have visited it before. We can also visit it anytime in the future. So, my preference is for the visit to the Futura Car Assembly Plant as it is a rare opportunity.

Besides, as the name 'Futura' suggests, this plant produces not only ordinary petrol-driven cars, it also produces the cars of the future – powered by electricity and hydrogen. It will be wonderful for us to learn about future pollution-free technologies as well as about the robots that are now used in the car assembly plant. My vote is certainly for a visit to the Futura Car Assembly Plant.

Think about it. Discuss it with your friends and parents. Remember, one week from now, we are taking a vote.

Thank you for your attention. Good day to all of you.

Section B: Continuous Writing

(Suggested points)

1 Write a story about a time in someone's life when sports played an important role.

Introduction

- Rehman was weak with his studies and failed all his SPM subjects.
- However, he was a superb football player – very kind, generous and honest in character

2nd paragraph

- After completing the SPM exam, he worked for two years as a mechanic.
- He still played football for his club – chosen to represent the state – became captain

3rd paragraph

- He was chosen to play for Malaysia – took part in international tournaments
- He became very popular – a national hero

4th paragraph

- Named Malaysian 'Sportsman of the Year' – his life shows how sportsmanship guides a person to success
- Rehman visited schools in his state to tell his story

Conclusion

- Success depends not just on academic excellence.
- We also need to be of good character and show care and concern to others.

5 What is the best way to help students who are not doing well at school?

Introduction

- No child should be left behind – slogan in education
- Every child has the potential to succeed at his studies.

1st paragraph

- For every student who is not doing well, we must first investigate and find the reasons.
- His home conditions – counsellors should be able to identify the reasons e.g. poverty, poor nutrition, lack of parental encouragement or support, low self-esteem

2nd paragraph

- Schools should provide emotional and academic support
- Hold remedial or revision classes – homework help
- For very poor students, they could be placed in school hostels

3rd paragraph

- Raise their self-esteem through recognising their talents e.g. in sports, art, music, performing arts
- Caring teachers can do a lot to motivate them to hone their hidden talents.

- Give them rewards for effort – use praise for every good effort

4th paragraph

- A caring school environment can do a lot for under-achievers
- Give students a strong sense of belonging to a school family
- Make them part of the teams in school e.g. classes, clubs and societies, sports houses

Conclusion

- Caring for the last, the lost and the least is the mission of every good school
- Schools should not simply be about producing A-star students in academic achievements
- Giving every student a chance to make academic and social progress is the real mark of an excellent school.

PAPER 2

Section A

- 1 D
- 2 D
- 3 C
- 4 C
- 5 C
- 6 D
- 7 D
- 8 B
- 9 B
- 10 C
- 11 A
- 12 B
- 13 B
- 14 C
- 15 D

Section B

- 16 Intruders from Space
- 17 The Black Pimpernel
- 18 Great Expectations
- 19 Silent Spring
- 20 Anowa
- 21 Book Buddies Corner
- 22 The Black Pimpernel
- 23 fiction
- 24 Great Expectations
- 25 Anowa

Section C

- 26 He was from a small town and was now in a huge city.
- 27 (a) He was rather old, compared to the young undergraduates.
(b) Aziz was already sixty-five years old and he might not have much time to get his degree.
- 28 (a) i. They might have thought it rude to call an older person by name.

- ii. The phrase is 'nobody batted an eyelid'.
- (b) She would have been surprised to see him work so hard and have an older man as a friend.
- 29 (a) To speak in simple terms as if the other person cannot understand or is too stupid to understand
- (b) It is his way of doing something for society.
- 30 Message: XI think the most important message is that there is so much to learn in this world and people should not stop learning. (*Accept any suitable answer*)
- Reason: When we stop learning, we might not know of the new things around us. Furthermore, there is so much of information in this world, so there is no way we can learn everything within our lifetime. Thus, learning must be an ongoing process. (*Accept any suitable answer*)
- 31 Aziz worked very hard and he made me work hard too by example. He got along well with people and was willing to laugh at himself. He shared his knowledge with us and also guided his friends by helping and advising them rationally. During weekends, he exercised and also helped the blind students as a form of helping society. In a talk to other undergraduates, he said that he was happy to have this chance to further his education. He believed that people matured through experiences and not just by growing older. He added that people, like his family, mattered in life and not material things. We must be responsible for our actions and should not mess up our chances. He believed that true friendship lasts through time and distance.

(130 words)

Section D

- 32 (a) i. It refers to the photograph.
- ii. She has shrunk with age.
- (b) It shows that the grandmother was getting forgetful with age.
- (c) The persona obviously loves her grandmother as she sees her as a kind, cheerful person who smiles frequently. She refers to her smile round her eyes and her crinkled smile, and sees her as living through the photograph. (*Accept any suitable answer*)
- 33 (*Suggested answers*)

Tanjung Rhu

In the short story, *Tanjung Rhu*, Mr T.W. Li is a rich and successful entrepreneur whose office on the 18th floor of a skyscraper in Shenton Way overlooks Singapore harbour. He has risen from rags to riches through sheer merit, hard work and business acumen.

Mr Li is a filial son who cares deeply for his ageing mother. He does not send his mother to a nursing home. He is generous in spending on her medical care. He has tried without success to persuade his mother to undergo a cataract operation, but she stubbornly refuses. Thus, he buys her a pair of binoculars to see things which are far away.

Mr Li is also a caring father to his children. His son has almost completed his studies at Cambridge University while his daughter, Ying, is about to leave for further studies in New York. Yet, Mr Li himself admits that he has failings. He is so busy in his pursuit of money that he does not spend quality time with his ageing mother – until it is too late. His mother longed to recall and chat about the early days of Tanjung Rhu, but Mr Li did not spend time with her.

Another weakness in Mr Li is that he is ashamed to perform the rites of ancestor worship – even in the presence of his wife and daughter.

Leaving

All human character is an alloy of strengths and weaknesses. In the writer's mother's case in *Leaving*, the strengths are many and the weaknesses are few.

The mother is a woman of great fortitude. The death of her husband has not dampened her determination to do her best for her children. She has seen to their education and married off two daughters. She has also managed the family's store successfully.

She is also a loving mother who has sacrificed a lot for the children. She could have remarried after her husband's death but she chose not to. She did not want to send her children to a home as was required by custom when a woman remarried.

Yet, no human being is perfect. The mother is extremely possessive about her children, especially her last child, Aloo. At first, when Aloo was accepted on scholarship by an American university, she was rather sulky and accused him of being an unfilial son. However, she changed her mindset later in the story.

Another flaw in her character is her negative view of other communities, especially people in the United States. She makes Aloo promise not to marry a white woman. This shows that she does not see the good in people of other communities. She makes a wrong judgement. Likewise, she fears that Aloo will take up drinking and smoking in America. This again is a negative perception of the American way of life.