

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_



# **THE G C SCHOOL OF CAREERS**

## **ENTRANCE EXAMINATION**

**SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020**

## **ENGLISH**

**(This examination paper consists of 13 pages, including this page).**

## Section 1: Use of English

Tick the most appropriate way to complete each sentence:

1. I wondered why \_\_\_\_.  
 he was shouting  
 was he shouting
2. "Does he have any neighbours?" "Yes, he \_\_\_\_."  
 has  
 does
3. \_\_\_\_ population has increased in recent decades.  
 Cypru's  
 Cyprus's
4. The judge said that they \_\_\_\_ Big George from prison by 2030.  
 would release  
 would have released
5. "Why is the garden in such a terrible mess?" "Because the children \_\_\_\_ football."  
 were playing  
 have been playing
6. The news about your success \_\_\_\_\_ wonderful.  
 is  
 are

7. Jake and Sue \_\_\_\_\_ dating for 2 years before they got married.

had been

had being

8. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ to the wedding last weekend.

had gone

went

9. Dad is at the theatre. He \_\_\_\_\_ off his phone.

already turned

will have already turned

10. Our parents \_\_\_\_\_ their cars washed three times this week.

have had

had had

**20 marks**

**Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one, using the word given. Do not change the word given.**

1. All the candidates for the position were less qualified than Jane. **(the)**

Jane \_\_\_\_\_  
of all.

2. They had never been to such an overcrowded event. **(ever)**

That was \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

3. She expects to move to her new house sometime next month, but she doesn't know the exact date yet. **(is)**

She \_\_\_\_\_ next month.

4. He is one of the richest men in the country. **(as)**

Very few men \_\_\_\_\_ him.

5. He had no idea that I had missed my flight, so he's at the airport, waiting to pick me up. **(not)**

If he \_\_\_\_\_  
to pick me up.

6. Mrs Purple will have finished the painting before my birthday. **(finished)**

The painting \_\_\_\_\_  
before my birthday.

7. I would like to meet Jojo Siwa one day. **(meet)**

I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ Jojo Siwa one day.

8. We'll miss the flight if we don't leave now. **(unless)**

We \_\_\_\_\_.

9. The three countries signed an agreement in 1998. **(between)**

An agreement \_\_\_\_\_ the  
three countries in 1998.

10. Mary asked me for directions, because she lost the map. **(asked)**

If Mary \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ directions.

**30 marks**

## Section 2: Reading Comprehension

Read the article carefully, and answer all the questions that follow.

Extracts adapted from:

- CNN
- The BBC
- The Washington Post
- Science Alert
- The Guardian
- Wikipedia

### Secret mission saves rare "dinosaur" trees from Australia fires



#### Wollemi Pines

*Wollemi trees* had been known only through fossil records until the Australian species *Wollemia nobilis* was discovered in 1994 in a temperate rainforest wilderness area of the Wollemi National Park in New South Wales, in a remote series of narrow, steep-sided sandstone gorges 150 km northwest of Sydney. The tree has been almost universally referred to as the Wollemi Pine, although it is not a true pine; it is actually related to the Araucariaceae family. The Wollemi Pine, which grows up to 40-metres high, is believed to have existed since the Jurassic period 200 million years ago, pre-dating many dinosaurs. With spindly branches that shoot

straight out of its trunk and bubbly brown bark that looks as if it's been covered in Rice Krispies, it resembles little else in the Southern Hemisphere.

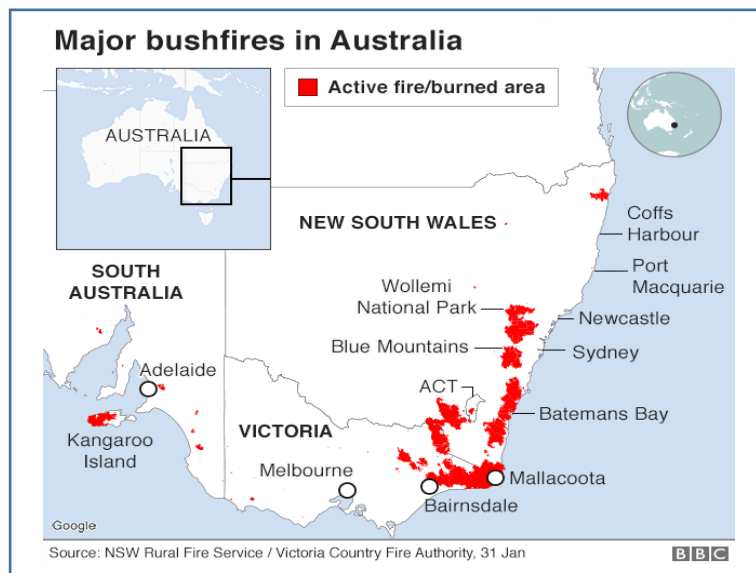
The Wollemi Pine is classified as critically endangered and is legally protected in Australia. The grove's remote location has remained a closely-guarded secret to protect the trees from **contamination** by visitors.

"Illegal visitation remains a significant threat to the Wollemi Pines' survival in the wild due to the risk of trampling regenerating plants and introducing diseases which could devastate the remaining populations and their recovery," Matt Kean, environment minister for New South Wales, said.

After it was discovered that the trees could be successfully cloned, new trees were potted up in the Botanic Gardens of Sydney and Mount Annan. Wollemi Pines have also been offered as gifts by Australian prime ministers and foreign affairs ministers to various **dignitaries** around the world.

### 2019-2020 Wildfires in Australia

Australia's wildfires, which started in September 2019 and lasted 210 days, destroyed more than 2,000 homes and burned 100,000 square kilometres of land - an area larger than South Korea or Portugal. About a billion animals may have died in fires which have driven many species closer to **extinction**, according to environmental groups.



## Mission Possible

Their mission was secret, and its location even more so.

As blazing wildfires scorched Australia, helicopters dived inside a gorge in the sandstone plateau. Deeper below, hundreds of feet past the looming cliffs, a team of specialists jumped out of the choppers to a site known only to a handful of people. Their objective was simple: to save the Wollemi trees.

In what Australian officials called “an **unprecedented** environmental protection mission” that looked like a military operation, firefighters were deployed into a remote sliver of rainforest, northwest of Sydney, to **preserve** wild Wollemi Pines, the prehistoric species.

In the air, water-bomber planes and air tankers encircled the area, spreading flame **retardant**. On the ground, firefighters used water from a river to moisten the soil and delay the approach of a potential fire. Getting into the gorge, a mere crack between two cliffs, was a challenge, said Cris Brack, an associate professor at Australian National University. The operation posed a physical danger, too. As they raged across flammable eucalyptus forest, Australia’s wildfires picked off bark and lit it aflame, meaning that in the worst of cases, fire could have fallen directly on top of the firefighters.

“With less than 200 [Wollemi trees] left, we knew we needed to do everything we could to save them,” Matt Kean said in a statement.



Swathes of the Wollemi National Park have been affected by the devastating bushfires and some of the treasured dinosaur trees have been **charred**. "The fire did go through there, we had a few days of thick smoke, so we couldn't tell if they'd been damaged. We all waited with bated breath," Matt Kean said. "It's just been a phenomenal success story," he added.

"They've survived the dinosaurs, and they're surviving this season's bushfires," NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service announced on Facebook

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### **LEXICAL ANALYSIS**

The cells on the left contain words from the passage, while the cells on the right contain their definitions. **Draw lines to connect** the words to their meaning.

**Note:** The words on the left appear in bold and are underlined in the passage.

<b><u>contamination</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• highly esteemed individuals</li></ul>
<b><u>dignitaries</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• burnt</li></ul>
<b><u>extinction</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the absolute end of a species</li></ul>
<b><u>unprecedented</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• pollution</li></ul>
<b><u>preserve</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an agent that delays or hinders</li></ul>
<b><u>retardant</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• maintain</li></ul>
<b><u>charred</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• unparalleled</li></ul>

**21 marks**

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**READING COMPREHENSION**

1. **Why** are the Wollemi trees so unique?

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) \_\_\_\_\_
- (iv) \_\_\_\_\_
- (v) \_\_\_\_\_

15 marks

2. **What** is bizarre about the name of the Wollemi Pines?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3 marks

3. **Why** has the location of these prehistoric trees remained confidential?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4 marks

4. Once the reproduction of the Wollemi trees was achieved, **how** were they used?

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) \_\_\_\_\_

9 marks

5. **Quote 3** phrases from the text that state the operation to save the trees was confidential.

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) \_\_\_\_\_

6 marks

6. What measures were taken to prevent the fire from spreading to the Wollemi trees?

(i) \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) \_\_\_\_\_

(iv) \_\_\_\_\_

12 marks

7. According to Cris Brack, what physical danger were the firefighters exposed to? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4 marks

8. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service posted a statement on Facebook:

*“They've survived the dinosaurs, and they're surviving this season's bushfires.”*

What is implied by this statement?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6 marks

**80 MARKS**

## Section 3 : Composition

Write 120-180 words on ONE of the following topics:

- I. Write an **argumentative article** with the title:

*Online learning is as effective as in-classroom learning.*

- II. Write a **letter** to your friend, describing an incident / time when you experienced significant change in your life. Explain what happened and say how the change made you feel.

- III. Write a **story** beginning or ending with the phrase:

*"I squeezed my sister's hand, took a deep breath, and turned the first page of the dusty journal. Cleaning the attic had just turned into a mysterious adventure."*

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Topic Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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**100 MARKS**