

The G C School of Careers

- Secondary School -



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

| Entrants to **Form: 2** | **Time Allowed:** 1.5 hours
This paper consists of 13 pages including the cover page

Name:

Form:

This Examination consists of 3 Sections:

- ❖ A: Use of Language (50 marks)
- ❖ B: Reading Comprehension (50 marks)
- ❖ C: Writing (50 marks)

Your Score:

- ❖ Section A: _____/50
- ❖ Section B: _____/50
- ❖ Section C: _____/50

Section A – Use of Language

A. Circle the right way to complete each of the following:

1. The storm ___ damage to cables. The Electricity Authority is working to repair the damage.
 - a. caused
 - b. has caused

2. The pace of the story is slow. ___ plot is amazing though.
 - a. Its
 - b. It's

3. The ___ blade isn't sharp enough. We have to use another one.
 - a. scissor's
 - b. scissors'

4. The boys have forgotten ___ books in the lockers.
 - a. there
 - b. their

5. When ___ the new shop at the mall?
 - a. did they open
 - b. have they opened

6. "Promise me that you ___ forget my birthday," my girlfriend said this morning.
 - a. will never
 - b. are never going to

7. Our new showroom is ___ 81 George Street.
 - a. in

- b. at
8. Johnny didn't use to travel much, but now he ___ travelling is what life is all about!
- a. is thinking
b. thinks
9. Fortunately, we ___ finished cooking before the guests arrived!
- a. –
b. had
10. "Let me give you some ___: do your homework daily, and never revise late at night."
- a. advice
b. advices
11. They always go to school ___ bus as their parents leave for work very early in the morning.
- a. by
b. with
12. He is always rude to his teachers. I can only predict that he ___ be expelled soon!
- a. will
b. is going to
13. "I am happy to inform you that all your furniture ___ ready to be delivered."
- a. are
b. is
14. "I'm surprised you speak French!" "Of course I do! Actually, I have taken several French courses over years, and I ___ a *French for Business* course!"
- a. just started
b. have just started

15. "Let me tell you something funny! Do you know that a dog ___ through its foot pads to help keep cool? "Really? I had no idea!"
- sweats
 - is sweating
16. During our visit to the fire station, we were told that the ___ suit weighs more than 13Kg.
- firemen's
 - firemens'
17. "You do remember that we have a dance lesson tonight, right?" "I do, but I can't make it! I ___ with our interior designer at 7:30!"
- meet
 - am meeting
18. Miss Brown ___ in France for 23 years! She moved to Italy the year she got married, but continues to visit France every summer.
- has lived
 - lived
19. ___ house was in the city.
- John and Gina's
 - John's and Gina's
20. Mary ___ her nails. It is so annoying! She needs to stop!
- always bites
 - is always biting

B. Ask the question, the answer of which is the underlined part of the given sentence:

- 1) James visits his village every Christmas.

- 2) The Burkes opened a shop in Manchester.

- 3) A parent can email the teacher when he/she has concerns about the progress of his/her child.

- 4) They had left before lunch because they had to go to a meeting.

8 marks

C. Rewrite each sentence changing the underlined expression to Plural:

- 1) A radio is not allowed in the library.

- 2) That information was useless..

- 3) This leaf is yellow.

- 4) This statement clarifies a lot of questions I had.

8 marks

D. Rewrite the following sentences using Passive Voice. Always refer to the performer of the action.

1) I have ironed all the clothes.

2) The waiter dropped a bottle of wine.

3) Our operator will answer your call shortly.

4) Most children do not appreciate art.

8 marks

E. Fill in the blanks using Prepositions:

Mrs Apple used to be a diplomat for the government of France when she was younger. She was born ____ 1965 ____ a village just outside Marseille. She went _____ the University of Sorbonne and was a determined student, as she always woke up ____ 4:30am to revise for her daily lessons. She did most of her studying in a cafe _____ a street called Rue Valette. She has lived and worked ____ 16 European countries, and had a remarkable career that is internationally acknowledged.

6 marks

End of Section A (Total marks: 50)

Section B – Reading Comprehension

Read the article “*Making Summer Plans for Your Child*” and complete the tasks that follow:

Making Summer Plans for Your Child

The school year is ending, and it is the time of year when families are planning what their children will do during summer break. For many families, these plans are essential for childcare reasons, as parents need their children to be somewhere safe and supervised while they are at work. And, parents understandably want their children to use their vacation in ways that are productive and useful.

Keeping children busy at a summer school or summer programme has advantages, of course. First of all, it keeps them supervised. In addition, depending on the activity, it may help them academically, help them learn a new skill or get them exercising. These are all important and good. But there are downsides to being fully scheduled and busy. Unscheduled, free time is important, crucial actually, for child development.

When children have unscheduled time, they learn to amuse themselves. Interestingly, this is a skill that children are losing - unless you count time on phones or other devices as amusing themselves, something that has all sorts of other downsides. The ability to come up with a game to play, or to create, or explore something, is something that has to be learned - and often grows out of boredom. Children need unstructured time to learn this skill. If you think that “amusing yourself” is not important, think of it in grownup terms: it is the ability to be at peace and happy without outside input. This may also involve being able to create an idea or activity from scratch. These are skills that make all the difference in life.

Unscheduled time spent with friends or children in the same age group, requires that children learn to adjust and co-operate. When children are together in structured activities - at a summer school, for example - much of that is already done for them; the roles and rules are decided already by an adult. The ability to work with others to create and decide roles and rules, is a great way for children to learn skills that are necessary for workplace and life success - skills that are part of everyday life in ways we do not always appreciate. Those who master them are happier and more successful than those who do not.

Of course, for working parents it is not always easy to leave time unscheduled. But as you pick the places your child will spend his or her days, look for summer programmes that have free or choice time built in. And if your child does have some unplanned time at home, make sure they make the most of it. Limit time

on devices to two hours or less each day. Make sure there are tools for creativity and activity around the house like paper, paint, coloured pencils, clay and other art materials, blocks and other building materials as well as balls and other equipment for active play. Take trips to the library so that there are books. Take trips to parks for play or hikes. Have the kitchen available for cooking and baking (with supervision if kids are young). If they say that they are bored, resist the temptation to come up with an activity for them. Instead, remind them of everything around them, and leave it up to them to figure something out. Sooner or later, they need to learn how to do this - and sooner is better than later. Boredom is the mother of creativity!

By Claire McCarthy, Senior Faculty Editor, Harvard Health Publishing

Questions

1. Having skim-read the article, which of the following best outlines its key idea? (Tick the most appropriate option.)

- Summer schools/programmes are usually a waste of money.
- Boredom can be valuable.
- Parents must think of creative ideas to keep their children busy at all times.

2 marks

Write one sentence explaining your answer:

2 marks

2. Use your scanning skills to answer the following questions as quickly as possible.

a) When do parents start considering what their children will do during summer break?

b) "...*this is a skill that children are losing.*" (Paragr.3) What skill is the writer referring to?

c) What does 'amusing' yourself" mean according to the writer?

d) What skills are "*part of everyday life in ways we do not always appreciate*"? (Paragr.4)

e) What type of summer programmes does the writer encourage parents to choose for their child?

10 marks

3. Complete the following note-taking task.

a) Other than keeping children supervised, in what ways can a summer school or summer programme benefit children?

- _____
- _____
- _____

b) Boredom may develop the ability to:

- _____
- _____
- _____

- c) The writer states that parents should “*limit time on devices to two hours or less*” and suggests the following ways in which parents can help their children make the most of their unplanned time at home:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

20 marks

4. Use your skill of inference to answer the following questions:

- a) The writer claims that children amusing themselves by spending time on electronic devices, is “*something that has all sorts of ... downsides.*” (Paragr. 3) Bearing in mind that the word ‘downside’ has a similar meaning to the word ‘disadvantage’, do you agree with the writer? You may give examples to support your answer.

5 marks

- b) According to the writer, “*Unscheduled time spent with friends or children in the same age group, requires that children learn to adjust and co-operate.*” (Paragr. 4) What does the writer mean? Explain using your own words.

5 marks

5. Are the following statements True (T) or False (F)?

According to the writer...

- a) ... parents have to supervise their children during summer break. _____
- b) ... children who are not allowed to have free time, do not develop physically. _____
- c) ... most of what goes on in a summer programme, is decided by an adult. _____

6 marks

6. Which figure of speech can you identify in the phrase "Boredom is the mother of creativity"?
(paragr. 5)

2 marks

7. With reference to the passage, in your opinion, what is the author's purpose?

Explain why.

5 marks

8. With reference to the passage, identify the author's target audience. Explain why.

3 marks

End of Section B (Total marks: 60)

Section C – Writing

You are required to choose **ONE** of the two topics that follow and write an essay of no more than 180 words.

If you wish, you may include information from the article entitled “*Making Summer Plans for Your Child*,” but be careful **to use your own words**.

You will be assessed on the **content** of your answer, as well as the **quality** of your writing.

TOPIC 1

Argumentative article

Imagine you are the parent of a 12-year-old child. One of your favourite websites is a blog where parents exchange information and ideas, and share experiences and resources. As the school year is ending, there have recently been a lot of posts about summer break and whether parents should or should not enrol their children in a summer school/programme. You have decided to write and post an article giving your own opinion on the matter, supporting it with appropriate arguments. Write your article in the space provided on the next page.

TOPIC 2

Description of an event

Imagine you are a 12-year-old child. A month ago, your parents enrolled you in a summer school. You loved the idea, as you would like to make new friends and spend the long summer days doing fun activities with people your age. It’s the first day of summer school. Your mother has just dropped you off. You walk into the building, and what you see makes you want to turn on your heel and get back into your mother’s car! In the space provided on the next page, describe what is going on around you as well as your feelings and reactions.

TOPIC _____
