BOOKLET A

Instructions to Pupils:
1. Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.
2. Follow all instructions carefully.
3. ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS.

* This paper consists of 9 pages altogether.
Study the advertisement for Prime Taxi Services and answer questions 1 to 5. (5 marks)

Prime Taxi Services
40400, Melody Drive,
Singapore 604959
Tel: 6123 4567

12 Drivers Needed

Qualifications:
- Male or female
- Between 25 – 45 years of age
- Pleasant personality
- Shift hours:
  - Morning shift: 6 am – Noon (lunch provided at headquarters)
  - Day shift: Noon – 6 pm (dinner provided at headquarters)
  - Night shift: 6 pm – Midnight (free transport home)
    (schedule to be worked out upon successful application)
- Willing to work night shifts
- Willing to work overtime if necessary
- At least 5 years' driving experience

Walk-in interviews* at the Headquarters from 11 August to 31 August from 9 am to 3 pm.
No appointments for an interview will be entertained by telephone.
* together with application form

Salary/Benefits
- Salary → starting pay of $600 with an increase of $50 per year for good service rendered
- Special → 6-day working schedule with $20 bonus each month
- All successful applicants will enjoy a one-day all expenses paid family outing to Sentosa for a maximum of 4 members.

Free familiarisation course on roads in Singapore
For each question, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

1. Prime Taxi Services wants to employ ________
   (1) drivers who have driven at least five taxis
   (2) any man or woman who is willing to drive a taxi
   (3) twelve men or women who are willing to work overtime
   (4) experienced drivers who are in their twenties, thirties or forties

2. The taxi drivers at Prime Taxi Services ________
   (1) work three shifts every day
   (2) can choose from three different shifts
   (3) must work overtime on an hourly basis
   (4) are provided with three free meals a day

3. The applicant for the job must ________
   (1) submit his application form personally
   (2) call the headquarters for an appointment
   (3) entertain the interviewer over the telephone
   (4) attend interviews from 11 August to 31 August

4. What benefit do Prime taxi drivers working on night shifts enjoy?
   (1) They receive bonuses.
   (2) They do not work overtime.
   (3) Free transport home is provided
   (4) Both lunch and dinner are provided.

5. Which one of the following statements is true about successful applicants?
   (1) They enjoy a one-day free outing to Sentosa.
   (2) They enjoy a free familiarisation ride on the local roads.
   (3) They receive a starting pay of $600 and an annual $50 bonus.
   (4) They work on a six-week schedule that promises a $20 bonus.
For each question from 6 to 12, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (7 marks).

6. The large box with all the old books _____________ into the recycling bin.

   (1) has thrown
   (2) had thrown
   (3) was thrown
   (4) were thrown

7. If you _____________ paying attention, you would realise that the lock was broken.

   (1) are
   (2) were
   (3) had been
   (4) have been

8. Many families had gathered at the East Coast Park for the Children's Day Carnival, _____________ the organisers to start the event one hour earlier.

   (1) forced
   (2) forcing
   (3) had forced
   (4) were forcing

9. When our grandparents were young, they had to work _____________ help support their families.

   (1) in fact
   (2) so that
   (3) however
   (4) in order to

10. Heavier fines should be meted out to motorists who endanger the lives of pedestrians _____________ their reckless driving.

    (1) by
    (2) for
    (3) with
    (4) from
11. ____________ the salesman call again, please inform him that I am not interested in buying the car," Mr. Ong told his wife.

   (1) Might
   (2) Could
   (3) Would
   (4) Should

12. The athlete pushed on with his last ounce of strength ____________ his chance of winning was slim.

   (1) since
   (2) despite
   (3) because
   (4) although
For each question from 13 to 15, choose the correct punctuation to complete the passage. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (3 marks)

When the children awoke in the morning, the rain was still falling heavily. "No hope of exploring today," said Susan (13) We shall have to pass the day in the house." The others agreed, rather gloomily at first.

They all brightened up when David asked them if they would like to play in Aunt Jane's summer house. "Who wouldn't (14) " shouted everyone in unison.

After obtaining permission from Aunt Jane, the children hastened to the summer house. What a fine playground it turned out to be. With the children's imagination (15) Aunt Jane's summer house was transformed from a dusty and dilapidated building into a huge pirate ship, a manor and finally a chamber in a pharaoh's tomb. Nothing could stop the children from having fun with their imagination.

13. (1) [ ] comma
    (2) [ . ] full stop
    (3) [ , " ] comma and inverted commas
    (4) [ . " ] full stop and inverted commas

14. (1) [ , ] comma
    (2) [ . ] full stop
    (3) [ ? ] question mark
    (4) [ ! ] exclamation mark

15. (1) [ : ] colon
    (2) [ , ] comma
    (3) [ . ] full stop
    (4) [ ! ] exclamation mark
For each question from 16 to 20, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

16. The police are looking for the treasurer who has __________________ the fund are meant for the different charitable organisations.
   (1) looted
   (2) stolen
   (3) plundered
   (4) embezzled

17. Mother was ____________ by the promoter who was aggressively persuading her to buy a bottle of perfume.
   (1) turned on
   (2) turned up
   (3) turned off
   (4) turned away

18. The residents were so impressed with the ______________ at the new community club that they promptly signed up for the wide range of courses.
   (1) sites
   (2) fixtures
   (3) facilities
   (4) locations

19. That young man's pride was ____________ when judges declared the little girl the winner in the preliminary round of the karaoke competition.
   (1) broken
   (2) deflated
   (3) flattened
   (4) punctured

20. We were fearful of ____________ our opinions until we were given the assurance that no harm would come to us.
   (1) expressing
   (2) suggesting
   (3) volunteering
   (4) recommending
For each question from 21 to 25, choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined words. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

Peggy owns two pets. She resides in a bungalow in Katong. Both her cat and dog live in the backyard. To Peggy, her pets are her constant companions. Every day, there is the usual flurry of activities in the household. The two pets keep pace with their mistress as she enters the kitchen. Then they wait patiently to be fed. Her dog stations itself by the gate to protect the household from uninvited guests. Meanwhile her cat is alert to any presence of mice lurking in the backyard. It never fails to frustrate the efforts of these rodents.

21. (1) puts on
(2) puts up
(3) puts off
(4) puts out

22. (1) faithful
(2) logical
(3) persistent
(4) consistent

23. (1) turmoil
(2) scenario
(3) schedule
(4) excitement

24. (1) settles
(2) locates
(3) positions
(4) establishes

25. (1) upset
(2) irritate
(3) annoy
(4) disturb
In 1883, a creative engineer named John Roebling was inspired by an idea to build a spectacular bridge connecting New York with the Long Island. However, bridge-building experts throughout the world thought that this was an impossible feat and told Roebling to forget the idea. It just could not be done. It was not practical. It had never been done before.

Roebling could not ignore the vision he had in his mind of this bridge. He thought about it all the time and he knew deep in his heart that it could be done. He just had to share the dream with someone else. After much discussion and persuasion, he managed to convince his son, Washington, an up-and-coming engineer, that the bridge could be built.

Working together for the first time, the father and son developed concepts of how it could be accomplished and how the obstacles could be overcome. With great excitement and inspiration and a wild challenge before them, they hired their crew and began to build their dream bridge. The project started well until only a few months into the project when a tragic accident on the site took the life of John Roebling. Washington was injured and left with a certain amount of brain damage. He could not walk, talk or even move.

Everyone had a negative comment to make and felt that the project should be scrapped since the Roeblings were the only ones who knew how the bridge could be built. In spite of his handicap, Washington was never discouraged and still had a burning desire to complete the bridge and his mind was still as sharp as ever.

He tried to inspire and pass on his enthusiasm to some of his friends, but they were too daunted by the task. As he lay on his bed in his hospital room, a gentle breeze blew the flimsy white curtains apart and he was able to see the sky and the tops of the trees outside for just a moment. It seemed that there was a message for him not to give up.

Suddenly an idea hit him. All he could do was move one finger and he decided to make the best use of it. By moving this, he slowly developed a code of communication with his wife. He touched his wife's arm with that finger, indicating to her that he wanted her to call the engineers again. Then he used the same method of tapping her arm to tell the engineers what to do. It seemed foolish but the project was under way again.

For thirteen years Washington tapped out his instructions with his finger on his wife's arm, until the bridge was finally completed. Today the spectacular Brooklyn Bridge stands in all its glory as a tribute to the triumph of one man's indomitable spirit and his determination not to be defeated by circumstances. It also stands as a tangible monument of his loving and devoted wife who for thirteen long years patiently decoded the messages and told the engineers what to do.

Adapted from *Inspiring Short Stories*
For each question from 26 to 30, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

26. Why did the bridge-building experts regard building the bridge from New York to Long Island 'an impossible feat'?

(1) It was Roebling's idea.
(2) They did not share his dream.
(3) Building the bridge was not practical.
(4) The bridge would be too spectacular.

27. What made John Roebling continue pursuing his dream despite the lack of support from the experts?

(1) It was his firm belief in his vision.
(2) He was inspired by a wild challenge.
(3) His son persuaded him to build the bridge.
(4) It allowed him to build a spectacular bridge.

28. What happened to John Roebling a few months into the project? He was ________________.

(1) killed
(2) injured
(3) bedridden
(4) brain-damaged

29. What does the word 'it' in line 28 refer to? It refers to ________________.

(1) his idea
(2) his finger
(3) tapping his finger
(4) the code of communication

30. Which word/phrase in the passage describes Washington as he fulfilled his father's dream despite his condition?

(1) 'up-and-coming' (line 9)
(2) 'indomitable spirit' (line 35)
(3) 'loving and devoted' (line 37)
(4) 'daunted by the task' (line 23)
BOOKLET B

Instructions to Pupils:
1. Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.
2. Read the questions and follow all the instructions carefully.
3. This booklet consists of 50 questions (Questions 31 to 80).
4. Answer ALL the questions and write all the answers in this booklet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Question Numbers</th>
<th>Marks Obtained</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehension Cloze</td>
<td>51 – 65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehension Open-ended</td>
<td>71 – 80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are 10 blanks, numbered 31 to 40, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(A) an</th>
<th>(D) over</th>
<th>(G) is</th>
<th>(K) are</th>
<th>(N) but</th>
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<td>(B) the</td>
<td>(E) so</td>
<td>(H) of</td>
<td>(L) may</td>
<td>(F) and</td>
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<td>(C) at</td>
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<td>(J) will</td>
<td>(M) who</td>
<td>(Q) which</td>
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</table>

There are many myths about birds. One 31)___________ the myths is that ostriches bury their heads in the sand when they are scared or threatened. In fact, it 32)___________ an optical illusion! Ostriches are the largest living birds, but their heads are small.

"From far away, if you see them picking 33)___________ the ground, it may look like their heads are buried in the ground," says Glinda Cunningham of the American Ostrich Association.

Ostriches dig holes in the dirt to use as nests for their eggs 34)___________ they do not bury their heads in the sand - they 35)___________ not be able to breathe! Several times a day, a bird puts her head in the hole 36)___________ turns the eggs 37)___________ it looks like it is burying its head in the sand.

There is another myth about penguins - they will fall backward when they look up at airplanes. Legend has it that British pilots buzzing around islands off South America saw penguins toppling 38)___________ like dominoes when the birds looked skyward. However, 39)___________ experiment testing the story found that penguins are perfectly capable of maintaining their footing, even if they are watching airplanes. John Shears, 40)___________ worked on the experiment, confirmed the findings. He also found that low-flying aircrafts can cause penguins to panic and leave their nests.

Adapted from National Geographic Kids /Animal-myths-busted
Correct each word in **bold** for spelling and each **underlined** word for grammar. Write the correct word in the relevant box. (10 marks)

Allison Samowitz and her twin sister, Jillian, watched the oil spill on television with their hearts sinking. They decided to do something as their coastal town might be affected.

(41) __________

The sisters studied the conservation habits of **her** friends and neighbours. To their horror, they realised that not many of them were recycling.

"We're a small town of 360 homes, and only 20 percent of us recycled!" Allison said **incredulous**. The twins first planned a town fair with **demonstrates** about how ordinary people could make lasting changes to the world.

(42) __________ (43) __________

They **persuaded** 12 local companies to join them. On the town fair, there were **many booths**. There were **haibreed** cars for sale. There were also **voluntears** who accepted used electronic equipment and books — all for recycling.

(44) __________ (45) __________

(46) __________ (47) __________

"It's an education **campain**," said Allison. "People don't know, but there are so many simple things they can do every day that can become second nature." This year, Allison reports on the **environmen**t for her school's television station and both girls

(48) __________

lend their time to various recycling projects around town. The projects include **give** old toys to children's charities and collecting used crayons — which are often dumped in landfills — to melt down for reuse.

(49) __________

The girls hope that more people **in** their town will be involved in recycling.

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*Adapted from Readers Digest: the twins teaching a coastal town to clean up its act*
Residents living near MRT tracks have often complained about noise. However, residents like Mdm Teh Soh Luan may no longer (61) ____________ or need to watch television (TV) in her bedroom after the Land Transport Authority (LTA) builds a new type of enclosure to (62) ____________ noise on elevated MRT tracks. Currently, the noise interferes (53) ____________ TV watching in her living room when the windows are left open. The noise is usually caused by friction between the metal train wheels (54) ____________ the tracks.

The noise enclosure (55) ____________ take two years to complete. The 150m-long and 5m-high sound enclosure is likely to cover the tracks entirely, (56) ____________ for a gap at the top. It is among three noise barriers to be set up on the MRT lines, the LTA (57) ____________ yesterday at a press conference.

The organisation will also assess the (58) ____________ of such measures over the two years. According (59) ____________ an LTA spokesman, the enclosure will be far more effective than a high barrier as sound tends to ‘bend’ over the barrier. (60) ____________ will probably be made of lightweight metal and other absorptive materials such as rock wool.

“This enclosure is expected to reduce (61) ____________ levels from passing trains by about 10 decibels,” said Mr Alvin Chin, a noise engineer. The noise level from passing trains can range (52) ____________ 78 to 85 decibels. Noise levels are higher when trains shift from one track to (63) ____________ Flat wheels and track defects can (64) ____________ produce more noise.

In the LTA’s ongoing islandwide (65) ____________ of noise at elevated tracks, engineers have also conducted computer simulations to evaluate the effectiveness of noise enclosures. The study will be completed next month and its findings will highlight areas that require special attention.

Adapted from The Straits Times, 13 March 2012, B1
For each of the questions 66 to 70, rewrite the given sentences, using the words provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s). (10 marks)

66. The children could not solve the mystery. They gave up.

67. I have not seen a more inspiring movie than the one I saw yesterday.

68. "Will you be at the party?" Jason asked.

69. Mr Lee wanted to get directions to the elephant enclosure. He approached a zookeeper.

70. The policemen caught the thief after a short chase.
I am Nick Vujicic. I was born on 4 December 1982 with Tetra-amelia syndrome, a rare disorder characterised by the absence of all four limbs at birth. Can you imagine that you have no arms and no legs? As a child, I struggled physically and emotionally. I was bullied and teased by my classmates at school. Over time, I grew depressed and lonely. I questioned why I was different from others around me; why I was the one born without arms and legs. I tried to deal with my physical disabilities but in vain.

For the longest, loneliest time, I wondered if there was anyone on earth like me, and whether there was any purpose to my life other than pain and humiliation. Thankfully, I went through with it out of love for my parents. Every day, I wished to grow arms and legs until one day, my mother showed me a newspaper article about a man dealing with a severe disability. I realised I was not unique in my struggles and began to embrace my disability. I realised that my accomplishments could inspire others.

I learnt to deal with my disability. It was not easy at first. Slowly, I began to master the daily tasks of life. Eventually, I learnt to write, not like most of you, but using the two toes on my left foot with a special grip that slid onto my big toe. I even learnt to use a computer and type using the "heel and toe" method. I could also throw tennis balls, play drum pedals, brush my teeth and answer the phone.

At the age of 14, I was elected captain of my school and worked with the student council on fund-raising events for local charities and disability groups. Then I went on to university and obtained a double bachelor degree. After graduation, I travelled around the world and shared my life story with millions of people. In 2005, I was nominated for the "Young Australian of the Year" Award. The award honours a young person for his service to Australia as well as his own personal accomplishments.

I am grateful for my life. It is important how our attitude can be the most powerful tool and the choices we make can have a profound effect on our lives as well as others around us. Persistence and the ability to embrace failure are powerful learning experiences. We must not allow the fear of failure to paralyse us. I want you to feel the same way about your life, no matter what your challenges may be.

*Adapted from Nick Vujicic, Life Without Limits*
ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

71. What was Nick's birth disorder?


72. According to the passage, why did Nick struggle emotionally as a child?


73. Which phrase in paragraph 1 means 'unproductive of success'?


74. How did Nick feel after his mother showed him a newspaper article about a man dealing with severe disabilities?


75. What does "it" (line 15) refer to?


76. How did Nick learn to write without hands?


77. What contributions did Nick make to his country in his teens?

78. Why was Nick nominated for the "Young Australian of the Year" Award in 2005?

79. Which sentence in the last paragraph suggests that the author feels good about himself?

80. What is the message that Nick wants to tell everyone about failure?

End of Paper
41) their  42) incredulously  43) demonstrations  44) persuaded
45) During  46) hybrid  47) volunteers  48) campaign
49) environment  50) giving  51) complain  52) reduce  53) with
54) and  55) will  56) but  57) announced  58) effective
59) to  60) this  61) noise  62) from  63) another
64) also  65) study
66) The children gave up as they could not solve the mystery.
67) Never have I seen a more inspiring move than the one I saw yesterday.
68) Jason asked me if I would be at the party.
69) Mr Lee approached a zookeeper so that to get directions to the elephant
   enclosure.
70) The thief was caught by the policeman after a short chase.
71) He was born with a Tetra-amelia syndrome a rare disorder characterised by
   the absence of all four limbs at birth.
72) He had no arms and no legs so he struggled emotionally as a child.
73) The phrase is 'in vain'.
74) He felt that he was not unique in his struggles and began to embrace is
   disability. He felt that his accomplishment could inspire others.
75) "It" refers to dealing with his disability.
76) He used two toes on his left with a special grip that slid onto his big toe.
77) He work with the student council on fund-raising events for local charities
   and disability groups.
78) It was to honour his service to Australia and his personal accomplishments.
79) It is 'I am grateful for my life'.
80) We must have the persistence and not allow to paralyseus.