

Candidate's Name: Mr/Ms _____

Identity no: _____ Date: _____

Seat no: _____ Test Centre: _____

B C A A C A D E M Y**SCHOOL OF BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT
SINGAPORE****ENGLISH SCREENING TEST (SET 1)****1.5 HOURS****Instructions to candidates**

1. Do **not** turn over this page until you are told to do so.
2. Check that you have the correct test paper, number of pages and questions.
3. There are Twelve (12) pages excluding this cover page.
4. This paper consists of FOUR (4) Sections (80 marks). Answer ALL questions.
5. All answers are to be written in this test script.
6. Write your **Name, Passport/IC NO. and Seat No.** on Answer Sheets.
7. Do **NOT** remove any page. This test paper is the property of BCA Academy and **must not be removed** from the test centre.
8. All mobile phones and electronic equipment are to be switched off.

For Official Use:	Marker:	Checker:	Marks/80
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Section A Grammar (15 marks)

Write the correct form of the word for each of the following sentences in the space provided.

1. At dinner time, Brandon came down and _____ (seat) himself opposite us at the table.
2. I was _____ (surprise) when my wife invited Kiki to walk with us.
3. I do not particularly enjoy _____ (shop) during Christmas period.
4. The family unit has _____ (undergo) many changes over the last 50 years in Singapore.
5. She neither _____ (send) a reply nor attended the event.
6. Tom will be _____ (run) in the race next weekend.
7. The boss _____ (signal) me to come over after the Minister left the room.
8. She bent over the books, _____ (frown) with concentration.
9. Don't just sit there _____ (gawk). Get the lady some clothes!
10. If someone is _____ (gesticulate), it means they are making a lot of Gestures with their hands.
11. She just _____ (shrug) her shoulders as if to say 'What can I do?'
12. He _____ (go on) complaining even after the manager had apologised.
13. Are you _____ (insinuate) that I am ill-treating my wife?
14. If the witness is unwilling to _____ (testify) against the murderer, he will not be convicted.
15. When the lions attacked, the herd of wildebeest _____ (stampede).

Section B Vocabulary (15 marks)

Write the correct answer (a), (b), (c) or (d) in the space provided.

16. Suzie spoke in such a soft voice, she was barely
- (a) audible (c) detectable
(b) distinguishable (d) perceptible ()
17. The police didn't want to attention so they went in an ordinary car.
- (a) attract (c) draw
(b) catch (d) grab ()
18. We the quality of materials through the senses of sight and touch.
- (a) distinguish (c) reveal
(b) perceive (d) see ()
19. He his glass and immediately asked for a refill.
- (a) drained (c) sipped
(b) emptied (d) wolfed ()
20. Putting a child through university can be an enormous strain your finances.
- (a) of (c) for
(b) over (d) on ()
21. Mei Yi and stared at me in utter astonishment.
- (a) gobbled (c) bolted
(b) gulped (d) guzzled ()
22. It was nothing really, just a lovers'
- (a) brawl (c) row
(b) fight (d) tiff ()
23. They picked her because she was the smallest in the group.
- (a) for (c) on
(b) off (d) up ()

24. This material is rather delicate and won't stand up to handling.
(a) rowdy (c) vicious
(b) rough (d) aggressive ()
25. The dog ran around for joy because its master had come home.
(a) bellowing (c) roaring
(b) growling (d) barking ()
26. A of voices in the classroom next to ours suggested their lesson had ended.
(a) utter (c) mutter
(b) yell (d) babble ()
27. Timmy his adventures in the Brazilian jungle to an audience of geographers.
(a) detailed (c) revealed
(b) recounted (d) recited ()
28. My personal feelings are the point. I just want what is the best for the company.
(a) below (c) beside
(b) to (d) beyond ()
29. For the first night of the play, we had only a very small
(a) audience (c) spectators
(b) crowd (d) congregation ()
30. My brother and sister are still odds over who should run the family business.
(a) at (c) on
(b) in (d) up ()

Section C - Cloze Passages (20marks)

Passage 1 (1 mark each)

Select a suitable word from the box below to complete the passage. Write the correct answer for each blank in the Answer Sheets provided.

or	may	ago	as
and	about	by	if
for	within	when	with

In Singapore, tigers are very much a part of our heritage and culture. In fact, tigers are the largest of all cats (31) _____ found only in Asia. It is the most charismatic, mysterious and respected symbol in the region.

I first saw tigers in the early 1960s (32) _____ I was only five. There were at least six of them in a circus in Kallang. The kings of the Asian forest were confined in small over-crowded cages and had been trained to jump through rings of fire. I had no idea (33) _____ animal welfare and ethics at the time, but I was so awed (34) _____ the size and majesty of the cats that I had my mum embroider a tiger on my homemade canvas school bag.

My next encounter (35) _____ tigers was looking at the statues in Tiger Balm Gardens (now renamed Haw Par Villa) in the '10 Courts of Hell' a few years later. It was a traumatic experience and I firmly believed that (36) _____ I disobeyed my parents, the tigers would slowly eat my beating heart.

One hundred years (37) _____, there were more than 100,000 tigers in the world. Unfortunately, this figure has dwindled to fewer than 3,500 today. (38) _____ a century, we not only lost 97 per cent of the world's tigers but also killed off three of the nine tiger sub-species - the Bali tiger, Javan tiger and Caspian tiger. The South China tiger (39) _____ also be extinct in the wild; it has not been seen (40) _____ almost three decades.

Passage 2 (1 mark each)

Select a suitable word from the box below to complete the passage. Write the correct answer for each blank in the Answer Sheets provided.

interfere	claimed	painstaking	joy	triggers
stable	instincts	exhausting	immaturity	casual
opportunities	false	potential	real	programmed

A phobia is an intense fear reaction to a particular thing or a situation. With a phobia, the fear is out of proportion to the (41) _____ danger. But to the person with the phobia, the danger feels (42) _____ because the fear is so very strong. On the other hand, fear is a basic human emotion. It is (43) _____ into the nervous system and works like an instinct. From the time we are infants, we are equipped with the survival (44) _____ necessary to respond with fear when we sense danger or feel unsafe. Phobias cause people to worry about, dread, feel upset by, and avoid the things or situations they fear because the physical sensations of fear can be so intense. As such, having a phobia can (45) _____ with someone's normal activities.

A person with a phobia of dogs might feel afraid to walk to school in case he or she sees a dog on the way. Someone with an elevator phobia might avoid a field trip if it involves going on an elevator. It can be (46) _____ and upsetting to feel the intense fear that goes with having a phobia. It can be disappointing to miss out on (47) _____ because fear is holding you back. And it can be confusing and embarrassing to feel afraid of things that others seem to have no problem with.

Sometimes, people get teased about their fears. Even if the person doing the teasing doesn't mean to be unkind and unfair, teasing only makes the situation worse. Having a phobia isn't a sign of weakness or (48) _____. It's a response the brain has learned in an attempt to protect the person. It's as if the brain's alert system (49) _____ a false alarm, generating intense fear

that is out of proportion to the situation. Because the fear signal is so intense, the person is convinced the danger is greater than it actually is.

People can learn to overcome phobias by gradually facing their fears. This is a (50) _____ process. It takes willingness and bravery. Often, the hardest part of overcoming a phobia is getting started. Once a person decides to go for it — and gets the right coaching and support - it can be surprising how quickly fear can melt away.

Section D - Comprehension (30 marks)

Read the following passages and answer all the questions that follow. Write your answer for each question in the Answer Sheets provided.

Passage 1

Roger Bannister remembers that running had always been important to him: "As a boy I just ran everywhere - never because it was an end in itself, but because it was easier for me to run than to walk. My walk was **ungainly**, as though I had springs in my knees. I always felt impatient to see or do something new, and running saved time." When he went to Oxford University, 5 he discovered that running was an ideal way of relaxing. He found that he was good at it and began to take it more and more seriously.

Until 1954 it was thought that no man could run one mile in less than four minutes. The greatest runners of each generation had set up new records for this distance, but the time of four minutes was believed to be beyond the limit 10 of human endurance. As years went by, the record came closer and closer to four minutes and the young English runner began to believe that he might break this almost magic barrier. He saw this time for the distance as a challenge and was determined to succeed where so many others had failed. Also, there were his two friends, Christopher Chataway and Christopher 15 Brasher, who had encouraged him by running both with him and against him in races.

It was a cold afternoon at the Oxford track on May 6th, 1954, when Bannister knew he had a real chance. It was important that there should not be too much wind, for this could make running difficult. For an athlete to run such a 20 race as this, his mind must be as ready as his body. Bannister had been training hard and was very fit, but the weather conditions were a real worry to him. He alone had to decide whether to try for the record.

Describing the event later, Bannister said: "Spectators fail to understand the mental agony through which an athlete must pass before he can give his maximum effort. I spent the afternoon watching the swaying of the leaves. On the way to the track the wind blew strongly but now came in gusts, as if uncertain. The decision was mine alone and the moment was getting closer. As we lined up for the start, I glanced at the flag. It fluttered gently now. This was the moment when I made my decision. The attempt was on. 25

(Adapted from "We Were There" by Godfrey Caute).

Answer ALL questions below. (2 marks each)

From paragraph 1

51. '... never because it was an end in itself...' (*line 2*). What Bannister meant was
- A. He ran everywhere because he was rushing.
 - B. He ran everywhere because he did not know where to go
 - C. Running to him is not about getting from one place to another. ()
 - D. Running to him is about getting from one place to another.
52. The meaning of "ungainly" (*line 3*) is
- A. rarely
 - B. clumsy
 - C. unwanted
 - D. not enough ()
53. In the first paragraph, which of the following statements is TRUE about Bannister?
- A. He was patient.
 - B. He ran because he excelled at it.
 - C. He was studying in Harvard University.
 - D. He ran because running was new to him. ()

From paragraph 2

54. Running a mile within four minutes was an 'almost magic barrier' (*line 12*) then because

- A. it was beyond a human's ability.
- B. it was within a human's ability.
- C. it was an old record for the distance.
- D. it was a new record for the distance. ()

55. How did Bannister's friends help him?

- A. By running next to him in races
- B. By running against him in races
- C. By running behind him in races
- D. By running in front of him in races ()

From paragraph 3 and 4

'...but the weather conditions were a real worry to him ...' (line 20-21)

56. What were the 'weather conditions' on the day of the challenge?

[2]

57. In your own words, explain what was Bannister worried about?

[2]

58. 'I spent the afternoon watching the swaying of the leaves.' (*line 25*).

Explain, **in your own words**, why Bannister did this?

[2]

'It fluttered gently now.' (line 28)

59. What does 'it' in the sentence above refer to?

[2]

60. **In your own words**, explain how this observation helped Bannister make his decision?

[2]

Passage 2

In 1941, a little girl named Navanetham Pillay was born in the South African city of Durban. Her family lived in a poor neighbourhood in a country where they were discriminated against because of their race. After a lifetime of struggle, Ms Pillay was named the new United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights, working to ensure that citizens everywhere are not abused by bad governments. 5

To understand Ms Pillay's story, you'll have to know a little about South Africa's history. For many years, the country was controlled by a government that was completely white – even though only one-tenth of the people in South Africa are white! The all-white government started a system called apartheid which made sure that the different races would live and work apart from each other. Under apartheid, white people were given the best schools and homes, while other races had much worse facilities. 10

Because Ms Pillay was Indian, she had to go to one of the schools for "coloured" people, where there were only black and Asian students. She was encouraged to study hard by her mother. When she got into university, her family couldn't afford the fees. Luckily, the local Indian community helped them out with donations. In 1965, she graduated as a lawyer. Two years later, she became the first woman to set up a law company of her own in Natal province. "I had no choice," she later said. "No law firm would employ me because they said they could not have white employees taking instructions from a coloured person." 15 20

Many South Africans – black, Asian and even some white – were very unhappy with apartheid. They began a movement and became activists,

demanding an end to this unfair system. The government didn't want to 25
change the way it ruled the country, so it put many of these activists in jail.
Ms Pillay used her skills as a lawyer to help these activists in court. She
became famous for defending Nelson Mandela, one of the great leaders of
the movement who was kept in prison for 18 years. She had first heard about
the terrible conditions in prison from the wives of the activist leaders. Their 30
husbands were allowed only one letter and were given less food than the
white prisoners.

Ms Pillay managed to convince judges that these prisoners deserved
more rights under the law. She also helped to show the world how police and
prison wardens were using torture on their prisoners. The apartheid 35
government saw her as such a threat that they refused to give her a passport
for many years. They also once detained and abused her husband for
speaking out.

When Mr Mandela was finally freed, he was able to make an
agreement with the government that allowed black and Asian people to vote. 40
In 1994, he was elected as South Africa's first black president, ending the
age of apartheid forever. In this time of victory, he didn't forget how Ms Pillay
had fought for him. He appointed her as a judge in South Africa's High Court,
making her the first non-white woman in the country to hold such a position.

Answer ALL questions below. (2 marks each)

61. In the second paragraph, which phrase tells you that white people in South Africa
are
a minority?

_____ [2]

62. Give TWO (2) examples how the apartheid discriminated those who are non-
white.

_____ [2]

63. **Using your own words**, explain how Ms Pillay paid for her university education.

[2]

64. Why was Nelson Mandela imprisoned?

[2]

65. **In your own words**, how would Ms Pillay become less of a threat to the apartheid government if she was not given a passport?

[2]

End-of-paper