



## FINAL EXAMINATION

### JULY 2023

MATRIC \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_

SEATING NO \_\_\_\_\_

COURSE TITLE ENGLISH 1

COURSE CODE FENG0114

DATE/DAY 18 OCTOBER 2023 / WEDNESDAY

TIME/DURATION 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM / 03 Hour(s) 00 Minute(s)

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES :

1. Please read the instruction under each section carefully.
2. Candidates are reminded not to bring into examination hall/room any form of written materials or electronic gadget except for stationery that is permitted by the Invigilator.
3. Students who are caught breaching the Examination Rules and Regulation will be charged with an academic dishonesty and if found guilty of the offence, the maximum penalty is expulsion from the University.

(This Question Paper consists of 27 Printed Pages including front page)

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#### ATTENDANCE SLIP

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MATRIC NO \_\_\_\_\_ SECTION \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRAMME \_\_\_\_\_

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This paper has EIGHT (8) reading passages. Answer ALL questions in the question paper.  
[100 MARKS]

Reading Passage 1

(8 Marks)

- I Around the United States, people are playing a lot more chess — usually online or in apps. Both middle and high school kids are playing chess on their phones in the hallways between classes, sneaking moves in when their instruments are down during orchestra practice. Students at one school even turned their winter dance into a makeshift chess tournament. 1  
5
- II “I heard some cheering down one of the hallways off the main dance area,” recalled Hunter Nedland, a biology teacher. “I was surprised to find a group of freshmen sitting with their laptops and phones in the middle of some very heated chess games.” Nedland said upperclassmen have started calling chess the “weird freshman thing,” due to the ubiquity of the game with younger students — but noted that it’s spread across all grades, too. Most teachers said it’s a lot of male students, but that female students partake too. 10
- III These schools reflect an increased interest in chess that began in 2020, credited in part to Netflix’s *The Queen’s Gambit*. Chess hadn’t seen this level of popularity since the 1972 World Chess Championship, according to the *New York Times*. That was the first chess boom. Since then it’s grown even more popular, and in January, chess hit middle and high school students. The abrupt boost in popularity caused Chess.com, the most popular chess app, to crumble, forcing the company to upgrade its servers significantly. By late January, Chess.com had 10 million active members, it said; in April, it hit around 12 million per day. That’s in contrast to its usership before the pandemic, which was fewer than 2 million active players. 15  
20
- IV Chess’s popularity isn’t necessarily sudden, given that data — it’s been growing steadily since 2020. But the new growth among teens certainly does seem sudden, according to the teens, teachers, and chess experts. Schools that don’t have chess clubs are rushing to start them. Teachers are confused but pleased to see a wholesome new hobby. Administrators are struggling with how chess is disrupting classrooms at times, and are blaming it for attention issues and drama in classrooms and hallways. Can you ban chess? Some schools have reportedly had to. 25  
30
- V Levy Rozman, a popular chess content creator who goes by GothamChess online, told Polygon his YouTube channel peaked in January — he got 25 to 30% of his lifetime views during that time. Even now, months later, traffic has declined, but it’s still 10 times higher than the first chess boom, when *The Queen’s Gambit* came out in 2020. 35
- VI “All kids across all high schools [and middle schools] in the U.S. are playing chess and screaming out chess memes,” Rozman said. “What a time to be alive. I don’t remember anything like this even in 2019 when I was just a chess teacher.”
- VII There’s no easy answer for how chess has spread among preteens and teens. The general popularity of the game following *The Queen’s Gambit* is absolutely part of it. A cheating scandal involving chess grandmasters, Hans Niemann and 40

- Magnus Carlsen, may have contributed to the increased interest, thrusting chess into the spotlight. In 2022, Carlsen accused Niemann of cheating in a chess tournament. Niemann responded the following month with a lawsuit against Carlsen and Chess.com. The entire affair made headlines and spawned dozens of memes; these in turn took the scandal over the edge and into viral notoriety. 45
- VIII** Then there's chess's growing popularity on Twitch and YouTube. Popular streamer Ludwig Ahgren hosted a \$1.6 million chessboxing event — an event that combines chess and boxing, of course — that reached millions of viewers. Normal chess is popular on Twitch, too. Esports teams have signed some chess players, like Hikaru Nakamura to Misfits and Alexandra and Andrea Botez to Envy. On YouTube, Rozman has 3.5 million subscribers, and his videos frequently go viral on TikTok. Once he started posting short-form content, like TikToks and Instagram Reels, in late November and early December 2022, his channel popularity skyrocketed even more. 50  
55
- IX** “People like Levy Rozman started to catch the interest of the junior high, high school, college-age dynamic,” Chess.com CEO Erik Allebest said. “And once that happens, there's more TikToks, more memes, and then kids are downloading the app. And then when a couple of kids in school are playing it, everybody's playing it. It really snowballed.” 60
- X** It's all these little things and perhaps a few others, like Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo playing chess in a Louis Vuitton campaign and Carlsen showing up to a chess match late with 30 seconds to go but still winning, that created the perfect storm of chess. Chess content, called #ChessTok, is carving out its own spot on TikTok, bringing it to even more people. Now everyone's playing chess — look down a school hallway and you'll see students playing chess against each other on their phones. In some cases, it's one of the few games that are allowed past school firewalls which plays a part in its ubiquity, too. 65
- XI** Rozman told Polygon that chess's new growth is opening doors for the game — you can be a low-level chess player and still be entertaining to watch. In fact, that may be exactly why you're entertaining. “The young audience [...] doesn't have as serious and uptight of a relationship with chess as historically thought was necessary,” he said. 70

*(Adapted from 'Why teens are suddenly obsessed with chess', Polygon)*

Questions 1 to 8 are based on Reading Passage 1.

(1 mark each)

Choose the **BEST** answer.

1. What might be the best definition for the word 'ubiquity' in paragraph II?
- A. found everywhere
  - B. not popular enough
  - C. always trending
  - D. very intelligent

2. When did the first wave of popularity take place for chess?
  - A. 2022
  - B. 2012
  - C. 1992
  - D. 1972
  
3. How much did Chess.com's usership grow in April 2023 from the time before the COVID-19 pandemic?
  - A. about 10 times
  - B. around 12 times
  - C. approximately 5 times
  - D. about 6 times
  
4. What is NOT one of the consequences of the game's popularity among students?
  - A. Schools blame chess for lack of attention among students.
  - B. Schools banned chess from being played during school hours.
  - C. Teachers have had to begin chess workshops.
  - D. Teachers are glad to see their students in a healthy hobby, if rather perplexed.
  
5. What did Rozman work as in 2019?
  - A. Chess set designer
  - B. Chess instructor
  - C. Chess grandmaster
  - D. Chess enthusiast
  
6. Which part of the cheating scandal contributed directly to chess' recent rise in popularity?
  - A. Carlsen's direct accusation against Niemann
  - B. The long-drawn lawsuit Niemann took out against Carlsen
  - C. The memes created as a result of the scandal
  - D. Chess.com's meme-response to Nieman's lawsuit

7. Which Esport team took on Alexandra and Andrea Botez as chess players?
- A. Misfits
  - B. Envy
  - C. Ahgren
  - D. Twitch
8. What is the best conclusion that can be made at the end of the passage?
- A. Chess has always been a very popular game.
  - B. The demographics of chess players will continue to get younger.
  - C. The newer generation has made chess less intimidating and more accessible.
  - D. Chess must make use of social media and streaming to maintain its popularity.

  
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Reading Passage 2

(20 Marks)

- I When it comes to growing food, some of the smallest farmers in the world are becoming some of the most creative. They sow pigeon peas to shade their soils from a hotter, more scorching sun, and plant vetiver grass to keep floodwaters at bay. 1
- II Old crops, like finger millet and forgotten yams, are resurrected and trees that naturally fertilize the soil are planted. A few are turning away from one legacy of European colonialism: the practice of planting rows and rows of maize, or corn, and saturating the fields with chemical fertilizers. 5
- III Malawi, a largely agrarian nation of 19 million, is a part of this new movement out of necessity. Their scrappy, throw-everything-at-the-wall array of innovations is multiplied by small subsistence farmers elsewhere in the world. They rely on the weather to feed themselves, yet the weather has been upended by 150 years of greenhouse gas emissions produced mainly by the industrialized countries of the world. 10
- IV Consequently, maize, the main source of calories across the region, is in trouble. Its production has been battered by droughts, cyclones, rising temperatures and erratic rains. Across southern Africa, climate shocks have dampened maize yields already, and if temperatures continue to rise, yields are projected to decline further. 15
- V Yet giving up isn't an option. There's no insurance to fall back on, no irrigation when the rains fail. 20
- VI So you do what you can. You experiment. You grab your hoe and try building different kinds of ridges to save your banana orchard. You share manure with your neighbours who have had to sell their goats in hard times. You switch to eating soy porridge for breakfast, instead of the corn meal you've grown accustomed to. 25
- VII There's no guarantee these hacks will be enough. That was abundantly clear when, in March, Cyclone Freddy barreled into the south of Malawi, dropping six months of rain in six days. It washed away crops, houses, people, livestock. 30
- VIII Still, you keep going. "Giving up means you don't have food," said Chikondi Chabvuta, the granddaughter of farmers who is now a regional adviser with the international aid group CARE. "You just have to adapt." 35
- IX And for now, you have to do it without much help. Global funding to help poor countries adapt to climate hazards is a small fraction of what is needed, the United Nations said. 35
- X Alexander Mponda's parents grew maize. Everyone did — even Malawi's founding president, Hastings Kamuzu Banda, an authoritarian leader who ruled for nearly 30 years. He goaded Malawi to modernize farming, and maize was considered modern. Millets, not.

- XI** Hybrid seeds proliferated. Chemical fertilizers were subsidized. Maize had been promoted by British colonizers long before. It was an easy source of calories for plantation labour. Millet and sorghum, once eaten widely, lost a market. Yams virtually disappeared. 40
- XII** Tobacco became the main cash crop and maize the staple grain, often dried, ground and then cooked as cornmeal. It's known in Malawi as nsima, in Kenya as ugali, in Uganda as posho (likely derived from the portion of maize porridge doled out to prison inmates under colonial rule). 45
- XIII** So Mr. Mponda, 26, grows maize. But he no longer counts on maize alone. The soil is degraded from decades of monoculture. The rains don't come on time. This year, fertilizer didn't either. 50
- XIV** "We are forced to change," Mr. Mponda said. "Just sticking to one crop isn't beneficial."
- XV** The total acreage devoted to maize in Mchinji District, in central Malawi, has declined by an estimated 12 percent this year, compared with last year, according to the local agricultural office, mainly because of a shortage of chemical fertilizers. 55
- XVI** Mr. Mponda is part of a local group called the Farmer Field Business School that runs experiments on a tiny plot of land. On one ridge, they've sown two soy seedlings side by side. On the next, one. Some ridges they've treated with manure; others not. Two varieties of peanuts are being tested. The goal: to see for themselves what works, what doesn't. 60
- XVII** Mr. Mponda has been growing peanuts, a cash crop that's also good for the soil. This year, he planted soy. As for his one acre of maize, it gave him half a normal harvest.
- XVIII** Many of his neighbours are planting sweet potato. Similar farmer-led experiments have begun around the country. 65
- XIX** Unfortunately, there's only so much small farmers in a small country can do, if the world's biggest climate polluters, led by the United States and China, fail to reduce their emissions.
- XX** "In some regions of the world it will become not possible to grow food, or to raise animals," said Rachel Bezner Kerr, a Cornell University professor who has worked with Malawian farmers for over 20 years. "That's if we continue on our current trajectory." 70

*(Adapted from 'Meet the Climate Hackers of Malawi', New York Times)*

Questions 9 to 18 are based on Reading Passage 2.

(2 marks each)

Answer the questions in **NO MORE THAN FOUR (4) WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER.**

9. Why do farmers now plant pigeon peas?



10. What challenges do farmers in Malawi face when growing maize?

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11. What must Malawi's people do to adapt to the changing times?

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12. Why did south Malawi suffer from heavy losses in early 2023?

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13. Why did Malawi's founding president turn his country towards growing maize instead of other crops?

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14. Which traditional crops were subsumed by maize?

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15. Why is the soil no longer reliable to grow maize?

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16. Why has the amount of land dedicated to growing maize shrunk?

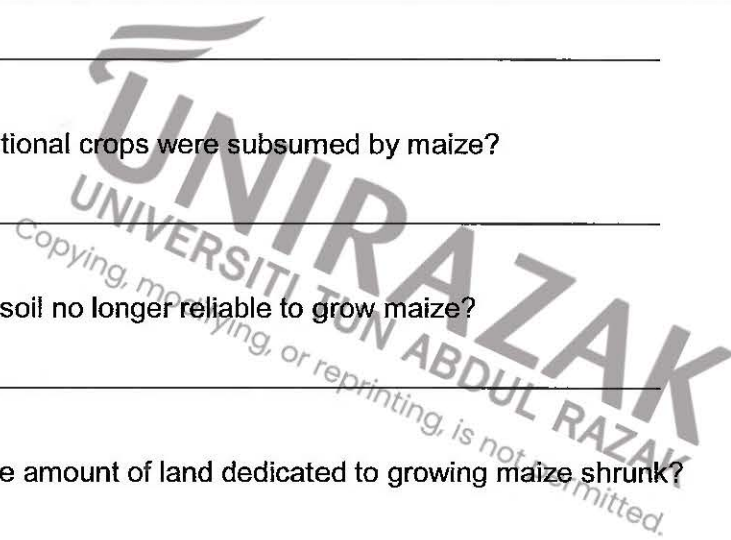
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17. What does the Farmer Field Business School do?

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18. If climate change continues at its current pace, what might happen in certain areas of the world?

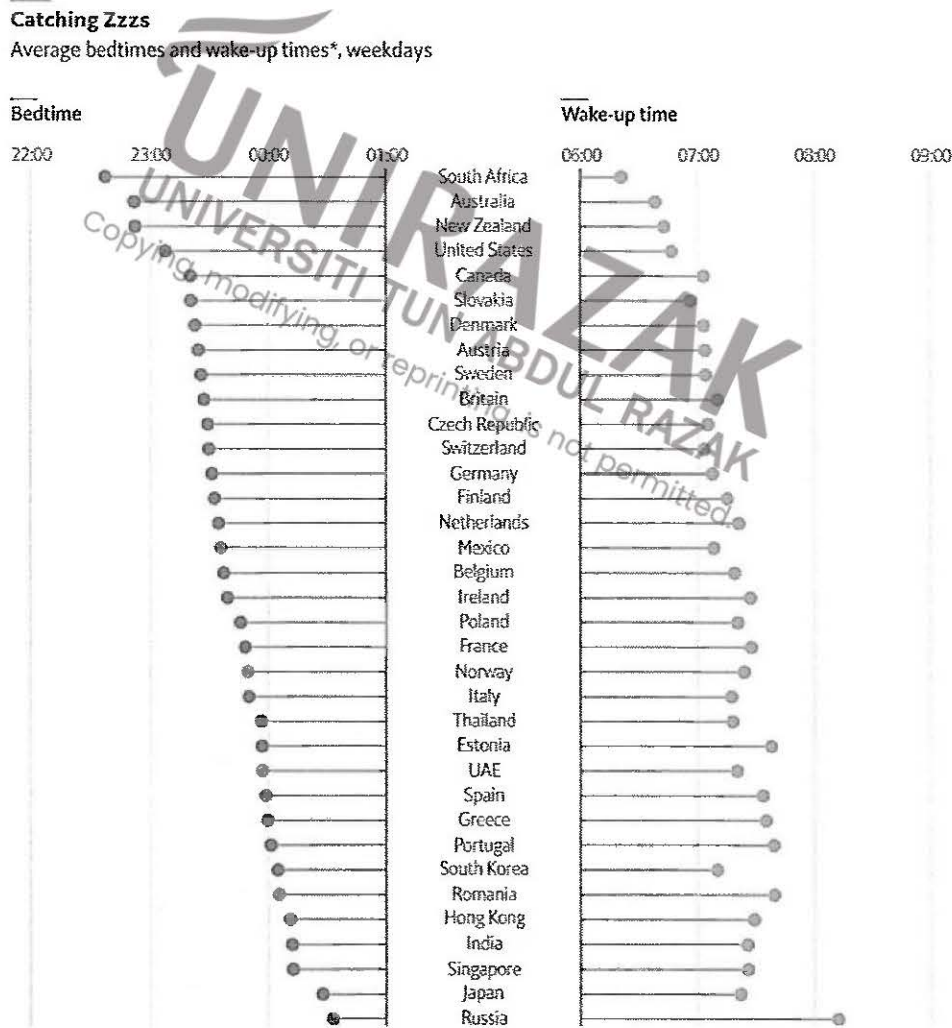
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Reading Passage 3

(12 Marks)

- I Sleep is essential to human health. It takes up around one-third of people's lives. And yet surprisingly little is known about it. Understanding of how sleep varies across countries is particularly limited. It is well known, for example, that people in east Asia tend to sleep less than those in America or Europe, but not whether the quality of their sleep is better or worse. Surveys show that some countries are peopled by night owls, but others by early birds. But why this is so remains an open question. 1  
5
- II A new paper attempts to fill some of the gaps. Using anonymised data collected from a popular wearable device between January 2021 and January 2022, researchers from the National University of Singapore and Oura Health, a Finnish sleep-tech startup, analysed the sleep habits of more than 220,000 people across 35 countries. 10  
Whereas sleep research has historically relied on survey data collected from a small number of people at a single point in time, sleep-tracker apps can track sleep objectively, from the movements, heart rates and body temperatures of large samples of users over long periods.



\*Using data from 226,187 Oura Ring users  
Source: "Country differences in nocturnal sleep variability", by Adrian Willoughby et al, *Sleep Medicine*, August 2023

- III The researchers found that sleep patterns vary considerably across countries. As expected, the worst sleepers are mainly in Asian countries, where on a typical weeknight people snooze for less than six and a half hours—roughly 30 minutes less than those in the rest of the world. The best sleepers are mainly in northern European countries (Estonia, Finland, Ireland and the Netherlands) and in Australia and New Zealand, where users log a solid seven hours on average. Bedtimes and wake-up times tend to move together (see chart), though the authors note that Asian sleepers tend to fall asleep 35 minutes later than the average, and wake up around the same time as people elsewhere. 15 20
- IV Sleep quantity also tends to go hand-in-hand with sleep quality. Previous experimental research has shown that, when they have less time to sleep, people tend to make the most of it, spending a higher proportion of time sleeping and less time counting sheep. This study found the opposite. People in Asia not only go to bed later and sleep less than folk in other parts of the world; they also spend more time tossing and turning. Their sleep is less consistent, too. You might expect that such poor sleep during the week might lead to more sleep on weekends, when people across the world tend to sleep five to 25 minutes longer. But the authors found that, even though Asian sleepers doze less than Europeans during the week, they also enjoy less “catch-up” sleep on Saturdays and Sundays. 25 30
- V The researchers conclude that social factors—including child-care, work and cultural practices—may matter more for sleep than previously thought. Observance of the dawn prayer may hinder sleep in Muslim countries, for example. The same goes for afternoon siestas in Mediterranean countries such as Spain, Greece and Italy. The authors hypothesise that work may play a particularly important role in shaping sleep patterns around the world. Time-use surveys, they note, show a strong relationship between long work hours and short sleep. Even after accounting for holidays, South Korean workers toil for 36.5 hours per week, on average, compared with just 27 hours for the Dutch. It is little wonder Koreans get 40 minutes less shut-eye per night. 35 40

(Adapted from ‘Which countries get the best night’s sleep?’, *The Economist*)

Questions 19 to 30 are based on Reading Passage 3.

(1 mark each)

For each of the statements, write

<b>TRUE</b>	If the statement agrees with the information
<b>FALSE</b>	If the statement contradicts the information
<b>NOT GIVEN</b>	If there is no information on this

19. The average human spends more than 40% of their lifetime asleep. \_\_\_\_\_
20. A person who lives in China sleeps more than a person in Sweden because they get less sunlight. \_\_\_\_\_
21. The tracker apps can be used to measure how warm or cold a sleeper is overnight. \_\_\_\_\_

22. The National University of Singapore gave all their survey participants free Oura Rings to track their sleep. \_\_\_\_\_
23. The survey results show that only three countries generally go to sleep before 11PM. \_\_\_\_\_
24. South Africans wake up the earliest because of their cultural norms. \_\_\_\_\_
25. Slovaks tend to wake up a little before 7AM. \_\_\_\_\_
26. Although Japanese and Russian people sleep at roughly the same time, the Japanese tend to wake up later. \_\_\_\_\_
27. Malaysians were not included in the survey due to a lack of participants. \_\_\_\_\_
28. A sleeper in Bangladesh would probably fall asleep about an hour later than the average sleeper in New Zealand. \_\_\_\_\_
29. This current study proves that people who tend to sleep less hours fall asleep faster. \_\_\_\_\_
30. Working hours are a significant influence on how much sleep we get. \_\_\_\_\_

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Reading Passage 4

(10 Marks)

- I The mystery dogged our family for decades. How could Donut, my husband Matt's dog, tell time? And not just the approximate time, but the exact moment *before* the school bus would arrive. 1
- II Every weekday, before the bus dropped off the boys, Donut, without fail, would hop up from the rug, go to the back porch and sit by the window. 5
- III "She would wait for my brother and me to walk home so she could greet us at the door," Matt says. "She was always punctual. Never early and never late."
- IV The answer, according to psychologist Alexandra Horowitz, who studies dog cognition at Columbia University and Barnard College, was that Donut could smell time. 10
- V "I'm not at all surprised that she would be able to predict the arrival of the school bus," says Horowitz.
- VI Dogs, like people, use many environmental cues to estimate the time during the day, she says. They listen to their body's physiological signs, such as a growing rumble in their tummies, hint of drowsiness or a growing need to pee. Just like humans, they have fluctuating hormones that help create a built-in clock in their bodies and minds. 15
- VII They also look at the amount of light shining into a room or even the angle of the sun. "Both dogs and humans notice, 'Oh, it's getting a little bit dark in the room,'" Horowitz says. 20
- VIII But Donut, she says, likely has another trick up her furry leg that we humans don't use to tell time (or at least we don't realize we use): "That's olfaction," Horowitz says. "Dogs are living in basically an olfactory world, and I think they are able to track time with smells."
- IX When I first heard this theory, I was a bit incredulous. How do you smell something intangible like time? But then Horowitz explained it to me, and I began to realize that maybe I smell time, too. And maybe dogs understand physics in a way that I don't. 25
- X Smelling time for Donut, Horowitz says, likely began with Matt's own unique bouquet of scents. "Humans stink, even the very clean among us," she says. "Dogs can recognize their owners by their smell alone." 30
- XI Not only do we stink, we also leave our stinky signature everywhere we go. "We're always sloughing skin cells and leaving behind little trails of odour," she says. "For example, you can smell if somebody has been in the elevator before [you] if they were wearing a strong cologne." 35
- XII So imagine, back in the late 1980s, when Matt and his brother were in elementary school getting ready in the mornings. The two boys filled their home with all sorts of smells — the funk of their baseball uniforms and the stink of their dirty socks and the scent of their shampoo.

- XIII** As Matt and his brother rushed out the door to catch the bus in the morning, their living room would stink to high heaven with the signature scent of two prepubescent boys. 40
- XIV** As Donut sauntered over to the rug for her morning nap, she would literally be swimming in Matt's odour molecules. But over *time*, the scents in the house changed. "The odours would deteriorate, and the smell gets less strong," Horowitz says. 45
- XV** Given Donut's massive nose and her brain that's incredibly tuned to the concentrations of odours, Horowitz says, there's no question Donut noticed the slow diminishment of Matt's scent over the course of the day.
- XVI** "Absolutely," Horowitz says. "And we know that dogs are especially attuned to the odours of their person." 50
- XVII** In fact, Donut didn't simply notice the shift in smell, Horowitz said. She likely used it to predict the future — to predict when the school bus would arrive.

(Adapted from 'Can dogs smell time? Just ask Donut the dog', NPR)

Questions 31 to 40 are based on Reading Passage 4.

(1 mark each)

For each of the statements, write:

<b>YES</b>	If the statement agrees with the views in the passage
<b>NO</b>	If the statement disagrees with the views in the passage
<b>NOT GIVEN</b>	If there is no information on the writer's views

31. The Donut was originally the writer's family dog. \_\_\_\_\_
32. Donut would always sit at the window precisely at the same time as the school bus arrived. \_\_\_\_\_
33. Alexandra Horowitz is the only psychologist studying canine cognition at Columbia University. \_\_\_\_\_
34. Dogs have hormones that help them consistently differentiate different periods of the day. \_\_\_\_\_
35. The writer immediately accepted Horowitz's claim that dogs use their sense of smell to keep track of time. \_\_\_\_\_

36. The writer met Matt when they were both adolescents. \_\_\_\_\_
37. Donut's owners used a very specific type of shampoo that is no longer manufactured. \_\_\_\_\_
38. Donut was probably able to track time with the gradual way her owners' smells faded away. \_\_\_\_\_
39. Dogs are particularly sensitive to the scents of their owners. \_\_\_\_\_
40. Donut is still alive today. \_\_\_\_\_



**Reading Passage 5**

**(20 Marks)**

- I** In the basement kitchen of the Masjid Jamek Kampung Baru Mosque, a group of eight volunteer chefs is already hard at work as they fire up two rows of pots – about 80cm (31 inches) wide – to sauté a mix of herbs like cinnamon sticks, fennel seeds, star anise, cloves and fenugreek. 1
- II** Next, they toss in onions, garlic and fragrant pandan leaves before adding minced beef and prawns, stirring the mixture with a giant ladle. 5
- III** Once the meat is carefully browned, they add the rice – 15kg (33 pounds) of it – submerging each pot's contents in water and coconut milk and leaving the mixture to boil for more than an hour.
- IV** After that, it is another hour-long wait before the chefs can add spring onions as well as fried shallots and bag up the porridge, known as bubur lambuk, for distribution to the growing queue of people outside. 10
- V** “We have our exact measurements and we just have to follow the same recipe that we have been using for 100 years,” chief cook Adham Abdul Manan told Al Jazeera as he wound down from a busy morning in the kitchen, still wearing his green apron and black cap, and rustling through his checklist for the next day. 15
- VI** The mosque, situated in a village now surrounded by skyscrapers and highways, is renowned for its creamy sweet-savoury porridge. It produces 15 pots a day during Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month.
- VII** While many other mosques prepare the same dish for distribution to the public, it is Masjid Jamek Kampung Baru's version of the dish that is most sought after. 20
- VIII** Adham is the man behind the team in the kitchen and with 3,500 packets to distribute every day, his job is relentless. The 63-year-old from the central state of Pahang was an Air Force officer before he retired in 2000.
- IX** “Working with volunteers and army-trained personnels is definitely a different experience but I enjoy doing this,” Adham said, adding that he was always happy when the feedback was positive. 25
- X** He learned the bubur recipe by heart by observing previous chief cooks in the years he spent as a Ramadan volunteer. Now Adham leads 20 volunteers himself in the hot and sweaty kitchen. 30
- XI** “We have to learn everything by observing and the first pot we make at the start of Ramadan is our trial and error process,” he said.
- XII** The preparation for the morning is done in advance – the spices are pre-packed, and the meat, prawns and rice are measured and put aside the day before.
- XIII** The volunteers come from around the village and some even from other parts of the city, many willing to devote hours of their time in the kitchen even though they are not permitted to eat or drink water because it is Ramadan. 35



- XIV** "We cook together, we work as a team and when Ramadan is over, we meet each other in the morning for Eid prayers," Adham said, adding that they would frequently joke with each other when they cook. 40
- XV** When the mosque first began making the bubur, there was no such thing as "crowdfunding", so the people in the mosque gathered the necessary ingredients from people living in the wider village, distributing the finished product to the residents.
- XVI** The idea was to make sure that even the poorest were able to eat a good meal when they broke their fast. 45
- XVII** "It was like a potluck amongst the villagers in Kampung Baru and the tradition lives on even a hundred years later," mosque committee chairman Mohd Khay Ibrahim told Al Jazeera.
- XVIII** Kampung Baru born and bred, Mohd Khay grew up eating the iconic porridge every Ramadan. He is the third generation from his family to be a part of the village's mosque community. 50
- XIX** "I used to be a small kid around the block and now I am one of the old men but this is a volunteer role that I and other members of the mosque are very happy to be a part of," he said. 55
- XX** To him, it is bubur lambuk's unique flavour, unaffected by the passage of time and at least nine chief cooks, that keeps Malaysians, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, coming back.
- XXI** "As a Muslim, we call it Barakah, or blessing, so while the recipe is an open secret and everyone who makes the porridge uses the same recipe, they cannot get the taste of the Kampung Baru Mosque," he said. 60

*(Adapted from 'The Ramadan porridge that keeps Malaysians coming back for more', Al Jazeera English)*

Questions 41 to 50 are based on Reading Passage 5.

(2 marks each)

Answer the questions in **NO MORE THAN FOUR (4) WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER**.

41. How do the volunteer chefs begin cooking bubur lambuk?

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42. What sorts of vegetables are added to the dish?

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43. What kinds of garnishes are added to bubur lambuk before its distribution?

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44. How long has the recipe at the Masjid Jamek Kampung Baru mosque been used?

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45. How is bubur lambuk's taste described?

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46. What was the chief cook's profession before he began volunteering at the mosque?

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47. How did Adham learn the bubur recipe?

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48. How does Adham refer to the first pot made at the start of Ramadan?

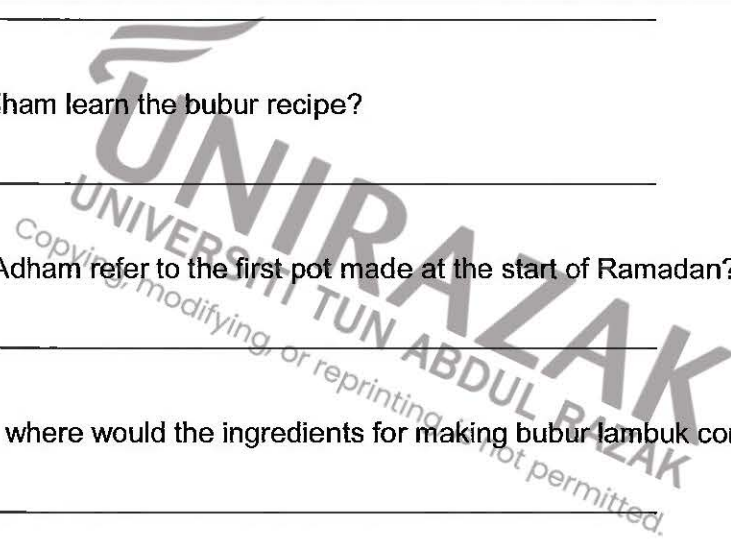
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49. In the past, where would the ingredients for making bubur lambuk come from?

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50. In Mohd Khay's opinion, what makes the bubur lambuk at the Kampung Baru Mosque so popular?

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**Reading Passage 6**

**(10 Marks)**

- I** Midge, my rescue pup, isn't the world's most affectionate dog. We get along great, but she has her own hobbies: horrifically dismembering her cute little plush toys, chewing through her chew-proof bed. But as soon as even a mild head cold starts to take hold of me, my dog is transformed. She's no longer her usual self, jabbing a dagger paw into my ribs to prod me into throwing her ball. Instead, she's Doctor Midge, Medicine Chihuahua, ready to nurse me back to health by cuddling up against me (or on top of me) at all times. 1  
5
- II** Although I'm of the firm belief that my dog is a unique and special angel, it's easy to find tales of other pets comforting or guarding their people during times of illness or injury. I was sick recently, and as Midge was glued to my side, friends told me about their own pets attending to them around the clock after everything from surgery to stomach troubles. (For the record, Midge didn't care when I sliced my hand open while washing dishes last month.) 10
- III** According to researchers who study canine cognition, it's usually not just pet owners' imagination. Pups really do know when their humans are having a rough time, and they use a rich variety of signals to figure it out. Not only can your pet tell when you have the sniffles, but domestic dogs have shown an aptitude for detecting both much more minute mood fluctuations and far more serious physical conditions. 15
- IV** "Dogs are preternaturally sensitive to changes in their people," says Alexandra Horowitz, the head of the Horowitz Dog Cognition Lab at Barnard College. "If a person is infected with a virus or bacteria, they will smell different." Some illnesses change a person's odour so profoundly that even other people can notice it, but dogs are able to smell changes in their people that would escape human senses, or that are so early on that the sick person barely feels any different. That's because dogs have exponentially more powerful senses of smell than humans: They can have as many as 300 million olfactory receptors in their nose, as opposed to a paltry 6 million for the average person. 20  
25
- V** Researchers have also found that a person's mood, which can be an indicator of a larger illness, triggers a dog's sense of smell. Human emotions manifest physically in chemosignals that are emitted by the body, and dogs are adept at deciphering those changes. 30
- VI** Beyond smell, dogs also pull information from a person's voice in order to sense changes. In 2014, researchers discovered that dogs have an area of the brain, similar to one found in humans, that allows them to decipher emotional cues in the tone of a speaker's voice, beyond what they'd be able to pick up from familiar words alone. That's why Midge wags her little tail when I excitedly ask her if she's my boo boo, even though she doesn't know what that is. (To be fair, neither do I.) A person's voice can also carry indicators of depression, lethargy, or other bad feelings. 35
- VII** What's not understood quite so well is what dogs make of these changes. "We're sending out lots of cues, of just the sort that dogs are specialized in attuning to," says Horowitz. "Whether they think that it means 'sickness' is not clear." What we perceive as concern on a dog's part might be more like increased curiosity or 40

- suspicion that something is wrong with us, and sticking close by is a great way to glean more information about the situation. 45
- VIII** Also, "concern might be vigilance," says Horowitz. If your pup is worried about your well-being, he or she might turn into the guard dog you never knew you had. In these situations, a dog insists on being the closest living being to you when you're sick or tries to prevent others from accessing you while you convalesce. Depending on the size and temperament of the dog, that might make keeping a flu patient hydrated a little tricky, but rest assured, Horowitz says, the pup means well. 50
- IX** Over centuries of breeding, domestic pups have become even more finely attuned to humans than they are to any of their fellow dogs. When coupled with their incredible sensory abilities, such an intense connection is potentially an enormous boon to human health. 55
- X** Beyond common seasonal illnesses, some dogs have also shown the ability to accurately detect malaria, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, and certain types of cancer. And beyond detection, research suggests that dog ownership can have a variety of health and mood benefits in and of itself. Dogs can help people relax, and they can be a comfort to those with autism or those who are dealing with post-traumatic stress. 60

(Adapted from 'How Your Dog Knows When You're Sick', The Atlantic)

Questions 51 to 60 are based on Reading Passage 6.

(1 mark each)

<b>YES</b>	If the statement agrees with the views in the passage
<b>NO</b>	If the statement disagrees with the views in the passage
<b>NOT GIVEN</b>	If there is no information on the writer's views

51. The writer and her dog have a poor relationship. \_\_\_\_\_
52. The writer's dog is a medicine chihuahua. \_\_\_\_\_
53. The Midge did not care about the writer's cut hand because she is not concerned about minor injuries. \_\_\_\_\_
54. It is believed that pet dogs can identify minor illnesses, serious diseases and even mood swings. \_\_\_\_\_
55. A dog may have 15 times more receptors in their nose than a person. \_\_\_\_\_
56. A human's emotions may also trigger signals produced by the body that a dog can pick up with their sensitive hearing. \_\_\_\_\_

57. Dogs are able to interpret their owners' tone of voice better than a stranger's tone. \_\_\_\_\_
58. Dogs become clingier possibly because they want to know more about the changes in their owner during an illness. \_\_\_\_\_
59. Pet dogs always become more aggressive when their owners fall sick. \_\_\_\_\_
60. The writer's dog has been trained to be a therapy dog for post-traumatic stress disorder patients. \_\_\_\_\_

  
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Reading Passage 7

(8 Marks)

- I On a cool December afternoon a group of women dressed in brightly coloured mekhela chadors (Assam's traditional handwoven clothing) sit in a circle on the grass at the Bhokha Beel wetlands, singing and clapping. Some of the women are wearing papier-mache headdresses shaped like long-necked birds. As they sing, one of them gets to her feet and starts dancing. 1  
5
- II They are part of the "hargila army", a group of rural women in the Indian state of Assam who work to protect one of the world's rarest storks: the greater adjutant or hargila (meaning "bone swallower" in Assamese) as the scavenger bird is known locally. They are celebrating the recent UN Environment Programme's Champions of the Earth award, conferred on the group's biologist founder, Dr Purnima Devi Barman. 10
- III Barman won the award for her achievement in mobilising more than 10,000 women to help save the stork. "They are the protectors of the birds and of their nesting trees," says Barman, referring to the band of homemakers turned conservationists. 15
- IV The greater adjutant, a member of the stork family that can grow up to 1.5 metres (5ft) tall, was once abundant across south Asia. But its distinctive features – a featherless head, dangling gular (throat) pouch, striking pale eyes and long skinny legs – and its foul-smelling droppings and dietary preference for carrion – won it few fans. The birds were also seen as a bad omen and carriers of disease. Villagers attacked them with stones, cut down trees where they roosted communally and burned their nests. 20
- V Today the greater adjutant is endangered, with fewer than 1,200 adult birds in its last strongholds – the Indian states of Assam and Bihar, and Cambodia. Most of the global population is found in Assam, making Barman and the hargila army's work critical to its survival. 25
- VI Barman grew up in a village on the Brahmaputra, a river that flows for 2,500 miles through Tibet, north-east India and Bangladesh. As a child, she learned about Assam's wildlife from her grandmother, who took her into the paddy fields where she worked and taught her about local birdlife. "She didn't know how to write but she had a feeling for nature and taught me lots of songs and stories about the birds," says Barman. 30
- VII Barman had been about to embark on a PhD on the greater adjutant when a contact phoned to tell her that a villager in Dadara had cut down a kadam (burflower) nesting tree in his yard. 35
- VIII When she arrived at the site, she was appalled to find the ground littered with nests and dead or injured chicks. "It was my mothering instinct. I wanted to do something to protect these innocent creatures," says Barman, whose twin girls were two at the time.
- IX Barman began teaching the villagers about the birds' importance as "nature's cleaning crew", and why nesting trees should not be cut down. In response, she was taunted and asked to clean the foul-smelling mess herself. The hostility she 40

- faced made her realise that to save the bird, she first needed to change the community's attitude to it.
- X** She delayed her PhD and set to work: she organised public meetings where she honoured the owners of trees, mostly men, instilling in them a sense of pride in their role as guardians. The tactic paid off. "Not a single nesting tree has been cut down since 2010," she says. 45
- XI** But it was the women who Barman believed held the key to sustainable and community-led conservation. The problem was they were confined to their homes and household chores. So Barman found creative ways to bring them out where she could talk to them. She began organising cooking competitions of traditional sweets and snacks, where she befriended the women and talked about the birds. 50
- XII** She tapped into the women's nurturing side by organising "baby showers" during the storks' breeding season, inspired by a Hindu ritual for expectant human mothers, and "happy hatching" ceremonies to commemorate the arrival of the chicks. Slowly but surely, the women began to accept the birds as part of their world. 55
- XIII** By 2014, the conservation movement had gathered momentum and the hargila army was born. "Conservation is all about uniting people and building ownership," says Barman. "I've always believed that, if given a chance, women can make a big difference in conservation." 60
- XIV** Today, the once-maligned bird is now a cultural symbol, appearing on everything from towels to road-safety campaigns.
- XV** In the villages of Dadara, Pacharia and Singimari (all in Kamrup district), greater adjutants' nests have increased from 28 in 2010 to more than 250 according to Barman's last count, making the area the world's largest breeding colony. "We now have more than 1,000 hargila birds in Assam," says Barman, referring to recent but unpublished data collected by her team. 65
- XVI** The conservation efforts have also transformed the lives of the women, who now go into other villages to raise awareness of the birds. "Joining the hargila army gave me a chance to show everyone that I could do something meaningful with my life," says Daivaki Saikia, a young widow from Dadara's marginalised fishing community, who has been a member for five years. 70

*(Adapted from 'Mobilising Assam's 'hargila army': how 10,000 women saved India's rarest stork', The Guardian)*

Questions 61 to 68 are based on Reading Passage 7.

(1 mark each)

Choose the **BEST** answer.

61. Why were the hargila army singing and dancing in the grass?

- A. They were celebrating the birth of a new hargila.
- B. They were celebrating Dr Barman's latest award.
- C. They were celebrating the Champions of the Earth award.
- D. They were celebrating the Bhokha Beel wetlands.

62. How does Barman describe the women who help her protect the hargila?

- A. fighters
- B. homemakers
- C. conservationists
- D. protectors

63. What is another name for the 'hargila'?

- A. the bone swallow
- B. the bone cleaner
- C. the greater swallower
- D. the greater adjutant

64. Which of these are the physical characteristics of the hargila?

- I. long skinny legs
- II. dangling throat pouch
- III. extremely pale eyes
- IV. featherless wings

- A. I and II
- B. I, II and III
- C. I, II and IV
- D. I, III and IV



65. Where can one find a majority of the hargila currently?
- A. Assam
  - B. Bihar
  - C. Cambodia
  - D. Bangladesh
66. What word might best replace the word 'taunted' in paragraph IX?
- A. ignored
  - B. lectured
  - C. ridiculed
  - D. complimented
67. Why did Barman continue to work with the women of Assam even after convincing the male owners of the nesting trees to keep the trees intact?
- A. She believed it was women who could spread the word of the conservation effort.
  - B. She believed it was women who could take care of the hargila better.
  - C. She believed it was women who could monitor the men and keep them in check.
  - D. She believed it was women who could keep the conservation effort alive.
68. 'Conservation is all about uniting people and building ownership' implies that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Endangered species will not survive unless a village takes up official ownership of them.
  - B. Endangered species will not survive without the deep involvement of an entire community.
  - C. Endangered species will not survive unless their owners are united into a coalition.
  - D. Endangered species will not survive without the dedication of Barman and her hargila army.

**Reading Passage 8**

**(12 Marks)**

- I There was a king who had twelve beautiful daughters. They slept in twelve beds all in one room; and when they went to bed, the doors were shut and locked up. Yet every morning their shoes were found to be quite worn through as if they had been danced in all night. Nobody could find out how it happened, or where they had been. 1
- II Then the king made it known to all the land, that if any person could discover the secret, and find out where it was that the princesses danced in the night, he should have the one he liked best for his wife, and should be king after his death; but whoever tried and did not succeed, after three days and nights, should be put to death. 5
- III A king's son soon came. He was well entertained, and in the evening was taken to the chamber next to the one where the princesses lay in their twelve beds. There he was to sit and watch where they went to dance. In order that nothing might pass without his hearing it, the door of his chamber was left open. 10
- IV But the king's son soon fell asleep. When he awoke in the morning, he found that the princesses had all been dancing, for the soles of their shoes were full of holes. The same thing happened the second and third night, so the king ordered his head to be cut off. After him came several others; but they had all the same luck, and all lost their lives in the same manner. 15
- V Now it chanced that a soldier, who had been wounded in battle and could fight no longer, passed through the country where this king reigned. As he was travelling through a wood, he met an old woman who asked him where he was going. 'I hardly know where I am going, or what I had better do,' said the soldier; 'but I think I should like very well to find out where it is that the princesses dance, and then in time I might be a king.' 20
- VI 'Well,' said the old dame, 'that is no very hard task. Only take care not to drink any of the wine which one of the princesses will bring to you in the evening. As soon as she leaves you, pretend to be fast asleep.' 25
- VII Then she gave him a cloak, and said, 'As soon as you put that on, you will become invisible. Then you can follow the princesses wherever they go.' When the soldier heard all this good counsel, he determined to try his luck. So he went to the king, and said he was willing to undertake the task. 30
- VIII He was as well received as the others had been, and the king ordered fine royal robes to be given to him. When the evening came, he was led to the outer chamber. Just as he was going to lie down, the eldest of the princesses brought him a cup of wine; but the soldier threw it all away secretly, taking care not to drink a drop. Then he laid himself down on his bed, and in a little while began to snore very loud as if he was fast asleep. 35
- IX When the twelve princesses heard this, they laughed heartily; and the eldest said, 'He too might have done a wiser thing than lose his life in this way!'

- X Then they rose up and opened their drawers and boxes, and took out all their fine clothes, and dressed themselves at the glass, and skipped about as if they were eager to begin dancing. 40
- XI But the youngest said, 'I don't know how it is, while you are so happy I feel very uneasy; I am sure some mischance will befall us.'
- XII 'You simpleton,' said the eldest, 'you are always afraid. Have you forgotten how many kings' sons have already watched in vain? And as for that one, even if I had not given him his sleeping draught, he would have slept soundly enough.' 45
- XIII When they were all ready, they went and looked at the soldier; but he snored on, and did not stir hand or foot. They thought they were quite safe, so the eldest went up to her own bed and clapped her hands. At the sound, the bed sank into the floor and a trap-door flew open. 50
- XIV The soldier saw them going down through it one after another, the eldest leading the way; and thinking he had no time to lose, he jumped up, put on the old woman's gift, and followed them.

(Adapted from 'The Twelve Dancing Princesses, Brothers Grimm)

Questions 69 to 74 are based on Reading Passage 8.

(2 marks each)

Identify the subject/object that these pronouns refer to in the context of the passage.

69. it (para I) : \_\_\_\_\_
70. several others (para IV) : \_\_\_\_\_
71. the task (para VII) : \_\_\_\_\_
72. that one (para XII) : \_\_\_\_\_
73. it (para XIV) : \_\_\_\_\_
74. the old woman's gift (para XIV) : \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* END OF QUESTION PAPER \*\*\*