



FINAL EXAMINATION

NOVEMBER 2022

MATRIC _____

SECTION _____

SEATING NO _____

COURSE TITLE ENGLISH 1

COURSE CODE FENG0114

DATE/DAY 15 FEBRUARY 2023 / WEDNESDAY

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

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(This Question Paper consists of 31 Printed Pages including front page)

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ATTENDANCE SLIP

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

(100 MARKS)

Reading Passage 1

(10 Marks)

- I Squabbling over food is almost a national pastime for Singapore and Malaysia, two food-loving nations that were once a single political entity. Tug-of-wars over chilli crab, Hainanese chicken rice and cendol or rendang (with Indonesia occasionally making it a three-cornered fight) have occurred repeatedly over the years. The long-simmering distaste for Singapore being given or claiming credit for “Malaysian-origin” dishes occasionally boils over, resulting in impassioned social media spats. 1
5
- II Nasi lemak is the dish currently in the firing line, with new versions usually being unveiled around the time of both countries’ Independence Day celebrations in August. 10
- III In 2017, to commemorate Singapore’s National Day on 9 August, McDonald’s Singapore unveiled the Nasi Lemak Burger: a coconut-flavoured chicken thigh patty, fried egg, caramelised onions and cucumber slices topped with sambal sauce served between semolina buns, which some Malaysians saw as an appropriation of “their” dish. 15
- IV Egged on by their countrymen, Malaysian burger joint myBurgerLab created the Nasi Lemak Ayam Rendang burger to commemorate Malaysia’s own Independence Day on 31 August 2017.
- V A provocative tweet prior to its launch featured a picture of the burger in front of a Malaysian flag with the text: “Dear Singapore, nice try, but ...”. Some Singaporeans retorted, “Copycats”; while others wryly remarked that Malaysia’s issue should be with McDonalds rather than Singapore. The burger became such a hit that what was originally a temporary special became part of the regular myBurgerLab menu. 20
- VI In August 2018, when Singapore nominated its hawker culture (comprising more than 100 indoor communal dining spaces where chefs serve multicultural food – including nasi lemak) for UNESCO listing, hackles were raised across the causeway. Malaysian celebrity chef Redzuawan Ismail (better known as Chef Wan) branded the nomination “arrogant”, and adding that “people who lack confidence in their food will go all out to do these things for recognition.” 25
30
- VII Malaysians were once again miffed when streaming giant Netflix passed up their eclectic cuisine to feature Singapore instead in its Street Food (Asia) series. In response, a local Malaysian radio station teamed up with

- Nazrudin Habibur Rahman, the host of long-running local food show Jalan-Jalan Cari Makan (“Scouting Around For Food”). Using the hashtag #BersatuForMakan (#UniteForFood), they lobbied for a street food video they produced — which included the famous Nasi Lemak Tanglin stall in Kuala Lumpur – to be featured in the Netflix series. 35
- VIII But is nasi lemak unequivocally “Malaysian”? Given scant food history records in this region, no-one can say for sure. 40
- IX According to food historian Ahmad Najib Ariffin, founder of the Nusantara Academy of Development, Geocultures & Ethnolinguistics that focuses on culture, tradition and heritage in South-East Asia, rice cooked in coconut milk isn’t itself exclusive to Malaysia. However, the type of nasi lemak served here, with its particular constellation of condiments, is uniquely Malaysian. “You do not have this type of nasi lemak in other parts of South-East Asia,” he said. 45
- X Others are slightly more circumspect about laying sole claim to a dish with close cousins – albeit with tweaks in ingredients, condiments and taste – around South-East Asia. 50
- XI “I cannot comment if nasi lemak is in the history books of Malaysia. But we can say that wherever there are Malays, nasi lemak is common food like in Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Singapore,” said Mohammad Nazri Samsuddin, third-generation manager of Nasi Lemak Wanjo in Kuala Lumpur, who serves up nasi lemak with sides like sambal squid and retains Malay traditions like steaming the rice in specially manufactured wood steamers. 55
- XII Indeed, versions of nasi lemak can be found scattered across the region, from north Sumatra – where it’s served with serundeng (spicy fried coconut flakes), sambal udang (prawn and cubed potatoes cooked in chili sauce) and telur balado (hard-boiled eggs cooked in chilli sauce) – to the southern Thailand town of Betong, where it’s accompanied by tom yam sauce (a hot and sour Thai soup usually cooked with shrimp). 60
- XIII “Nasi lemak is a Nusantara favourite! So many names, so many variations across geography and culture, it would be almost blasphemous [to claim it as solely Malaysian]. If we ever do, be prepared for the next crescendo of ‘Ganyang Malingsia’ [a term coined by Indonesians referring to what they claim as Malaysia’s appropriation of their culture] from across the Malacca Straits!” Rahman joked. 65
70
- XIV Ariffin agrees. Given that the Malay Archipelago has witnessed a history of cross-influence, cross-migration and intermarriage, he believes it would not be altogether true for any one country to claim first dibs on a dish that predates present national boundaries.

- XV “We forget that Singapore and Malaysia are like brother and sister. I always like to mention that we had a common parent. If parents **bequeathed** to their children the same recipe, no sibling can say that this is only mine,” said Ariffin, who has family on both sides of the causeway. 75

(Adapted from ‘Where is Malaysia’s national dish?’, BBC)

Questions 1 to 10 are based on Reading Passage 1.

(1 mark each)

Choose the **BEST** answer.

1. What occasionally happens when Singapore is granted or claims credit for dishes of Malaysian origin?
 - A. Indonesia gets involved in the quarrelling over social media.
 - B. Malaysians and Singaporeans argue fiercely over social media.
 - C. Singapore and Malaysia broadcast their tug-of-war competition on social media.
 - D. Malaysia cooks the particular dish for a week and puts it all over social media.

2. What was the result of the 2017 nasi lemak burger rivalry?
 - A. Malaysia added semolina buns to nasi lemak.
 - B. Singapore banned myBurgerLab from expanding in their country.
 - C. Singapore McDonald’s made their Nasi Lemak Burger a regular menu item.
 - D. myBurgerLab kept the Nasi Lemak Ayam Rendang burger on their menu.

3. What does it mean when ‘hackles were raised across the causeway’ in para. VI?
 - A. Malaysians were annoyed by the claim Singapore seemed to make over their shared food and hawker culture.
 - B. Malaysians were annoyed by the claim Singapore seemed to make about their shared expressways.
 - C. Malaysians were annoyed by the claim Singapore seemed to raise about their shared hackles culture.
 - D. Malaysians were annoyed by the claim Singapore seemed to make over the UNESCO heritage sites they shared.

4. Who did the host of Jalan-Jalan Cari Makan collaborate with to create the #BersatuForMakan video?
- A. Malaysian celebrity chef, Chef Wan
 - B. Netflix
 - C. a local radio station
 - D. the Nasi Lemak Tanglin stall
5. Which word could best replace 'scant' in para. VIII?
- A. lost
 - B. sparse
 - C. strenuous
 - D. complicated
6. Why is it uncertain that nasi lemak originates exclusively from Malaysia?
- A. Nasi lemak actually came from Indonesia.
 - B. There are no records at all about the food of Southeast Asia.
 - C. Rice cooked in coconut milk is not a Malaysian dish only.
 - D. Only rice steamed in special wooden steamers count as Malaysian nasi lemak.
7. What ingredient can be found in the north Sumatran version of nasi lemak?
- I. squid and potatoes in chilli sauce
 - II. spicy fried coconut flakes
 - III. hard-boiled eggs in chilli sauce
 - IV. hot and sour shrimp soup
- A. I and II
 - B. II and III
 - C. II, III and IV
 - D. I, II and III

8. Which word could best replace 'blasphemous' in para. XIII?

- A. irrelevant
- B. unintelligent
- C. unimportant
- D. disrespectful

9. Which statement best describes the history of the Malay Archipelago?

- A. The people living there have constantly exchanged cultures across time and space.
- B. The people living there have constantly migrated between countries across history.
- C. The people living there have constantly intermarried.
- D. The people living there have constantly changed dishes to suit each other's tastes.

10. Which word could best replace 'bequeathed' in para. XV?

- A. ripped off
- B. deprived
- C. handed down
- D. succeeded

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Reading Passage 2

(20 Marks)

- I** Stone Age cooks were surprisingly sophisticated, combining an array of ingredients and using different techniques to prepare and flavour their meals, analysis of some of the earliest charred food remains has suggested. 1
- II** Plant material found at the Shanidar Cave in northern Iraq — which is famous for its burial of a Neanderthal surrounded by flowers — and Franchthi Cave in Greece revealed prehistoric cooking by Neanderthals and early modern humans was complex, involving several steps, and that the foods used were diverse, according to a new study published in the journal *Antiquity*. 5
10
- III** Wild nuts, peas, vetch, a legume which had edible seed pods, and grasses were often combined with pulses like beans or lentils, the most commonly identified ingredient, and at times, wild mustard. To make the plants more palatable, pulses, which have a naturally bitter taste, were soaked, coarsely ground or pounded with stones to remove their husk. 15
- IV** At Shanidar Cave, the researchers studied plant remains from 70,000 years ago, when the space was inhabited by Neanderthals, an extinct species of human, and 40,000 years ago, when it was home to early modern humans (*Homo sapiens*).
- V** The charred food remains from Franchthi Cave dated from 12,000 years ago, when it was also occupied by hunter-gatherer *Homo sapiens*. 20
- VI** Despite the distance in time and space, similar plants and cooking techniques were identified at both sites — possibly suggesting a shared culinary tradition, said the study's lead author Dr. Ceren Kabukcu, an archaeobotanical scientist at the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom. 25
- VII** Based on the food remains researchers analyzed, Neanderthals, the heavy-browed hominins who disappeared about 40,000 years ago, and *Homo sapiens* appeared to use similar ingredients and techniques, she added, although wild mustard was only found at Shanidar Cave dating back to when it was occupied by *Homo sapiens*. 30
- VIII** A bread-like substance was found at the Greek cave, although it wasn't clear what it was made from. The evidence that ancient humans pounded and soaked pulses at Shanidar Cave 70,000 years ago is the earliest direct evidence outside Africa of the processing of plants for food, according to Kabukcu. 35

- IX** Kabukcu said she was surprised to find that prehistoric people were combining plant ingredients in this way, an indication that flavour was clearly important. She had expected to find only starchy plants like roots and tubers, which on face value appear to be more nutritious and are easier to prepare. 40
- X** Much research on prehistoric diets has focused on whether early humans were predominantly meat eaters, but Kabukcu said it was clear they weren't just chomping on woolly mammoth steaks. Our ancient ancestors ate a varied diet depending on where they lived, and this likely included a wide range of plants. 45
- XI** Such creative cooking techniques were once thought to have emerged only with the shift from the hunter-gatherer lifestyle to humans' focus on agriculture — known as the Neolithic transition — that took place between 6,000 to 10,000 years ago. 50
- XII** What's more, she said, the research suggested life in the Stone Age was not just a brutal fight to survive, at least at these two sites, and that prehistoric humans selectively foraged a variety of different plants and understood their different flavour profiles.
- XIII** John McNabb, a professor at the Centre for the Archaeology of Human Origins at the University of Southampton in the UK said that scientific understanding of the Neanderthal diet has changed significantly "as we move away from the idea of them just consuming huge quantities of hunted game meat." 55
- XIV** "More data is needed from Shanidar, but if these results are supported then Neanderthals were eating pulses and some species from the grass family that required careful preparation before consumption. Sophisticated techniques of food preparation had a much deeper history than previously thought," McNabb, who wasn't involved in the research, said via email. 60
- XV** "Even more intriguing is the possibility that they did not deliberately extract all the unpalatable toxins. Some were left in the food, as the presence of seed coatings suggests — that part of the seed where the bitterness is especially located. A Neanderthal flavour of choice." 65

(Adapted from 'Outdoor Neanderthals cooked meals with pulses 70,000 years ago', CNN)

Questions 11 to 20 are based on Reading Passage 2.

(2 marks each)

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

11. Where was a Neanderthal buried with flowers discovered?

12. How does the study in the journal *Antiquity* describe the prehistoric cooking by Neanderthals and early modern humans?

13. What was the most common ingredient in Neanderthal cooking?

14. How old were the food remains from Franchthi Cave that researchers studied?

15. What conclusion did Dr Kabukcu come to after comparing the plant remains and food remains in Iraq and Greece respectively?

16. What was the evidence of processing plants for food that the researchers discovered in Iraq?

17. What had Kabukcu expected to find?

18. At which period had creative cooking techniques been assumed to only emerge?

19. According to Professor McNabb, what does this discovery imply about sophisticated food preparation?

20. Why were some of the bitter seed coatings left behind in the food?

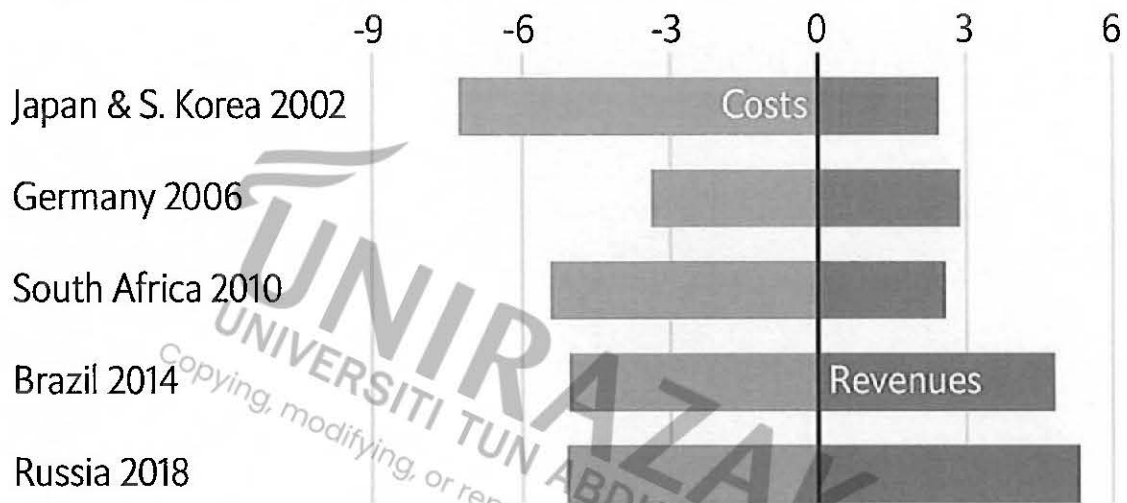
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Reading Passage 3

(10 Marks)

- I Football fans can hardly accuse Qatar of being tight-fisted. The Arab state has reportedly spent \$300bn in the 12 years since it won the rights to host the men's World Cup. It only expects the tournament to inject \$17bn back into its economy. Much of that spending spree has gone into building infrastructure, including a whizzy new metro system built to accommodate the 1.5m visitors expected to show up to football's biggest party. Organisers insist all the construction will serve a purpose even after the final goals are scored. They should hope so. As an investment, sporting mega-events are almost always a dud.

Men's football World Cups, \$bn, 2018 prices



- II Between 1964 and 2018, 31 out of 36 big events (such as World Cups or summer and winter Olympics) racked up chunky losses, according to researchers at the University of Lausanne. Of the 14 World Cups they analysed, only one has ever been profitable: Russia's in 2018 generated a surplus of \$235m, buoyed by a huge deal for broadcasting rights. Still, the tournament only managed a 4.6% return on investment. (The data for Mexico's World Cup in 1986 is incomplete.)
- III Almost all the main expenses fall on the host country. FIFA, the sport's governing body, covers only operational costs. Yet it takes home most of the revenue: ticket sales, sponsorships and broadcasting rights go into its coffers. The last World Cup, for instance, scored FIFA a cool \$5.4bn, part of which is then transferred to national teams.
- IV The Lausanne data only includes expenses related to venues, such as constructing a stadium, and logistics, such as staffing costs. It ignores the value

- of indirect projects, like Qatar's metro infrastructure and new hotels. Some infrastructure projects make economies more productive in the long term. But many costly stadiums eventually go unused, and the events rarely spark economic development in surrounding areas. 25
- V** Residents of host cities have begun questioning the benefits of their governments spending billions of dollars on large sporting events. As a result, fewer countries are volunteering as hosts. Seven cities bid to host the summer Olympic Games in 2016; for 2024 there were only two eventual bidders. 30
- VI** These huge costs are new to the sporting world. The World Cup in 1966, featuring 16 teams, cost around \$200,000 per footballer (in 2018 prices). In 2018, that figure jumped to \$7m. Costs have been driven by building more new stadiums for every tournament. In Qatar, seven of the eight stadiums have been built from scratch; in 1966 England did not build any. 35
- VII** Economics aside, Qatar is also struggling to bank the prestige that host cities aim to attract. According to one analysis, two-thirds of coverage in the lead up to the World Cup in British media has been critical, focusing on the desert state's poor human-rights record. Fans may also be unimpressed by its abrupt ban on alcohol in stadiums. As with any party, hosting is not all it's cracked up to be. 40

(Adapted from 'Is the World Cup a giant waste of money?' *The Economist*)

Questions 21 to 30 are based on Reading Passage 3.

(1 mark each)

For each of the statements, write

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

21. Qatar spent \$300 billion on the World Cup's expenses over a decade. _____
22. Qatar expected over one million visitors to arrive just for the World Cup. _____
23. The only hosts that suffered losses after hosting the World Cup were Japan and South Korea in 2002. _____

- 24. Germany did not make a profit when it hosted the World Cup in 2006. _____

- 25. Based on data from over 40 years, researchers at the University of Lausanne concluded that world-class events were large financial losses for their hosts. _____

- 26. The 1986 World Cup in Mexico ran a deficit. _____

- 27. FIFA claims that it covering its operational costs is reasonable as the tourism from the World Cup will compensate its host cities. _____

- 28. Protests against large events by residents of host cities are becoming the norm. _____

- 29. More recent World Cup tournaments are significantly more expensive than older ones. _____

- 30. In the UK, 23% of the media coverage of the World Cup has been negative. _____

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Reading Passage 4

(10 Marks)

- I** Akmal Razak and his friends embarked on the long 10-hour drive from Columbus, Ohio, to New York City at 11:30 p.m. on Monday, determined to get to Robyn Choi before she flew out Tuesday night. They carried precious cargo: dozens of postal ballots from Malaysian voters in the US who entrusted Razak and his friends to deliver their votes to Choi, a “flyer” who volunteered to carry the ballots on her flight back to Kuala Lumpur in time for Malaysia’s elections on Saturday. 1 5
- II** The Ohio State University students reached Manhattan at 2 p.m. Tuesday. That night, Choi, a Malaysian lawyer who was vacationing in the US, flew out of JFK Airport with more than 250 postal ballots — including mine — in her carry-on luggage. 10
- III** It was part of an intricate global operation to make sure Malaysian citizens living abroad would get to vote in the general election on Saturday, the first since a power grab in 2020 resulted in a change in government and triggered one of the country’s biggest political crises. 15
- IV** Nearly 50,000 overseas ballots were issued starting on Nov. 7, but many only reached voters a week before polling day, too late and too costly to be mailed back to their constituencies before polls in Malaysia closed at 5 p.m. Racing against flight schedules, time zones, and geographical hurdles, Malaysians around the world ran a huge coordinated effort to get their ballots on commercial planes back home in time to be counted. 20
- V** The Malaysian diaspora hustled to get overseas ballots in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Dubai, Qatar, China, Vietnam, Hong Kong, India, Switzerland, and the UK onto flights home. A commercial pilot flying from Dubai to Kuala Lumpur carried a duffel bag of ballots with him in the cockpit. Organisers in Germany sent home nearly 1,000 ballots from Malaysians across Europe, Rina Azura, a Germany-based coordinator, told me. Flyers from London carried about 7,000 ballots home. 25
- VI** I received my ballot on Monday afternoon, nearly two weeks after my application for a postal vote was approved. Within hours, I was at a Starbucks in Manhattan meeting Brenda Ho, a recent New York University graduate who was collecting postal ballots to hand to Choi. Ho signed off as a witness on my ballot (overseas votes require a Malaysian citizen 18 years or older to be a witness, or *saksi*), and we made small talk. I handed her my voting slip in an envelope and skipped off to dinner, gushing about how straightforward and easy the exchange was. 30 35
- VII** But it wasn’t that simple, as I later found out. Over the past few days, I watched the frantic posts in Facebook Groups and messages on WhatsApp from people who had only just received their ballots in the mail.

- There were Google Sheets with contact information for flyers and witnesses, sorted by country, state, and city. Organisers told me they worked around the clock to pick up ballots and tried to get every last one on a plane home. 40
- VIII** “For the past two weeks, our lives have been on hold,” Charlene Wong-Podany, who handled collections in New Jersey, told me. 45
- IX** She and two other Malaysians set up a New York/New Jersey Facebook group to collect ballots that would be going to Choi. They recruited volunteers like Ho to pick up those ballots, and handled requests from people from other states who wanted to mail them to Choi. They discussed alternate plans to get the ballots to Malaysia if Choi’s flight somehow fell through: Someone could travel to Canada or London and hand it to a flyer there, or, if all else fails, one of them would fly to Kuala Lumpur. 50
- X** The system was deeply Malaysian in spirit — loose yet coordinated, improvised yet thorough, and a lot of last-minute problem-solving. It also required a huge degree of trust in people you’ve never met. 55
- XI** Getting my ballot to a flyer was easy for me. I was in a major city where lots of other Malaysians lived, and I was lucky that my ballot didn’t arrive any later than it did. But that wasn’t the case for many people, including Razak, the OSU student. 60
- XII** Razak, 22, had organised a collection centre at his campus, and his friends had picked up ballots from Malaysians in Wisconsin and Chicago, too. They collected 66 ballots altogether, 38 of which they brought to Choi in New York on Tuesday. The others were flown out to San Francisco to reach a flyer leaving on Wednesday morning. 65
- XIII** It was Razak’s first election, and he’d been eager for a chance to vote.
- XIV** “Since the moment I’ve been politically aware of how things are in Malaysia, I’ve been waiting for the day that we can vote for our candidates,” he told me. “It just felt like this is the time where I can do something for my country.” 70
- XV** But Razak never got his postal ballot. When we spoke on Thursday afternoon, it was still on hold at a FedEx location in Memphis, where it had languished since Sunday.
- XVI** “It does feel a bit demotivating that I couldn’t deliver my vote,” he told me. “But I think at the end of the day, having everybody else’s votes delivered kind of made up for it. Like, one voice versus 66 voices. I think that’s a huge difference.” 75

(Adapted from 'How Malaysians Raced Against The Clock To Deliver At Least 33,000 Overseas Ballots Home For The Election', BuzzFeed News)

Questions 31 to 40 are based on Reading Passage 4.

(1 mark each)

For each of the statements, write:

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

31. Akmal Razak drove from Columbus to Manhattan by himself. _____
32. The writer was born in Miri, Sarawak. _____
33. Robyn Choi is an American with family in Malaysia. _____
34. The writer was able to send her ballot back to Malaysia. _____
35. The writer believes the initiative to send ballots back home to Malaysia was a complicated undertaking. _____
36. The writer was impressed at how quick and easy it had been to send her postal vote. _____
37. The writer wishes to volunteer in any similar future efforts to collect ballots despite witnessing how stressful it could be. _____
38. The writer believes the ballot-collecting initiative can only be done by Malaysians. _____
39. The writer believes she is fortunate to be able to send her vote. _____
40. Akmal Razak was glad he could cast his vote. _____

Reading Passage 5

(20 Marks)

- I** In the coming adventure video game ‘Sea of Solitude’, the main character — a young woman named Kay — navigates a partly submerged city as she faces a multitude of red-eyed scaly creatures. None are as terrifying as her own personal demons. As the game progresses, Kay realises the creatures she is encountering are humans who turned into monsters when they became too lonely. To save herself, she fights to overcome her own loneliness. 1 5
- II** Kay was modelled after the game’s creative director, Cornelia Geppert of Jo-Mei Games, an independent game studio, who struggled after a 2013 breakup. “I felt like I was trapped in a cage,” Ms. Geppert, 37, said of her experience. 10
- III** Sea of Solitude, which Electronic Arts will publish this year, is among a growing number of video games that are tackling mental health issues.
- IV** Last year, a game called ‘Celeste’ explored depression and anxiety through a protagonist who had to avoid physical and emotional obstacles. In 2017’s fantasy action-adventure video game ‘Hellblade: Senua’s Sacrifice’, a young Celtic warrior deals with psychosis. 15
- V** Other games in recent years, including ‘Night in the Woods’ and ‘Pry’, have delved into self-identity, anger issues and post-traumatic stress disorder. All followed the 2013 interactive fiction game ‘Depression Quest’, which asked players to step into the shoes of a character living with depression. 20
- VI** These games are a far cry from the industry’s better-known story lines of battlefield heroics or the zombie apocalypse. But as a cultural conversation around mental health grows louder, makers of content are responding. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, one in five American adults lives with a mental illness. 25
- VII** “Mental health is becoming a more central narrative in our culture, with greater efforts to normalise mental health challenges,” said Eve Crevoshay, executive director of Take This, a non-profit that educates video game developers on best practices around portraying mental health. “With that trend comes response from creative industries, including games.” (Take This was founded in 2013 after the suicide of a video game journalist prompted a debate about the issue.) 30
- VIII** To date, most of the games tackling mental health have come from independent makers, which are typically more willing and able to take risks by exploring unusual subject matter. Sea of Solitude points to a shift: a gamble by Electronic Arts, one of the industry’s largest publishers and 35

- better known for its Madden football and Battlefield war games, to invest in the topic.
- IX** Some in the industry said the interactive nature of games made them more effective than film or television at dealing with mental health. Embodying a video game character who suffers from depression might leave a deeper impression of the challenges of the illness than simply watching a film about the same character, for example. 40
- X** Video games can be “a more effective way of bouncing back from negative moods than passive forms of media like TV or movies,” said Raffael Boccamazzo, a mental health practitioner in Seattle who works with Take This. 45
- XI** Makers of mental health games said they had seen a similar reaction from other players. After the 2016 simulation role-playing game Stardew Valley — which does not punish players for not completing tasks and creates a slow-paced atmosphere where the objective is to restore a run-down farm — was released, Eric Barone, the game’s creator, received hundreds of messages, he said. Players wrote to share their stories of how the game helped them cope with difficult periods in their lives. 50
55
- XII** “One story that comes to mind is a person whose little brother had autism, and as a result had great difficulty in relating with him,” said Mr. Barone, 31. “But playing Stardew Valley caused him to open up and allowed the two brothers to bond in a way that was never possible before.”
- XIII** Ms. Crevoshay of Take This said the games industry was at a tipping point in how it accepted and embraced mental health challenges. She said she wanted to see more mainstream developers tackle the topic and more support for gamers who spoke out about these challenges. 60
- XIV** “We know these are not easy changes to make,” she said. “But we want to try.” 65

(Adapted from ‘Depressed and Anxious? These Video Games Want to Help’, New York Times)

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. What is the setting of the video game, 'Sea of Solitude'?

42. What mental health issues were dealt with in the game 'Celeste'?

43. What genre does the game, 'Hellblade: Senua's Sacrifice' belong to?

44. What was among the first video games to tackle the issue of mental health?

45. In the video game industry, what are the usual plots of its video games?

46. What is the proportion of adults in the United States who lives with a mental illness?

47. What is Electronic Arts usually known for?

48. Why would a video game be more effective than other mediums at dealing with mental health?

49. How did Stardew Valley help a player and his autistic younger brother?

50. How does Crevoshay describe the games industry and its tackling of mental health challenges?


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Reading Passage 6

(10 Marks)

- I** Zach Carter, a 24-year-old brand strategist from Los Angeles, curates his searches to which social platform he's on. "I'll go to TikTok for fashion, food, or culture because I know the user base of the app provides that content, whereas on Twitter I'll search for the news." 1
- II** Carter isn't the only one: Increasingly, young people are using social media platforms like TikTok and Instagram to search for things to do and places to try, even seeking out news and important information, rather than consulting traditional discovery tools like Google Search and Google Maps. 5
- III** According to TechCrunch, Google's Prabhakar Raghavan, a senior vice president in charge of Google Search, said, "In our studies, something like almost 40 percent of young people, when they're looking for a place for lunch, they don't go to Google Maps or Search. They go to TikTok or Instagram." He's referring to a survey of U.S. users, ages 18 to 24. 10
- IV** As someone within that age group, the statistic doesn't surprise me. Growing up with access to the internet, I've learned to customise my experience on the internet. I know where to go for what, and when searching for something hyper-specific sometimes Google Search isn't always my best friend. But I was curious how other people within Google's age range searched, so I spoke with 30 of my peers about their online search habits. 15
- V** A UK survey found that TikTok is the fastest growing source of news among young adults ages 16 to 24. This obviously raises alarm because of the rampant misinformation on the platform, but TikTok isn't only being used as a news source. 20
- VI** I found that people are using TikTok similarly to how they use Pinterest. In February of this year TikTok launched a new feature called Collections, essentially copying Pinterest's defining feature. Collections allows TikTok users to organise their favoured videos into folders. Instagram implemented a similar feature in 2019. The Collections feature allows users to save recommendations and organise them into useful categories, making it easier for users to quickly return to ideas and recommendations. 25 30
- VII** "I'll search 'thrifting in Paris' or 'restaurants in Lisbon' and save the things that look good to a little folder to refer back to. I also have a little recipe folder. [I am a] big fan of the folder feature," explained Amanda Cash, a 22-year-old law school student.
- VIII** It's not just that people are searching for suggestions on TikTok. They're also relying on their individual algorithms to feed them geo-specific recommendations. If you find something you want to try, you can save it to 35

- a folder and return to your favourites when you need inspiration for where to go or what to cook.
- IX** In talking to my peers, three things came up in nearly every conversation about what people turn to social media for: recipes, restaurants, and travel recommendations. 40
- X** People are sick of the Google recipe algorithm that prioritises obscure search engine optimised blogs. It's been a running joke on the internet that in order to read a recipe you have to get through the blogger's entire life story, but this is actually deterring the young people I talked to from searching for recipes on Google. Because a TikTok has to quickly grab your attention, recipe videos on the platform are to the point, putting the focus on the food, not the creator. 45
- XI** In a TikTok, you can immediately see what a restaurant looks like and see the person recommending it. It allows for maximum vibe reconnaissance. Additionally, if someone made a TikTok on it, and it came up on your FYP, chances are it's something you'll actually enjoy and the information is up to date. Since the pandemic began it's hard to know what information on Google Search is current. Several times I've found a restaurant through Google Search only to later discover that it's since gone out of business. 50
55
- XII** Ella Boyce, a 23-year-old who has spent the past year travelling in South America and Europe, relies on TikTok and Instagram for travel recommendations. "A lot of blogs aren't designed for phones, so it's hard to read, and there's no centralised fount to crowd source info; it's all random decentralised blogs from Google," Boyce explained. "It's harder to tell someone's credibility from an article than from a video because you can see the person." 60
- XIII** So the next time you're looking for travel inspiration or a place to grab a slice of pizza, you might find what you're searching for on TikTok. 65

(Adapted from 'For Gen Z, TikTok is more than entertainment. It's a search engine', Mashable SEA)

Questions 51 to 60 are based on Reading Passage 6.

(1 mark each)

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

51. The younger generation would be more likely to search TikTok for the latest news instead of Google. _____
52. About two fifths of young people in the UK would search for restaurant recommendations on TikTok or Instagram. _____
53. The writer does not believe Google will last in the long run. _____
54. TikTok has no moderation over the misinformation that is spread on their platform. _____
55. The writer believes that TikTok users behave the same way Pinterest users do. _____
56. The Collections feature on TikTok was introduced before Instagram launched a similar function. _____
57. The writer's peers used TikTok to search for recipe recommendations the most. _____
58. Recipe blogs tend to delay the actual recipe until nearly the end of the blog entry so as to entice people to keep reading. _____
59. The main draw of TikTok is its immediacy of content and the likelihood it will be relevant to the user's specific interests. _____
60. Google has plans to start its own centralised crowdsourcing app in the future. _____

Reading Passage 7

(8 Marks)

- I** From the time most children are born, they look for small moments to keep to themselves. Even infants will disengage from some interactions, breaking eye contact and crying if their caregiver tries to reengage them. Elementary-age kids, researchers have noticed, tend to pull away after a cognitively or interpersonally demanding task, taking up a solitary activity like reading or drawing. You've probably seen a teenager with headphones on or a hood up. Even in these small spurts, solitude serves a purpose. 1
5
- II** Young children typically use solitary time to process overwhelming feelings. Robert Coplan, a psychologist at Carleton University, gave an example he sees frequently: Toddlers who are scolded by their parents will retreat to their room. "If you had a hidden camera in there," he said, "you would see that they might be playing out that scene with a doll ... having the doll be them, having the doll be the mom." By thinking and rehearsing on their own, they start to better regulate "big emotions"—and learn from their mistakes. Paola Corsano, who researches child solitude at the University of Parma, in Italy, told me that solo play can even develop concentration and planning skills. 10
15
- III** As children get older, their capacity for solitude and introspection begins to increase—and so does their need for these quiet moments. There's a reason adolescents are famous for hiding in their room; they're in a period of great self-exploration, and alone time helps them figure out who they are apart from peers or their family unit. Virginia Thomas, a psychology professor at Middlebury College, told me that teenagers start focusing more on the big questions: "Who am I and what do I believe and where am I going with my life and what does it mean?" They also tend to be sensitive to social pressures, and solitude can help them breathe and recharge. 20
25
- IV** Research suggests that adolescents who spend moderate amounts of time by themselves seem to get better grades and have lower self-reported rates of depression than those who don't. And Thomas said that when they think on those identity questions, the resulting "self-connection" can serve them for the rest of their life. Rather than being easily influenced by the people around them, they'll be more likely to make decisions that line up with their own values, Thomas believes. Of course, that reflection can happen in adulthood too—plenty of adults are in therapy, she noted, trying to figure themselves out. But if you ponder life's big questions while you're young, you may have a head start. 30
35
- V** Obviously, none of this means that kids should constantly be by themselves; different children require different amounts of alone time. But to the extent that it's reasonable, they should be the ones deciding that ratio—not adults. Studies have shown that when young people seek out solitude themselves, the effects are far more positive than if it's imposed 40

on them. Sometimes they want to be alone, yes, but they may also just want some **autonomy**. Throughout much of history, unfortunately, that's been hard for kids to come by.

- VI** When young people *are* alone now, they're often on their phone or computer. That's not necessarily a bad thing; one study showed that social-media use made college students feel better about solitude, and it's very possible that adolescents and even younger kids find it similarly comforting. But these platforms can also get in the way of the benefits of alone time. Coplan put it like this: You can define true solitude as being "offstage," freed from the spotlight of social expectations. But if you're still chatting with friends—or even just thinking about how your peers are judging your online presence—you're not exactly in the wings. 45 50
- VII** Granted, some kids need time to get used to being alone. "It's a little bit like spinach," Coplan told me. "You have to learn to like it." Without distractions, difficult thoughts and emotions can come to the forefront. But "solitude skills" can be built up gradually—even just in 20-minute increments, Thomas told me. Eventually, the hope is that kids can push through that discomfort and learn to sit with their feelings. 55

(Adapted from 'How Much Alone Time Do Kids Need?', The Atlantic)

Questions **61** to **68** are based on Reading Passage 7. (1 mark each)

Choose the **BEST** answer.

61. When do children at a primary school age tend to isolate themselves?

- A. After an emotionally draining day
- B. After a mentally demanding activity
- C. After engaging with infants
- D. After looking for their caregivers

62. How does alone time help young children?

- A. They learn how to manage overwhelming emotions.
- B. They learn to practise being their mom.
- C. They learn that they can play by themselves.
- D. They learn about using alone time productively.

63. Why do teenagers in particular need solitude?

- A. It helps them recharge after social pressures and discover their own identity.
- B. It helps them recharge after social pressures and figure out their peers.
- C. It helps them recharge after social pressures and find out more about their family unit.
- D. It helps them recharge after social pressures and be more sensitive.

64. What are some benefits of adolescents spending some time by themselves?

- I. Lower self-reported rates of depression
- II. Better academic grades
- III. More independent thinking
- IV. More self-discipline

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

65. The amount of solitude children experience should be determined by _____.

- A. medical professionals
- B. their guardians
- C. the children themselves
- D. child psychologists

66. What word could best replace 'autonomy' in para V?

- A. companionship
- B. seclusion
- C. confidence
- D. freedom

67. Why can social media hinder the advantages of alone time?

- A. Social media makes it hard for college students to focus on themselves.
- B. Adolescents will not learn to feel more comfortable being by themselves if they constantly use social media.
- C. Interacting with your peers online still puts social expectations and pressures on you.
- D. A teenager is very vulnerable to online attacks on social media when they are alone.

68. Why might children find it hard to be alone at first?

- A. No one can teach them how to sit still by themselves
- B. There is nothing to distract them from tough thoughts and feelings.
- C. Kids inherently find it hard to be alone even for 20 minutes.
- D. Their own thoughts and feelings may distract them from being by themselves.

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Reading Passage 8

(12 Marks)

- I Many years ago, there was an emperor who was so fond of new clothes that he spent all his money on them. He did not give himself any concern about his army; he cared nothing about the theatre or for driving about, except for the sake of showing himself off in new clothes. He had a costume for every hour in the day, and just as they say of a king or emperor, "He is in his council chambers," they said of him, "The emperor is in his dressing room." 1
5
- II One day, there came two rascals, who gave themselves out as weavers and said that they knew how to weave the most exquisite stuff imaginable. Not only were the colours and patterns uncommonly beautiful, but the clothes that were made of the stuff had the peculiar property of becoming invisible to every person who was unfit for the office they held or who was exceptionally stupid. 10
- III "How wonderful," thought the emperor. "By wearing them I should be able to discover which of the men in my empire are not fit for their posts. I should distinguish wise men from fools. Yes, I must order some of the stuff to be woven for me directly." And he paid the swindlers a handsome sum of money in advance, as they required. 15
- IV As for them, they put up two looms and pretended to be weaving, though there was nothing whatever on their shuttles. They called for a quantity of the finest silks and of the purest gold thread, all of which went into their own bags, while they worked at their empty looms till late into the night. 20
- V "I should like to know how those weavers are getting on with the stuff," thought the emperor. But he felt a little odd when he reflected that those who were stupid or unfit for their office would not be able to see the material. He believed, indeed, that he had nothing to fear for himself, but still he thought it better to send someone else first, to see how the work was coming on. All the people in the town had heard of the peculiar property of the cloth, and everyone was curious to see how stupid their neighbour might be. 25
- VI "I will send my faithful old prime minister to the weavers," thought the emperor. "He will be best capable of judging this stuff, for he is a man of sense and nobody is more fit for his office than him." 30
- VII So the worthy old minister went into the room where the two swindlers sat working the empty looms. "Heaven save us!" thought the old man, opening his eyes wide. "Why, I can't see anything at all!" But he took care not to say so aloud. 35
- VIII Both the rogues begged him to step a little nearer and asked him if he did not think the patterns very pretty and the colouring fine. They pointed to the empty loom as they did so, and the poor old minister kept staring as hard as

- he could—but without being able to see anything on it, for of course there was nothing there to see. 40
- IX** "Heaven save us!" thought the old man. "Is it possible that I am a fool? I have never thought about it, and nobody must know it. Is it true that I am not fit for my office? It will never do for me to say that I cannot see the stuff."
- X** "Well, sir, do you say nothing about the cloth?" asked the one who was pretending to go on with his work. 45
- XI** "Oh, it is most elegant, most beautiful!" said the dazed old man, as he peered again through his spectacles. "What a fine pattern, and what fine colours! I will certainly tell the emperor how pleased I am with the stuff."
- XII** "We are glad of that," said both the weavers; and then they named the colours and pointed out the special features of the pattern. To all of this the minister paid great attention, so that he might be able to repeat it to the emperor when he went back to him. 50
- XIII** And now the cheats called for more money, more silk, and more gold thread, to be able to proceed with the weaving, but they put it all into their own pockets, and not a thread went into the stuff, though they went on as before, weaving at the empty looms. 55

(Adapted from 'The Emperor's New Clothes' by Hans Christian Andersen)

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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. them (para III) : _____

70. them (para IV) : _____

71. it (para VIII) : _____

72. the stuff (para XI) : _____

73. it (para XII) : _____

74. it (para XIII) : _____


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