



FINAL EXAMINATION

MARCH 2023

MATRIC _____
SECTION _____
SEATING NO _____
COURSE TITLE **ENGLISH 1**

COURSE CODE **FENG0114**
DATE/DAY **12 JUNE 2023 / MONDAY**
TIME/DURATION **09:00 AM - 12:00 PM / 03 Hour(s) 00 Minute(s)**

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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 26 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

(8 Marks)

- I From King Tut's tomb to the Dead Sea Scrolls, there's seemingly nothing archaeologists can't unearth. So why haven't they found Atlantis yet? 1
- II It's a question regularly fielded by real-life archaeologists like David S. Anderson, who says he's barraged with questions about the island and its supposed existence on a "daily" basis. 5
- III "It's far more common for people to ask me about pseudo-archaeology than regular archaeology," says Anderson, an assistant professor at Radford University who specializes in the Maya and Mesoamerican archaeology.
- IV For Anderson and his ilk, the answer is always the same: We'll never find Atlantis because it's entirely fictitious. It is the brainchild of the Greek philosopher Plato, who featured the island in two of his Socratic dialogues from the fourth century B.C. 10
- V Plato called it *Atlantis nêsos*, or the "island of Atlas," and the philosopher didn't intend it to represent the pinnacle of human achievement. Instead, the island civilization was designed as a fictional foil to the real city of Athens. In Plato's dialogues, Atlantis is presented as a sophisticated state that fell after its hubristic leaders attempted to invade Greece. In retribution for its people's hunger for power, said Plato, Atlantis was punished by the gods, who unleashed natural disasters that caused it to sink into the sea, annihilating what remained of its power. 15
20
- VI "Plato is a liar," says Flint Dibble, an archaeologist and Marie-Sklodowska Curie Research Fellow at Cardiff University. "He never claims to be writing history."
- VII Nonetheless, the idea of Atlantis has fuelled imaginations ever since. Hundreds of years after Plato's death, the Atlantis story began resurfacing first in the writings of Christian and Jewish philosophers, then in speculative works by the likes of Sir Francis Bacon, whose novel *The New Atlantis* was published posthumously in 1626. In the book, Atlantis is a utopian society on a remote Pacific island whose inhabitants are learned, humane—and deeply Christian. 25
- VIII At the time, Europeans were grappling with a sea change in their vision of the world, one that was expanding dramatically with increasing contact between Europeans and Indigenous people throughout the Americas and Pacific during the Age of Exploration. 30
- IX "The western world was desperate to try and understand how there could be new continents with people in them, where they came from, and how they fit into biblical or classical history," says Anderson. Rather than acknowledging that Indigenous peoples could have advanced civilizations of their own, Europeans used the story of Atlantis as a possible explanation for the structures and societies they found in the Americas. 35

- X Among them was Charles de Bourbourg, a French priest who collected Mesoamerican texts and connected Maya civilization to a real-life Atlantis. De Bourbourg's writing went on to inspire Augustus Le Plongeon, a British American archaeologist who attempted to find Atlantis in Yucatán in the late 19th century. 40
- XI He was followed by Ignatius Donnelly, an American author and politician whose 1882 book *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World* presented a unified theory of Atlantis as a lost continent that had been destroyed by the same Great Flood depicted in the Hebrew Bible—and whose technologically advanced, superhuman inhabitants had supposedly gone on to birth modern civilizations worldwide. 45
- XII "He uses the Atlantis story to try to explain all of history," says Dibble—and modern depictions of Atlantis almost all echo Donnelly's sensationalistic theory. 50
- XIII "Greek archaeology demonstrates why Atlantis is not a real place to begin with, and why we shouldn't even be looking for it," says Dibble, who has conducted extensive research in Athens' ancient ruins and is writing a book on the Atlantis myth. In Plato's dialogues, the philosopher presents Atlantis as a foil to the city-state of Athens, but even the geographical features in his account of Athens don't add up against the archaeological record. 55
- XIV "It's not something that has a historical kernel to it," says Dibble. Nor does Plato's fictitious city appear in works of art from Plato's lifetime, indicating that Atlantis was a product of the philosopher's imagination and not a widespread public belief.

(Adapted from 'Why the myth of Atlantis just won't die', National Geographic)

Questions 1 to 8 are based on Reading Passage 1.

(1 mark each)

Choose the **BEST** answer.

1. In paragraph III, Anderson refers to "pseudo-archaeology". What is the most likely meaning of that phrase?
 - A. false archaeology
 - B. psychological archaeology
 - C. fictional archaeology
 - D. ancient Greek archaeology
2. What word can best replace 'brainchild' in paragraph IV?
 - A. comprehension
 - B. imagination
 - C. discovery
 - D. invention

3. According to Plato, what was Atlantis meant to symbolize?
- A. The height of human power and success in general
 - B. The opposite qualities of the city of Athens
 - C. The refuge of philosophers who had been turned away by Athens
 - D. The ideal city that ancient Greek leaders should build
4. Why is Dibble in particular convinced that Atlantis is not a real place?
- A. Geography and maps didn't exist in Plato's time.
 - B. Plato was a professional liar.
 - C. Plato's Socratic dialogues never took place.
 - D. Plato never claimed he was writing anything historical.
5. In 1626, Atlantis took on the identity of _____.
- A. a Christian society found under the sea
 - B. a perfect community in a city called New Atlantis
 - C. a perfect society on an isolated island
 - D. a Christian community in an isolated part of Europe
6. Why did the western world claim that Atlantis was a long-lost city during the Age of Exploration?
- A. They were able to find remnants of Atlantis in various locations throughout the Americas.
 - B. They had explored enough of the Pacific Ocean to discover evidence of Atlantis' existence.
 - C. They did not want to acknowledge the existence of new continents.
 - D. They did not want to admit that Indigenous people were capable of creating advanced civilizations.
7. What is the unfounded claim that Ignatius Donnelly made in his 1882 book?
- A. Atlantis was a superhuman society destroyed by the people of Yucatán.
 - B. Atlantis' people were the source of many modern civilizations across the world.
 - C. Atlantis had been destroyed by a now-lost continent.
 - D. Atlantis caused the Great Flood that is found in the Hebrew Bible.

8. What other evidence do scholars use to prove that Atlantis does not exist?

- I. Inaccurate geographical information in Plato's writing
- II. Does not show up in art work from Plato's lifetime
- III. No archaeological remains can be found
- IV. No other peer of Plato mentions Atlantis

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


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Reading Passage 2

(20 Marks)

- I Earlier this week, Reddit user Bloxicorn took to the site with an unusual question: Would you delete the Netflix profile of a family member who has passed away? 1
- II Bloxicorn, a college student who did not wish to reveal her real name, has some personal experience with that issue: Her dad died in late 2021, and she has been occasionally looking at his profile ever since, just to see what he was watching in the days before his passing. She ultimately penned her Reddit post because she was wondering if anyone else was possibly doing the same thing. "I thought I'd get a couple comments and four upvotes," she says. 5
- III Just hours after submitting her post to Reddit, it had gained more than 300 votes and more than 80 comments, with many other users chiming in to say that they hadn't found themselves able to delete the profile of a lost loved one either. 10
- IV "I still haven't deleted my husband's profile, or taken it over. It's been almost a year and a half," wrote one commenter.
- V "My mom's been gone almost three years. I haven't deleted any of her profiles," added another. "I don't know if I'll ever be able to." 15
- VI When Netflix first introduced profiles in 2013, the company was looking to help people with the toddler problem: Young kids could easily overwhelm Netflix's algorithms by binge-watching one episode of Dora the Explorer after another, ruining recommendations for the rest of the family.
- VII Profiles caught on even in households without young children and have been part of the streaming experience ever since, with competing services such as HBO Max and Disney+ all launching their own versions. Now, all of these services find themselves confronted with the reality that some of their members have passed away, leaving family members with some difficult decisions. 20
- VIII "My dad passed away in October," wrote one commenter on Reddit. "It's oddly comforting to see his profile every time I click on my HBO app ... Talking about TV shows that we both watched was our main way of bonding after he got sick. I'll never remove it." 25
- IX Bloxicorn can empathize with that experience. "We watched a lot of TV together," she says about her dad. The two of them shared a love for sci-fi, and spent hours watching shows and talking about science and math. "He (was) a big space nerd," she says, which ultimately led her to pursue a career in the field as well. 30
- X Even for people who didn't have that strong of a bond, streaming profiles can be comforting. As one Reddit user commented: "I have to say, as someone who did not really know their dad, I would spend a lot of time looking at the things he wanted to watch." 35
- XI Rikard Steiber is not surprised at all that streaming profiles can become so meaningful after someone's death. The former VR executive started GoodTrust, a startup that deals with both the financial and the digital aspects of someone's estate, after his own dad passed away in 2020. One of his company's jobs 40

included taking care of the digital footprint of a Swedish radio host, who had amassed a lot of Spotify playlists. "The family decided not to delete the Spotify account, as this was an important part of his legacy," Steiber says.

- XII** Digital media accounts can also play an important part in memorializing a loved one, Steiber argues. "When people wonder what music to play at someone's funeral, it turns out that Spotify's most-played playlists are a great source," he says. "When wondering which picture to use for an obituary, Facebook profile pictures (are) a good call, as the person selected it themselves." 45
- XIII** However, for most streaming services, this issue is not necessarily front and centre. "Most online companies do not have a plan for how to effectively and respectfully manage their customers who pass away," Steiber says. "It has simply not been a problem or priority for them yet." He suggests that companies should institute digital legacy contact solutions, which would let family members take over accounts after the original account owner passes away. 50
- XIV** Without such solutions, it's up to family members to figure out on their own what to do with digital media accounts and streaming profiles. In Bloxicorn's case, the decision has ultimately been an easy one: Because her father started the account, she wouldn't actually be able to get rid of his profile—but she would keep it even if she could. "I don't think I (would) ever delete it," she says. 55
- XV** With that, she is left wondering what her dad would have thought of the end of Squid Game and Manifest, the two Netflix shows left unfinished on his continue watching list. 60
- XVI** This led a Reddit user to suggest a different kind of commemoration: "Maybe you could just add your name to the main profile, so it's Dad & Bloxicorn. Finish Squid Game on his profile. Watch it together in your head." 65

(Adapted from 'Netflix and grieve: Inside the digital afterlife of streaming profiles', Fast Company)

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. How is Reddit user Bloxicorn described?

10. What sort of attention did Bloxicorn's Reddit post gain?

11. What could young children do by binge watching kids' shows?

12. What did Bloxicorn share in common with her father?

13. How does Bloxicorn describe her father?

14. What does GoodTrust deal with in terms of a person's estate?

15. What important function can digital media accounts serve when a person passes away?

16. What was the digital legacy left by the late Swedish radio host that GoodTrust took care of?

17. What does Steiber suggest that online companies should set up in order to solve the issue of customers who have passed away?

18. In the end, what did Bloxicorn do with her late father's Netflix profile?

Reading Passage 3

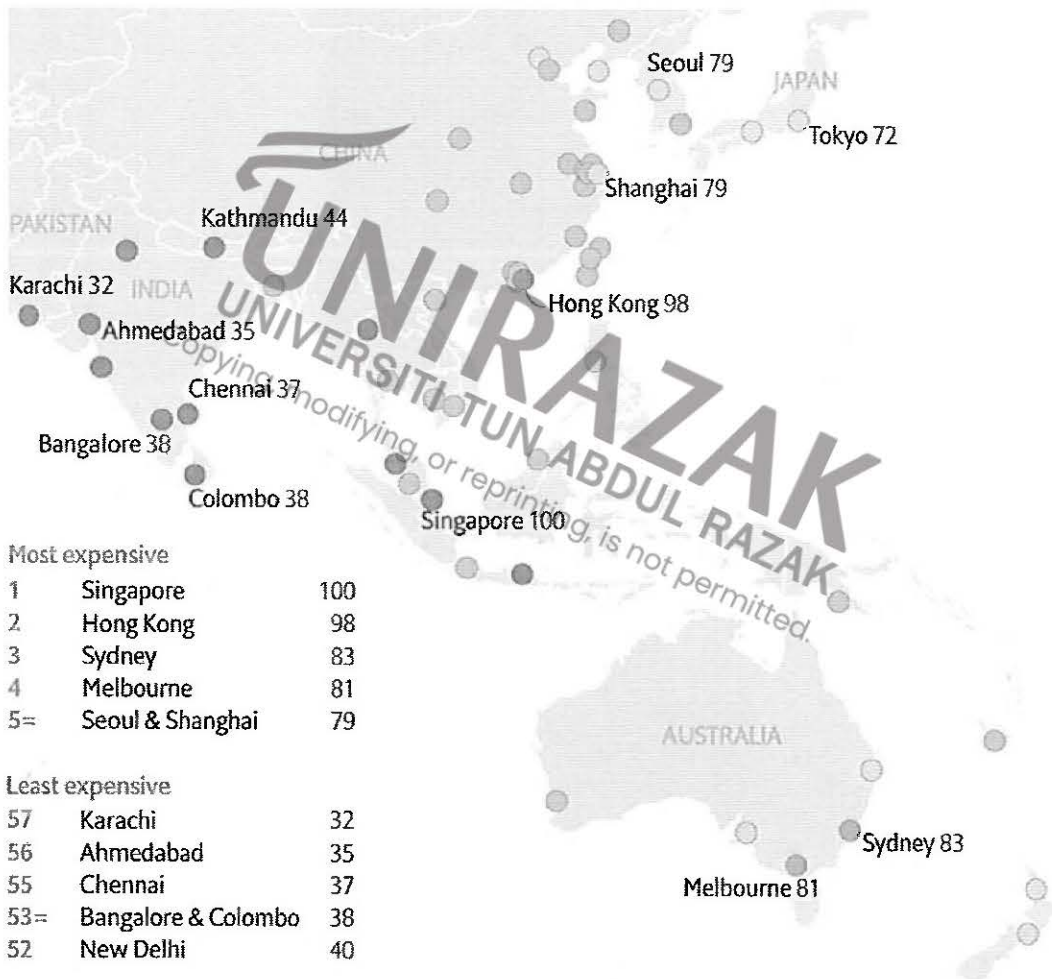
(10 Marks)

I Asia is home to some of the world's most expensive cities and also some of the cheapest, according to the latest Worldwide Cost of Living Survey, a twice-yearly tally by the EIU. At the top end of the index is Singapore, which was the world's joint most expensive city in 2022, along with New York. At the other end, five of the 12 least expensive cities in the world are in South Asia. Living costs in Karachi are about a third of those in Singapore—although it is also Asia's hardest place to live, according to a separate EIU index. Our chart below shows price differences across the region.

For richer or poorer

Asia Pacific, city cost-of-living index, September 2022

100=New York, United States



Most expensive

1	Singapore	100
2	Hong Kong	98
3	Sydney	83
4	Melbourne	81
5=	Seoul & Shanghai	79

Least expensive

57	Karachi	32
56	Ahmedabad	35
55	Chennai	37
53=	Bangalore & Colombo	38
52	New Delhi	40

Source: EIU

II Despite the high ranking of Singapore and Hong Kong, Asian cities became comparatively less expensive in 2022. Two Japanese cities, Tokyo and Osaka, were among the 20 most expensive worldwide in 2021, but they slid down the rankings in 2022, to 37th and 43rd respectively (and 11th and 15th in Asia). Their decline was the sharpest among all 57 Asian cities surveyed by EIU. Even Colombo, in Sri Lanka, fell

seven spots, despite an annual inflation rate that reached 70% last year (it ranked 53rd within Asia).

- III Part of this is explained by the survey's methodology. It was designed to help companies make salary adjustments for the employees they send abroad. It compares the prices of more than 200 products and services in 172 cities—all converted into dollars. So when the greenback surges, as it did last year, cities outside America get cheaper in dollar terms. (And expats who convert their dollar salaries into local currencies get more for their buck.) This was the case for people moving to Japan and Sri Lanka, whose currencies depreciated sharply. Spare a thought, though, for employees moving to America during that period; cities in America shot up the ranking. 15 20
- IV Only a handful of cities in Asia became comparatively more expensive last year. The biggest jump was by Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea's capital. It rose 13 places to 96th, making it the 36th costliest city in Asia—in part because the kina held firm against the dollar. Several Chinese cities also became relatively pricier. Nanjing and Wuxi both climbed ten places in the global rankings. The most expensive Chinese city was Shanghai, which ranked fifth in Asia and 17th worldwide. These places could become more expensive yet. With the lifting of covid restrictions in China, prices could surge in 2023. 25 30
- V Worldwide, however, EIU expects inflation to weaken this year. The overall effect on affordability will depend on how Asian currencies fare against the dollar. Differences in their performance could scramble last year's rankings.

(Adapted from 'The world's most, and least, affordable cities are in Asia' *The Economist*)

Questions 19 to 28 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

19. The Worldwide Cost of Living Survey is done every two years by the EIU. _____
20. Approximately 40% of the least expensive cities are found in Southeast Asia. _____
21. The cost of living in New York is three times more expensive than Karachi. _____
22. Singapore's cost of living is due to its high rate of taxes. _____

23. Kuala Lumpur's cost of living is found within the 50-70 range. _____
24. Both Bangalore and Colombo are ranked 38th on the list. _____
25. Tokyo and Osaka had been ranked 14th and 15th most expensive city in the world in 2021. _____
26. One of the reasons Asian cities was ranked less expensive was due to the American dollar increasing in value in 2022. _____
27. Port Moresby's increase in cost of living was because of Papua New Guinea's ability to match the New Zealand dollar. _____
28. Beijing was not included in 2022's survey. _____

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Reading Passage 4

(10 Marks)

- I Routines, even when not fully followed, provide a guiding structure to the chaos of human life. I shower in the morning right after my cup of coffee. I sit at the same office desk every day, even though we technically have unassigned seating. I go on long, meandering walks around lunchtime. I sleep every single night. Always. 1
5
- II From bubble baths to pyjama time, children often have a regular bedtime routine set by their parents in an effort to get the little balls of energy to wind down. "We do all this stuff so beautifully for our children," says Rebecca Robbins, an instructor at Harvard Medical School and a sleep scientist at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. "And then forget to do it for ourselves, as adults." She's right: Upon further examination, so many of the "routines" in my life are just habits unconsciously and unceremoniously formed over time. 10
- III Whether you've never given much thought to what you do before bed or you want to overhaul your entire routine, here are some tips to help you achieve that perfect, tranquil end to a hectic day. 15

Ritualize Your Time Before Bed

- IV Robbins recommends ritualizing the entire lead-up to bedtime. Maybe you drink hot tea, put on face lotion, and talk about events from the day with your partner in bed. Or maybe you do some stretching, followed by a quick bath and a cozy robe. Whatever the routine is, the repetitive nature is important.
- V "Your body and brain then understand what comes after those activities is sleep," she says. "So, we can kind of classically condition ourselves to understand that the end of our bedtime routine is the time for sleep." Intentionality can shift what was a thoughtless habit into an impactful routine. 20

Understand That Consistency Is King

- VI One of the biggest mistakes adults encounter when it comes to bedtime routines is a lack of consistency. "I would take a page out of the playbook that we use for our children when it comes to falling asleep," says Robbins. "And that includes a consistent bedtime." 25
- VII Even if you start a regular ritual at night with the best of intentions, the unpredictability of life is bound to interfere with your plans. It could be a late-night call from a loved one or your favourite sports team winning a nail-biter. Whatever throws off your schedule, take a moment to reflect on what happened, and then try again the following night. 30

Set a Regular Wake Time

- VIII Chris Winter, a medical doctor, neurologist, and sleep specialist who hosts the Sleep Unplugged podcast, suggests putting more focus on when you wake up in the morning than on the exact time you go to bed each night. "I eat lunch every day at one," says Winter. "But if one o'clock rolls around and I'm not hungry, I'm not going to force food down my throat." 35

- IX** One caveat is that even if you go to sleep an hour or two later than normal, he advises people to still set their morning alarm for the usual time. "I think it's OK for your brain to have a little penalty there," he says. Some sleepiness can reinforce the importance of your routine's structure. 40

Banish Screens Before Bed

- X** When should you get off your smartphone, transition the notifications to Do Not Disturb, and leave it untouched on the charger?
- XI** Robbins suggests doing this at least 30 minutes before your bedtime. Even though reducing the brightness on your phone or switching over to a warmer-hued light may be easier on your eyes than regular phone use, foregoing screen use altogether is the best option for a peaceful bedtime routine. 45

Don't Rush the Process

- XII** A pervasive myth about quality sleep is that it happens in an instant. Tuckered-out main characters in movies snuggle up under their covers in a bedroom with half the lights still on, and they are conked out in a nanosecond. "Actually, it takes even a well-rested person about 15 or 20 minutes to fall asleep," says Robbins. Incorrect assumptions about how you should experience sleep can create unrealistic expectations for your nightly ritual. 50

(Adapted from 'How to Create Your Optimal Bedtime Routine', Wired)

Questions 29 to 38 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

29. The writer prefers black coffee to wake them up in the morning. _____
30. The writer is allowed to sit wherever they want in their office. _____
31. The writer likes to do short but intense exercises during their lunch break. _____
32. The writer believes that routines are habits that formed over time without much thought. _____

33. Rebecca Robbins suggests that bedtime should be preceded by drinking hot tea and a warm bath. _____
34. Even if you cannot complete your bedtime ritual one night, you should keep trying the next night. _____
35. Chris Winter sets his own alarm for 7am every morning. _____
36. Sleepiness is important to remind you why you need a routine. _____
37. According to Robbins, turning down the brightness of your phone screen is just as good as turning it off completely. _____
38. You should be able to drift off to sleep 15 minutes after you close your eyes. _____

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Reading Passage 5

(20 Marks)

- I Every morning in Sri Lanka, Beethoven's classic, "Für Elise", can be heard floating over paddy fields in the countryside, or competing with the sound of the traffic in the cities. The music blares from three-wheeled tuk-tuks, each fitted with glass cabinets and a rooftop speaker system. It's the soundtrack to *choon paan*: Sri Lanka's musical, mobile bakeries. 1
5
- II Over the past 20 years, *choon paan* (loosely translated as "music bread") have become woven into the fabric of this small island nation. Twice a day, in the early morning and at evening teatime, they trundle through villages and urban residential areas, selling freshly-baked goods, each bun still deliciously rich with smoke from the wood-fired oven. Stacked neatly inside the glass cabinets are fluffy white loaves for mopping up *dhal*, sticky sugar-coated buns filled with jam, submarine rolls packed with chicken and cheese, and (if you're lucky) *parippu vada*, or crispy lentil fritters. Buying from the *choon paan* tuk-tuk is a social event, the music a cue to run out and join your neighbours in line. 10
- III *Choon paan* have been around for nearly as long as tuk-tuks have been in Sri Lanka. Three-wheelers only became widespread in the late '90s, and it wasn't long before bakers started using tuks to sell bread to far-away neighbourhoods. These were the early days of mobile phones, and first-generation *choon paan* drivers held up their devices to makeshift speaker systems, and blasted pre-downloaded ringtones to attract hungry customers. "Für Elise" was the one that stuck, but it could just have easily been "Ode to Joy" or "Greensleeves." 15
20
- IV "I remember first seeing a *choon paan*, and getting so excited by these bakeries on wheels," says Pushpa Jayanthi, who with her husband has owned a village bakery for well over four decades, and a *choon paan* operation for two. "We used to bake buns and supply them to other shops, but every evening they'd return the items that didn't sell. With *choon paan*, we can keep driving until everything's sold." 25
- V Most Sri Lankans recall fond memories of the *choon paan*, of waking up to fresh bread in the morning or chasing the tuks down their street as children (in many towns, the three-wheelers are known for their "blink-and-you-miss it" approach to trade). 30
- VI The mobile bakeries take on different significance for different communities. For the urban middle classes, the *choon paan* tuk-tuk is a nostalgic reminder of simpler times. A reverence for teatime is one of Sri Lanka's most prevalent colonial hangovers, and the tuks provide the perfect after-school treat for small children. But for those in rural communities—especially working-class families without their own means of transport—a visit from the *choon paan* man is a necessity. In some cases, no *choon paan* means no lunch. 35
- VII In their relatively short life, *choon paan* haven't had an easy ride. After booming in the 2000s, the next decade brought heavy competition from chain bakeries, pressure from app delivery services, and a government-imposed ban on playing music above a certain decibel level. Currently, Sri Lanka is slowly recovering from a crippling post-COVID economic crisis, which has sent the cost of basic necessities such as food, fuel, and electricity soaring. 40

- VIII In rural areas, many choon paan owners have been forced out of business by the vastly inflated price of imported flour and restrictions on petrol consumption. This is particularly pronounced in rural areas. 45
- IX Compared to city bakers, village choon paan drivers have more ground to cover between sales, and serve an increasingly poverty-stricken customer base. The number of Sri Lankans living below the poverty line nearly doubled between 2021 and 2022, and 80 percent of this group live in rural communities. For village traders, it's a catch-22: "We used to do ten-rupee items, but we can't offer anything for that amount now," says Jayanthi, who sold two of her three tuk-tuks last year. "Now, the lowest price we can do is sixty rupees, which is more than some families can afford." 50
55
- X Perhaps unsurprisingly, the story of choon paan in Sri Lanka is a story of wealth disparity. While rural bakery owners are struggling to stay afloat, the choon paan trade in the capital city of Colombo is thriving. Drivers have returned to the streets—in even greater numbers than pre-Covid—and are back to their usual tricks. There's also a new breed of musical tuk appearing: choon paan vehicles selling soft drinks, snacks, and household essentials to boost their income streams and compete with the chain bakeries. 60
- XI Today, the fate of the choon paan is tied to the country's economic recovery, but most people are confident that there's a place for these mobile bakeries in Sri Lanka's future. With any luck, choon paan tuk-tuks will return to their former glory, and Beethoven's classic will be heard at teatime for many years to come. 65

(Adapted from 'The resilience of Sri Lanka's musical, mobile bakeries', *Atlas Obscura*)

Questions 39 to 48 are based on Reading Passage 5. (2 marks each)

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

39. What is the signal that the choon paan is in the area?

40. How is the choon paan described?

41. Where do the choon paan operate?

42. What sorts of food might a choon paan sell?

43. How long has Pushpa Jayanthi owned a bakery?

44. What does a choon paan mean to those from rural communities?

45. What was the cause of serious competition to the choon paan in the 2010s?

46. What was the change in the number of Sri Lankans living below the poverty line from 2021 to 2022?

47. Why have many choon paan owners gone out of business in rural areas?

48. What sort of innovations have choon paan had to come up with to remain competitive?

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Reading Passage 6

(12 Marks)

- I Historically used as hunting companions, falcons captured meat that couldn't be killed with an arrow or trapped in a snare to augment the low-protein diet of the nomadic Bedouins on the Arabian Peninsula. Falcons are keen-eyed—they see eight times farther than a human—and capable of plummeting from the sky at over 200 miles an hour to catch small prey such as desert hares and houbara bustards. 1
5
- II Though no longer necessary as food suppliers, the raptors remain beloved by the people who own and train them, holding a revered perch in the country's cultural heritage. Amid the fierce winds of globalization, falconry—which includes both racing and hunting exhibitions—has allowed practitioners to reconnect with their desert roots. 10
- III Another enduring fact: The prestigious national sport has been primarily associated with men, at least in the public eye. Yet photojournalist Vidhyaa Chandramohan knew women were there.
- IV For centuries women have tamed and hunted with falcons in places ranging from Mongolia and Kazakhstan to the United States and the United Kingdom. And Emirati women are no less devoted, says Chandramohan, who has lived in the country for 16 years. 15
- V Chandramohan began to search for female falconers to document their part in the tradition. She scoured social media for pictures and stories. When she came upon Ayesha al Mansouri, she knew she'd found a treasure. 20
- VI Al Mansouri began to study falconry with her father when she was four. After her brother failed to wrestle a hood on a falcon and gave up, Al Mansouri tried—and eventually got it.
- VII "I just covered it," she recalls saying to her father. "He was stunned, and shot me glances showing he was proud and impressed." The moment marked her entry into the world of falcons. 25
- VIII When photographs of Al Mansouri and her daughter, Osha, now 8 and following in her mother's footsteps, were published in media outlets and displayed as part of a photography festival, the public took note. Changing the perception of the sport would require a role model—Al Mansouri. 30
- IX After that, "many women came to me and said that their grandmothers and aunts were practicing falconry," says Chandramohan. "But my documenting this practice by capturing women as subjects was something new and unfamiliar to them."
- X Al Mansouri too says she was not the first woman from her family to break in. "My cousin, in her sixties, is an expert in falconry, and she learned her methods and secrets from two uncles," she says. (One was Al Mansouri's father.) "She often took me with her on hunting trips." 35
- XI But it wasn't enough to be visible. Al Mansouri wanted to do more. Her mission became teaching falconry to girls, which she began in 2016 at the Abu Dhabi

- Falconers Club. When she offered classes, 50 women promptly signed up. So far, she's trained nearly 150 women and 70 girls. 40
- XII** Now "everyone wants to educate their daughters even before their sons in falconry," she says, "and society has become more accepting of women's participation in this ancient sport."
- XIII** The legacy that Al Mansouri is keen to preserve goes beyond ensuring that women have a place in the sport. Conservation is integral to her work and to other equally committed falconers. 45
- XIV** The UAE has made strides at a time when several falcon species face threats from habitat loss and illegal wildlife trading. UAE falconers now fly only captive-bred birds for racing and hunting demonstrations, and hunting live prey with falcons is prohibited except by special permit in certain areas. 50
- XV** In 2002, to further discourage the trafficking of illegally captured birds, the UAE began issuing falcon "passports" detailing their origins. Several countries, including Saudi Arabia, followed suit.
- XVI** As dedicated as Al Mansouri is to her mission, she never forgets a lesson she learned at her father's side. "Your falcon is your brother," she recalls. "He's more than just a hunting bird; he is a being that should be appreciated." 55

(Adapted from 'Where falconry is a storied sport, these women are writing a new chapter', National Geographic)

Questions 49 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

49. Falcons were once used to hunt down animals that cannot be hunted by humans. _____
50. Falconry is a recent sport for the people of the Arabian Peninsula. _____
51. The sport of falconry has led to many people connecting with people from other nations. _____
52. Vidhyaa Chandramohan is the only photojournalist covering falconry. _____
53. Ayesha al Mansouri was born in the UAE and has never left the country. _____

54. Al Mansouri first got involved with falconry with her mother. _____
55. Al Mansouri's daughter is also a falconer. _____
56. Al Mansouri's family is the first to have women as falconers. _____
57. Al Mansouri teaches falconry to girls from all sorts of socioeconomic backgrounds. _____
58. Teaching girls falconry even before boys is now becoming more popular. _____
59. The UAE has made it completely illegal for falcons to be used for hunting live prey. _____
60. Al Mansouri's family have more than ten falcon 'passports' for their birds. _____

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Reading Passage 7

(8 Marks)

- I In an old shoe factory, new life is taking shape. Behind a heavy door, a bank of machines multiplies plant DNA molecules by hundreds of billions every few hours. Inside a gleaming white chamber, tiny emerald shoots are coaxed from single cells, unfurling in millimetres over a period of months. 1
- II Neoplants, a Parisian startup, is taking a multimillion-dollar gamble on the air we breathe. Their bet is a green plant nestled in a jelly-like growing medium, looking like a canapé—or, possibly, the future. 5
- III This is the Neo P1—a genetically modified houseplant that the company claims could help combat indoor air pollution. P1 is a modified form of golden pothos—more commonly known as devil’s ivy—one of the world’s most ubiquitous and easy-going houseplants. Although its yellow-green hues appear familiar, P1’s DNA has been tweaked to enhance its ability to extract volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the air, including formaldehyde, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene, which are prevalent in indoor spaces. 10
- IV These genetic adjustments also—crucially in the case of the P1—allow the plant to convert the VOCs it absorbs into substances like sugar and CO₂ that it can use to carry on growing. Once it’s outgrown the agar, P1 will be planted in soil enriched with biochar (a common gardening additive) in a pot designed to maximize airflow, and sold with a pack of three Power Drops (bacteria, to be added to the soil each month to help the plant metabolize the VOCs it absorbs). Due on shelves later this year, P1 will retail for around £145 (approximately RM813) —roughly 10 times the cost of an ordinary golden pothos plant, or comparable to that of a keenly priced Honeywell HEPA purifier. 15 20
- V So far, Neoplants have collected \$20 million in venture funding from firms including True Ventures and Collaborative Fund. Much of the money has gone toward fitting out their new space on the north side of the French capital. 25
- VI Neoplants’ proposition is an attractive one: neatly pairing something that looks nice in people’s homes and brings them joy (houseplants) with one of the biggest existential challenges facing humanity at large (slowly choking to death from pollutants). But proving that it actually works is where things get thorny. 30
- VII Browse most plant shops and you’ll be met with the promise of purified air: peace lilies and snake plants and ivy with little tags declaring that “this plant cleans air.” Patch, a popular online retailer, reserves an entire section of its website for “air-purifying indoor plants.” Another vendor, Plantier, offers an Air So Pure package of spider plants, palms, and ferns. 35
- VIII Much of the support for these marketing efforts stems from 1989, when NASA worked with the Associated Landscape Contractors of America to assess the ability of houseplants to remove toxins from the air. The resulting Clean Air Study suggested that, yes, houseplants could absorb certain pollutants—including VOCs like benzene, formaldehyde, and trichloroethylene. Less touted was the fact that these results mostly could not be applied to the houses these plants are often placed in. Putting a plant in a sealed chamber, blowing pollutants over it for multiple hours (or days), and then recording the results, the researchers admitted, 40

- was not an accurate replication of normal houseplant conditions. This has not stopped many researchers since from conducting almost exactly the same experiment. 45
- IX In 2019, however, researchers at Drexel University concluded that, in order for the effects measured in these chamber experiments to be reproduced at any liveable scale, and to even match the rate of toxin removal already achieved by just opening a window, you'd need anywhere between 10 and 1,000 plants per square meter. 50
- X Richard Corsi, dean of the College of Engineering at UC Davis, has studied data from past plant studies and calculations based on the best-case scenario for Clean Air Delivery Rate (the industry's standard metric for the effectiveness of air filters). He says that a bedroom of approximately 200 square feet would need as many as 315 individual plants to bring formaldehyde (and other VOC) levels down by 50 percent. To get a 90 percent reduction would require more like 2,800 plants. Scale that up to a whole flat or house, and you're nurturing a dense jungle. 55

(Adapted from 'Genetically modified houseplants are coming to clean your air', Wired UK)

Questions 61 to 68 are based on Reading Passage 7.

(1 mark each)

Choose the **BEST** answer.

61. Where is Neoplants based?

- A. Drexel University
- B. France
- C. the United Kingdom
- D. UC Davis

62. How is the golden pothos plant described?

- A. Found everywhere and easy to take care of
- B. Found everywhere and happy-go-lucky
- C. Found everywhere and biodegradable
- D. Found everywhere and familiar

63. What word might best replace the word 'tweaked' in para. III?

- A. deleted
- B. designed
- C. prepared
- D. enhanced

64. What are Power Drops exactly?

- A. a pot that is designed to maximize airflow
- B. bacteria to help P1 process the VOCs it absorbed
- C. enriched biochar to maximize airflow
- D. three kinds of bacteria to help P1 absorb VOCs faster

65. How much would a regular devil's ivy cost?

- A. exactly £14.50
- B. around £8.13
- C. about £14.50
- D. approximately £81.30

66. What word might best replace 'thorny' in para VII?

- A. serious
- B. wrong
- C. impossible
- D. tricky

67. Why are the results from the 1989 Clean Air Study not really applicable to everyday use?

- A. Regular houses do not have the specific VOCs that were involved in the Clean Air Study tested.
- B. The Associated Landscape Contractors of America had secretly changed the findings of the study.
- C. Houseplants cannot really remove toxins from the air without the aid of modified DNA.
- D. Constantly blasting plants with pollutants in a sealed chamber is not a normal condition for most houseplants.

68. What is the conclusion the passage arrives at?

- A. You should not use houseplants to purify polluted air.
- B. You would need an impractical number of houseplants to purify the air of your home.
- C. You have to buy more of Neo P1 from Neoplants when it is available on the market.
- D. You can only purify the air within an apartment using houseplants, but not a house.

Reading Passage 8

(12 Marks)

- I Once upon a time there was a poor peasant and his wife who had so many children that they did not have enough of either food or clothing to give them. Pretty children they all were, but the prettiest was the youngest daughter, who was so lovely there was no end to her loveliness. 1
- II One day -- it was on a Thursday evening late in the fall -- the weather was wild and rough outside, and it was cruelly dark. The rain was falling and the wind blowing, until the walls of the cottage shook. They were all sitting around the fire busy with this thing and that. Then all at once something gave three taps on the window. The father went out to see what was the matter. Outside, what should he see but a great big white bear. 5 10
- III "Good evening to you," said the white bear.
- IV "The same to you," said the man.
- V "Will you give me your youngest daughter? If you will, I'll make you as rich as you are now poor," said the bear.
- VI Well, the man would not be at all sorry to be so rich; but still he thought he must have a bit of a talk with his daughter first; so he went in and told them how there was a great white bear waiting outside, who had given his word to make them so rich if he could only have the youngest daughter. 15
- VII The girl said "No!" outright. Nothing could get her to say anything else; so the man went out and settled it with the white bear, that he should come again the next Thursday evening and get an answer. Meantime he talked to his daughter, and kept on telling her of all the riches they would get, and how well off she herself would be. At last she agreed to it, so she washed and mended her rags, and made herself as smart as she could. Soon she was ready for the trip, for she didn't have much to take along. 20 25
- VIII The next Thursday evening came the white bear to fetch her. She got on his back with her bundle, and off they went. After they had gone a good way, the white bear said, "Are you afraid?"
- IX No, she wasn't.
- X "Just hold tight to my shaggy coat, and there's nothing to be afraid of," said the bear. 30
- XI She rode a long, long way, until they came to a large steep cliff. The white bear knocked on it. A door appeared and opened. Then, they came into a castle where there were many rooms all lit up, gleaming with silver and gold. Further, there was a table set there, and it was all as grand as grand could be.
- XII Then the white bear gave her a silver bell; and when she wanted anything, she only had to ring it, and she would get it at once. Well, after she had eaten, and it became evening, she felt sleepy from her journey. She thought she would like to go to bed, so she rang the bell. She had barely rung it before she found herself in a room, where there was a bed made as fair and soft as anyone would wish to sleep in, with 35

silken pillows and curtains, and gold fringe. All that was in the room was gold or silver. 40

XIII After she had gone to bed, and put out the light, a man came and laid himself beside her. It was the white bear, who cast off his pelt at night; but she never saw him, for he always came after she had put out the light. Before the day dawned, he was up and off again. 45

XIV Things went on happily for a while, but at last she became quiet and sad. She was alone all day long, and she became very homesick to see her father and mother and brothers and sisters. So one day, when the white bear asked what was wrong with her, she said it was so lonely there, and how she longed to go home to see her father and mother and brothers and sisters. That was why she was so sad, because she couldn't get to them. 50

XV "Well," said the bear, "that can happen all right, but you must promise me not to talk alone with your mother, but only when the others are around to hear. She will want to take you by the hand and lead you into a room to talk alone with her. You must not do that, or else you'll bring bad luck on both of us." 55

(Adapted from 'East of the Sun and West of the Moon', a Norwegian fairy tale)

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. they (para II) : _____

70. it (para VII) : _____

71. it (para XI) : _____

72. it (para XII) : _____

73. there (para XIV) : _____

74. she (para XV) : _____

*** END OF QUESTION PAPER ***