

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

2006

ENGLISH

TEST CODE: 011B

Time allowed: 1 hr 45 minutes

Instructions:

1. This examination has two sections. Section A: Composition
Section B: Multiple Choice Questions

Each item has four possible answers: A, B, C, D.
Choose the correct answer.

2. On your answer sheet, shade the circle which has the letter A, B, C, or D that is next to the answer that you have chosen.

Please use a No. 2 or HB pencil.

3. Do not take any paper out of the examination room.

Return this booklet, your answer sheet and all scrap paper to the invigilator before you leave the room.

SECTION A

COMPOSITION

TIME ALLOWED: 30 MINUTES

Write a composition on any ONE of the following topics.

Use paragraphs, and be careful with your spelling, grammar and punctuation.

You must write at least fifteen (15) lines of normal handwriting. You may write more if you wish to.

On your composition paper please remember to write the number of the topic on which you are writing.

TOPICS

1. Pretend you are a bird, write a story entitled, "One Day in My Life as a Bird".
2. Write a composition explaining why it is necessary to keep the environment clean.
3. Write a composition to persuade your parents to buy you a cellular phone of your very own.
4. You were at school when the headteacher announced that a storm was expected that afternoon. Write a composition describing what happened from that time until the storm had passed.

SECTION B

TIME ALLOWED: 75 MINUTES

In items 1 to 5, choose the correct **PART OF SPEECH** for each of the underlined words. **ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET**, shade the circle which has the letter that you have chosen.

1. Justin ran by so fast we could hardly see him.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| A. Adjective | B. Adverb |
| C. Noun | D. Verb |

2. The 100 m dash is a fast race.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| A. Adjective | B. Adverb |
| C. Noun | D. Verb |

3. The hummingbird flew out the door singing lustily.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| A. Adverb | B. Conjunction |
| C. Preposition | D. Verb |

4. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis went out.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| A. Adverb | B. Conjunction |
| C. Preposition | D. Verb |

5. Kerry bought a book on plant care.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| A. Adjective | B. Adverb |
| C. Noun | D. Verb |

For items 6 to 10, choose the correctly spelt word to complete the sentence. **ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET**, shade the circle which has the letter you have chosen.

6. How do you use your time?

- A. lesure
- B. liesure
- C. leisure
- D. ledger

7. mother told them not to leave the house.

- A. They're
- B. There
- C. Their
- D. Dear

8. The road runs to the river.

- A. paralell
- B. parallel
- C. parrallel
- D. parrallel

9. He is not sleeping in because the night is too hot.

- A. pajamas
- B. pajarmas
- C. pyjammers
- D. pyjamas

10. Some television shows are much too

- A. violant
- B. violent
- C. viollent
- D. voilent

In items 11 and 12 choose the option which is **a complete sentence**. **ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET shade the circle which has the letter you have chosen.**

11. A. I believe you.
B. On the other side.
C. To go to the shop.
D. The green and black bag.

12. A. No please.
B. A ripe mango.
C. Someone's inside.
D. Whose lunch kit?

In items 13 and 14 there are five sentences but they are not written in the correct order. Read each set of sentences carefully then **ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET** shade the circle which has the letter that shows the five sentences listed in the **correct order**.

- 13.
- 1) That night they dreamt of walking through grassy fields.
 - 2) One sunny morning Tia and Adam left home for a two-day camping trip.
 - 3) They ate fresh eel for supper that night.
 - 4) After washing the dishes they planned a long hike for day-two.
 - 5) On the first day, they swam in the river and caught an eel.

- A. 2, 3, 4, 1, 5
C. 2, 1, 5, 3, 4

- B. 2, 5, 3, 4, 1
D. 2, 5, 3, 1, 4

14.

- 1) Everyone was pleased with the performance.
- 2) An hour later everyone was in place for the start of the concert.
- 3) The day of the concert had arrived.
- 4) The program flowed smoothly and the last item was completed by six o'clock
- 5) All the students taking part in the concert turned up at the school for one o'clock

A. 3, 5, 2, 4, 1

B. 5, 2, 4, 1, 3

C. 3, 4, 1, 5, 2

D. 3, 2, 5, 1, 4

For items 15 to 17 read the short paragraphs about chilli peppers. Some sentences state **FACTS** and others express **OPINIONS** and **ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET** shade the circle that has the letter you have chosen.

Choose the option which expresses an **OPINION**.

Chillies are hot or sweet peppers. They are part of the 'nightshade' family of plants that also includes potatoes and tomatoes. However, potatoes and tomatoes taste better than chillies.

15.

- A. Chillies are hot or sweet peppers.
- B. Tomatoes taste better than chillies.
- C. Chillies are part of the 'nightshade' family.
- D. Potatoes are part of the 'nightshade' family.

Chillies were originally grown in Central and South America. However by the 15th century, Europeans were cooking with them and drying them to use as spice. European dishes taste better now than they did before chillies were used in them.

16.

- A. Europeans dried chillies to use as spice.
- B. Chillies were originally grown in South America.
- C. European dishes taste better now than they did without chillies.
- D. European dishes were cooking with chilli peppers in the 15th Century.

Some people think that all chillies are hot, therefore, they never eat any of them. What a silly belief! There are many different kinds of red, yellow and green chillies. Red chillies can be sweet.

17.

- A. There are many kinds of chillies.
- B. Some people never eat any chillies.
- C. Only silly people never eat chillies.
- D. Some people think that all chillies are hot.

In items 18 to 22 select the word that is **SIMILAR IN MEANING** to the underlined word in each sentence. Then **ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET** shade the circle which has the letter that you have chosen.

18. On a rainy night it is very dismal outside.

- A. tragic
- B. full of doom
- C. scornful
- D. gloomy

19. Every Saturday Diane lubricates her bicycle before going for a ride.

- A. wets
- B. oils
- C. beautifies
- D. shines

20. Kyra heard a peculiar noise in the kitchen.

- A. strange
- B. sickening
- C. deafening
- D. common

21. The indolent man has lost his job.

- A. rude
- B. impolite
- C. lazy
- D. difficult

22. The students were elated at their teacher's idea to take them to the zoo.

- A. doubtful
- B. overjoyed
- C. saddened
- D. scared

For items 23 to 26 choose the sentence which is correctly punctuated and/or has the capital letters correctly used. **ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET** shade the circle which has the letter that you have chosen.

23. A. Last Thursday the Governor-General visited the school.
B. Last Thursday the Governor-general visited the school.
C. Last Thursday the governor-general visited the school.
D. Last Thursday the governor-General visited the school.

24. A. "It's no use making excuses she warned."
B. "It's no use making excuses," she warned.
C. "It, s no use making excuses" she warned
D. "Its' no use making excuses," she warned.

25. A. Mary as well as Amos lives in Kingstown.
B. Mary, as well as Amos, lives in Kingstown.
C. Mary, as well as amos, lives in Kingstown.
D. Mary, as well as Amos lives, in Kingstown.

26. A. Toms cap and Jims Book are on the desk.
B. Tom's cap and Jims' Book are on the desk.
C. Tom's cap and Jim's book are on the desk.
D. Toms' cap and Jim's book are on the desk.

Items 27 to 30 are sentences, some of them are correct and some have an error. **ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET**, shade the circle which has the letter that you have chosen. If there is no error shade the circle that has D.

27. Please except my apology for not writing to you earlier. No error
A B C D

28. The little boy was not allowed to speak to no one because he was in
A B C
punishment. No error
D

29. The girl, as well as her friends, was studying. No error
A B C D

30. The villagers welcomed the strangers and entertain them with music and
A B C
dancing. No error
D

In items 31 to 33 choose the figure of speech which best describes each statement. **ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET**, shade the circle which has the letter of your choice.

31. The trees bent their heads in shame as the wind raged around them.

- A. simile
- B. metaphor
- C. personification
- D. onomatopoeia

32. The balloons looked like jolly suns and moons moving in the sky.

- A. simile
- B. metaphor
- C. personification
- D. onomatopoeia

33. Mary is a walking encyclopedia, she usually has the right information.

- A. simile
- B. metaphor
- C. personification
- D. onomatopoeia

Items 34 to 50 are based on the three passages below. Read each passage carefully and answer the questions following each passage. **ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET**, shade the circle which has the letter that you have chosen.

MY MUSCLES FROZE

But I was still shy and half paralysed when in the presence of a crowd, and my first day at the new school made me the laughing stock of the classroom. I was sent to the blackboard to write my name and address; I knew my name and address, knew how to write it, knew how to spell it; but standing at the blackboard
5 with the eyes of the many girls and boys looking at my back made me freeze inside and I was unable to write a single letter.

“Write your name,” the teacher called to me.

I lifted the white chalk to the blackboard and, as I was about to write my mind went blank, empty; I could not remember my name, not even the first letter.
10 Somebody giggled and I stiffened.

“Just forget us and write your name and address,” the teacher coaxed. An impulse to write would flash through me, but my hand would refuse to move. The children began to titter and I flushed hotly.

“Don’t you know your name?” the teacher asked.

15 I looked at her and could not answer. The teacher rose and walked to my side, smiling at me to give me confidence. She placed her hand tenderly upon my shoulder.

“What is your name?” she asked.

“Richard,” I whispered.

20 “Richard what?”

“Richard Wright.”

“Spell it.”

I spelled my name in a wild rush of letters, trying desperately to redeem my paralyzing shyness.

From Black Boy by Richard Wright

34. The little boy was unable to write his name on the blackboard because he

- A. did not know how to spell it.
- B. was nervous.
- C. could not write properly.
- D. did not like the children who were looking at him.

35. The phrase **made me freeze inside** (line 5) suggests that

- A. he became cold.
- B. the room had become cold.
- C. he could not think properly.
- D. he was unable to move.

36. The phrase which best describes the little boy's teacher is

- A. kind and understanding.
- B. pleasant but too demanding.
- C. cold and unsympathetic.
- D. strict but understanding.

37. The word **impulse** in (line 12) in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. a sudden sound
- B. a sudden desire
- C. a kind of light
- D. an order to do something

38. The teacher approached the little boy in (line 15) to

- A. threaten him.
- B. encourage him.
- C. whisper to him.
- D. insist that he spell his name.

39. The phrase the children began to titter in (line 13) tells us that the children were

- A. making noise inside the classroom.
- B. laughing quietly at the little boy.
- C. laughing loudly and disturbing the class.
- D. whispering to each other.

Read the following poem, and then answer the questions which follow.

From Reflection of Wrecked Kites

On the sagging telephone wires
Just outside my window
hang the corpses
of what was once
5 three joyous little kites.
Only a few days ago
they were describing
fussy little arcs
up there in the blue,
10 bobbing and buzzing
they soared as they flew
and now
they look so forlorn,
so pitiful, hanging there limply
15 Their flat silly heads
woggling in the breeze
their scraggy tails
twined around the swaying wires,
their happy function frustrated,
their brief day done.

Frank Collymore

40. The lines **hang the corpses of what were once three joyous little kites** (lines 3 to 5) mean that

- A. the kites are dead.
- B. the paper on the kite has become stiff.
- C. the kites are no longer joyous.
- D. the kites can fly no more.

41. The words **the blue** in (line 9) refer to

- A. the sky
- B. the horizon
- C. pieces of blue paper entangled in the telephone wires
- D. outside the window

42. On looking at the kites the poet feels

- A. worried
- B. afraid
- C. sad
- D. excited

43. The happy function of the kites in (line 19) was

- A. looking colourful and clean.
- B. tossing their scraggy tails.
- C. flying high and making patterns.
- D. making little boys happy.

44. The line, "their brief day done" in (line 20) means

- A. Night fell early so the kites were not flown then.
- B. The kites flew for only a short time before they were wrecked.
- C. The kites hung on the wires for a short time.
- D. The kites were flown for a short time in the daytime.

DIVING INTO DANGER

The sea has always interested people. From it they can get food, minerals and treasures. For thousands of years, they sailed on the sea. But they could not go far beneath its surface.

5 People longed to explore deep into the sea. However, they are not fishes. Because people must breathe air, they cannot stay under the water's surface for any length of time. To explore deep water, men and women face even more dangers and problems.

10 A diver who wants to stay under water for more than a few minutes, must breathe air or special mixture of gases. Divers can wear diving suits and have air pumped to them from above. They can carry tanks of air on their backs and breathe through a hose and a mouthpiece.

Water weighs 800 times as much air. Tons of water push against diver deep in the sea. The diver's body is under great pressure.

15 When divers are under great pressure, their blood takes in some the gases they breathe. As they rise to the surface, they water pressure becomes less. If the divers rise too quickly, the gases in their blood form bubbles. Divers then suffer from the bends. The bends can cause divers to double up in pain. Bends can even kill divers.

From the choices given, pick out the most appropriate answers.

45. A diver's body in deep water

- A. is under great pressure
- B. is just like a fish body
- C. suffers from the bends
- D. weighs very little

46. The word in the passage that means “a blend” is

- A. interested
- B. explore
- C. pressure
- D. mixture

47. The passage suggests that

- A. deep-sea divers should be in good health.
- B. divers explore deep seas only for treasure.
- C. surfacing too quickly from the water causes the bends.
- D. divers are super in physical strength.

48. The gases in a diver’s blood can form

- A. great pressure
- B. air
- C. bubbles
- D. water

49. On the whole, this passage is about

- A. special mixtures of gases.
- B. the problems of deep-sea diving.
- C. air pressure
- D. death of divers.

50. Which statement does the passage lead you to believe?

- A. The sea began to interest humans in the last few years.
- B. Humans are not at home deep in the sea.
- C. All divers get the bends sooner or later.
- D. Divers use all the gases in the water.