



SAMPLE PAPER

CLASS

07

SCHOOL NAME:	
STUDENT NAME:	
ROLL NO.:	

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Please DO NOT OPEN the contest booklet until the Proctor has given permission to start.
2. **TIME ALLOWED: 60 MINUTES**
3. There are 25 **MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS (1-25)**.
4. Each Question carry 04 marks, -1 for wrong answer & 0 for unanswerd question.
5. Mark only one circle for each question.
6. PROCTORING: No one may help any student in any way during the contest.
7. No electronic devices capable of storing and displaying visual information are allowed during the course of the exam.
8. All students must write their Name, School, and Roll Number in the Answer Sheet and Contest booklet.
9. No exam papers and written notes can be taken out by any contestant.
10. Shade your answers neatly & darkly using a Lead pencil in the Answer Sheet.

Read *Famous Persian polymaths* and answer questions 1 to 6.

Famous Persian polymaths

The ancient empire of Persia (centred on modern-day Iran) lay at the crossroads of East and West. As a result it was a melting pot of ideas. From the fifth to the fifteenth centuries CE, when Europe was in the Dark Ages, it was Persia that played an important role in scientific discoveries. Many early Persian scientists were polymaths (from the Greek word meaning 'having learned much'), that is, their knowledge extended across many fields. Here are some famous Persian polymaths.



This Soviet Union stamp commemorated the 1200th anniversary of Al-Khwarizmi's birth.

Al-Khwarizmi (c. 780–850 CE)

Al-Khwarizmi was an astronomer, cartographer, geographer and mathematician. His greatest contribution was a book detailing methods for solving equations. The word 'algebra' was derived from the term *al-jabr* which was the name of one of the operations he used to solve equations. The Latin form of his name, *Algoritmi*, was the basis of the word 'algorithm'. The place-value decimal system (0–9) was introduced to the West through his writings, where it became known as 'Arabic numerals', even though it was based on Indian numerals.

Razi (c. 865–925 CE)

Razi wrote more than 200 books on alchemy, music, philosophy and medicine. He is credited with being the first to identify that fever is part of the body's natural defence against disease. He discovered asthma's connection to allergies and was the first physician to differentiate smallpox from measles. Razi's medical research included clinical experiments for treating skin conditions with ointments that contained mercury. He invented many pieces of apparatus including flasks, spatulas and phials similar to those used today. He also discovered many chemicals, including kerosene.

Avicenna (c. 980–1037 CE)

Many regard Avicenna as the most influential Persian polymath. He wrote approximately 450 books on alchemy, astronomy, geology, logic, mathematics, medicine, philosophy, physics and poetry. His most famous works are *The Canon of Medicine*, which was still used as a medical textbook in medieval universities more than 600 years after his death, and *The Book of Healing*, an encyclopaedia of science and philosophy.

Despite its title, *The Book of Healing* (also known as *The Cure*) is not medical in nature. Rather, Avicenna intended it to cure ignorance of the soul.



Avicenna is featured on Tajikistan's 20 somoni banknotes.

Omar Khayyam (c. 1048–1131 CE)

Omar Khayyam made outstanding contributions to mathematics, philosophy, poetry and astronomy. He reformed the Persian calendar by calculating the length of a solar year to 10 decimal places. His most famous mathematics book, *Treatise on Demonstration of Problems of Algebra*, outlined geometric methods for solving cubic equations. In the West, however, Omar Khayyam is better known for his book of poetry, the *Rubaiyat*, which was translated into English in 1859.

1. In the first paragraph, what is the purpose of the words 'centred on modern-day Iran'?
 - (A) to show that Persia is separate from Europe
 - (B) to give an insight into the theme of the text
 - (C) to inform the reader of how old Persia is
 - (D) to provide a current reference point

2. The word 'differentiate' means
 - (A) to experiment with.
 - (B) to draw conclusions.
 - (C) to make adjustments.
 - (D) to distinguish between.

3. Who created a range of specialised equipment?
 - (A) Al-Khwarizmi
 - (B) Razi
 - (C) Avicenna
 - (D) Khayyam

4. The main reason that Avicenna and Al-Khwarizmi are featured on banknotes and stamps is
 - (A) to stress the importance of education.
 - (B) to show people what they used to look like.
 - (C) to emphasise that their discoveries are still relevant.
 - (D) to acknowledge the contributions they made.

5. 'He reformed the Persian calendar by calculating the length of a solar year to 10 decimal places.'
 This sentence emphasises Khayyam's
 - (A) competitive nature.
 - (B) pursuit of precision.
 - (C) experience as an inventor.
 - (D) obsession with even numbers.

6. Who is correctly matched with his achievement?

	Name	Achievement
(A)	Avicenna	Invented the place-value decimal system
(B)	Razi	Discovered mercury
(C)	Khayyam	Solved cubic equations using a geometric method
(D)	Al-Khwarizmi	Identified fever as part of the body's natural defence

Read *Grandma* and answer questions 7 to 11.

Grandma

With a loud burp, Grandma slowly eases herself out of the faded armchair. A Grandma-shaped indent remains after she stands. 'Sorry,' she says with a wry smile, 'I can't help it.'

Grandma's face is lined like scrunched-up paper and this, together with her bright white hair, confirms her age of 88 years. Her hands are rough with hard work and memories. She prefers to wear slacks rather than a skirt. I remember Grandma once saying, *I started wearing them in 1980 because before then your grandfather said he didn't like them.*

With a twinkle in her eye she casts an evaluative glance at my uncle and says, 'You're fatter than ever.' I see my uncle swallow his retort, which seems to be a well-trained action.

'I'd better move that armchair into the truck,' he says gruffly.

'Righto, don't rush me!' Grandma says just as gruffly, and then shoots me a mischievous smile. (*I can't stand bullies.*)

Grandma shuffles into the kitchen, her sensible flat shoes squeaking on the bare floor. I think of all of the home-made dinners that have been cooked here over forty years. (*We always like to eat early, at 5 pm.*)


'Okay, everything is in the truck.' My uncle sighs as he enters the kitchen. I see Grandma breathe in deeply, her frame so much smaller than I remember. Her eyes fix on a single point in the distance as if she is seeing the passing of time. A melancholic mood settles in the room. Grandma looks wistful. Is she thinking of Grandpa, her children, past regrets?

Grandma suddenly turns to me and says, 'It's all right, I'm just reminiscing. Please remember, life passes quickly. Don't wish it away.'

'Ready?' my uncle enquires, looking intently at Grandma.

'Of course,' she huffs, waving him away. 'Home is where the heart is.'

With that, she turns and walks proudly out, her footsteps echoing in the now vacant house.



7. The sentence 'Her hands are rough with hard work and memories' suggests that

- (A) Grandma finds it challenging to remember things.
- (B) Grandma's memories are mostly related to work.
- (C) Grandma has neglected her appearance.
- (D) Grandma's life has been difficult.

8. Towards the end of the text, Grandma offers advice to the narrator because

- (A) she feels the need to exert some control over her move.
- (B) she wants to reassure the narrator that she is alright.
- (C) she wants to warn the narrator about the reality of old age.
- (D) she thinks that the narrator and her uncle are being insensitive.

9. The words in italics give the reader an insight into

- (A) Grandma's personality.
- (B) the narrator's attitude towards her uncle.
- (C) the narrator's feelings towards Grandma.
- (D) Grandma's thoughts about the current situation.

10. What is Grandma's attitude towards moving?

- (A) frightened
- (B) detached
- (C) cynical
- (D) practical

11. The tone of the narrative is mainly

- (A) apologetic.
- (B) sympathetic.
- (C) conspiratorial.
- (D) conversational.

Read *Close encounters of a different kind* and answer questions 12 to 17.

Close encounters of a different kind



This text was written by an Australian tourist on her first visit to India. It is part of a personal travel diary that recorded her thoughts and travel experiences.

After twenty days on our trip, I was becoming a little jaded with all the ornate architecture and the temple hopping. In Rajasthan, we'd already seen some beautiful temples—Jain and Hindu—with delicate stone carvings and impressive structures. Our next stop was the famous Karni Mata Temple in the small north-western city of Deshnok which is off the beaten track between Jodhpur and Bikaner. Although it had been a long drive and I needed a stretch, I was in two minds about entering the temple which had been built as a tribute to the revered goddess, Karni Mata.

Enthusiastic worshippers come from far and wide to Karni Mata to pay their respects to the holy rats that are called *Kabas*. We saw piles of shoes on the road to Karni Mata that pilgrims had worn through and discarded, continuing their journey barefoot, such was their devotion. Our driver, Shayam, had been talking this place up and now that we were finally here, I grew increasingly wary. Shayam had enthusiastically promised to come in and guide us through the experience, but I was still reluctant.

I'd read that in the West, you are never more than five metres away from a rat, even if you can't see it. We abhor and vilify them—dirty creatures of the night ready to attack and bite if you're not careful. The Pied Piper and the context of nursery rhymes such as *Ring Around the Rosy* have taught us that rats are disease-ridden plague carriers and dangerous killers of children. I'd been brought up to believe that the only good rat was a dead one. Clearly I had to suspend my cultural expectations if I was to enter this place of worship.

But Shayam had no such reservations. He walked determinedly forward, removed his shoes and beckoned me into the marble temple. In trepidation I crossed the invisible line. I was inside. The place was teeming with brightly coloured, barefooted pilgrims who jostled around huge vats of sweet food offerings placed in covered niches around a central altar. Amongst it all ran thousands of rats scurrying from wall to wall, keeping to the dark spots and scampering over and between worshippers' feet. I frantically tried to lift my feet on to the steel railings. Having rats run across my feet was not my idea of being blessed! I looked around in horror, clutching myself in a vain attempt to shield my body against the moving mass of furry creatures.

Shayam looked at me with a mixture of contempt and pity. 'Don't worry,' he said. 'They won't bite you.'

12. How was the writer feeling after twenty days of her holiday?
- (A) tired of the same routine
 - (B) excited about seeing more temples
 - (C) pleased with herself for having seen so much
 - (D) cautious about the prospect of visiting more temples
13. The writer was 'in two minds'. On the one hand, she did not find the idea of a temple of rats appealing but on the other,
- (A) she wanted time to rest before continuing her trip.
 - (B) she wished to visit as many places of interest as possible.
 - (C) she wanted to pay her respects to the goddess Karni Mata.
 - (D) she felt overwhelmed by the fervour of the worshippers at the temple.
14. The majority of people at the temple were
- (A) Western tourists.
 - (B) pilgrims from Jodhpur.
 - (C) Hindu and Jain worshippers.
 - (D) devotees of the goddess Karni Mata.
15. What does the word 'vilify' mean?
- (A) to kill
 - (B) to resent
 - (C) to speak evil of
 - (D) to consider dangerous
16. What are the 'cultural expectations' the writer refers to in the third paragraph?
- (A) the fact that rats are worshipped in India
 - (B) the experience she had in another rat temple
 - (C) the nightmare she had experienced about rats
 - (D) the ideas about rats that were part of her upbringing
17. The theme of this text is
- (A) the challenge to deeply-held beliefs.
 - (B) the love of all creatures great and small.
 - (C) the pressure of the need to conform.
 - (D) the struggle to gain social acceptance.

Where there's smoke ... there's

It's hard to believe that air pollution could be a problem in the remote and sparsely populated spinifex country of Western Australia's tropical north. Yet in a bad year, the air quality in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions is far worse than on smoggy days in Sydney or Melbourne.

The managers of the north-west's major national park, Karijini, are well aware that the source of the problem is the huge fires that regularly occur in the area. They belch out so much smoke that they can block out the sun and even change local rainfall patterns. When good rains favour vigorous growth of the spinifex, lightning strikes in spring can ignite the dry grass and start fires that may spread rapidly on very wide fronts. In addition, graziers and Aboriginal peoples deliberately light many fires to promote new plant growth for grazing livestock and wild animals, and to stop the prickly spinifex grass from becoming too dense.

Under the right fire conditions, it's not uncommon for a blaze to travel up to 100 kilometres before it peters out or has to be put out.

The spring fires in the year 2000 were especially problematic in the Kimberley. Satellite images recorded more than 750 fires in September and October alone. They burnt 188 000 square kilometres—an area almost three times the size of Tasmania. In early October 2000, a series of very large fires burnt into, out of and around Karijini and vast areas of adjoining land. They threw up prodigious amounts of smoke and soot particles. Measurements of air quality taken at Lake Argyle, about 100 kilometres to the east, found that surface levels of particle density were roughly equivalent to a heavily polluted urban centre.

The smoke plume was enormous, spreading from Karijini north-west about 2 000 kilometres to Bali,

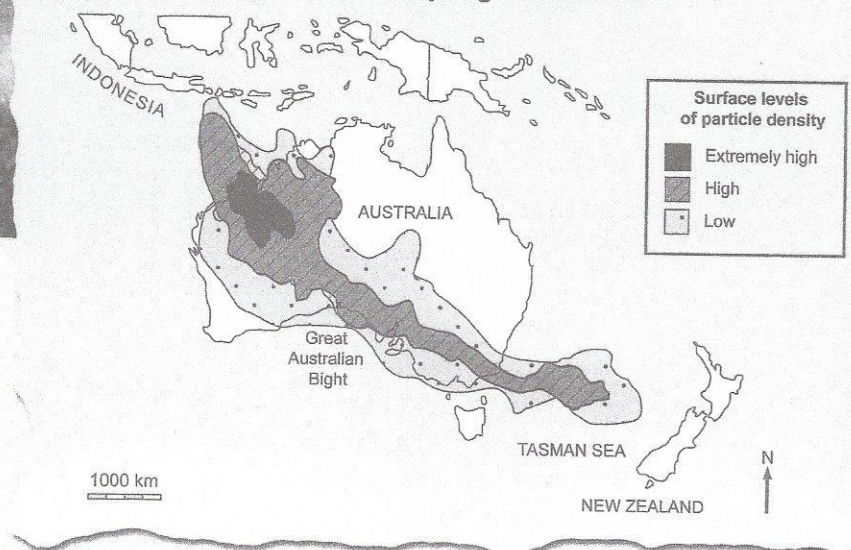
18. The first paragraph captures readers' attention by
- (A) providing an unusual fact about air quality.
 - (B) introducing them to remote regions of Australia.
 - (C) providing a challenging scenario about air quality.
 - (D) describing Australia's air pollution levels in bad years.
19. Which words from the text are synonyms?
- (A) 'sparsely' and 'prickly'
 - (B) 'belch' and 'burnt'
 - (C) 'vast' and 'prodigious'
 - (D) 'aloft' and 'emit'
20. Which of the following is used as a verb in the text?
- (A) 'strikes'
 - (B) 'fronts'
 - (C) 'light'
 - (D) 'blaze'
21. According to the text, which of the following is **NOT** a reason why people intentionally start fires in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions?
- (A) to control the density of spinifex
 - (B) to stop introduced weeds from taking over
 - (C) to promote new plant growth for native animals
 - (D) to assist new plant growth for grazing livestock

Australia

south nearly 3 300 kilometres to the Great Australian Bight and east another 2 700 kilometres to the Tasman Sea. In all, the plume covered an area of almost 2.5 million square kilometres—about one-third of Australia. The smoke cloud reached up to eight kilometres in altitude, almost as high as Mount Everest. It is thought that between 20 and 80 million tonnes of carbon were carried aloft in that cloud as carbon dioxide—the key greenhouse gas—with another 400 000 to 1.8 million tonnes of smoke. In context, that's about one per cent of the total smoke produced across the world each year—all in just that one plume.

Wildfires burn across more than 100 million hectares of Australia each year, but the area

Smoke from spring fires in 2000



burnt varies greatly from year to year. In wet years, there are few fires and the regrowth of vegetation can remove as much as 50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. But in hot dry years, such as 2003, major fires can release up to 190 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. For comparison, all of Australia's transport sources combined emit about 87 million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

22. The key on the map shows
- (A) the area subject to wildfire risk.
 - (B) the surface levels of smoke pollution.
 - (C) the extent of spring fires in 2000.
 - (D) the area affected by high altitude smoke.
23. What do the concluding sentences in the final two paragraphs have in common?
- (A) They act as topic sentences.
 - (B) They give alternative viewpoints.
 - (C) They summarise the paragraphs.
 - (D) They provide frames of reference.
24. According to the text, the area of Australia affected by wildfires in any year varies greatly depending on
- (A) the amount of rain received.
 - (B) the strength of prevailing winds.
 - (C) the annual fire management strategies.
 - (D) the area burnt by wildfires in previous years.
25. What would be the best alternative title for the text?
- (A) Smoke and greenhouse gas emissions in Australia
 - (B) No smoking! Keep Australians healthy
 - (C) Australia—smoke and mirrors
 - (D) Australia—a country on fire

Surface beauty

'I can barely feel your hand,' Brendan said. He didn't look very different, but Sarah could tell from the way his fingers moved when he held her hand that his skin was thicker and tighter already—just like he said it would become. Sarah hadn't been on the Moon very long. Her parents were admin workers, so moonies like Brendan were still a little strange to her.

'Does it ... feel weird?'

'Nah. It's a bit like I'm wrapped in plastic. Things feel a bit dull.'

They stood in hangar 8B, holding hands side by side, overlooking the lunar landscape. Sarah swayed a little in the low gravity, but Brendan wasn't moving at all. He came from a long line of moonies. He'd always looked like a regular kid. Then one day his shoulders started getting broader, his chest heavier, and now his skin was thickening and hardening. He was growing into a proper Moonman.

'This morning's medical scan finally gave the all-clear,' Brendan said. He turned away and looked out through the wide viewing window. Far away, sharp against the black sky, a crescent-shaped Earth stared down at them. It was always in the same spot, of course. 'My brother used to tease me, saying I had normal human genes, that I was adopted.'

Brendan's family had been Helium-3 moon-miners for five generations. His great-great-grandfather was one of the first engineered humans.

'So ... are you sure you're ready?' Sarah asked, letting go of his hand. She wasn't

sure if it was just her imagination or if it really felt rougher than she remembered.

'Yeah. The moonwalk ceremony is two weeks away. I want to see what it's like *now*. And you're my best friend.'

'How long do you think you can stay out there?'

'They only let you go for five minutes, first time. It's about toughening up slowly. "Harden up" is the family motto.' He laughed. Sarah had noticed his voice was deeper recently—a sign that his lungs and chest had grown stronger. 'You'd better suit up.'

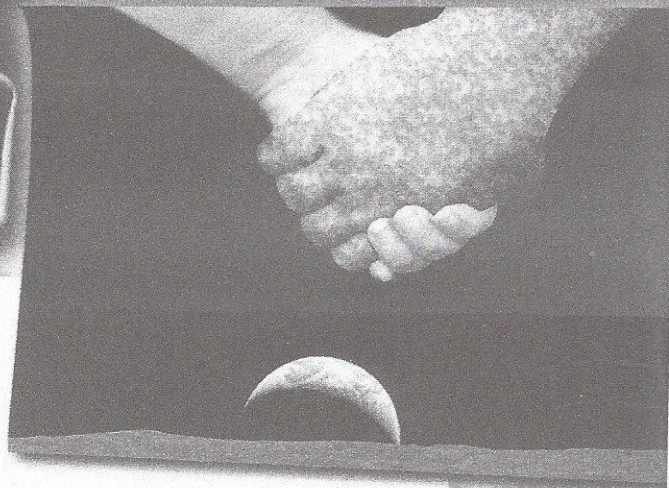
The outer doors slid open and Brendan bounced out onto the moonscape, kicking up slow dust. Sarah followed him more cautiously, managing only stiff steps in her tight suit.

'C'mon!' Brendan yelled over the comms. 'It's amazing, it feels so right! I can't explain, just ...'

'...like you were made for it?' Sarah laughed, seeing him so graceful, silently puffing up moon dust with his thin shoes.

Brendan bounce-skipped towards her as she stepped slowly across the surface, and took her gloved fingers.

'Funny,' Sarah said, 'I can barely feel your hand.'



26. The dash (—) in the first paragraph is used to
- (A) highlight that an expectation has been confirmed.
 - (B) indicate that the narrator's thoughts were interrupted.
 - (C) include an authorial comment.
 - (D) separate two related ideas.
27. In the sentence "Does it ... feel weird?", the word 'it' refers to
- (A) seeing Sarah again.
 - (B) walking on the Moon.
 - (C) Brendan's changed body.
 - (D) Brendan's tight fitting jumpsuit.
28. According to Brendan's family, being a Moonman was
- (A) something to be embarrassed about.
 - (B) something they took for granted.
 - (C) superior to being an ordinary human.
 - (D) annoying because of the regular medical scans.
29. What was Brendan's attitude to the upcoming moonwalk ceremony?
- (A) anxiety
 - (B) impatience
 - (C) indifference
 - (D) overconfidence
30. Brendan's family motto 'Harden up' has two meanings. The first is that the Moonman's skin hardened as they got older to enable them to work on the Moon. The second is that
- (A) they had to be emotionally strong to survive the conditions.
 - (B) they had to be mean and aggressive in order to be successful.
 - (C) they must learn to ignore criticism from humans about what they did.
 - (D) they would become less attached over time to people and other Moonmen.
31. The first and last sentences are almost identical. The purpose of this repetition is to
- (A) expose the common weaknesses of the characters.
 - (B) emphasise the changing relationship between the characters.
 - (C) indicate the characters have both experienced bodily changes.
 - (D) highlight the obstacles the characters encountered while moonwalking.
32. The main theme of this text is
- (A) the perils of genetic engineering.
 - (B) the acceptance of change as part of life.
 - (C) the universal cycle of life.
 - (D) the quest for knowledge.
33. The image illustrates
- (A) the smallness of the Earth.
 - (B) the aridity of the lunar landscape.
 - (C) the differences between Earth and the Moon.
 - (D) the importance of the characters' friendship.

WRITING FOR FILM FANS

Some novelists sweat over their reviews. If Matthew Reilly was ever one of them, he has long ceased to be. At 33, the former Sydney lawyer has more than a score of racy action thrillers to his credit, all international bestsellers. His books sell on his name and he can shrug off a hostile review or two. But at writers' festivals he puts critics in their place anyway.

Reilly has a habit of starting a speech by reading out some of his worst reviews, followed by a letter from a reader or their parents. Its gist is always 'I never used to read until I discovered your books' or 'Thank you. My boy started reading when he picked up one of your books and hasn't stopped.'

His novel *The Six Sacred Stones* probably won't get a sympathetic reading from critics who have lashed him before either, but they may note that it marks a departure in his work. All the Reilly trademarks are there: a *Boy's Own* hero on a mission to save the world, a villain to make Darth Vader look like Albert Schweitzer, exotic settings and lots of guns and boats and planes.

Indiana Jones stuff.

But this time the fate of the Indiana Jones figure, retired Australian SAS officer Jack West, is left a mystery at the end of the book, as is the conclusion of the quest on which West and his band of heroes are bound. The survival of the world, of course, depends on their success.

'I really wanted to come up with the mother of all cliffhangers,' Reilly says.

A recurrent criticism of Reilly's writing is that his novels resemble film treatments rather than conventional prose narratives.

'What I do is write books for an audience that thinks in a movie language,' Reilly says. 'That's the way I think and I also believe that not enough authors keep up with the audience. I'm writing them for an audience that thinks in terms of films.'

Reilly consciously distinguishes himself from other thriller writers because he writes in this way. And if you like thrillers served as a series of movie frames, there will be more Reilly-style action coming soon.

34. The writer says that Reilly 'has long ceased to be' the sort of author who sweats over reviews. By this, he is suggesting that Reilly is
- (A) arrogant.
 - (B) worn-out.
 - (C) unperturbed.
 - (D) apprehensive.
35. What does the writer mean when he states that Reilly's books 'sell on his name'?
- (A) Reilly invested his time and money in writing his series of books.
 - (B) Reilly's name on a book cover has become like a brand or trademark.
 - (C) Reilly is a self-made author who has achieved success all on his own.
 - (D) Reilly's name is so widely recognised that publishers want to work with him.
36. At writers' festivals Reilly reads out letters he receives. He does this to show that
- (A) he is proud of the fact that he has fans from around the world.
 - (B) he feels angry that his work is not given the recognition it deserves.
 - (C) people who dislike reading should be encouraged to read his books.
 - (D) the reactions of readers are more important to him than the opinions of critics.
37. What distinguishes Reilly's new novel *The Six Sacred Stones* from his previous ones?
- (A) The viciousness of the villain is more exaggerated.
 - (B) The hero does not act alone but works with others.
 - (C) The audience does not find out if the hero actually saves the world.
 - (D) The novel is closer to the style of an action film than his previous ones.
38. A 'recurrent' criticism is one that is
- (A) very recent.
 - (B) often repeated.
 - (C) not taken seriously.
 - (D) extremely negative.
39. What is Reilly's criticism of other authors?
- (A) They have a poor grasp of film-making techniques.
 - (B) They do not provide enough twists and turns for the reader.
 - (C) They have not kept pace with the demands of the audience.
 - (D) They write in a language that is too difficult for their readers.
40. Based on the text, which statement best describes the writer's attitude towards Reilly?
- (A) The writer admires Reilly for his determination to do what he believes in.
 - (B) The writer dismisses Reilly's justifications for his unconventional writing style.
 - (C) The writer is skeptical of Reilly's ability to differentiate himself from other writers.
 - (D) The writer regards Reilly's writing style as commendable and worthy of imitation by others.

Waiting for Clearance

On this frozen, reluctant morning I haunt
a familiar misty corridor of silhouetted trees
where parkland merges with the shore.
Above me the silvery pendant moon
weary of its long night's work
shrinks sinew thin, anxious for the sun. 5

Veiled in shifting early morning fog
the bay has almost vanished
and boats appear like hovering spectres.
An icy mist pearls on my skin
and exhaled breath hangs heavy in the air
as thoughts skim the silence like pebbles. 10

The muffled throb of an engine—
a boat slips in to berth at a ghosted wharf
creating waves that slap and slosh. 15
Fishermen call urgently to each other
heralding the unloading of their catch,
a cascade of sequinned fish.

On a whitewashed pole, a solitary sea bird
with x-ray agate eyes 20
scans the cellophane surface of the water.
In the distance across the bay, another bird—
a shimmering plane—like an ice sculpture
waits on the tarmac set hard as black granite.

When, finally, the fog lifts 25
the pilot will accelerate to a point
where parallels converge at the horizon.
Passengers feeling every clang, every clunk,
will breathe in, they will lean, shake, turn
in unison with the plane 30
willing it up.

Sheryl Persson

41. Based on the first stanza, which statement about the poet is correct?
- (A) She comes to this place regularly.
 - (B) She is reluctant to walk in the park.
 - (C) She is weary after a long night's work.
 - (D) She waits anxiously for the sun to come up.
42. The word 'cascade' in line 18 describes
- (A) the water dripping off the school of fish.
 - (B) the movement of the haul of fish.
 - (C) the fishermen's excitement.
 - (D) the colour of the catch.
43. Which word is **NOT** an example of onomatopoeia in the poem?
- (A) 'slap' (line 15)
 - (B) 'slosh' (line 15)
 - (C) 'catch' (line 17)
 - (D) 'clang' (line 28)
44. Which line from the poem combines the poetic techniques of metaphor and alliteration?
- (A) 'Above me the silvery pendant moon' (line 4)
 - (B) 'The muffled throb of an engine' (line 13)
 - (C) 'scans the cellophane surface of the water' (line 21)
 - (D) 'waits on the tarmac set as hard as black granite' (line 24)
45. Towards the end of the poem, the mood changes from
- (A) contentment to confusion.
 - (B) confusion to excitement.
 - (C) despondency to relief.
 - (D) tranquillity to tension.
46. Which words in the poem work together to suggest a fragility about the frozen morning?
- (A) 'pendant' (line 4) and 'pearls' (line 10)
 - (B) 'exhaled' (line 11) and 'accelerate' (line 26)
 - (C) 'silence' (line 12) and 'heralding' (line 17)
 - (D) 'solitary' (line 19) and 'shimmering' (line 23)

Read 828 metres tall and counting ... and answer questions 47 to 53.

828

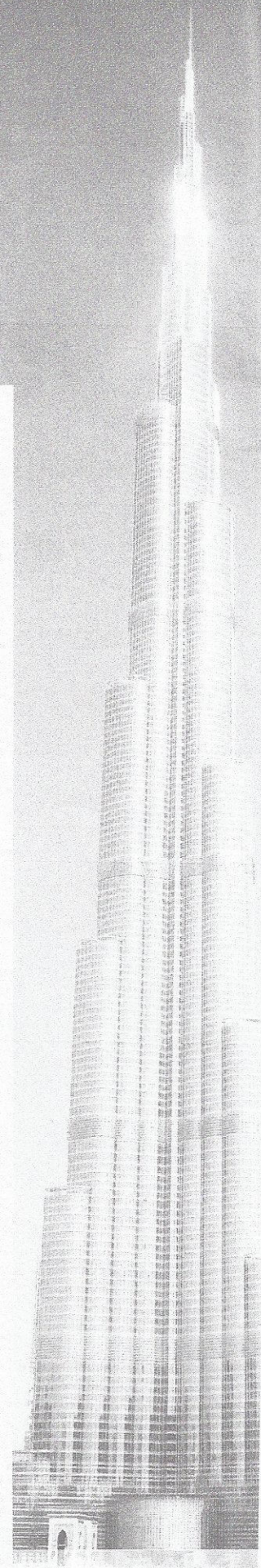
metres tall and counting ...

When does a product of human endeavour become recognised, not for its excellence, but for its imperfection? When the product is as enticing and enduring as the *campanile* (freestanding bell tower) of the *Piazza dei Miracoli*, the 'Square of Miracles', in Pisa, Italy. Better known as the Leaning Tower of Pisa, this celebrated icon is indeed a miracle, a marvel of medieval engineering. Construction of the cylindrical eight-storey bell tower commenced in 1173 and it was to rise 60 metres, making it one of the tallest bell towers of the time. Designed to stand proudly upright and perfectly vertical, the tower took on its trademark tilt while still under construction. It is for this imperfection that the *campanile* has become so readily recognisable. Today, the top of the Tower is some 3.9 metres off the vertical.

That 'failed' attempt at Pisa to build a perfect tower was by no means the opening act of the high-rise. Historical evidence shows that tall structures existed in classical antiquity. Indeed, some people would go as far as to ascribe pioneer status in this branch of construction to the legendary Tower of Babel.

Yet, it is the recent decades that have truly ushered in the era of the skyscraper as a hallmark of urban architecture. The term 'skyscraper', interestingly, has not always belonged in the register of architecture. It was used earlier as a nautical term to designate a small triangular sail in a ship. Only in the late nineteenth century was the term appropriated to apply to a steel-framed building exceeding ten storeys. However, it would have to be the technically naïve or linguistically adventurous who would proffer a definition of a skyscraper. It was held that a skyscraper must have a steel framework from which walls are suspended, replacing the conventional load-bearing walls. This requirement no longer holds as technological developments allow many skyscrapers today to be built entirely of reinforced concrete. For example, the 88-floor Petronas Twin Towers of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, were built largely of this material. The Towers held sway as the tallest buildings in the world until superseded by the Taipei 101, completed in 2004. Designed to withstand the havoc-wreaking typhoons and earthquakes that ravage the region, it was the first building to breach the half-kilometre height barrier.

The scramble for height is unrelenting. Five years after seizing the crown, the Taipei 101 was dethroned. The front-runner in the race skywards is now the Burj Khalifa of Dubai. The new shaft-like edifice measures a staggering 828 metres from ground to roof. How long the Burj will stay supreme is a matter of speculation, but for now, the world record is 828 metres and counting ...



The Burj Khalifa of Dubai is 828 metres tall.

47. Which quotation expresses an opinion about the Tower of Pisa?
- (A) 'this celebrated icon is indeed a miracle'
 - (B) 'Construction of the cylindrical eight-storey bell tower commenced in 1173'
 - (C) 'the tower took on its trademark tilt while still under construction'
 - (D) 'the top of the Tower is some 3.9 metres off the vertical'
48. According to the text, information on one of the towers is difficult to verify. Which tower is this?
- (A) the *campanile* of the *Piazza dei Miracoli*
 - (B) the Tower of Babel
 - (C) the Petronas Twin Towers
 - (D) the Burj Khalifa
49. Why does the writer consider it is 'linguistically adventurous' to suggest a definition of a skyscraper?
- (A) The word has a long history as a nautical term.
 - (B) Each branch of the construction industry has its own interpretation of the term.
 - (C) Any definition based on current building methods would soon become obsolete.
 - (D) The term is yet to be properly defined as taller buildings are under construction.
50. In the third paragraph, what do the words 'This requirement' refer to?
- (A) steel frameworks with suspended walls
 - (B) the minimum number of storeys
 - (C) reinforced concrete structures
 - (D) load-bearing walls
51. The writer states that 'The scramble for height is unrelenting.'
- Which of the following is closest in meaning to this sentence?
- (A) The confusion over what is the tallest skyscraper endures.
 - (B) The debate over building even higher skyscrapers is continual.
 - (C) Modern skyscrapers rely on innovative technological developments.
 - (D) There is a race for the prestige of having the world's tallest skyscraper.
52. Which conclusion can be drawn from the text?
- (A) Skyscrapers are approaching their maximum height.
 - (B) The 'failed' attempt at Pisa was the world's first skyscraper.
 - (C) The record for the tallest building is likely to be short-lived.
 - (D) Natural hazards will limit the height to which new skyscrapers can be built.
53. The points of ellipsis (...) at the end of the text indicate that
- (A) the text is unfinished.
 - (B) words have been deliberately removed.
 - (C) an inference can be made without words.
 - (D) there is doubt about the reliability of the information.

GRADE 07

2013 English Answer Keys

QUESTION KEYS

1	D
2	D
3	B
4	D
5	B
6	C
7	D
8	B
9	A
10	D
11	B
12	A
13	A
14	D
15	C
16	D
17	A
18	A
19	C
20	C
21	B
22	B
23	D
24	A
25	D
26	A
27	C
28	C
29	B
30	A

QUESTION KEYS

31	B
32	B
33	D
34	C
35	B
36	D
37	C
38	B
39	C
40	A
41	A
42	B
43	C
44	C
45	D
46	A
47	A
48	B
49	C
50	A
51	D
52	C
53	C