

Paper Reference(s)

4355/2H**London Examinations IGCSE****English Language****Higher Tier****Paper 2H****Tuesday 1 November 2005 – Morning****Time: 2 hours****Materials required for examination**

Answer book (AB12)

Items included with question papers

Nil

Instructions to Candidates

Answer **ALL** questions.

In the boxes on the answer book, write the name of the examining body (London Examinations), your centre number, candidate number, the subject title (English Language), the paper reference (4355/2H), your surname, other names and signature.

Answer the questions in your answer book. Make sure your answers are clearly numbered. Use additional answer sheets if necessary.

Information for Candidates

The total mark for this paper is 60. The marks for each question are shown in round brackets: e.g. (2).

This paper has six questions. All blank pages are indicated.

Copies of the London Examinations Anthology may **NOT** be brought into the examination.

Dictionaries may **NOT** be used in this examination.

Advice to Candidates

You are reminded of the importance of clear English and careful presentation in your answers.

You are advised to spend an equal amount of time on each of the three sections of this paper.

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INTERNATIONAL

SECTION A: Reading

You should spend about 40 minutes on this section.

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions which follow on page 3.



Because we know so little about it, perhaps a few facts would be in order.

Australia is the world's sixth largest country and its largest island. It is the only island that is also a continent, and the only continent that is also a country. It was the first continent conquered from the sea, and the last. It is the only nation that began as a prison.

It is the home of the largest living thing on earth, The Great Barrier Reef, and of the most famous and striking monolith, Ayers Rock (or Uluru to use its now official, more respectful Aboriginal name). It has more things that will kill you than anywhere else. Of the world's ten most poisonous snakes, all are Australian. Five of its creatures – the funnel-web spider, box jellyfish, blue-ringed octopus, paralysis tick and stonefish – are the most lethal of their type in the world. This is a country where even the fluffiest of caterpillars can paralyse you with a toxic nip, where seashells will not just sting you but actually sometimes go for you. Pick up an innocuous coneshell from a Queensland beach, as innocent tourists are all too eager to do, and you will discover that the little fellow inside is not just astoundingly swift and testy, but exceedingly venomous. If you are not stung or pronged to death in some unexpected manner, you may be fatally chomped by sharks or crocodiles, or carried helplessly out to sea by irresistible currents, or left to stagger to an unhappy death in the baking outback. It's a tough place.

And it is old. For 60 million years, since the formation of the Great Dividing Range, Australia has been all but silent geologically, which has allowed it to preserve many of the oldest things ever found on earth – the most ancient rocks and fossils, the earliest animal tracks and riverbeds, the first faint signs of life itself. At some undetermined point in the great immensity of its past – perhaps 45,000 years ago, perhaps 60,000, but certainly before there were modern humans in the Americas or Europe – it was quietly invaded by a deeply inscrutable people, the Aborigines, who have no clearly evident racial or linguistic kinship to their neighbours in the region, and whose presence in Australia can be explained only by presuming that they invented and mastered ocean-going craft at least 30,000 years in advance of anyone else in order to undertake an exodus, and then forgot or abandoned nearly all that they had learned and scarcely ever bothered with the open sea again.

It is an accomplishment so singular and extraordinary that most histories breeze over it in a paragraph or two, then move on to the second, more explicable invasion – the one that begins with

the arrival of Captain James Cook and his doughty little ship HMS *Endeavour* in Botany Bay in 1770. Never mind that Captain Cook didn't discover Australia and that he wasn't even a captain at the time of his visit. For most people, including most Australians, this is where the story begins. 30

The world those first Englishmen found was famously inverted – its seasons back to front, its constellations upside down – and unlike anything that any of them had seen before, even in the near latitudes of the Pacific. Its creatures seem to have evolved as if they had misread the manual. The most characteristic of them didn't run or lope or canter, but *bounced* across the landscape, like dropped balls. The continent teemed with unlikely life. It contained a fish that could climb trees; a fox that flew (it was actually a very large bat); crustaceans so big that a grown man could climb inside their shells. 35

In short, there was no place in the world like it. There still isn't. Eighty per cent of all that lives in Australia, plant and animal, exists nowhere else. More than this, it exists in an abundance that seems incompatible with the harshness of the environment. Australia is the driest, flattest, hottest, most desiccated, infertile and climatically aggressive of all the inhabited continents. (Only Antarctica is more hostile to life.) This is a place so inert that even the soil is, technically speaking, a fossil. And yet it teems with life in numbers uncounted. For insects alone, scientists haven't the faintest idea whether the total number of species is 100,000 or more than twice that. As many as a third of those species remain entirely unknown to science. For spiders the proportion rises to 80 per cent. 40 45

You take my point again, I'm sure. This is a country that is at once staggeringly empty and yet packed with stuff. Interesting stuff, ancient stuff, stuff not readily explained. Stuff yet to be found.

Trust me, this is an interesting place.

1. Some of the creatures described in paragraph two are obviously dangerous while others appear harmless. Choose **two** creatures which appear to be harmless and show how they are presented as dangerous. (4)
2. Look again at lines 20 – 31 of *Welcome to Australia*. Explain, **in your own words**, what we learn about the Aborigines. (4)
3. How does the writer convince us that there is no place in the world like Australia?

In your answer you should write about:

- the language used by the writer
- the selection and presentation of information.

You should refer closely to the passage to support your answer. You may include **brief** quotations. (12)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A: 20 MARKS

SECTION B: Reading and Writing

You should spend about 40 minutes on this section.

Remind yourself of the passage, *Chinese Cinderella*, from the London Examinations Anthology, and then answer Questions 4 and 5.

From Chinese Cinderella

Growing up in a wealthy family in 1950s Hong Kong, Adeline Yen Mah should have had an enviable childhood, but she was rejected by her dominating stepmother and despised by her brothers and sisters. She was sent to a boarding school and left there. In this extract from her autobiography she relates one of the few occasions when she went home.

Time went by relentlessly and it was Saturday again. Eight weeks more and it would be the end of term...in my case perhaps the end of school forever. Four of us were playing Monopoly. My heart was not in it and I was losing steadily. Outside it was hot and there was a warm wind blowing. The radio warned of a possible typhoon the next day. It was my turn and I threw the dice. As I played, the thought of leaving school throbbed at the back of my mind like a persistent toothache.

‘Adeline!’ Ma-mien Valentino was calling.

‘You can’t go now,’ Mary protested. ‘For once I’m winning. One, two, three, four. Good! You’ve landed on my property. Thirty-five dollars, please. Oh, good afternoon, Mother Valentino!’

We all stood up and greeted her.

‘Adeline, didn’t you hear me call you? Hurry up downstairs! Your chauffeur is waiting to take you home!’

Full of foreboding, I ran downstairs as in a nightmare, wondering who had died this time. Father’s chauffeur assured me everyone was healthy.

‘Then why are you taking me home?’ I asked.

‘How should I know?’ he answered defensively, shrugging his shoulders. ‘Your guess is as good as mine. They give me the orders and I carry them out.’

During the short drive home, my heart was full of dread and I wondered what I had done wrong. Our car stopped at an elegant villa at mid-level, halfway up the hill between the peak and the harbour.

‘Where are we?’ I asked foolishly.

‘Don’t you know anything?’ the chauffeur replied rudely. ‘This is your new home. Your parents moved here a few months ago.’

‘I had forgotten,’ I said as I got out.

Ah Gum opened the door. Inside it was quiet and cool.

‘Where is everyone?’

‘Your mother is out playing bridge. Your two brothers and little sister are sunbathing by the swimming-pool. Your father is in his room and wants to see you as soon as you get home.’

‘See me in his room?’ I was overwhelmed by the thought that I had been summoned by father to enter the Holy of Holies – a place to which I had never been invited. Why?

Timidly, I knocked on the door. Father was alone, looking relaxed in his slippers and bathrobe, reading a newspaper. He smiled as I entered and I saw he was in a happy mood. I breathed a small sigh of relief at first but became uneasy when I wondered why he was being so nice, thinking, Is this a giant ruse on his part to trick me? Dare I let my guard down?

‘Sit down! Sit down!’ He pointed to a chair. ‘Don’t look so scared. Here, take a look at this! They’re writing about someone we both know, I think.’

He handed me the day’s newspaper and there, in one corner, I saw my name ADELIN YEN in capital letters prominently displayed.

‘It was announced today that 14-year old ADELIN JUN-LING YEN of Sacred Heart Canossian School, Caine Road, Hong Kong, has won first prize in the international Play-writing Competition held in London, England, for the 1951-52 school year. It is the first time that any local Chinese student from Hong Kong has won such a prestigious event. Besides a medal, the prize comes with a cash reward of FIFTY ENGLISH POUNDS. Our sincere congratulations, ADELIN YEN, for bringing honour to Hong Kong. We are proud of you’.

Is it possible? Am I dreaming? Me, the winner?

45 'I was going up the lift this morning with my friend C.Y. Tung when he showed me this article and asked me, "Is the winner Adeline Jun-Ling Yen related to you? The two of you have the same uncommon last name." Now C.Y. himself has a few children about your age but so far none of them has won an international literary prize, as far as I know. So I was quite pleased to tell him that you are my daughter. Well done!'

50 He looked radiant. For once, he was proud of me. In front of his revered colleague, C.Y. Tung, a prominent fellow businessman also from Shanghai, I had given him face. I thought, Is this the big moment I have been waiting for? My whole being vibrated with all the joy in the world. I only had to stretch out my hand to reach the stars.

'Tell me, how did you do it?' he continued. 'How come *you* won?'

55 'Well, the rules and regulations were so very complicated. One really has to be dedicated just to understand what they really want. Perhaps I was the only one determined enough to enter and there were no other competitors!'

He laughed approvingly. 'I doubt it very much but that's a good answer.'

'Please, Father.' I asked boldly, thinking it was now or never. 'May I go to university in England too, just like my brothers?'

60 'I do believe you have potential. Tell me, what would you study?'

My heart gave a giant lurch as it dawned on me that he was agreeing to let me go. How marvellous it was simply to be alive! Study? I thought. Going to England is like entering heaven. Does it matter what you do after you go to heaven?

65 But Father was expecting an answer. What about creative writing? After all, I had just won first prize in an international writing competition!

'I plan to study literature. I'll be a writer.'

70 'Writer!' he scoffed. 'You are going to starve! What language are you going to write in and who is going to read your writing? Though you may think you're an expert in both Chinese and English, your Chinese is actually rather elementary. As for your English, don't you think that the native English speakers can write better than you?'

I waited in silence. I did not wish to contradict him.

75 'You will go to England with Third Brother this summer and you will go to medical school. After you graduate, you will specialise in obstetrics. Women will always be having babies. Women patients prefer women doctors. You will learn to deliver their babies. That's a foolproof profession for you. Don't you agree?'

Agree? Of course I agreed. Apparently, he had it planned out. As long as he let me go to university in England, I would study anything he wished. How did that line go in Wordsworth's poem? *Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive.*

'Father I shall go to medical school in England and become a doctor. Thank you very, very much.'

You must answer both questions, 4 and 5.

4. Look again at lines 29 – 79 where the writer speaks with her father.

How does the writer help us to understand her thoughts and feelings during this section?

You should refer closely to the passage to support your answer. You may include **brief** quotations.

(10 Marks for Reading)

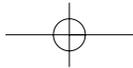
5. Imagine that you have won a large amount of money.

Explain how you would use this money, and why.

(10 Marks for Writing)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B: 20 MARKS

TURN OVER FOR SECTION C



SECTION C: Writing

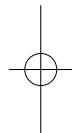
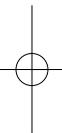
You should spend about 40 minutes on this section.

6. Your school or college is planning to produce a booklet about pastimes and hobbies, for students and parents to read. You have been asked to write an entry for this booklet.

Write your contribution which should include details of your pastime or hobby, explaining why it interests you.

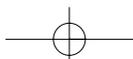
TOTAL FOR SECTION C: 20 MARKS

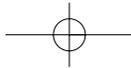
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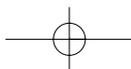
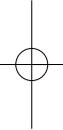
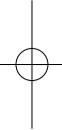
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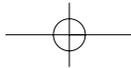
Adaptations from: *Down Under*, Bill Bryson, Doubleday, 2000.
Chinese Cinderella, Adeline Yen Mah, Puffin, 1999.





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