

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Index No \_\_\_\_\_



BUKIT PANJANG GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL  
MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2006  
SECONDARY ONE EXPRESS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1127  
PAPER 1

Date: 28 April 2006  
Time: 0730h - 0935h

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

1. Answer both Section One and Section Two.
2. Write your name, class and register number on the writing paper provided.
3. Hand in Section One and Section Two separately.
4. The total mark for this paper is 60.

---

*This paper consists of 2 pages including this cover sheet.*

### Section One [30 marks]

Write a composition on one of the following topics.

- You are advised to spend no more than 60 minutes on this part of the paper.
- Your composition should be at least 250 words long.
- You should draw 2 slashes (//) after the 250<sup>th</sup> word.
- You should write the number of the topic you have chosen in the margin.

1. The Loss
2. Begin your story with the opening words: "By the time I headed home, I was really confused..."
3. Write about an occasion when you stood up against a bully in school.
4. Describe the sights and sounds you will experience in a local shopping centre on a Sunday.
5. Describe your favourite place in the school and explain why you like the place.

### Section Two [30 marks]

Begin your answer on a fresh page.

- Your letter should be at least 180 words long.
- You should draw 2 slashes (//) after the 180<sup>th</sup> word.

Every year until now, your uncle has sent you a book for your present. This year, he has sent you a cheque for \$100 and asked you to write to let him know how you are going to spend the money.

Hence write a letter to your uncle expressing your gratitude. In your letter, you must mention the following points:

- Thank him for his generosity and tell him why his gift is especially helpful to you at this point in time.
- Inform him how you intend to spend the money meaningfully on two or three different items or activities.
- For each item of expenditure, explain clearly why you choose to spend the money in that manner.

At least one paragraph should be devoted to each point and it must be well-developed.

Write your letter in clear, formal language and use an appropriate tone.

~ End of Paper ~

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Index No. [      ]



**BUKIT PANJANG GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL**  
**MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2006**  
**SECONDARY ONE EXPRESS**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1127/2**  
**PAPER TWO**

Date : 27 April 2006

Duration: 1 hour 40 minutes

Time : 1130h to 1310h

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

1. Write your name, class and index number in the spaces provided at the top of this page and on the writing paper.
2. All answers are to be written neatly on the writing paper provided.
3. Hand in your answers separately as follows :
  - (i) Questions 1- 6 of Section A and Section B
  - (ii) Questions 7 and 8 of Section A
4. For Section A, leave a line after each answer.
5. Number all your answers neatly in the left margin of the paper.
6. The total mark is 50.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES:**

The number of marks is given in [      ] at the end of each question or part question.

[www.misskoh.com](http://www.misskoh.com)

*This paper consists of 4 pages including this cover page.*

*[Turn over*

## Section A: Comprehension (40 marks)

Read the following passage carefully and then answer all the questions. You are recommended to answer them in the order set. Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalized in any part of your answers.

**Note:** When a question asks you to answer in your own words, **YOU MUST NOT COPY THE WORDS IN THE PASSAGE** in your answer.

### Simon

- 1 There was a **small** incident on the way home from school. I was stoned by four boys and I handled the situation badly. It wasn't a **mugging** because they didn't want to take anything of value. It wasn't an ambush either because I already knew they were after me. It wasn't revenge because I'd never seen them before.
- 2 It was a straightforward case, I could see afterwards, of bullying. Four larger boys came for a smaller one who was on his own. 5
- 3 I took the short-cut which runs down a narrow path between two fruit orchards. There are hedges on each side, tall enough to protect the trees from wind, thick to prevent trespassers from stealing fruit. The sun seldom reaches down between the hedges. It's gloomy and damp, and the weeds under the hedges grow yellow and straggly as they struggle up towards the light. 10
- 4 I don't like walking there, but it's ten minutes quicker than if I go round by the ring-road.
- 5 The four youths were behind, jostling and shoving each other against the spiky hawthorn as they walked. They had shaven heads, high laced DM's, black blazers and mean, narrow eyes. They were from Rosehill School. They were heading back to Rosehill Estate.
- 6 When the first stone spun past my ear I didn't turn, though I did put on a bit of speed. The second stone hit me on the back of the neck and they were closer than I'd realised. At that point, there were three things I could do. I could run like hell, or I could take no notice, or I could stop and **confront** them. I favoured the last. I was good at diplomacy. I gave a talk on it at the dinner hour debating club: "Britain's diplomatic role in the east-west communication". Four people came, and two more jeered through the window, but Mr Fowler came in for the last bit of my talk and said it was well prepared. 15 20
- 7 Besides, if I ran like hell, I'd be admitting to myself that I was afraid. Fear shows. They'd know. Even if I managed to **evade** them this time, they'd be waiting another day. And another day, it might be worse.
- 8 But when I looked back for the confrontation, they had gone. The long path was empty. 25
- 9 Then, I heard **stifled** giggles and running feet from inside the orchard. They must have pushed through the dense hedge. Suddenly they were way ahead, darting through a gap in the hawthorn.
- 10 I looked behind. There was nobody. Even a first-year would have been a help. Bullies don't attack when there's a witness. Or a teacher. But teachers don't walk along public rights-of-way. They go home in battered cars, or on new ten-speed racers. Or a dear little old lady coming home from the shops. But dear little old ladies don't walk down this path. In case they're mugged. 30
- 11 A hail of sharp flints flew down from a tree overhead, and I knew I'd made the wrong decision. It was too late for confrontation or escape. I just had to keep walking along the damp path towards where they were lurking. Perhaps I should have negotiated, I should have apologized to them for being me. But you can't apologize to half-seen faces flitting behind the green leaves. 35

12 I reached the end of the path without making contact. I was out on to the cul-de-sac which leads down to the estate. I was safe, surrounded by humanity, living people behind windows, who could see me. 40

13 That's exactly when they pounced, from behind a fuchsia bush. And they dragged me down to the pavement. They took off my glasses. I grovelled in the dirt for my spectacles but two grabbed me from behind and pulled down the sleeves of my blazer, imprisoning my arms. Maybe it was a mugging? They did want something. The third threw my school-bag over a bush into a garden, while the fourth took a knife, and touched my breast pocket with the shining tip. Quick as a flash, he slit through the stitching of the yellow, embroidered crest, and ripped through the school badge so that it hung tattered like a scab. Curiously, one of them picked up my glasses from the gutter and handed them back to me. Then they were off, they were gone. 45

14 I was ashamed to find myself trembling for the rest of the walk home. Humiliated, I had mismanaged it. I should have apologized right from the beginning. 50

15 Listen boys, I know it's not your fault you're who you are and I'm me. You want my school badge? Certainly, please have it.

16 Logically, rationally, I knew that I was their superior. And if I knew it, they knew it too. That was why they wanted to attack. They recognised my grey, wool blazer. It wasn't their fault. It's nobody's fault that they must live on the council estate and go to Rosehill, any more than it's my fault that my parents are well-educated, well-paid, and want me to be the same. No doubt, those boys were just as intelligent as me, but with all the wrong motivations for life. So, it was nobody's fault. Even so, I couldn't blame anybody but myself for making the first wrong decision. 55

(From *The War Orphan* by Rachel Anderson)

**From paragraphs 1 to 3:**

- 1a Using clues taken from paragraph one, explain the meaning of  
(i) stoned (line 1), [1m]  
(ii) an ambush (line 3). [1m]
- 1b Why were pedestrians unable to take the fruit from the orchard? [1m]
- 1c Why were the weeds on the path "yellow and straggly" (line 16)? [2m]

**From paragraphs 4 to 7:**

- 2a What was it about the four boys' appearance that might have alarmed the writer? [2m]
- 2b Why did the writer choose not to run away? [2m]

**From paragraphs 8 to 10:**

- 3a "They go home in battered cars, or on new ten-speed racers" (line 31). What does this comment tell you about the type of teachers at the writer's school? [2m]
- 3b What is ironic about the writer's observation on "little old ladies" (line 32)? [2m]

**From paragraphs 11 to 13:**

- 4 (i) Suggest one reason why the gang took off the writer's spectacles. [1m]  
(ii) Suggest one reason why a gang member gave the spectacles back to him. [1m]

From paragraphs 14 to 16:

5 To what exactly do the following words refer?

(i) it (line 54)

(ii) Rosehill (line 56)

(iii) the same (line 57)

[1m]

[1m]

[2m]

From the whole passage :

6 What was "the first wrong decision" (line 59) that the writer made?

[1m]

Please answer Questions 7 and 8 on a fresh sheet of writing paper.

7 For each of the following words, give one word or short phrase of not more than seven words that has the same meaning as the word in the passage.

[5m]

(i) small (line 1)

(ii) mugging (line 2)

(iii) confront (line 18)

(iv) evade (line 23)

(v) stifled (line 26)

8 **Summary:**

[15m]

Imagine you were one of the gang members. Write an account of how you first tormented and then attacked the writer. Draw your facts from anywhere in the passage.

Your account should be in continuous writing and should not exceed 120 words, including the 6 words given below to help you begin.

Begin your account as follows:

**We followed him down the path...**

### Section B: Cloze Passage (10 marks)

Continue writing the answer for this section on the same writing paper as Questions 1-6 of Section A.

As I sat (1)\_\_\_ in my work, the sound of traffic was just a (2)\_\_\_ hum in the background. My concentration was (3)\_\_\_ by a persistent horn (4)\_\_\_ by the screeching of tyres, and then a loud bang I knew at once that an accident had (5)\_\_\_.

I tried to see what had happened but my view was blocked. Being really (6)\_\_\_, I went to the kitchen to see if I could get a better view. All I could see from above the tree (7)\_\_\_ was a taxi next to the road divider. The taxi driver was talking on the mobile phone.

At the opposite block of flats, people were (8)\_\_\_ streaming out of their flats and (9)\_\_\_ at the end of the corridors nearest the road. I could see them chatting amongst themselves.

Since my view was (10)\_\_\_ blocked, I gave up trying to look and returned to my work.



**Bukit Panjang Government High School**  
**Mid Year Examination 2006**  
**Secondary One Express**  
**English Language 1127/2**  
**Paper 2**

1a (i)

Stoned: to be thrown small pieces of rocks

1a (ii)

An ambush: a sudden attack made from a concealed position

1b)

The hedges on each side of the narrow path between two fruit orchards are dense, thus preventing pedestrians from stealing fruits.

1c)

The weeds are deprived of sunlight as they are covered up by the bushy hedges and they need to struggle towards the sunlight, resulting in "yellow and straggly" weeds.

2a)

The four boys looked like gangsters, having shaven heads, high laced DM's, black blazers and mean, narrow eyes.

2b) He preferred to confront them because he was good at mediation and did not want to admit that he was frightened or to show them that he was afraid, for fear that they might continue to bully him.

3a)

The teachers belong to the middle or upper class and they are rather modern

3b)

Little refers mainly to young people but the writer used the phrase "little old ladies", indicating that the old ladies are young as well, bringing out the irony

4(i)

The gang did not want the writer to recognize them.

4(ii)

The gang member might feel bad having attacked him and felt that the least they could do was to return the spectacles back to the writer.

5(i)

The word "it" refers to the fact that the writer is superior as compared to them.

5(ii)

The word "Rosehill" refers to the school that the gang of boys went to.

5(iii)

The words "the same" refers to the expectations that the writer's parents have on the writer, to have the same upbringing, lifestyle and education that they went through.

6)

The writer should not have been lazy and took a short cut.

7(i) minor

7(ii) to assault with the intention of robbery

7(iii) to face in hostility or defiance/challenge

7(iv) avoid/stay away

7(v) soft/faint

8)

- Hit the boy with stones in a dark and humid narrow path between two fruit orchards
- Bumped and nudged each other to intimidate the boy
- Pushed through the thick hedges to conceal from the boy and ran ahead of him
- Made sure that no one was around
- A hail of sharp flints were thrown from a tree above him
- Waited for him at the end of the path
- Seized him to the pavement, took off his spectacles
- Threw his bag over a bush and snatched his school badge.
- I gave him back his glasses and we ran out.

#### Section B

1) About

2) Soft

3) disrupted/disturbed

4) Caused

5) Happened

6) Curious/nosy

7) Top

8) Slowly

9) Lingering

10) partially/almost