



**RED SWASTIKA SCHOOL**  
**2023 END OF YEAR EXAMINATION**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE – PAPER 2**  
**LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION**  
**PRIMARY 5**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ (     )

Class : Primary 5 / \_\_\_\_\_

Date : 26 October 2023

**BOOKLET A**

28 Questions

28 Marks

Duration of Paper: 1 h 50 min

**Note:**

1. Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.
2. Read carefully the instructions given at the beginning of each part of the booklet.
3. Do not waste time. If a question is difficult for you, go on to the next one.
4. Check your answers thoroughly and make sure you attempt every question.
5. In this booklet, you should have the following:
  - a. Page 1 to Page 9
  - b. Questions 1 to 28

For each question from 1 to 10, shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.  
(10 marks)

- 1 I care \_\_\_\_\_ my grandparents' health by ensuring that they take their medicine daily.
- (1) for
  - (2) with
  - (3) over
  - (4) after
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Tim does not know how to rollerblade, he cannot take part in the competition.
- (1) Since
  - (2) While
  - (3) Unless
  - (4) Although
- 3 The team of scientists \_\_\_\_\_ to come up with a cure for COVID-19 within the next year.
- (1) hope
  - (2) hopes
  - (3) hoped
  - (4) hoping
- 4 Julia caught her brother \_\_\_\_\_ out of the house when she was about to enter her room.
- (1) sneaks
  - (2) sneaked
  - (3) sneaking
  - (4) had sneaked
- 5 "They've already finished the project, \_\_\_\_\_ they?" the teacher asked.
- (1) don't
  - (2) didn't
  - (3) hadn't
  - (4) haven't

- 6 He \_\_\_\_\_ on his project for two hours when his computer crashed.
- (1) had worked
  - (2) have worked
  - (3) had been working
  - (4) have been working
- 7 "We must hurry! If we \_\_\_\_\_ our flight, we will be stranded at the airport!" Mother warned us.
- (1) miss
  - (2) misses
  - (3) missed
  - (4) missing
- 8 "This is too \_\_\_\_\_ luggage for me to handle. You ought to help me!" protested Mary.
- (1) much
  - (2) many
  - (3) little
  - (4) few
- 9 Susan \_\_\_\_\_ be travelling to Australia for an overseas exchange programme next week. She cannot wait to try the local food.
- (1) will
  - (2) can
  - (3) could
  - (4) would
- 10 "Have you discovered what the cause of yesterday's power failures \_\_\_\_\_?" asked Janine.
- (1) is
  - (2) are
  - (3) was
  - (4) were

For each question from 11 to 15, shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

11 I did not expect the new phone to be so \_\_\_\_\_! It survived the fall from the third floor.

- (1) steady
- (2) sturdy
- (3) stable
- (4) steely

12 The gentleman was \_\_\_\_\_ embarrassed when he realised he had entered the female toilet by mistake.

- (1) utterly
- (2) entirely
- (3) significantly
- (4) extensively

13 Mr Lim \_\_\_\_\_ the role of president of the company after his uncle, the former president, had retired.

- (1) subsumed
- (2) presumed
- (3) assumed
- (4) resumed

14 Felicia watched in \_\_\_\_\_ as the magician performed the trick. She had never met anyone as talented as him.

- (1) uncertainty
- (2) trepidation
- (3) confusion
- (4) disbelief

15 The firefighters had to \_\_\_\_\_ the door of the function room to rescue the children trapped inside.

- (1) break in
- (2) break out
- (3) break into
- (4) break down

For each question from 16 to 20, choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined word(s). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

Donning a yellow helmet and safety boots, Zheng Nian paved cement on the roof of yet another skyscraper. He recalled how he left his hometown for the city with a heavy heart. The sun shone angrily down his back as cold sweat broke his slightly burned skin. He peeked to see how high he was from the ground. To be exact, forty storeys. What an ironic situation it was, he thought. He had come to the city to build a better life for his children. Yet, their lives could have become worse because he was not by their side. This thought saddened him.

*Adapted from: Two Days in a Foreign Land by Jonathan Tan Ghee Tiong*

- 16 (1) deliberated about  
(2) wondered about  
(3) recollected on  
(4) speculated on

- 17 (1) dispiritedly  
(2) dejectedly  
(3) regretfully  
(4) wearily

- 18 (1) tanned  
(2) charred  
(3) parched  
(4) scorched

- 19 (1) clear  
(2) direct  
(3) precise  
(4) accurate

- 20 (1) episode  
(2) scenario  
(3) occasion  
(4) circumstance

## **Section D: Visual Text Comprehension (8 x 1 mark)**

Study this article from a magazine, Nature Lover, and then answer questions 21 to 28.

### *The Importance of Plants: Appreciate the greenery around you!*

by Ruth Pang  
30 September 2023

Plants are crucial for life on Earth. They produce oxygen and food, provide habitats for animals, and help regulate the climate. Without plants, we would not be able to survive! However, did you know that plants offer other amazing benefits as well? In this article, you will learn some intriguing facts, and how to make a simple tool to help enrich your understanding of the natural world and its wonders.



#### ***Some Benefits of Plants***

Plants have been used to make countless things that improve the quality of life. Some plants can be used to make medicine. The bark of a willow tree, for example, contains a natural painkiller called salicylic acid, which is an ingredient in certain medicines and skin products. Oil can be extracted from the seeds of some plants for cooking and other purposes. Many ladies like to apply almond or coconut oil on their hair to make it look glossy. Flowers like jasmine and rose, besides being used as hair accessories, can be used to make perfumes. Many plants can also be used to make dyes for fabrics and even musical instruments. The possibilities are endless!



Willow Tree



Jasmine Flowers



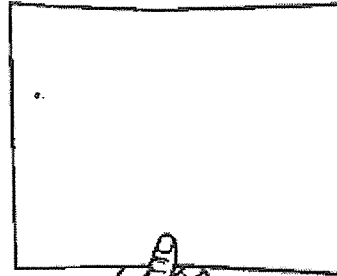
Almonds

#### ***A Simple Tool***

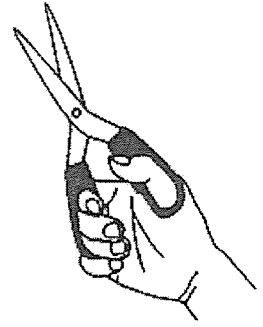
Plants are all around us. The best way to learn about plants is to go outside and explore! By immersing in nature regularly, you can appreciate the beauty of plants, especially the new additions to the neighbourhood. You can also be like a botanist and use a simple tool called a plant press. Botanists use it to flatten and dry the plant specimens they collect, allowing leaves, flowers and other plant parts to be preserved for future study. Each specimen is labelled with collector information, collection location and date, and the plant's name. You can make a simple plant press at home and start your own collection of plant specimens!

## How to Make a Plant Press

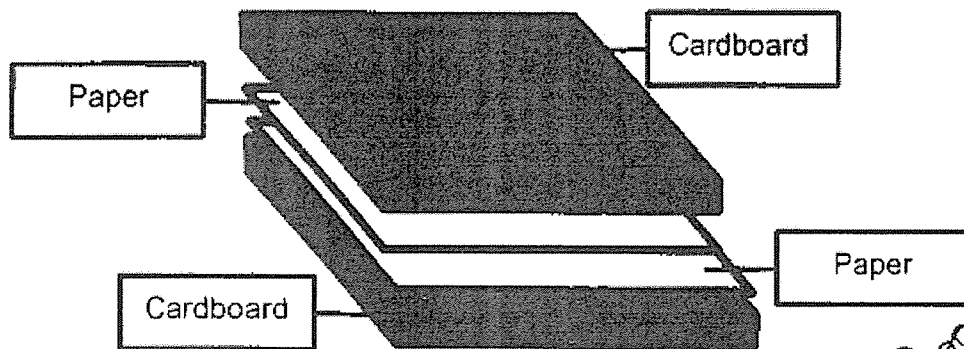
1) Cut pieces of cardboard into squares that are slightly larger than the size of your specimen.



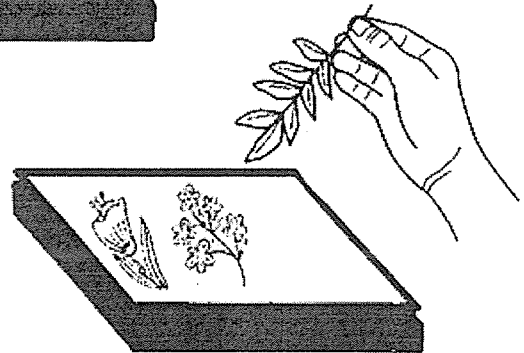
2) Cut pieces of paper of the same size as the cardboard squares.



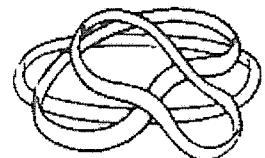
3) Layer the cardboard squares and paper squares in the manner depicted in the diagram.



4) Place your plant specimens between the layers of paper, ensuring they are arranged flat and not overlapping.



5) Bind the layers together tightly with a string or rubber band, and leave it to dry in a warm, dry place for a few days.



Once your plant press is ready, you can use it to preserve and study all sorts of plants. You might even discover a new species growing in your neighbourhood!

For each question from 21 to 28, shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.  
(8 marks)

21 Why is the colon (:) used in the title "The Importance of Plants: Appreciate the greenery around you!"?

- (1) to separate the two information
- (2) to further clarify the title of the article
- (3) to provide more information about the importance of plants
- (4) to explain why we should appreciate the greenery around us

22 From the article, which of the following is not a way by which plants improve the quality of life?

- (1) using plants as accessories
- (2) applying coconut oil on the skin
- (3) extracting salicylic acid to make medicine
- (4) using flowers to produce pleasant smells

23 In the section 'A Simple Tool', what did the author mean by 'the best way to learn about plants is to go outside and explore'?

- (1) Readers can conduct research outdoors to learn about plants.
- (2) Readers can discover different plant species in their neighbourhood.
- (3) Readers can appreciate plants better if they preserve outdoor plants.
- (4) Readers can learn to identify different outdoor plants by using a plant press.

24 Based on the text, which of the following statements is false?

- (1) Plants can improve the quality of life.
- (2) Fabric dyes can be made from plant parts.
- (3) Plants can be used to make musical instruments.
- (4) Salicylic acid is extracted from the seeds of some plants for cooking.

25 Daniel collected two different leaves and wants to put them in a plant press at the same time. He must avoid \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) placing the leaves flat
- (2) placing the leaves indoors
- (3) arranging one leaf beside the other leaf
- (4) arranging one leaf over part of the other leaf

26 The specimen in a plant press should be placed \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) between two pieces of paper
- (2) between two pieces of cardboard
- (3) between a piece of paper and a piece of cupboard
- (4) between two pieces of paper and two pieces of cupboard

27 Which of the following details do botanists exclude from the label on a plant specimen?

- (1) the time it was collected
- (2) the place it was collected
- (3) the person who collected it
- (4) the plant it was collected from

28 What is the main purpose of this article?

- (1) to educate readers on preserving plants in the neighbourhood
- (2) to encourage readers to collect plant specimens
- (3) to inspire readers to become botanists
- (4) to promote the importance of plants

Please note that the passage for Comprehension questions 71 to 80 in Booklet B is on the next page. You may now go on to Booklet B.

Refer to the passage below when you answer questions 71 to 80 in Booklet B.

My life began in 1942, amidst the chaos of World War II. My parents, seeking safety for their newborn child, made the fateful decision to have me born in the peaceful city of Oxford, far from the thundering cannons and falling bombs that plagued London then.

Growing up, it was clear that I possessed an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. I dreamed of studying Mathematics at the prestigious Oxford University. Sadly, the course was not offered, so I steered towards Physics, a subject that would soon become my intellectual passion and lifelong pursuit.

Having excelled in my studies, I had high hopes for the future. Unfortunately, fate had a twist in store for me. One seemingly ordinary day, as I descended a staircase, I suddenly could not feel my legs and tumbled. Although I was shaken by the incident, I considered it a brief distraction and told no one about it.

That accident was just the beginning of a bigger and life-changing challenge. Having my once-sharp concentration wane and my speech slur were unsettling. These new symptoms worried me. Determined not to trouble my loved ones, I concealed these symptoms, not knowing how much they would affect me later on. At the age of 21, my deteriorating health finally could no longer escape my father's detection. A visit to the doctor brought forth a crushing diagnosis: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a disease that would rob me of my mobility and, it seemed, my life. The doctor's diagnosis was grim; I had only two years left to live.

Despair washed over me like a suffocating tide. It was in those darkest hours that my father became a beacon of hope. "You can't waste your life away, son. However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at," his words rekindled a spark within me.

Listening to my father, I channeled all my energy into my work and research. I knew that time was a luxury I could not afford, and I refused to waste it. I embarked on a journey fueled by determination to defy the odds. As my body betrayed me and paralysis set in, I found solace in the endless capacity of my mind.

Through the miracles of modern science and medicine, I discovered a means to communicate through a computerised voice system, which breathed new life into my existence. I found innovative ways to think and work. Visualising problems mentally to find solutions contributed to my groundbreaking discoveries – an area of my expertise in science. This ultimately gave me a purpose in life.

As time went by, a lot of people wanted to know how I managed to go beyond the first two years that the doctors had predicted for me. I offered a simple response, "At 21, my expectations dwindled to nothing. Rather than surrendering to the limitations of my condition, I chose to embrace life to its fullest. With that, here I am, 50 years later." Even though my body was limited by ALS, my strong spirit went beyond those limits. Looking back at all that had happened, I realised that my condition proved to be both a blessing and a curse.

*Adapted from An Inspirational Story: Stephen Hawking*



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**LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION**  
**PRIMARY 5**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ (    )

Class : Primary 5 / \_\_\_\_\_

Date : 26 October 2023

**BOOKLET B**

52 Questions  
67 Marks

In this booklet, you should have the following:

- a. Page 10 to Page 16
- b. Questions 29 to 79

BOOKLET	OBTAINED	POSSIBLE
BOOKLET A		28
BOOKLET B		67
TOTAL		95

Parent's Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

There are 10 blanks, numbered 29 to 38, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

**EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.**

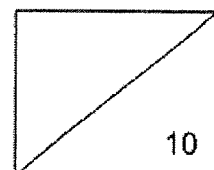
- 
- |         |          |          |          |          |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| (A) a   | (D) and  | (G) for  | (K) have | (N) is   |
| (B) at  | (E) are  | (H) from | (L) if   | (P) some |
| (C) all | (F) each | (J) has  | (M) in   | (Q) when |
- 

Ants are social insects. They live together \_\_\_\_\_ organised communities  
(29)  
called colonies. There are more than 10,000 different species of ants. \_\_\_\_\_  
(30)  
certain times of the year, many species produce winged males and queens solely  
\_\_\_\_\_ the purpose of mating. The males and queens fly to mate, after which the  
(31)  
males die. \_\_\_\_\_ queen then lays eggs and establishes a new nest.  
(32)

Most types of ants live in nests that they make \_\_\_\_\_ many different  
(33)  
materials, including soil, sand, wood, and leaves. \_\_\_\_\_ ants build anthills.  
(34)  
Within each nest, there \_\_\_\_\_ different types of ants - a queen, worker ants, and  
(35)  
soldier ants. The queen spends her life laying eggs. The workers are smaller females which  
perform tasks such as gathering food, cleaning the nest \_\_\_\_\_ caring for eggs  
(36)  
while the soldiers are larger females, defending the colony.

Ants \_\_\_\_\_ warlike behaviour and different methods of defense. Some bite or  
(37)  
spit out unpleasant liquid while others flee \_\_\_\_\_ under attack, "play dead," or  
(38)  
send sound signals to warn their colony members of danger. Aren't they amazing creatures?

Adapted from: <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/ant/352759>



Each of the underlined words contains either a spelling or grammatical error. Write the correct word in each of the boxes. (12 marks)

Elite virtual archers, race car drivers and other esports gamers

gathered in Singapore for the first ever Olympic Esports Week this year.

(39)

(40)

There is an opening ceremony before the athleets got down to action,

(41)

playing a variety of komericial video games in front of three huge screens

(42)

at Suntec City. In excite, viewers all around cheered.

(43)

Representing Singapore was Siti Zhywee, competing at a contest known

(44)

as 'Just Dance'. She won points over matching the choreographed moves of

(45)

(46)

an electrawnic dancer on a screen and earn extra credits from the judges

(47)

for her ekspresion and style.

(48)

The Olympic Esports Week is part of a drive to remain rehlevant to

(49)

young people and embrace advances in teknologi. Olympic values, like

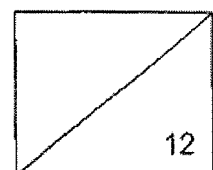
(50)

friendship, respect and excellent, are also emphasised.

Ten sports were featured with 131 players from over 60 countries.

What an exciting week it was!

Adapted from Reuters.com



Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

(15 marks)

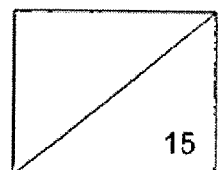
Remember when fidget spinners were all the rage a few years ago? Well, now you have got the *lato-lato*. Love it or \_\_\_\_\_ (51) it, this toy craze is quite literally in full swing in Singapore.

Comprising two plastic balls \_\_\_\_\_ (52) by a string, the toy has now become infamous for the clacking sound it \_\_\_\_\_ (53) when it is swung up and down. The general rule of play among friends is that the \_\_\_\_\_ (54) who maintains the clacking rhythm the longest wins. With *lato-lato* \_\_\_\_\_ (55) the hearts of youngsters, let us take a quick look at its history as well as some interesting \_\_\_\_\_ (56) about the toy.

The name *lato-lato* is said to have been \_\_\_\_\_ (57) from the Bugis word "latto-latto" which \_\_\_\_\_ (58) "making clacking sounds". A common \_\_\_\_\_ (59) about *lato-lato* is that it comes from Indonesia. The toy actually originated in the United States where it was called clackers.

The original clackers in the 1960s and 70s were made with \_\_\_\_\_ (60) tempered glass or acrylic. This meant that the balls would occasionally shatter and \_\_\_\_\_ (61) shards flying in all directions when hit. As more and more children got \_\_\_\_\_ (62) from playing with clackers, the US Food and Drug Administration established new safety standards for manufacturers. As a \_\_\_\_\_ (63), clackers were removed from American stores.

Of course, these days, the *lato-lato* is made with modern plastics that are less prone to \_\_\_\_\_ (64). While today's *lato-lato* toys are \_\_\_\_\_ (65) from just S\$3.50, vintage clackers can cost as much as S\$90. It is also not surprising that they are highly in demand despite being very expensive.



For each of the questions 66 to 70, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s). (10 marks)

66 Kumar saved diligently. He wanted to afford his dream vacation.

\_\_\_\_\_ so as to  
\_\_\_\_\_

67 Shafiq was annoyed. His brother refused to lower the volume of the radio.

Shafiq was annoyed by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

68 "Why were you not in school yesterday?" my teacher asked me.

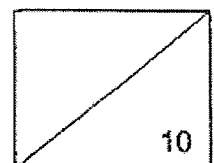
My teacher asked me \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

69 Susan would rather stay home during the holidays than go out with her friends.

\_\_\_\_\_ prefers  
\_\_\_\_\_

70 Sarah can watch television if she finishes her homework.

Unless \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Read the passage on page 9 of Booklet A and answer questions 71 to 80.

71 Why did the writer's mother choose not to give birth to him in London? (1m)

---

72 Explain clearly why the writer 'was shaken by the incident' (line 10). (1m)

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73 List 2 symptoms which caused the writer to feel unsettled about his health. (2m)

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

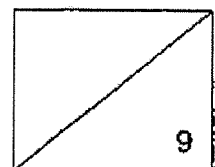
74 How did the writer feel after visiting the doctor? Explain why he felt this way. (2m)

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75 Fill in the following table by identifying the correct word(s) in the passage. (3m)

Question	Words from the passage
a) Which five-word phrase from paragraph 2 suggests that the writer was a keen learner?	
b) Which two-word phrase from paragraph 4 tells us that the writer's condition is worsening?	
c) Which three-word phrase from paragraph 5 suggests that the writer has newfound hope?	



76 Explain clearly why the writer felt comforted when he 'found solace in the endless capacity' (line 24 – 25) of his mind. (2m)

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77 Which **two** words best describe the quality that the writer exhibited in lines 22 - 30? Tick in the boxes below. **DO NOT TICK MORE THAN TWO BOXES.** (2m)

impatient

creative

resilient

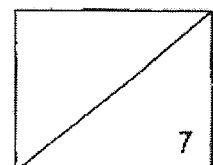
stubborn

prideful

responsible

78 Based on the story, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so. (3m)

Statement	True/False	Reason
The writer's father took notice of his condition immediately.		
Modern science and medicine improved the writer's quality of life.		
The doctor's prediction that the writer had two years to live was accurate.		



79 How did the writer's initial path of steering towards Physics in university give him a purpose in life? (2m)

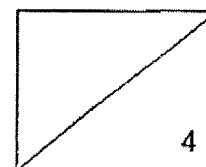
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80 Why did the writer feel that his condition was both 'a blessing and a curse'? (line 36) (2m)

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END OF PAPER

SCHOOL : RED SWASTIKA PRIMARY SCHOOL  
 LEVEL : PRIMARY 5  
 SUBJECT : ENGLISH  
 TERM : 2023 SA2

**Booklet A**

Q 1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
1	1	2	3	4	3	1	1	1	3
Q 11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
2	1	3	4	4	3	2	4	3	4
Q 21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28		
2	2	2	4	4	1	1	4		

**Booklet B**

Q 29	Q30	Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34	Q35	Q36	Q37	Q38
M	B	G	F	H	P	E	D	K	Q
Q39)	was		Q43)	in		Q47)	expression		
Q40)	athletes		Q44)	by		Q48)	relevant		
Q41)	commercial		Q45)	electronic		Q49)	technology		
Q42)	excitement		Q46)	earning		Q50)	excellence		

Q51)	hate		Q56)	facts		Q61)	send		
Q52)	joined		Q57)	derived		Q62)	injured		
Q53)	makes		Q58)	means		Q63)	result		
Q54)	one		Q59)	misconception		Q64)	breaking		
Q55)	winning		Q60)	either		Q65)	priced		
Q66)	Kumar saved diligently so as to afford his dream vacation.								
Q67)	Shafiq was annoyed by his brother refusing to lower the volume of the radio.								
Q68)	My teacher asked me why I had not been in school the previous day.								

Q69)	<b>Susan prefers staying home during the holidays to going out with her friends.</b>
Q70)	<b>Unless Sarah finishes her homework, she cannot watch television.</b>
Q71)	It was not safe to give birth in London where war was taking place.
Q72)	He fell because he could not feel his legs.
Q73)	1) His once-sharp concentration waned. 2) His speech slurred.
Q74)	He was in despair as the doctor gave him two years to live.
Q75)	a) an unquenchable thirst for thirst b) deteriorating health c) rekindled a spark
Q76)	Although the writer was paralysed and his mind was still functioning.
Q77)	resilient / creative
Q78)	False --- The writer was able to conceal his symptoms for a few years. True --- When the writer was paralysed, he used a computerised system to talk. False --- The writer continued to live for 50 years after his diagnosis.
Q79)	His expertise in Science allowed him to visualise mentally to find solutions that contributed to his ground-breaking discoveries.
Q80)	It was a curse although he was very intelligent, he was hindered by his paralysis but it was a blessing as it taught him resilience.