

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESBYTERIAN HIGH SCHOOL**



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**PAPER 2**

**1184/02**

**12 AUGUST 2024**

**MONDAY**

**1 hour 50 minutes**

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**2024 SECONDARY FOUR EXPRESS / FIVE NORMAL (ACADEMIC)  
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**

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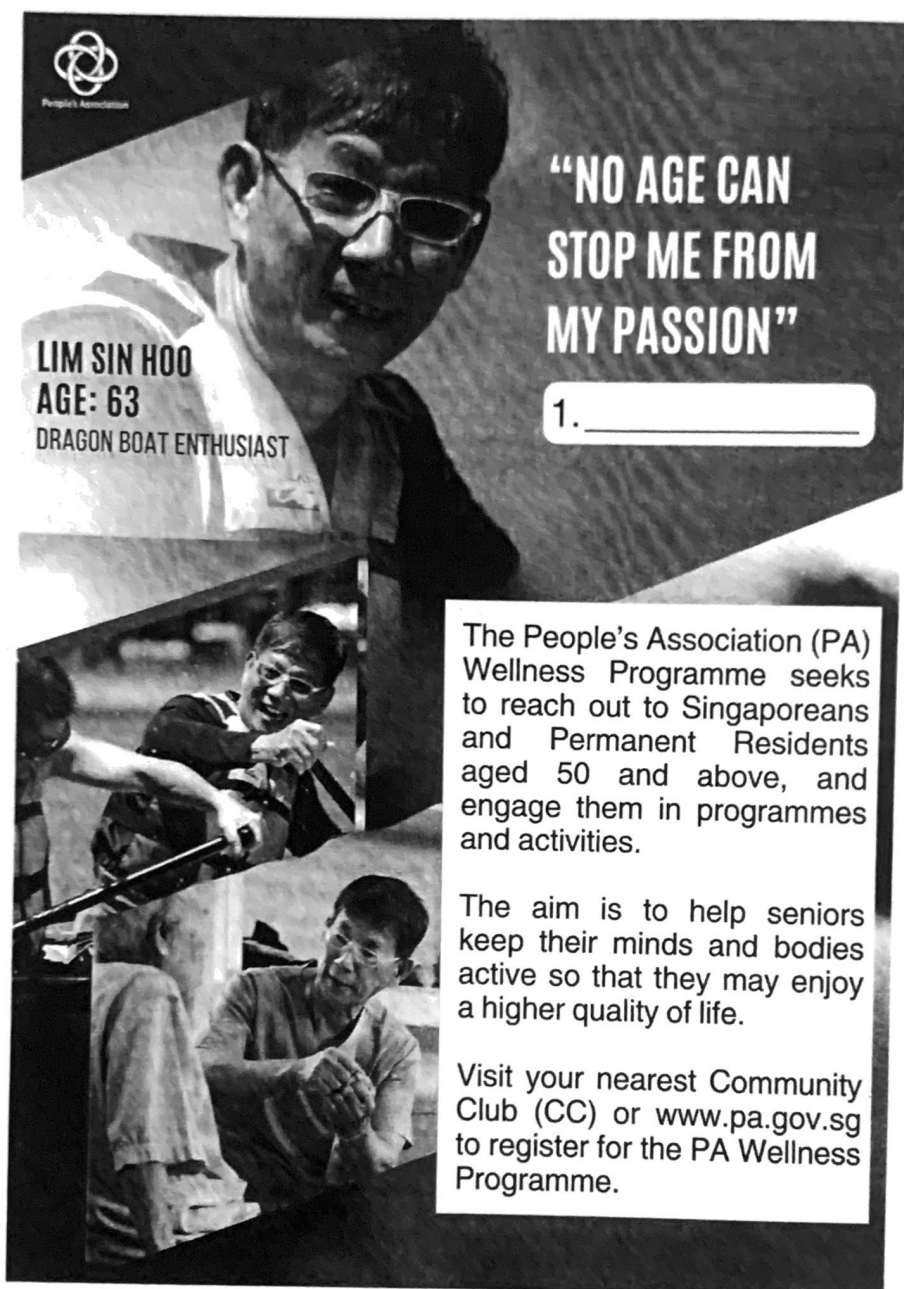
**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

This Insert contains Text 1, Text 2, Text 3 and Text 4.

## Section A

Study the advertisement (**Text 1**) and the personal response (**Text 2**) and answer Questions 1–4 in the Question Booklet.

**Text 1** is taken from an online advertisement for a People's Association (PA) Wellness Programme.



**LIM SIN HOO**  
AGE: 63  
DRAGON BOAT ENTHUSIAST

**"NO AGE CAN STOP ME FROM MY PASSION"**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

The People's Association (PA) Wellness Programme seeks to reach out to Singaporeans and Permanent Residents aged 50 and above, and engage them in programmes and activities.

The aim is to help seniors keep their minds and bodies active so that they may enjoy a higher quality of life.

Visit your nearest Community Club (CC) or [www.pa.gov.sg](http://www.pa.gov.sg) to register for the PA Wellness Programme.

**Text 2** is written by an elderly person about the PA Wellness Programme at his Community Club.

You should find out more about the Wellness Programme. I know it can be intimidating to ask for help, and sometimes our kids get impatient with us. I've been there, so I am happy to lend a hand to others in the same boat. It makes me feel younger because I get to meet friends. The community spirit is so uplifting that it helps us to age gracefully. So why not join us for the Wellness Programme activities? I hope to see you soon!

## Section B

## Text 3

In the text below, the writer describes a young boy's first fishing trip out to sea with his father and brother.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5–15 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 Ah Boon was seven, already a year late, as Hia liked to remind him. Hia, now nine, had taken his own first trip on his sixth birthday. But while Hia at six had been a boy with strong arms, Ah Boon at seven was still cave-chested. On his first fishing trip, Ah Boon crouched in the back of his father's fishing boat, feeling very afraid. The weak moonlight made the sea look like viscous black oil, roiling in the wind. He recalled Hia's stories about his fishing adventures and shuddered at the thought of what might lurk beneath the surface. 5
- 2 'What's wrong, Ah Boon? Can't handle a fishing trip?' Hia's voice stirred Ah Boon from the boat's side. Hia clambered with ease toward Ah Boon, stepping over the ropes and nets littering the boat's floor, like the foot-long monitor lizards that scuttled through the tall grass. He grabbed Ah Boon's shoulders suddenly, turning his torso toward the sea, as if to tip him out of the boat. Ah Boon clawed at the side, letting out a small whimper. 10  
'Didn't Pa ever tell you about the tradition of the night swim? It's what every fisherman's son goes through on his first trip.' Hia grinned, his teeth flashing white in the dark. 15  
Soon, Pa would stop the boat and tell Ah Boon to get into the water.
- 3 All around them was the unruly sea. Above, blank and starless, was the unending sky. The sea lurched up toward Ah Boon's face. Ah Boon thought of the fish and his terrible job to help sort them, still alive in the nets when his father came home. Horrified by gasping mouths and manic shiny eyes, he had run away crying at first, but the jeers of his brother and the stern, clicking tongue of his father eventually reconciled him to his task. Thus, Ah Boon had learnt to present a blank face, perfecting the containment of his distaste for the water. But what Hia was suggesting now—to plunge his small self into the sea—this he could not bear. 20 25

4 The boat began to slow. 'Here we go,' Hia said. 'Ready, Boon? Ready for your long, cold swim in the dark?' The engine fell silent. Ah Boon thought he was about to live his nightmare. The thrum of the waves was magnified. It was so dark. He could feel the cold water closing over his head. Movement in the water would brush him with its slimy skin unseen. Then the boat came to a stop. Any time now Pa would tell him to get up, stop crying, and get into the water. Ah Boon squeezed his eyes shut. He felt Pa's hand on his head. But instead of running his fingers through his hair affectionately as he often did, Pa left it resting there. No one said anything. The boat rocked gently, and still was that noise of the crashing waves. 30

5 Ah Boon opened his eyes. Pa and Hia were staring at something ahead of the boat, some enormous shape. It was an island which rose up from the sea, a giant humpbacked monster. They had never seen cliffs that high. Hia's mouth hung open. His large nostrils flared, like the gills of a fish gasping on land. Pa's face was the opposite; everything was closed, mouth pinched, eyebrows pulled tight. From their faces, Ah Boon knew something was wrong. But Ah Boon himself felt only a strange, soft ache as the tide drew them closer. He wished it were day so he could see the land before him. He wanted to know if seagulls dotted its shores, if the cliffs gave way to jungle, if there were trails left by people. A faint breeze lifted the hairs on Ah Boon's arm. There was an odd quality to the air now. It seemed to vibrate, as if the island itself were humming. 35 40 45

Adapted from *The Great Reclamation* by Rachel Heng

## Section C

## Text 4

In the text below, the writer discusses the Wondiwoi tree kangaroo and explains the efforts people take to prevent its extinction.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 16–22 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 The Wondiwoi tree kangaroo is so difficult to find that it was assumed to be extinct. In 1928, it had been seen once in a mountain range in New Guinea, Indonesia—a place regarded a lost world in a land that time forgot. Then, in an astonishing re-discovery in 2018, a botanist, Michael Smith, stumbled on one of these elusive creatures during his expedition into the near-impenetrable forests 5,000 feet high. Now this rare creature has not only been spotted but also photographed for the first time ever. 5
- 2 Residing in mist-shrouded forests, this creature remains poorly understood. Scientific knowledge is primarily derived from a single specimen—now housed in London's Natural History Museum—obtained after the animal was shot. Up close, researchers think it looks like a bear—with a rounded face, pink nose and button eyes. Its fur has a blackish underlying colour and a silvery yellow tip, reminiscent of a red panda's. Recent photographs, capturing similar characteristics, have confirmed the creature's identity. These images reveal signs of its presence, with widespread scratch marks on trees and scattered dung on the forest floor. 10 15
- 3 Despite remaining hidden high in the forest canopy, the Wondiwoi tree kangaroos face significant threats. Increasing global temperatures have led to serious forest fires, pushing them further upward into the remote forests. The uphill shifting not only causes them to lose their place of safety but also hinders scientists from ever finding them for any further study. Scientists believe that the risk is made more severe when indigenous groups hunt the tree kangaroos for sustenance, sometimes using dogs to track them down. While the tree kangaroos can rely on their colouration to blend into the forest, it is a matter of time before they leap down and get killed. Or they naturally fall prey to packs of wild dogs that attack them. 20

- 4 Despite the challenges, people have been working steadily to protect Wondiwai tree kangaroos. Against the backdrop of ongoing political conflict between Indonesian authorities and Papuan people, conservationists continue to establish community programmes involving young locals, believing that the longevity of tree kangaroo conservation depends on them. Conversations around tree kangaroos, alongside education about these animals, are also gaining momentum. However, in a changing world, successful conservation will probably require people to harness Artificial Intelligence to collect excellent data to address broad-scale questions. In the meantime, zoologists all over the world refuse to let up; they work together to lead in research on species of tree kangaroos. To cement his discovery, Smith himself is preparing to return to the mountain range to collect a piece of ear tissue from a Wondiwai tree kangaroo and compare its DNA with the DNA from the fur collected in 1928, while scientists discuss with locals the ways they can expand the number of protected areas to conserve tree kangaroo habitat. 25 30 35
- 5 No programme is likely to succeed without considering the links between the livelihood support and conservation outcomes. There have been growing pressures from investors and locals to prioritise developing the region, such as building a road through the forests. Fortunately, ecotourism presents a sustainable alternative that can balance economic benefits with wildlife conservation, an alternative livelihood which locals would not otherwise willingly consider. Tree kangaroos, with their cuddly appearance, can serve as ambassadors for severely threatened habitats and ecotourism activities, which can in turn help fund conservation efforts and raise awareness of their status. 40 45
- 6 With fewer than 50 individuals remaining in the world, the Wondiwai tree kangaroos are walking a tightrope. However, we can remain hopeful for this incredible group of species, as scientists and the local community are starting to address the immediate threats and the opportunities for sustainable development. This may be the crucial turning point which ensures the species survives. 50

Adapted from *Tree Kangaroos: Science and Conservation*, edited by Lisa DeBek, Peter Valentine, Jacque Blesstington and Karin R. Schwartz, and <https://www.smithsonianmag.com>

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