

Name : () Class :



**CHIJ KATONG CONVENT
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS 2025
Secondary Four Express / Five Normal (Academic)**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1184/01

Paper 1 Writing

August 2025

Insert

1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the text for Section B.

This document consists of 2 printed pages.

[Turn over

Section B

Read the webpage below and use the information to answer the question on page 3 of the Question Booklet.



To mark the 60th year of Singapore's independence, Singaporeans can look forward to a host of activities throughout 2025 to celebrate our journey to date!

Do you know these places in Singapore exist?

Join one of these 'Hike the Heartlands' trails to explore a part of Singapore you do not know about and embrace our nation's rich history and vibrant nature!

  	Hike the Heartlands: Hillview & Upper Bukit Timah - Trek the old rail corridor – check out historic landmarks like the defunct Bukit Timah railway station and two steel truss bridges marked for conservation - Explore old quarries – see scenic lakes inhabited by animals such as fish, turtles and even monitor lizards - Visit the Old Ford Factory – get a glimpse of life in Singapore during World War II with the garden plot at the back of the building featuring wartime crops like tapioca, sugar cane and bananas
  	Hike the Heartlands: Sembawang - Rejuvenate your senses at Sembawang Hot Spring Park – revel in a foot bath and stroll down the new Floral Walk to read about the park's history and the geothermal processes behind it - Enjoy nature at Sembawang Park – bird-watch or cast your fishing lines into the sea from the 30-metre jetty - Have fun at Jelutong Harbour Park – walk or cycle around the park's periphery, pick a favourite spot on its open lawn for a picnic or play a game at the basketball court with sports field lighting
  	Hike the Heartlands: Seletar & Jalan Kayu - Soak in nature's beauty at Hampstead Wetlands Park – observe wildlife in their freshwater habitats by taking a stroll along the park's view decks - Check out the boardwalk at Rower's Bay Park – relax with views of the sunrise or sunset, and watch the airplanes soar in the sky - Explore the neighbourhood – see black and white colonial bungalows that once housed Royal Air Force staff and check out aeroplane-themed cafés

Name : () Class :



CHI J KATONG CONVENT
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS 2025
Secondary Four Express / Five Normal (Academic)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1184/01

Paper 1 Writing

August 2025

Additional Materials: Insert

1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your register number and name in the spaces at the beginning of each section.
Write in dark blue or black ink.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid/tape.

Answer **Section A**, **Section B**, and one question from **Section C**.
Write your answers in the spaces provided in this Question Booklet.
The Insert contains the text for **Section B**.

At the end of the examination, hand in the following 4 items separately:

- Insert
- Section A (Editing)
- Section B (Situational Writing)
- Section C (Continuous Writing)

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the head of each section.

For Examiner's Use	
Section A (Editing)	10
Section B (Situational Writing)	30
Section C (Continuous Writing)	30
Total	70

This document consists of 12 printed pages.

[Turn over

Section A [10 marks]

Question 1

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about bubble tea. The first and last lines are correct. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors.

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

Examples:

I arrived @ my destination at 2 p.m.

at

My mother always wears sensible clothes.

✓

As much a textural marvel as a refreshing drink, bubble tea is one of Taiwan's most renowned cultural export. The eponymous 'bubbles' are not the result of carbonation, 1
and a pile of chewy, sweet, balls of starch that sit at the bottom of the cup and are sucked 2
up along with the liquid through the extra-wide straw. Bubble tea as we know it today 3
came from existence almost four decades ago. The first iterations of the drink — also 4
called boba tea — emerged in the 1980s out of Taiwan's tradition tea shops, and today 5
boba tea shops remained a fixture in most neighbourhoods across the island. Rather than 6
sit-down spots, these are usually grab-and-go establishments, operating at devilishly fast 7
speed. Bubble tea has since proliferate across the world, with dedicated shops popping 8
up everywhere from Berlin to Brasilia. You will find starch pearls (as the bubbles or boba 9
are also known) in many more than milk tea. These pearls are served in all sorts of ways, 10
whether in rose-scented lattes or even as a pizza topping.

Adapted from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/what-is-boba-bubble-tea-taiwan>

Name : () **Class :**

Section B [30 marks]

You are advised to write between 250 and 350 words for this section.

Question 2

You should look at the printout of a webpage in the Insert, study the information carefully and plan your answer before beginning to write.

Singapore is celebrating her 60th year of independence this year and a number of activities have been organised as part of the SG60 celebration. You and your classmates are keen to discover more about Singapore in the upcoming holidays. You have seen a webpage promoting three activities and as class chairperson, you have conducted a discussion with your class to identify the activity preferred by the majority.

Write an email to your form teacher to propose that the class goes for the chosen activity. In it, you should:

- say which activity has been chosen and why it is a meaningful activity to discover more about Singapore
- explain how you would organise and carry out this outing
- explain how the class can benefit from this experience.

You may add any other details you think will be helpful.

Write your email in clear, accurate English and in a formal but enthusiastic tone to convey your ideas.

You should use your own words as much as possible.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

[Turn over

Name : () Class :



**CHIJ KATONG CONVENT
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS 2025
Secondary Four Express and Five Normal (Academic)**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1184/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

August 2025

Insert

1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

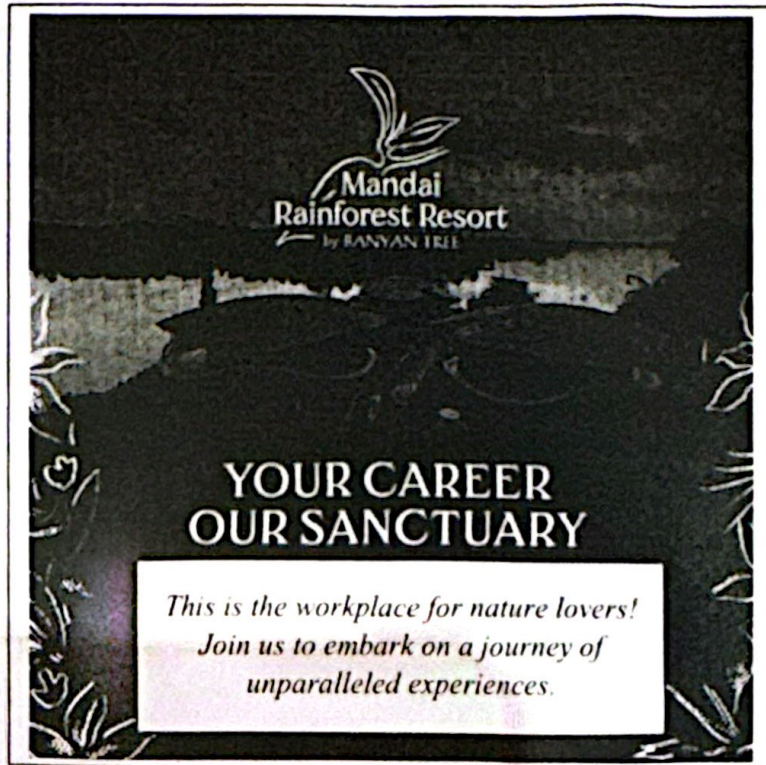
This document consists of 5 printed pages and 1 blank page.

[Turn over

Section A

Study the advertisement (**Text 1**) and the extract from an online review (**Text 2**) and answer Questions 1 – 4 in the Question Booklet.

Text 1 is taken from an online job portal.



Text 2 is taken from a review of the resort.

At the new Mandai Rainforest Resort, you're more likely to bump into a macaque than to see a McDonald's. I had the opportunity to stay in one of the tree houses, perched on the third floor at the western end. The king-sized bed and other amenities were top quality but the balcony was the best feature. I was surrounded by the beauty of the wild. On an overcast day that wasn't too hot, I sat outside with a coffee, answering emails in a setting where birdsong replaced traffic noise. It turns out, you can experience nature without sacrificing comfort.

Section B**Text 3**

In the text below, the writer describes the relationship between Varma, an elderly man and Rakesh, his son. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5 – 14 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 Morning light dragged itself across the veranda where old Varma sat waiting for his first cup of tea, his fingers drumming an impatient rhythm on the wooden armrest of his chair like a prisoner counting down his sentence. The newspaper lay untouched beside him, its pages crackling in the dawn breeze – yesterday's news that he had already read three times, each reading duller than the last. These days, his world had shrunk to the size of this veranda, a cage of whitewashed walls and worn floorboards where hours stretched out like stale elastic, marked only by the careful measurements of medicines and the monotonous ticking of time between one tasteless meal and the next. 5
- 2 There had been a time when he had stood at this same spot, watching his son Rakesh stride down the dusty road to medical school, his shoulders straight, his stride purposeful. Pride had swelled in Varma's chest then, threatening to burst it open like an overripe fruit. His son, the first in the family to become a doctor! The memory of that morning when the examination results appeared still blazed bright in his mind: Rakesh, barefoot and still in his pyjamas, rushing up the veranda steps, touching his feet with trembling hands. "First in the country, Papa. First division." 10
- 3 Now that same son, grey streaking his temples, stood before him holding out a plate of dry toast and a glass of warm milk. No butter, no sugar – doctor's orders. His own son's orders. 15
- 4 "Eat it all, Papa," Rakesh said, his voice carrying that special tone he reserved for difficult patients. "It's good for you."
- 5 Varma stared at the austere breakfast with undisguised hostility. The toast looked like cardboard, the milk like chalk water. "What sort of breakfast is this?" he demanded, his voice quavering with the special peevishness of old age. "When I was young—" 20
- 6 "But you're not young anymore, Papa." Rakesh's voice was like a rope that seemed soft but could not be broken. "Your heart, your diabetes—"
- 7 "Curse this heart of mine!" The words burst from Varma like shots from an ancient gun. "What's the use of a heart if it can't let me eat what I want? What's the use of a son if he won't give his father a decent meal?" 25
- 8 The outburst hung in the morning air like smoke. Rakesh's face remained impassive—the practised composure of a seasoned physician—though the son in him betrayed a flicker of hurt in his eyes before the doctor's mask slipped back into place, perfected over thirty years of medical practice. He placed the breakfast tray carefully on the small table beside his father's chair, each movement measured and precise. Even the chair had been selected not for comfort but for its therapeutic benefits. The doctor in him had overshadowed the son. 30
- 9 Varma's hands shook as he picked up the toast, more from anger than weakness. Each bite was a protest, each swallow an accusation. He had run a grocery shop all his life, surrounded by sacks of sugar and tins of ghee, boxes of sweets and packets of crisp snacks. The memories of those tastes haunted him now like ghost stories – the sweetness of jalebis, the rich smoothness of cream, the satisfying crunch of freshly fried pakoras. 35
- 10 The morning light had grown stronger now, harsh enough to illuminate every line on Varma's face, every grey hair on his head. He looked at his son – this stranger in expensive clothes who had once been his little boy – and felt a complex mixture of pride and resentment, love and frustration. The boy who had touched his feet every morning had become the man who regulated his life with pills and prohibitions, who measured his love in careful doses like medicine. 40
- 11 "A devoted son," the neighbours all said. "See how he takes care of his father himself, even with such a busy practice." But what did they know of these morning battles, these small daily protests against love that had become too careful, devotion that had become too precise? 45

Section C

Text 4

The text below is about the impact of tourism and whether it is a blessing or a burden. Read it carefully and answer Questions 15 – 21 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 The unprecedented surge of international travel has triggered far-reaching changes in countries worldwide. As a result of improved transportation and rising global affluence, tourism has emerged as a dominant force that shapes the destiny of host nations. Consequently, destinations from Rome's historical centre to New Zealand's untouched landscapes have experienced dramatic transformations in their social fabric and economic systems. Countries are now forced to evaluate carefully how the continuous flow of visitors affects their delicate balance between environmental preservation, economic growth, and cultural authenticity. 5
- 2 Supporters of tourism point to Italy's success story, where visitors to places like Venice and Florence contribute billions of euros annually to the economy, creating thousands of jobs in hotels, restaurants, and tour services. They highlight how tourism has helped preserve historic buildings and traditional crafts, with tourist dollars funding the restoration of ancient Roman sites and supporting local artisans who make Venetian masks and Murano glass. In New Zealand, tourism advocates emphasise how the industry has helped protect native wildlife and landscapes, with income from tourists supporting conservation projects and maintaining national parks. 10
- 3 However, critics raise serious concerns about the downsides of mass tourism. In Venice, locals are being forced out of their city as property prices soar due to tourist accommodations, and the city's fragile foundations are being damaged by massive cruise ships. In popular destinations like Milford Sound, New Zealand has seen significant profits during peak tourist seasons. Even so, the influx of visitors has caused environmental stress, diminishing the very natural beauty that draws people there in the first place. Some natives living in the countryside argue that their communities are being turned into "theme parks" for tourists, losing their authentic character and local charm. 15
20
- 4 Tourism's economic impact extends far beyond simple tourist spending, creating ripple effects throughout host countries. In Italy, the tourism industry has revitalised many small towns that were previously struggling economically. For example, the Tuscan village of Pienza has thrived by attracting visitors to its historic centre and local food products, providing jobs and business opportunities for residents. Similarly, New Zealand's tourism sector has become a major employer, with activities like bungee jumping in Queenstown and ¹Hobbiton movie set tours creating unique employment opportunities for locals. The industry also stimulates infrastructure development – airports are expanded, roads are improved, and public transportation systems are enhanced to accommodate visitors. However, this economic boost comes with challenges. Many tourism jobs are seasonal, leaving workers unemployed during off-peak months. Local businesses often face increased competition from international chains, and the cost of living typically rises in popular tourist areas, making it difficult for residents to afford housing and daily necessities. 25
30
- 5 So, what can be done to combat the social and environmental consequences of tourism on host countries? Even in Italy's popular destinations, traditional markets are increasingly being replaced by international restaurants. The famous Cinque Terre coastal villages now limit daily visitor numbers to prevent overcrowding and protect their UNESCO World Heritage status. New Zealand faces similar challenges in managing its natural environment. The country's Department of Conservation has had to build additional walking tracks and viewing platforms to protect delicate ecosystems from the impact of eager tourists. However, tourism has also brought positive changes. New Zealand's Maori communities have leveraged tourism to preserve and share their cultural heritage, while Italian towns have revived traditional festivals and crafts that might otherwise have been lost. Both nations have also implemented innovative solutions to manage tourist impact, such as Venice's new entry fee system and New Zealand's "Tourism Pledge," where visitors promise to respect and protect the country's environment and culture. 35
40
45

¹ Hobbiton: A reconstruction of scenes from the movie series 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'The Hobbit'

- 6 As the world becomes more connected, many countries are embracing tourism as a powerful force to change existing practices for the better. With careful planning and innovative solutions, tourism can become a driver of cultural exchange, economic growth, and environmental stewardship. A growing focus on "quality over quantity" is shaping a more sustainable future, welcoming mindful travellers who take the time to learn about local cultures, support small businesses, volunteer, and respect local customs and environments. These meaningful interactions help strengthen communities, preserve traditions, and ensure that tourism benefits are shared more fairly. Today's younger generations are leading the way, travelling with greater purpose and awareness. With their energy and innovation, host countries have a real opportunity to create tourism models that protect cherished destinations while enriching the lives of both visitors and locals.

END OF INSERT

Name : () Class :



CHI KATONG CONVENT
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS 2025
Secondary Four Express and Five Normal (Academic)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1184/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

August 2025

Candidates answer in the Question Booklet.

Additional material: Insert

1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and registration number on the cover page.

Write in dark blue or black ink.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid/tape.

Answer all questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided in the Question Booklet.

The Insert contains the texts for all the sections.

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

For Examiner's Use	
Section A (Visual Text)	5
Section B (Narrative Text)	20
Section C (Non-Narrative Text)	10
Section C (Summary)	15
Total	50

This document contains 9 printed pages.

Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the advertisement (Text 1) and the extract of a review (Text 2) on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1 – 4.

- 1 Look at Text 1. Tick (✓) the most effective caption for the image.

- ☐ Away from people
☐ A great place of work
☐ Nature on all sides

[1]

- 2 What does the word 'unparalleled' suggest about the experiences one can expect at this workplace?

.....
.....

[1]

- 3 Identify the phrase in Text 2 which reflects the theme in Text 1 highlighting that the resort is 'for nature lovers'.

.....

[1]

- 4 Look at Texts 1 and 2 and statements (a) and (b) below.

Tick (✓) the correct answer for each statement.

- (a) One purpose of both texts is ...

- ☐ to offer new ideas.
☐ to promote the resort.
☐ to present a different view.

[1]

- (b) The tone of suggest(s) the writer is enthusiastic.

- ☐ text 1
☐ text 2
☐ both texts

[1]

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 3 on page 3 of the Insert to answer Questions 5 – 14.

- 5** At the beginning of the text, Varma waits for his morning tea. Explain how the language used in Paragraph 1 shows his unhappiness with his current life.

Support your ideas with **two** details from Paragraph 1.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

[2]

- 6** In Paragraph 2, Varma's pride is described as '*threatening to burst it open like an overripe fruit*' (line 11).

(a) What was Varma proud of?

..... [1]

(b) What does the phrase in italics suggest about Varma's pride?

..... [1]

- 7** Paragraph 4 tells the reader that Rakesh used 'that special tone he reserved for difficult patients' on his father.

(a) What tone do you think Rakesh used?

..... [1]

(b) Why did he have to use it?

.....

..... [1]

[Turn over

- 8 Explain in your own words why Varma looked at his breakfast with 'undisguised hostility' (line 19).

.....

.....

.....

[1]

- 9 In Paragraph 6, Rakesh's voice is compared to 'a rope that seemed soft but could not be broken'. Why is this comparison effective in describing Rakesh's voice?

.....

.....

[1]

- 10 At the beginning of Paragraph 8, the writer says that Varma's outburst 'hung in the morning air like smoke'. What does this suggest about the atmosphere at the time?

.....

.....

[1]

- 11 In Paragraph 8, the writer says, 'The doctor in him had overshadowed the son'. Give three pieces of evidence from Paragraph 8 and explain how they show that Rakesh treats Varma more like a patient than a parent.

Evidence	Explanation

[3]

- 12 (a) In Paragraph 9, what caused Varma's hands to shake when eating his breakfast?

.....

[1]

- (b) Which two other words in Paragraph 9 support this idea?

.....

[1]

13 In Paragraph 11, the neighbours praise Rakesh as 'a devoted son'.

(a) Which **two** words in the paragraph show Varma fighting against this devotion?

..... [1]

(b) How else does the writer suggest that Varma finds this devotion overwhelming?

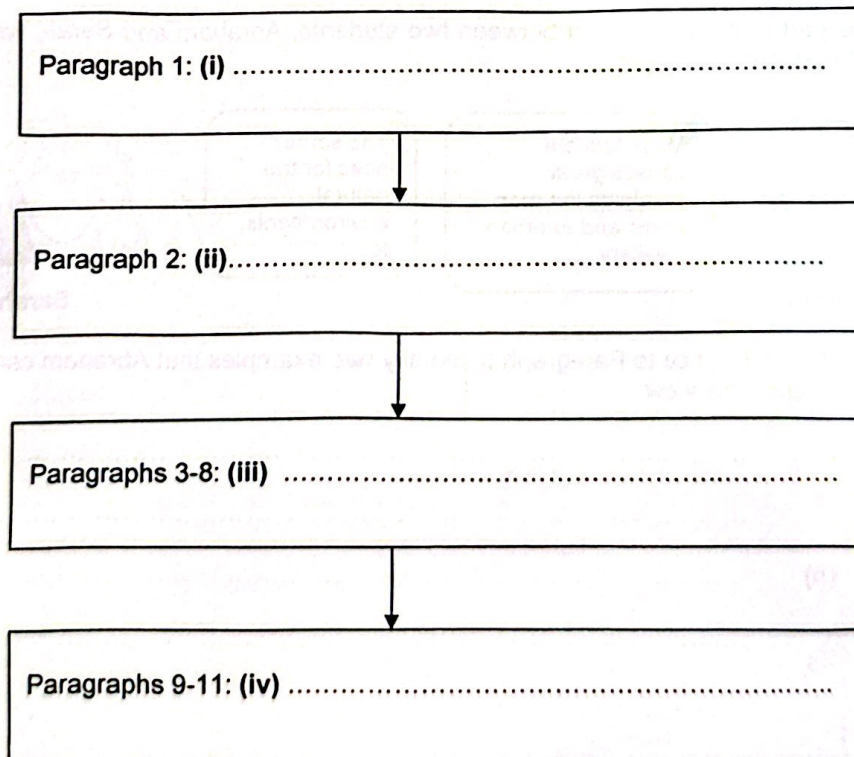
.....
..... [1]

14 The structure of the text reflects the changing relationship between Varma and Rakesh. Complete the flow chart by choosing one phrase from the box to summarise the main focus presented in each part of the text. There are some extra phrases in the box that you do not need to use.

Relationship between father and son

changing power dynamics	loss of independence	past glory and achievement
conflict over care	medical expertise and success	present misery and dreariness
growing bitterness and resistance		

Flow chart



[4]

[Turn over

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to Text 4 on pages 4 and 5 of the Insert for Questions 15 – 21.

- 15 In Paragraph 1, the writer says there is an endless influx of visitors into various countries. State, in your own words, one of the causes of this phenomenon.

.....

.....

[1]

- 16 In Paragraph 2, money from tourists flow to countries visited by tourists.

Which countries were mentioned, and in which ways do these countries use the tourism revenue?

Countries	Use of tourism revenue

[2]

- 17 Here is part of a conversation between two students, Abraham and Sarah, who have read the article.



Abraham

Mass tourism causes great problems in urban areas and to urban dwellers.

The same goes for the natural environments, too.



Sarah

- (a) With reference to Paragraph 3, identify **two** examples that Abraham can give to support his view.

(i)

.....

(ii)

.....

[2]

(b) How would Sarah explain her position with reference to Paragraph 3?

(i)

(ii) [2]

18 'As the world becomes more connected, many countries are embracing tourism as a powerful force to change existing practices for the better.' (lines 46 – 47)
What is the tone adopted by the writer about tourism in the future?

..... [1]

19 Which phrase in Paragraph 6 conveys the idea of being meticulous and creative?

..... [1]

20 From Paragraph 6, what impact do mindful travellers who engage deeply with local communities leave?

..... [1]
.....

[Turn over

Total number of words:

Summary Style Descriptors	
Mark	
7	- Sustained and successful use of own words and structures - Consistently well organised ideas which convey the meaning of the text clearly and precisely
5-6	- Frequent and usually appropriate use of own words and structures - Mostly well organised ideas which convey the meaning of the text clearly
3-4	- Some use of own words and structures - Some attempts at organising ideas to convey the meaning of the text
1-2	- Occasional attempts at use of own words and/or structures - Attempts at conveying the meaning of the text
0	No creditable response.

Content	8
Style	7
Total	15

END OF PAPER