



ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL (SECONDARY)

Preliminary Examinations 2026

CANDIDATE NAME

MS WITH MARKERS' REPORT

CLASS

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REGISTER NUMBER

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1184/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

17 August 2026

Secondary 4 Express and 5 Normal Academic

1 hour 50 minutes

Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the online advertisement (**Text 1**) and the news report (**Text 2**) on pages 2 and 3 of the Insert and answer Questions 1–4.

- 1 Look at Text 1. Tick (✓) the most suitable summary for this poster.

✓	Civic mindedness can save lives
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[1]

- 2 With reference to Text 1, how is the image above the caption “Obstruction to emergency crew access due to constricted corridor” effective?

The image shows the crew being blocked by items along the corridor, which illustrates the effect of items left along corridors/not giving enough clearance for an emergency crew to pass through. [1]

Students either wrote what the image shows but **missed out on explaining** why it was effective; or they wrote why it was effective but **missed out on describing the image**.

- 3 Give one detail from Text 2 that emphasises the importance of following the guidelines in Text 1.

‘a slipper got caught in the wheels, purportedly causing both her daughter and son to fall out’/‘her 18-month-old daughter cut her upper inner lip on her teeth’ [1]

Accepted: ‘The daughter got hurt’

Did not accept: ‘how to escape with 4 children...’

- 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 warn residents about the dangers of cluttered common spaces.

[1]

- (b) The tone of the language used in Text 2 is...

✓

angry.

[1]

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to **Text 3** on pages 4 and 5 of the Insert for Questions 5–15.

- 5 At the beginning of the text, the writer describes the effects of the change in season on the surroundings. Explain how the language used in Paragraph 1 makes the vegetation seem lifeless. Support your ideas with two details from the paragraph. [2]
(Any two answers below)

'jaundiced pine trees' suggests that the plants look sickly and lack life. [1]

'berries shrivelled up' suggests that the berries have dried up and look dead. [1]

'frost has sucked the green resilience out of them' conveys the idea that the grasses are wilting/dying. [1] (now the exuberance is gone)

'grasses pale and brittle' suggests that the change to a colder less sunny season has caused the grass to slowly die/ lose its vitality. [1]

Do not accept:

'turned the remaining leaves to bare their undersides like submissive bellies; it has flattened the grasses so they all lie in one direction' - Nothing to do with the change in season, refers to effects of the wind.

- 6 The writer uses the phrase 'bully my way through' (line 8) to get to the house. Explain why you think she had to do so. [1]

The vegetation/grass was very thick/unkempt/overgrown and she had to force her way through / and she had difficulty getting through. [1]

Both parts of the answer must be given to award the full mark.

Do not accept: messy

- 7 Identify a phrase in Paragraph 1 that emphasises how lightly the frost is falling. [1]

'sprinkles down' [1]

Explanation: Sprinkle salt...as opposed to pouring salt in large amount

Do not accept: flakes off (merely means 'thin pieces of it come off' - does not refer to the manner)

- 8 (a) In Paragraph 2, why does the writer feel 'warmer, instantly' (lines 10-11)? [1]

She reaches the highway where the sun clears the trees. [1]

From text: the sun clears the trees.

- (b) Why does the writer say 'The first hard frost, no matter how late, always comes before any of us is ready' (lines 14-15)? [2]

There are too many chores to be done / There is too much preparation before winter comes [1] and people are never prepared for the cold/frost. [1] OR

Even when the frost arrives later than expected, people still feel unprepared [1] because they have not completed all the necessary chores. [1]

Marker's report

This question was badly done. Some listed the chores to be done instead of concluding that there were too many chores. Other inferences were that the frost came unexpectedly/ was unpredictable.

- 9 In Paragraph 3, 'This weekend for sure,' you said, sounding guilty, regretful' (lines 17-18). Why do you think the writer's friend replied in that tone? [1]

It may be because the friend had stood the writer up before/ the friend had not turned up for their appointment or meet-up before. [1]

- 10 From Paragraph 4, identify two phrases which suggest that the writer is walking up a hill. [2]

- i) 'When I reach the top of the rise' (line 22) [1]
ii) 'As it materialises, top to bottom' (line 26) [1]**

- 11 Which word in Paragraph 4 has the same meaning as 'polished'? [1]

'burnished' (line 23) [1]

- 12 Quote a phrase in Paragraph 6 that tells us that the weeds are entwined. [1]

'all laced together' [1]

- 13 In Paragraph 6, the writer gives the impression that her friend's house and garden have been neglected. Give **three** pieces of evidence from Paragraph 6 and explain how this is shown. [3]

'It's all weeds' suggests that the garden has not been tended/mowed in a long time.

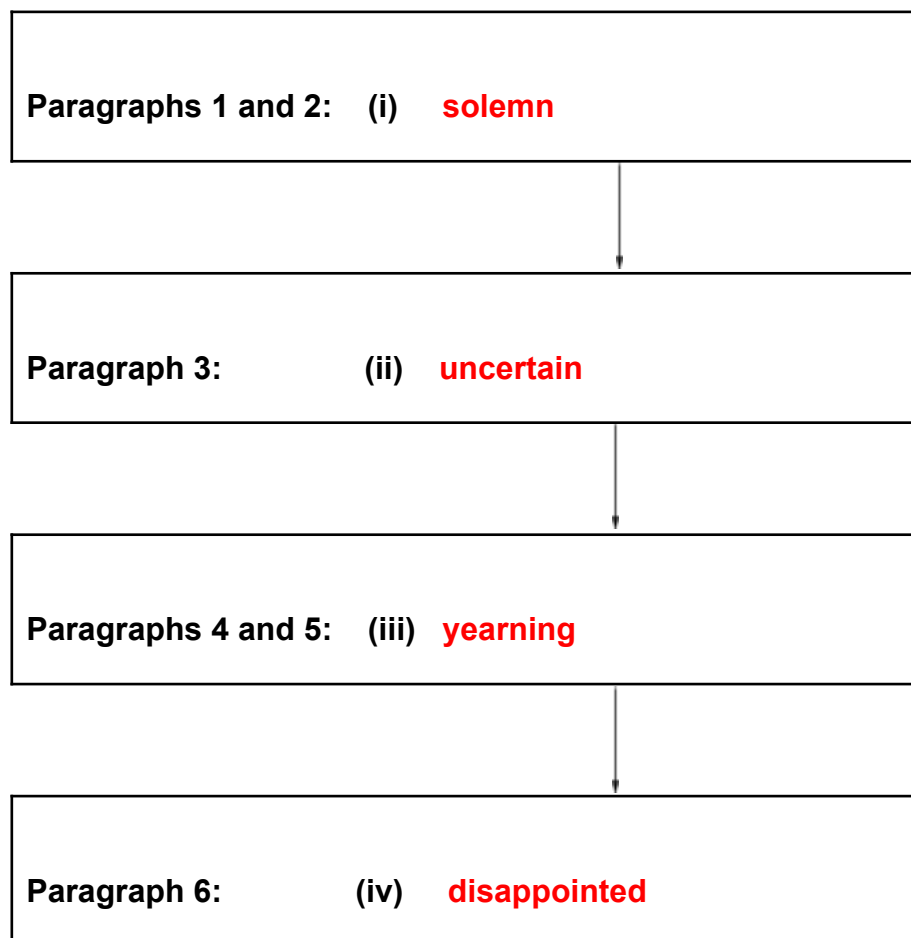
'grayed out' gives the impression that the paint of the house has faded and has not been repainted.

'gone to seed' shows that the whole property has deteriorated due to lack of care.

- 14** The text has been written in the present tense. What is the effect of this? [1]

The readers feel as though the events in the text are happening right now. OR The readers feel like they are witnessing the events happening in the text. OR It promotes a sense of closeness and makes the readers empathise with the writer more. [1]

15



(i) the details like 'fevered leaves and seed', 'jaundiced pine trees', berries shrivelled up', 'grasses pale and brittle' (from para 1); 'no traffic this far out', 'drinking coffee beside...stoves', 'staring out windows' (from para 2) give the idea that everything is moody and depressing

(ii) 'wondering if you are really here', 'ruts don't tell me much'

(iii) 'look for wavy distortion the heat...causes', 'I keep walking toward your house' (para 4); 'I climb many steps', 'I tug on the lock, testing' (para 5) – these show author has not given up trying to find out if the friend is at home

(iv) 'but there's nothing here...just like the garden before me'

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to **Text 4** on pages 6 and 7 of the Insert for Questions 16–21.

- 16** From Paragraph 1, why is the Carnival of Ivrea regarded as significant?

It is the oldest historical carnival in Italy [1] and a re-enactment/commemoration of a popular rebellion [1].

- 17** What does the word 'raucous' (line 10) suggest about the atmosphere of the Battle of the Oranges?

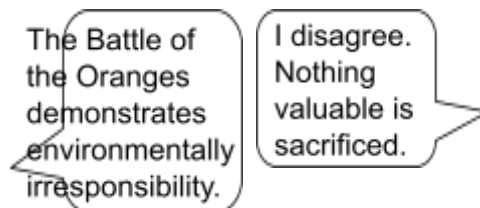
**It suggests that it is very loud and chaotic/disorderly/unruly. [1]
It suggests that it is rowdy.
(Answer must convey both noise and disorder.)**

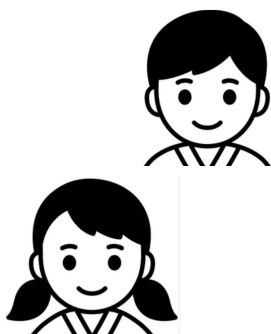
- 18** From Paragraph 3, what does the phrase 'rightly so' (line 18) reveal about the writer's overall opinion of the Battle of the Oranges?

Although the writer acknowledges the positive significance of the event [1], he also agrees that it should be criticised for its violence [1].

X: Not enough to just say that the Battle of the Oranges is violent. Answer must indicate that it deserves to be criticised.

- 19** Here is a part of a conversation between two students, Ravi and Ella, who have read the article.





Ella

Ravi

(a) Give one piece of evidence from Paragraph 5 to support Ravi's view.

The evidence is 'destroying such massive amounts of produce is unethical and wasteful, especially given the global food security'. [1]
(Paraphrased answers are acceptable)

(b) Give two pieces of evidence from Paragraph 5 to support Ella's view.

(i) The oranges used in the event are usually of lower-quality, non-commercial grade. [1]

(ii) Many of these oranges would have been thrown out or composted. [1]

- 20 In Paragraph 7, the writer states that 'While the Battle of the Oranges is a **spectacle**, at its heart, it remains a **solemn nod** to a **town's resilient spirit**' (lines 45-46). In **your own words**, explain what the writer means by this comment.

The writer means that even though the event is regarded as an **entertaining event** [1], it is actually a **respectful recognition/acknowledgement** of the **community's strength/ determination** [1].
(Answers should describe the two sides to the event and unpack the words 'spectacle', 'solemn nod' and 'resilient spirit')

- 21 Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the negative impacts of the Battle of the Oranges on the community and the positive contributions it makes.

Use only information from Paragraphs 4, 6 and 7 of Text 4.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words (not counting the words given to help you begin).

One negative impact of the Battle of the Oranges is

No.	From the text	Own words
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1	...the intensity of the battle is high with oranges hurled at high speeds. It can be overwhelming for spectators... (lines 24-25)	the ferocious spectacle of oranges being thrown at a fast pace can be intimidating for spectators
2	Unprepared spectators can get severely bruised accidentally too by flying oranges and debris... (lines 26-27)	Unsuspecting bystanders may also suffer serious injuries from stray oranges and debris.
3	Many of the Italians are disturbed by the brutality of the battle which they regard as uncivilised. (lines 28-30)	Many Italians find the violence of the battle deeply unsettling, viewing it as an act of barbarism.
4	costly spectacle that causes extensive chaos and inconvenience... (line 40)	the expensive event brings about widespread disorder and disruption.
5	...areas get extremely congested (line 41)	areas get very crowded
6	and noisy. (line 41)	and loud
7	The festival's aftermath means days of cleaning to clear up the pulp that has clogged the streets. (lines 41-43)	extensive cleaning efforts are required after the festival to remove the pulp that has lined the roads
8	...cobblestones are left with invisible residue that tyres and shoes will skid on dangerously for weeks to come. (lines 43-44)	The cobblestones are coated with an invisible residue, posing a serious slipping hazard for weeks afterwards.
9	yearly reminder of the lengths to which the oppressed will go to claim their freedom. (lines 46-47)	yearly reminder of how far the oppressed will go to fight for their freedom.
10	...embodies a sense of belonging through a shared history. (lines 48-49)	brings people together through a collective history
11	major tourist attraction, driving significant revenue for local restaurants, hotels and souvenir vendors... (lines 49-51)	a major draw for tourists, generating substantial income for local restaurants, hotels and souvenir vendors

One negative impact of the Battle of the Oranges is that the ferocious spectacle of oranges being thrown at speed can be intimidating for spectators. Unsuspecting bystanders may suffer serious injuries from stray oranges and debris. Many Italians view the violent battle as deeply unsettling and barbaric. This expensive event brings widespread disorder and disruption with areas getting very crowded and loud.

Nonetheless, it serves as a yearly reminder of the lengths the oppressed will go to fight for their freedom, while bringing people together through a collective history.
(79 words)