

**RIVERSIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2023
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS (1184) PAPER 2
MARK SCHEME**

Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the online advertisement (**Text 1**) and an online blog post (**Text 2**) on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1–4.

- 1** Look at the image and words in the advertisement. Tick (✓) the statement that is most accurate in conveying the writer's main message about pet abandonment.

☐

Many animals are abandoned every year.

☒

Many animals that are abandoned will die. **[1]**

☐

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) can only take in a limited number of animals.

N.B.: The tombstone in the image is linked to the idea of 'put to sleep' in the paragraph.

- 2** Look at the heading **EVERY 60 MINUTES, A PET IS ABANDONED**. What is the intended effect of the heading on the reader?

The reader would feel shocked/ surprised the reader by the sheer number of pets being abandoned/ high rate of pet abandonment. [1]

- 3** Identify the phrase in Text 2 which illustrates the 'tragic fate' stated in Text 1.

(animals are) left to die a slow, lonely painful death [1]

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

Decide whether the statements refer to Text 1, Text 2, both texts, or neither text.

Circle the answer you have chosen for each statement.

- (a) The target audience is pet owners.

Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither [1]

- (b) The tone suggests the writer dislikes pet owners who abandoned their pets.

Text 1 / Text 2 / Both / Neither [1]

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to **Text 3** on pages 3–4 of the Insert for Questions 5–14.

- 5 Explain what the following words in Paragraph 1 suggest about the writer's views towards his job.

(i) 'toiled away' (line 2)

His job was tiring/ requires hard work or a lot of effort/ draining/ laborious. [1]

(ii) 'monotony' (line 3)

His job was boring/ mundane/ repetitive/ dull. [1]

- 6 From Paragraph 2, give **two** details which show that the desert was filled with emptiness.

(i) (cast adrift in the) barren wilderness (of Arizona) [1]

(ii) far from civilisation [1]

- 7 The writer 'swallowed hard'. (line 12) What does this description suggest about how the writer felt at that moment?

He felt fearful/ intimidated/ nervous/ worried/ anxious. [1]

- 8 In Paragraph 3, the writer describes his experience in the desert. Explain how the language used in this paragraph makes the writer appear to be at the brink of death. Support your answer with **two** details from Paragraph 3.

'(Yet here I was,) a withered cactus (in the unrelenting heat)' suggests that the writer was dehydrated/ had a heat stroke and bordering death. [1]

'My flesh and body which felt like they were fading away' suggests that the writer felt like his body was weakening / highlights how physically weak the writer felt such that he was losing strength. [1]

- 9 In Paragraph 3, which word suggests that the writer was careful of his next steps?

'scrutinised' [1]

- 10 From Paragraph 4, give **two** examples of the weak physical state of the writer while he climbed the rock.

(i) **His muscles strained. [1]**

(ii) **His legs trembled. [1]**

- 11 From Paragraph 5, how does the writer emphasise his vulnerability in the harsh desert environment?

He attributed human characteristics to the wind/ personified the wind (by using expressions such as 'offered no solace' and 'mocking' to show that the writer was at the mercy of the wind). [1]

- 12 (a) In Paragraph 6, the writer tells us that 'the oasis morphed before my eyes, revealing its true nature' (lines 36-37). What does the 'true nature' refer to?

The place was void of greenery and water/ just a barren land. [1]

- (b) 'The desert was going to become my prison.' (lines 38-39) What does this description suggest about the writer's thought about his fate?

He thought he was going to die/ trapped in the desert forever. [1]

- 13 At the end of the text, the writer describes his experience at the desert as 'beautiful punishing' (line 46-47).

- (a) Explain how this description is supported with reference to **two** pieces of evidence from Paragraph 7.

'I realised that the true oasis was not a physical place, but the love and connection we shared.' shows that the writer has acquired a new understanding or perspective about life. [1]

'I was ready to surrender my mind and body to the merciless desert' shows that his experience in the desert was challenging or demanding. [1]

- (b) Why is this description effective?

It emphasises the great impact that this experience has had on him/ that he has learnt important lessons through the hardships in the desert. [1]

- 14** The structure of the text reflects the different stages of the writer's journey in the Arizona desert. Complete the flow chart by choosing one phrase from the box to summarise the stage of the writer's journey in each part of the text. There are extra phrases in the box you do not need to use.

Stages of the writer's journey

a sense of attachment

taking a respite

determined to seek salvation

renewed hope and attitude

chasing a dream

not knowing what to do

crushed with disappointment

Flow chart

Paragraphs 1–2: **(i) not knowing what to do [1]**



Paragraph 3: **(ii) determined to seek salvation [1]**



Paragraphs 4–6: **(iii) crushed with disappointment [1]**



Paragraph 7: **(iv) renewed hope and attitude**

[4]

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to **Text 4** on pages 5–6 of the Insert for Questions 15–21.

- 15 In Paragraph 1, why does the writer refer to extreme sports as ‘an unfathomable indulgence’ (line 1)?

Ordinary people find it difficult to understand or relate to the level of commitment and fearlessness required from extreme sports participants who pursue their passions without restraint, to achieve instant gratification. [1]

- 16 With reference to Paragraph 2, which **two** words suggest the writer finds that extreme sports participants worry too much?

‘agonising’ and ‘obsessively’. [1]

- 17 In Paragraph 3, the writer says ‘It is mind-boggling how there seems to be an endless supply of individuals who are just dying to climb towering peaks or fling themselves off them’ (lines 16-17).

What is the writer’s tone when he makes this comment?

Mocking/ Incredulous. [1]

- 18 What were the effects of ‘turning extreme sports into a multi-billion-dollar global industry’ (lines 17-18)? **Answer in your own words.**

There is an increase in number of tourists/ visitors and employment opportunities. [1]
Destinations have more advanced/ improved facilities (to meet the needs of extreme sports enthusiasts). [1]

Lifted from text: This has boosted tourism and created jobs. Destinations for extreme sports have also witnessed more developed amenities (to satisfy the desires of extreme sports enthusiasts).

- 19 Here is part of a conversation between two students, Jonas and Carrie, who have read the article.



Jonas

I think extreme sports are similar to conventional sports.

I don't agree. There are distinct characteristics that set extreme sports apart from conventional sports.



Carrie

- (a) Give **one** piece of evidence from Paragraph 2 that Jonas can use to support his view.

Both demand dedication, practice, and a commitment to improving one's performance. [1]

(Do not accept if student only refers to extreme sports or conventional sports, and not both.)

- (b) With reference to Paragraph 3, give **two** pieces of evidence to support Carrie's opinion.

(i) **Extreme sports often take place in non-traditional environments that are inherently challenging.** [1]

(ii) **Extreme sports require highly specialised skills.** [1]

(Accepted: 'These extreme terrains can include mountains, cliffs, oceans and deserts which require highly specialised skills to surmount.')

- 20 In Paragraph 7, the writer uses the quote 'Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever' (lines 48-50) to describe extreme sports participants.

Identify **two** details from Paragraphs 2 and 4 which show that extreme sports participants live by this quote.

(i) Live as if you were to die tomorrow: Paragraph 4 **Extreme sports participants understand the unpredictable nature of the activities and strive to make the most of each experience.** [1]

(ii) Learn as if you were to live forever: Paragraph 2 **backcountry athletes actively seek new techniques, strategies and skills, (getting rigorous intel from guides and mountain experts), to progressively take on larger mountains** [1]

- 21 Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the reasons why people participate in extreme sports, and the controversies surrounding extreme sports, as outlined in the text.

Use only information from Paragraphs 4 to 6 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 reason why people participate in extreme sports is that

S/N	Points from Text	Paraphrased Points
<i>Reasons why people participate in extreme sports</i>		
1.	'extreme sports participants feel the need to experience the thrill in risk-taking in an otherwise tensionless daily life' (lines 22-23)	they want to derive an adrenaline rush.
2.	Many of these extreme sports like snowboarding, rock climbing, bungee jumping and skydiving, allow them to challenge themselves both physically and psychologically. (lines 24-26)	Many of these sports also enable them to push their limits physically and mentally.
3.	'Technological advances have brought about safety devices and sports equipment making various sports a more accessible and pleasurable activity for even the common man.' (lines 30-32)	Furthermore, technological progress has made extreme sports more readily available and enjoyable for the masses.
4.	'Some people take part in thrilling sports activities for the publicity' (line 35)	Some extreme sports participant seek recognition
5.	'and to experience the adrenaline 'high' when they emerge triumphant.' (lines 35-36)	and the feeling of exhilaration when they win.
<i>Controversies surrounding extreme sports</i>		
6.	'One ethical consideration of extreme sports is the risk that rescue teams have to face in emergency situations where they have to save participants from dangerous feats such as scaling Mount Everest and cave-diving.' (lines 26-28)	However, extreme sports can pose a threat to rescue teams during emergency events.
7.	'Critics argue that the pressure to perform spectacular stunts for lucrative endorsements can lead to compromised safety.' (lines 38-39)	Some participants may disregard their own well-being for profitable sponsorships for their performance.
8.	'These extreme sports pose safety concerns due to their tendency to be dangerous if not performed carefully or with the right equipment.' (lines 40-41)	Moreover, when these sports are not executed correctly, they can be dangerous.

	OR ‘Serious injuries are common among adrenaline junkies and many fatalities are reported every year.’ (lines 41-42)	OR Moreover, there is a high risk of serious injuries and deaths.
9.	‘Certain extreme sports, like off-road motorcycling or extreme skiing, can have a detrimental impact on the environment.’ (lines 44-45) OR ‘They can damage natural habitats, cause erosion, disturb wildlife, and contribute to pollution.’ (lines 45-46)	Lastly, some extreme sports cause harm to the environment.

Any 8 points above.

One reason why people participate in extreme sports is that
they want to derive an adrenaline rush. Many of these sports also enable them to push their limits physically and mentally. Furthermore, technological progress has made extreme sports more available and enjoyable for the masses. Some extreme sports participants seek recognition and the feeling of exhilaration when they win. However, extreme sports can pose a threat to rescue teams during emergency events. Some participants may also disregard their well-being for profitable sponsorships. Lastly, some extreme sports can cause environmental harm.

(80 words)

Content - 1m x 8 points (8m)

Style - 7m

Total – 15 marks

Style Assessment (7 Marks)**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.