

Full Name	Index No.	Class



Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road)

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2026
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS / 5 NORMAL (ACADEMIC)**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE
1184/02**

1 HOUR 50 MINUTES

18 August 2026

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Section A

Study the poster (**Text 1**) and the extract from a social media post (**Text 2**) and answer Questions 1 – 4 in the Question Booklet.

Text 1 is taken from a poster about self-help in the face of climate change.

What We Can Do to Mitigate Climate Change

What Children Can Do	What Adults Can Do
AT HOME	AT HOME
- Switch off lights, fans and screens when not in use - Use a fan when possible; set air-con to 25 degrees Celsius - Turn off taps properly and take shorter showers - Finish meals to reduce food waste	- Choose energy-efficient appliances - Wash full loads of laundry - Pick local suppliers for low-carbon, affordable food - Install blackout curtains to reduce daytime heat
OUTSIDE HOME	AT WORK
- Bring reusable bottles, lunchboxes and cutlery - Choose outdoor, shaded spaces for low-carbon leisure - Walk, cycle or take public transport for short trips - Join green activities in the community	- Choose linen workwear with loose cuts - Use digital files instead of printing - Open windows on both sides to lower indoor temperature - Use filter stickers on glass windows

OUR SHARED COMMITMENT

Mini Actions, Mega Climate Control

Start your ground-up projects! Tap on SG Eco Fund \$5M Climate Adaptation Package



Discover SG's
 1st Climate Adaptation Plan
 at www.sg/yoca



and the

Text 2 is taken from a transcript of a social media interview.

Quote from an interview with a 70-year-old senior citizen:

“Recently, I joined a Telegram group that called out to residents in the Pek Kio community to indicate their need for grocery runs on their behalf. Youth volunteers collated high demand wet market items on our daily wish list so that we always have fresh produce and meat to consume. To make these procurement runs price-accessible, they also negotiated lower prices for bulk buy of the top 10 items. Now, I am certain I have agency in reducing my daily carbon footprint. However, for my weekly hospital visits to consult a doctor for my chronic ailment, I need to use Grab Car services on my own. I wish someone would help me with this.”

Section B

Text 3

In the text below, the writer describes a group of fugitive British students who travel back to their Oxford school accommodation, after a violent altercation with a Professor.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5 – 13.

- 1 Their return to Oxford the next morning quickly spiralled into a comedy of errors, much of which could have been avoided if they hadn't been too debilitated or irritated with each other to communicate. Their purses were running low, so they spent an hour arguing over whether it was prudent to borrow Mrs Clemen's carriage to get to Paddington Station in London until they gave up and forked over the fare for cabs. But cabs in Hampstead were hard to come by on Sunday mornings, which meant they didn't reach the station until ten minutes after the Oxford train had departed. The next train was fully booked, and the one after that was delayed by a cow that had wandered onto the tracks, which meant they would not arrive at Oxford until after midnight. 5
- A whole day, wasted. 10
- 2 They whittled away the hours in London, migrating from coffee house to coffee house so as not to attract suspicion, growing ever more twitchy from the absurd amounts of coffee and sweets they bought to justify keeping their table. Every now and then, one of them would bring up Professor Lovell – with whom they had a violent altercation just before arriving in London – only to be shushed viciously by the others; they didn't know who could be listening, and the whole of London felt full of hostile eavesdroppers. It felt bad to be shushed, but no one had the heart for lighter conversation, and so none of them were speaking to each other by the time they dragged their trunks onto the crowded late train. 15
- 3 They passed the ride in resentful silence. They were ten minutes out from Oxford Station when Letty suddenly sat up and began hyperventilating. 20
- 'Oh gosh,' she whispered. 'Oh gosh, oh gosh, oh gosh—'
- She was attracting looks. Letty grabbed Ramy's shoulder in some appeal for comfort, but Ramy, jerked his arm from her grasp.
- 'Letty, shut up.'
- 4 That was cruel, but Robin sympathised. Letty was wearing on him as well; she'd spent most of the day in hysterics, and he was sick of it. All of their nerves were shot, he thought nastily, and Letty should just chin up and keep it together like the rest of them. 25
- Astounded, Letty fell silent.
- 5 At last, their train creaked into Oxford Station. Yawning and shivering, they lugged their trunks over bumpy cobblestones for the twenty minutes it took to walk back to college. The emotionless stone face of University College emerged from the dark, and Robin felt a sharp pang of nostalgia at the sight of this magical and tainted place which, despite everything, still felt like home. 30

- 6 Upon unbolting the door, Billings, the head porter, took in their weary faces after their journey from the Orient in another continent, to London and finally Oxford. He turned and waved for them to follow. 'Come with me.' 35
- Fifteen minutes later they were seated around a table in the hall, huddled over cups of strong black tea while Billings fussed around in the kitchen. They'd protested they didn't want to put him out of the way, but he'd insisted on cooking them a proper fry-up. Soon he emerged with plates of sizzling eggs, sausages, potatoes and toast. The smell of food reminded them they hadn't eaten for hours. They fell on the spread like wolves. Billings watched them, amused, as they continued chewing in frantic silence. 40
- 7 'So,' he said, 'tell me about this exciting voyage, eh? Canton, was it? Did they feed you anything funny?' 45
- They glanced at each other, unsure of what to say. Letty began to cry.
- 'Oh, come now,' Billings nudged the mug of warm milk closer to her, 'it can't have been that bad.'
- 8 Letty shook her head. She bit her lip, but a whining noise burst out. It was not a mere sniffle but a stormy, full-body cry. She clamped her hands over her face and sobbed heartily, shoulders quaking, incoherent words leaking through her fingers. 50
- 9 'She was homesick,' Victoire said lamely. 'She was, ah, quite homesick.'
- Billings reached out to pat Letty's shoulder. 'All's well, child. You're back home, you're safe.'
- 10 Quarter of an hour later, they all drifted back to their personal rooms.
- 11 As Robin sat down on his lumpy mattress and breathed in the familiar comforting scent of old books and mildew, Robin felt that if he only lay back and closed his eyes, he could get up in the morning and head to class like nothing ever happened. 55

Section C

Text 4

The article below outlines the case for nuclear power.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 14 – 19.

- 1 The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud computing is reshaping energy usage and ballooning energy demand. In the energy industry, for example, many people are now considering 'sustainable production' by nuclear power reactors, which uses abundant metals and environmentally-friendly generation process, over 'renewable production' which often harms the environment. Many nations, keen on nuclear power, are now incentivising energy companies to overhaul the complete workflow of uranium metal sourcing, energy production, nuclear reactor design, power grid deployment, and fair-trade practices for workers in the energy industry. Renewable production – creation of significant power using wind farms and hydropower dams – although a major source of domestic power supply in fossil fuel-poor nations, causes soil degradation and human habitat displacement. While people want more energy supplies, they rue the day of this 'empowerment' by renewable production when they are told to migrate. Many prefer to stay put in their homes and farmland. They resent any loss of control over their habitat and livelihoods. Hence, there is a growing case for nuclear power solutions in these nations. 5 10
- 2 Most renewable production practices of the energy industry today have to be decommissioned; for example, hydropower dams are man-made reservoirs that trap fertilisers which run into the water from the surrounding land. In some developing countries, sewage flows directly into the reservoirs. A 2023 scientific report revealed that fish biodiversity in the Lower Mekong Basin declined with dam development; fish fauna in the Sesan Basin decreased from 60 to 42 species. Wind turbines in wind farms are known to kill large birds, such as golden eagles, that live nearby. Wind farms are also harmful to humans, especially those working in farms; the combination of wind turbine noise and infrasound from industrial wind turbines can cause cognitive dysfunction. 15 20
- 3 The future of energy production lies in nuclear power generation, or sustainable production. Notwithstanding the fact that no process is totally perfect, governments have chosen to pivot to nuclear power grids to address emerging energy needs. Data centres are driving new energy demand, and governments are paying attention. In 2025, major technology companies raced to secure fast and reliable electricity supplies. Their urgency to expand computing capacity has pushed them to consider nuclear power and governments want to help. Speed, reliability, and 24/7 availability have become critical factors driving nuclear power demand. Moreover, to attract new human talent and new companies that provide a source of employment to their nations, governments in developed and developing countries increasingly back nuclear power adoption. 25 30
- 4 The world is witnessing a new kind of global race – not for authority in space but for control over the global nuclear energy market. Nuclear power adoption had long been considered risky owing to major accidents and budget overruns, hampering its large-scale adoption. But within the past decade, nuclear energy has been making a comeback thanks to the development of small modular reactors (SMRs). Governments of China and Russia are seizing the lead, expanding their domestic capacities as well as encouraging the export of nuclear technology and construction of nuclear power plants across a variety of emerging economies. 35 40

- 5 Channel News Asia (CNA), a news agency in Singapore, reported that 95 per cent of Singapore's electricity is generated from natural gas – a heavy reliance that leaves the country vulnerable to global price swings and supply chain shocks. It implies that future SMR nuclear power plants can help Singapore to avoid these experiences. Singapore's government agency, the Energy Market Authority has acknowledged that nuclear energy adoption is an emotive subject, and it should build the public's understanding of and the confidence in the nuclear technologies before its potential deployment in the future. It also shared that besides requiring less land than is usually required for traditional nuclear power plants, future SMR plants can use passive safety systems to shut down and cool the reactors without pumps or human intervention. 45 50

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Text 1	Adapted https://www.mse.gov.sg/yoca
Text 2	Original source
Text 3	Kuang, R. F. (2022). <i>Babel, or the necessity of violence: An arcane history of the Oxford translators' revolution</i> . Harper
Text 4	https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/other-nuclear-race
Text 4	https://carboncredits.com/2026-the-year-nuclear-power-reclaims-relevance-with-15-reactors-ai-demand-and-chinas-expansion/
Text 4	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-023-35665-9
Text 4	https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3653647/
Text 4	https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/archive/releases/2016/Q3/wind-turbines-killing-more-than-just-local-birds,-study-finds.html
Text 4	https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/nuclear-power-research-manpower-safety-public-confidence-reactors-smrs-singapore-5863546