

95-CE
ENG LANG
SYL B
PAPER
II

MC

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
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ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SYLLABUS B) PAPER II
MULTIPLE-CHOICE

10.30 am–11.30 am (1 hour)

Subject Code 021

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read carefully the instructions on the Answer Sheet and insert the information required (including the Subject Code) in the spaces provided.
2. When told to open this book, check that all the questions are there. Look for the words 'END OF PAPER' after the last question.
3. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.
4. All the answers should be marked on the Answer Sheet.
5. You may only mark ONE answer to each question. Two or more answers will score NO MARKS.
6. All questions carry equal marks. Marks will not be deducted for wrong answers.

Part I Comprehension

Passage A Read the following article and then answer questions 1–15.

Windmills in Britain

Chris Lord-Smith, who lives in a remote area of Wales, is a committed environmentalist. He is a member of the Association for Environment-Conscious Building and has campaigned to reduce pollution and acid rain. So when a wind farm was proposed for the hills surrounding his home, he wholeheartedly endorsed the plan. After all, he thought, wind power was an indisputably clean form of energy, and for years environmentalists had been arguing that more effort should be put into developing it. It derived energy from a source which carries none of the economic and environmental costs associated with fossil fuels or nuclear fission, one which was clean, free and unlikely ever to be exhausted. Like solar power, it seemed one of the most viable natural methods of producing electricity. The technology involved, moreover, was not entirely new, windmills having existed for centuries. All that was needed was to develop more efficient forms of windmill.

However, once the 103 turbines started turning on the beautiful hills around his home, Lord-Smith changed his mind. 'I asked the project-manager if there was any special reason why it was so noisy,' Lord-Smith recalls. 'He said that it wasn't unusually noisy at all — certainly not more noisy than one would expect.' Lord-Smith was just as horrified by the effect on his beloved landscape: giant steel pylons marching over acres of green land. 'So then I started looking into it,' he says. 'My research turned up quite a number of problems associated with wind farms. Now, quite apart from the aesthetic effect, I've got serious doubts as to whether they are economically sound. Trying to generate electricity with wind is like trying to irrigate the Sahara with a watering-can.'

Two years ago wind power was as sacred as the rainforest to Britain's environmentalists. But that was only until wind farms actually began to appear. Nineteen of them have now sprouted round the country and a growing minority of the green movement see wind-generated electricity as a major mistake. They argue that wind farms are costly, inefficient, unreliable and a threat to birds. And above all, they say, the tall white turbines are marring the landscape. Public opposition to wind farms is building. Last month more than 60 celebrities, including the novelist, Iris Murdoch, and show business personalities, Emma Thompson and Cliff Richard, sent a letter to *The Times* protesting against a proposal to build several wind farms in Yorkshire on the moors surrounding the home of the famous 19th century novelist, Emily Bronte. They felt that the

countryside which inspired *Wuthering Heights* ought to be left in its original state. Elsewhere in England villagers have voted unanimously to fight against plans to build wind farms in their neighbourhoods. The critics are becoming increasingly angry. 'People who think they're attractive need their heads examined,' says one of them.

The British Isles, particularly Scotland, were the windiest part of Europe even before the hot air started blowing. But while wind power has long been harnessed with modern technology in Denmark, Holland and Belgium, this happened in Britain only after electricity generation was privatised in 1989. The government then obliged electricity companies to buy 20 per cent of their power from sources other than coal, oil and gas. That sounds promising for alternative energy, but in fact only three per cent of that power comes from renewable sources: the rest is nuclear-generated. Those who tend to be suspicious of the government's motives see the obligation to use alternative sources as a trick by the government to be seen to be green without actually doing anything. If all it achieves is to increase the country's reliance on nuclear power, the environmental gain is minimal.

The main problem is that for wind to provide half as much energy as nuclear power, at least 40 000 turbines would have to be erected. Currently there are only 380, not enough to supply more than a tiny fraction of the country's electricity. Proponents of wind power argue that a useful start has been made and that all it needs now is for the government to throw itself energetically behind wind power. They dismiss the current backlash as teething troubles. Wind farm developers are learning how to minimise noise and the visual blight by adding insulation and by following the contour of the land more closely. Indeed, some residents living near wind farms appear to be warming to the idea. A survey taken around the Delabole wind farm in Cornwall found that fewer people thought it had destroyed the scenery than had expected it to do so before it was built. 'Some people view wind farms as elegant and inspiring symbols of non-polluting energy,' says Fiona Weightman of Friends of the Earth. 'You have to weigh being able to see a few wind turbines against being poisoned by acid rain.' Twenty new wind farms are already being planned and a further 230 have been proposed. But in view of the aesthetic objections, the government is unlikely to act quickly. The Energy Ministry isn't likely to make any more decisions until it sees which way the political wind is blowing.

(Freely adapted from articles in *Newsweek*, 28th March, 1994.)

1. With regard to the work of trying to protect the environment Mr Lord-Smith is
 - A. moderately interested in it.
 - B. whole-heartedly opposed to it.
 - C. actively involved in it.
 - D. strongly committed to reducing it.
2. In line 7, 'endorsed' means
 - A. disliked.
 - B. refuted.
 - C. designed.
 - D. supported.
3. An 'indisputably clean form of energy' (lines 8-9) means one that
 - A. will perhaps not cause much pollution.
 - B. undoubtedly causes no harm to the environment.
 - C. has provoked some degree of controversy.
 - D. is unlikely to generate sufficient energy.
4. One advantage of wind power mentioned in paragraph one is that
 - A. there will presumably always be wind.
 - B. no other energy source is so viable.
 - C. it requires minimal maintenance.
 - D. it is more efficient than fossil fuels.
5. In line 15, 'it' refers to
 - A. energy source.
 - B. solar power.
 - C. wind power.
 - D. natural method.
6. In lines 16-17, 'the technology involved' means
 - A. ways of producing power from wind.
 - B. ancient types of windmill.
 - C. a system for producing free energy.
 - D. more efficient generation of electricity.
7. Mr Lord-Smith did some research because he thought the windmills near his home were
 - A. not economical.
 - B. large and powerful.
 - C. moving too fast.
 - D. noisy and ugly.
8. After his research, Mr Lord-Smith has decided that wind farms
 - A. would be more suitable for irrigating the Sahara.
 - B. may not produce enough power to be worthwhile.
 - C. will not have any effect on the landscape.
 - D. can contribute a valuable aesthetic effect.
9. For a growing minority of British environmentalists the most serious objection to wind farms is that they
 - A. are only reliable on windy days.
 - B. have been incorrectly designed.
 - C. increasingly arouse public opposition.
 - D. destroy the beauty of the landscape.
10. The use of modern types of windmill began in Britain when
 - A. supplies of coal, oil and gas began to be exhausted.
 - B. the government insisted on the use of alternative sources.
 - C. people began to suspect the government's motives.
 - D. the air began to heat up over the British Isles.
11. According to paragraph 4, the government's energy policy will
 - A. have a promising effect on the environment.
 - B. reduce the efficiency of electricity companies.
 - C. scarcely improve environmental protection.
 - D. make people more suspicious of wind power.
12. According to paragraph 5, a solution to one of the problems of wind farms is to
 - A. convince local people that they produce warmth.
 - B. make them less noisy by using more insulation.
 - C. eliminate both the backlash and the teething problems.
 - D. make turbines more efficient by reducing their weight.
13. The purpose of making wind farms follow the contour of the land (line 88) is to
 - A. make them appear more natural and less noticeable.
 - B. reduce the chance of their adding to global warming.
 - C. prevent the mistaken idea that they cause acid rain.
 - D. enable a greater number of turbines to be erected.
14. According to paragraph 5, the writer believes that
 - A. wind turbines can poison people with acid rain.
 - B. wind farms contribute to the problem of global warming.
 - C. probably no more wind farms will be built in the immediate future.
 - D. wind farms are definitely an efficient energy source.
15. The main point made in this article is that
 - A. wind farms are not a perfect ecological solution to the energy problem.
 - B. global warming is the most serious problem facing the world at present.
 - C. the British Government is not sufficiently committed to wind power.
 - D. the environment is being endangered by reliance on nuclear power.

Passage B Read the following article and then answer questions 16–25.

5 The Regional Council's decision to install shark nets at three Hong Kong beaches is controversial to say the least. The scheme comes with an \$8.9 million price tag and after the test period, routine maintenance will total an additional \$1 million per beach every year. As the elaborate high-tech barricades go up, sceptics are asking whether it is all worth it, especially in view of the fact that there are many other beaches which will remain unprotected.

10 The history of this move is worth considering. Investigations into ways of preventing shark attacks began after a bather was killed in June 1991. In response to public concern, a team of regional councillors visited Australia to study the safety measures used there. In their report they concluded that shark nets were not cost-effective and that the best way of dealing with the problem would be to develop an early warning system together with increased lifeguard surveillance at shark-prone beaches. Then in 1993 what are thought to have been tiger sharks killed twice in 10 days and Hong Kong was gripped by something like shark mania. The Australian shark hunter Vic Hislop was flown in by a local newspaper and spent weeks trailing pieces of raw meat up and down Hong Kong waters to absolutely no effect, while 'fin spotting' replaced sunbathing as Hong Kong's most popular beach activity. Another committee was set up to study the problem and it decided that nets should be installed at the scene of last year's fatalities and two other beaches. One member of the shark prevention committee puts it like this: 'There was a huge public outcry. We thought the netting was worth the money because the problem had returned and was getting more serious.'

40 But was it? No shark attacks were reported in the 12 years from 1979 to 1991. No one, of course, knows how many sharks there are around Hong Kong, but the curator of Ocean Park Aquarium has doubts on the subject. 'I've been in contact with many, many fishermen over the years and they seem to think there aren't man-eating sharks of any quantity anywhere near Hong Kong. And if anyone should know, it's the fishermen.' According to the chairman of the Marine Conservation Society it is the sharks themselves that are imperilled. 'They've all been caught, definned for the sake of soup, and thrown back,' he says. He points out that there are hundreds of divers in the water all the time and they don't see any sharks. Even if there are sharks

around, there is no reason to think they will attack. 'There doesn't seem to have been any consistent pattern of attack in the past 12 years,' says Brian Morton, director of HKU's Swire Marine Laboratory. 'Last year was unfortunate, but I don't think we can really say either that there will be or there will not be attacks next summer. It's rather like the chances of being hit by lightning.' When the risk of being attacked by a shark is set against the dangers of crossing the road, for example, it seems negligible. Over 200 people a year are killed on Hong Kong roads.

65 This being Hong Kong, the government has gone for the most expensive scheme available. The system chosen is state-of-the-art, tailor-made in Norway, using nets 50 per cent thicker than those used in fish farming and anchored to the ocean floor by tons of concrete. 'We wanted to have the best result from the money we spent,' says a Regional Council committee member. 'We did not want to do something half-hearted.' The makers say that they have studied Hong Kong's situation thoroughly and taken great care to produce a system which will have a positive environmental effect. The nets will be held up by yellow floating polyethylene pipes that move with the sea like a sea snake. They will have additional benefits because besides sharks they should prevent other things from entering the bathing area. In addition to keeping out jellyfish, they will protect the beach from sea-borne refuse. 'Had they been only designed to deal with sharks,' says a director of the Norwegian company that makes them, 'they would have been useless most of the year.'

85 Whatever the quality of the nets, it is quite impractical to protect every at-risk area with nets. There are at least 30 swimming beaches frequented across Hong Kong, and hundreds of pleasure boats that go out to remote islands where there is no way the government could provide protection. The anti-shark committee defend their decision by saying that at least now some swimmers will be able to feel safe. Yet many people feel the plan is purely cosmetic and is only being carried out in response to public pressure — because somebody has to be seen to be doing something. Perhaps the most practical anti-shark measure would be for the public to bring common sense into play. The last three shark attacks were isolated incidents, taking place very early in the morning. At night or at dusk and dawn, when sharks usually feed, there is an obvious risk. Otherwise the danger is negligible.

(Adapted from an article by Andrea Anderson-Ribadeneira in *Window*, 8th April, 1994.)

16. In line 7, 'sceptics' means people who
- want to know how much the scheme will cost.
 - doubt if the scheme will be cost-effective.
 - don't believe the cost is too high.
 - can't understand why the price tag is \$8.9 million.
17. In the second paragraph, the writer's main aim is to present
- the results of a visit to Australia by some regional councillors.
 - the reasons why the shark problem needs to be taken seriously.
 - an account of Vic Hislop's unsuccessful attempt to catch a shark.
 - the events which led up to the decision to use shark nets.
18. Which of the following is correct according to paragraph 2?
- Two tiger sharks were killed in Hong Kong waters in 1993.
 - Vic Hislop came to Hong Kong to set up an early warning system.
 - Vic Hislop recommended the use of shark nets in Hong Kong.
 - A newspaper paid for Vic Hislop's visit to Hong Kong.
19. The first sentence of paragraph 3, 'But was it?', questions whether
- the danger had really returned.
 - the problem was getting more serious.
 - the sharks were really dangerous.
 - the public was really concerned.
20. The writer's main aim in paragraph 3 is to present the idea that
- Hong Kong fishermen know a lot about sharks.
 - the number of sharks around Hong Kong is not known.
 - there is no great risk of shark attacks in Hong Kong.
 - a large number of people are killed on the roads.
21. In paragraph 4, the writer implies that
- Hong Kong always wants the best.
 - the system is not very up-to-date.
 - the scheme is more suitable for Europe.
 - the nets will only keep out sharks.
22. The writer's main aim in paragraph 4 is to
- criticise the Regional Council's decision.
 - consider the danger from sharks.
 - describe the anti-shark system.
 - point out the system's faults.
23. According to this article, the system's chief drawback is that
- many beaches will remain unprotected.
 - it will interfere with pleasure boats.
 - swimmers will feel safe when they are not.
 - it is unlikely ever to be installed.
24. According to this article, the best way to avoid danger is to swim only
- at the three protected beaches.
 - in the middle of the day.
 - where you can be clearly seen.
 - at night or at dusk and dawn.
25. Which of the following would be the most suitable title for this article?
- Work of Regional Council praised*
 - Anti-shark committee needed*
 - Shark hunting mania*
 - Expensive scheme under attack*

Part II Usage

Decide which of the choices below would best complete the article if inserted in the blanks.

Women's Rights

The (26) demonstration by Hong Kong New Territories villagers against Legco's (27) to change the inheritance laws (28) of women has drawn (29) to the violence that underlies relations between men and women in China. (30) the statistics published in China last week on the number of unmarried men (31) the number of unmarried women: there are over 7 million unmarried men (32) the ages of 30 and 40, but only 500 000 single women. Last year the authorities (33) that there would be 5 million extra males in Guangxi province alone (34) 15 years. This imbalance results from 'the harmful influence of feudal practices (35) the drowning of babies', as an official report put it. The report also (36) to the effect of ultra-sound scanning which (37)

parents to know the sex of a child in (38) and therefore (39) abortions. After the report (40), posters were (41) everywhere declaring 'men and women are equal' and (42) happy parents playing with a small girl. But few people really believe this. In the country a girl (43) the property of the man she (44) and goes to live with his family. She no longer has anything to (45) her own family. This is why New Territories villagers (46) that when a man (47), he can only leave his property to a son. If a girl were to (48), they say, it (49) that the land could pass into the possession of another family. (50) this view, a change in the inheritance laws, (51) women to inherit, would (52) the destruction of the family.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 26. A. previously
B. lately
C. recent
D. frequent | 33. A. warned
B. blamed
C. accused
D. criticised | 40. A. came out
B. put forth
C. found out
D. set forth | 47. A. dead
B. died
C. was dead
D. dies |
| 27. A. attempt
B. debate
C. function
D. protest | 34. A. by
B. from
C. within
D. during | 41. A. laid out
B. put up
C. taken over
D. sent around | 48. A. receive
B. inherit
C. possess
D. acquire |
| 28. A. because
B. in favour
C. for the attention
D. in view | 35. A. as
B. like
C. as if
D. similar | 42. A. showing
B. revealing
C. demonstrating
D. watching | 49. A. would mean
B. will result
C. should affect
D. can ensure |
| 29. A. threat
B. notice
C. attention
D. influence | 36. A. referred
B. referring
C. was referred
D. had reference | 43. A. became
B. becomes
C. had become
D. has become | 50. A. Besides
B. No matter
C. According to
D. In addition to |
| 30. A. Count
B. Mention
C. Imagine
D. Take | 37. A. tells
B. reveals
C. informs
D. allows | * 44. A. marries
B. marriage
C. married to
D. got married | 51. A. making
B. encouraging
C. preventing
D. permitting |
| 31. A. comparing
B. compared with
C. by comparison
D. comparable | 38. A. demand
B. future
C. conclusion
D. advance | 45. A. give away
B. go for
C. make up
D. do with | 52. A. come up with
B. take on
C. bring about
D. put forward |
| 32. A. at
B. about
C. around
D. between | 39. A. results
B. encourages
C. contributes
D. proposes | 46. A. persuade
B. deny
C. insist
D. convince | |

Decide which of the choices below would best complete the article if inserted in the blanks.

The Commercialisation of Postman Pat

When John Cunliffe sat down in the back bedroom of his home in England's Lake District 15 years ago and started to write a story about a postman (53) Pat, he (54) not aware of the importance of what he was doing. Only now does he realise the significance of that event.

John Cunliffe wrote, as he always (55) , for the fun of it. He regarded writing (56) a pleasant change from his work as a teacher at the local primary school. He was feeling (57) and rather lonely that day because (58) his wife and his son were away. His son was at boarding school and his wife (59) as a mature student to (60) a course at a distant university. To (61) himself up, he decided to write (62) a world which was as happy as he (63) make it. Writing about such a world provided (64) with an opportunity to compensate for some of the things that (65) to him when he was young. As a schoolboy, John

Cunliffe had suffered a lot from bullying because although he was (66) taller than other boys of his age, he (67) fighting. (68) he invented a place where people were never (69) to each other. This village, with its friendly postman, was a vision of innocence and perfection.

The BBC liked John Cunliffe's stories about Postman Pat, (70) they proposed a series of 15-minute films. The films were to be made by one of the best animators in the country, Ivor Wood. John Cunliffe was (71) to sell the rights for the stories to Wood's company, Woodland Animations. The films were such a success that a whole industry (72) grown up around them, producing T-shirts and sticker-books and comics, some of them very badly written. (73) annoys John Cunliffe most is not the (74) that other people are making a lot of money out of his idea, but that his vision has been spoiled by commercialisation.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 53. A. calls | 59. A. goes | 65. A. happening | 71. A. demanded |
| B. called | B. is going | B. were happening | B. obliged |
| C. was called | C. has gone | C. would have happened | C. opposed |
| D. who called | D. had gone | D. had happened | D. insisted |
| 54. A. did | 60. A. have | 66. A. quite | 72. A. should have |
| B. had | B. learn | B. much | B. would be |
| C. was | C. register | C. more | C. had been |
| D. could | D. take | D. very | D. has |
| 55. A. did | 61. A. get | 67. A. wasn't like | 73. A. It |
| B. was | B. bring | B. isn't liked | B. That |
| C. did so | C. push | C. hasn't liked | C. What |
| D. does so | D. cheer | D. didn't like | D. Which |
| 56. A. as | 62. A. in | 68. A. Moreover | 74. A. fact |
| B. was | B. for | B. So | B. theory |
| C. for | C. about | C. However | C. rumour |
| D. is | D. against | D. Yet | D. truth |
| 57. A. boring | 63. A. possible to | 69. A. unkind | |
| B. boredom | B. was possible to | B. angry | |
| C. bored | C. could possibly | C. upset | |
| D. boringly | D. had possibility to | D. disgusted | |
| 58. A. of | 64. A. him | 70. A. after | |
| B. once | B. himself | B. and | |
| C. both | C. for him | C. that | |
| D. then | D. to himself | D. which | |

END OF PAPER

1995 English Language (Syllabus B) Paper II

Question No.	Key	Question No.	Key
1.	C	38.	D
2.	D	39.	B
3.	B	40.	A
4.	A	41.	B
5.	C	42.	A
6.	A	43.	B
7.	D	44.	A
8.	B	45.	D
9.	D	46.	C
10.	B	47.	D
11.	C	48.	B
12.	B	49.	A
13.	A	50.	C
14.	C	51.	D
15.	A	52.	C
16.	B	53.	B
17.	D	54.	C
18.	D	55.	A
19.	B	56.	A
20.	C	57.	C
21.	A	58.	C
22.	C	59.	D
23.	A	60.	D
24.	B	61.	D
25.	D	62.	C
26.	C	63.	C
27.	A	64.	A
28.	B	65.	D
29.	C	66.	B
30.	D	67.	D
31.	B	68.	B
32.	D	69.	A
33.	A	70.	B
34.	C	71.	B
35.	B	72.	D
36.	A	73.	C
37.	D	74.	A