GAUTENG PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

JUNE EXAMINATION
GRADE 12

2026

ENGLISH
HOME LANGUAGE

(PAPER 1)

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE P1

C2041E

TIME: 2 hours

MARKS: 70

13 pages

X05

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. This question paper consists of THREE sections:

SECTION A: Comprehension	(30)
SECTION B: Summary	(10)
SECTION C: Language structures and conventions	(30)

2. Read ALL the instructions carefully.

3. Answer ALL the questions.

4. Start EACH section on a NEW page.

5. Rule off after each section.

6. Number the answers correctly according to the numbering system used in this question paper.

7. Leave a line open after each answer.

8. Pay special attention to spelling and sentence construction.

9. Suggested time allocation:

   SECTION A: 50 minutes
   SECTION B: 30 minutes
   SECTION C: 40 minutes

10. Write neatly and legibly.

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION

QUESTION 1: READING FOR MEANING AND UNDERSTANDING

Read TEXTS A and B below and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT A

UNHEALTHY LIFESTYLE HABITS CAUSING DECLINE IN ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Modern lifestyle habits have created walking time bombs.

1 Adolescence is a critical stage of development, often described as both exciting and tumultuous as teenagers stumble their way through brand new life experiences. Importantly, this time is exceptionally sensitive to external factors that shape fundamental components of a child's physical and mental health.
"The teenage years are a critical window for growth and development – physically, mentally, and emotionally – and they set the foundation for long-term health," says Dr Li, author of a research study.

2 Teenage development is a highly sensitive stage of human growth. During this time, lifestyle factors are of critical importance to ensure that teenagers are getting everything they need to keep healthy and well throughout their youth until adulthood. With an exponential rise in time spent doing sedentary activities[1] amongst the population, adults are moving less, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

3 Sedentary activities come in many forms but encompasses extended periods of sitting or lying down and not moving. Watching television and using the computer are types of sedentary activities. More recently, it also includes excessive time spent on addictive social media platforms, streaming services and the overwhelming amount of time-consuming online content. This overconsumption can have its own catalogue of negative repercussions, such as sleep disruptions and feelings of anxiety.

4 Critically, studies have shown that sedentary behaviour has a significantly negative impact on health and quality of life. It is linked to an increased risk of developing chronic metabolic and cardiovascular diseases, such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease, and even some types of cancers. The 1980s brought a wave of industrially manufactured convenience foods, eventually termed ultra-processed food (UPF). This encompasses refined foods made with numerous additives and flavour enhancers that are not found in normal kitchens at home. UPF products include things like fizzy drinks and fast-food items. It also includes more unsuspected food items, like sliced bread, flavoured yoghurts and cereals.

5 Research shows that high levels of sedentary behaviour in combination with UPF consumption can increase things like anxiety-induced sleep disturbances and increase the risk of developing mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. Sleep is of critical importance for our bodies to function properly, particularly during adolescence, where it plays a key role in brain development, emotional regulation and development of the immune system.
"… with junk food so readily available, and physical activity often replaced by screen time, more teens are picking up multiple unhealthy habits that could lead to serious health issues down the track." – Dr. Li explains.

6 Therefore, unhealthy lifestyles, such as sedentary behaviours and high levels of UPF consumption can be detrimental to physical and mental well-being in numerous ways. Researchers from the University of South Australia unveiled the jarring statistics of adolescents who have acquired these lethargic lifestyle choices, discussing the potential causes and their pernicious[2] implications.

7 The researchers carried out a multilevel analysis from data obtained from school-based surveys to understand the extent to which unhealthy behaviours impacted adolescent health and well-being. The study explores various unhealthy lifestyle behaviours, including diet and levels of physical activity, and their impact on 293 770 adolescents from 73 countries and territories across five WHO regions. They found that: 85% did not get enough exercise, 80% did not eat enough fruit and vegetables, 50% regularly consumed fast food, 39% had too many soft drinks, 32% spent excessive time on screens. The results highlight the unfortunate issue that globally, teenagers are not consuming the right foods, are spending too much time on screens and not moving enough. These behaviours can have detrimental knock-on effects on children's health and future.

8 Importantly, the authors saw that these unhealthy behaviours may be associated with and influenced by certain familial, environmental and socio-economic factors. Specifically, the results showed that teenagers from higher income countries, which include the Americas and countries within the Eastern Mediterranean, were more likely to adopt these unhealthy behaviours. "Some of what we see comes down to rapid urbanisation, sedentary school environments, and limited access to safe recreational spaces, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. On top of this, taste preferences, household income, and limited availability of fresh produce – especially in disadvantaged areas – make healthy choices harder to access and maintain." – Dr. Li.

9 The authors found certain protective factors which helped reduce unhealthy behaviours. This included familial support and a strong sense of community for the teenagers. "When teenagers have supportive families and a supportive peer group, their risk of having four or more unhealthy behaviours reduces by 16% and 4% respectively. Similarly, food-secure households also reduce risk by 9%."

10	These statistics highlight the complexity of the issue at hand, with the presence of unhealthy behaviours in teenagers tying into factors such as family background and socioeconomic status. The authors discuss how the development of better frameworks for adolescents is of the utmost importance for their well-being and future. This includes instilling adequate education in schools, about healthy eating and accessibility to sport which foster both a sense of community and improve physical and mental wellbeing. Ultimately, good health needs to be an easier, more accessible choice – not one that requires privilege, planning, and willpower," Dr. Li concludes.	75 80

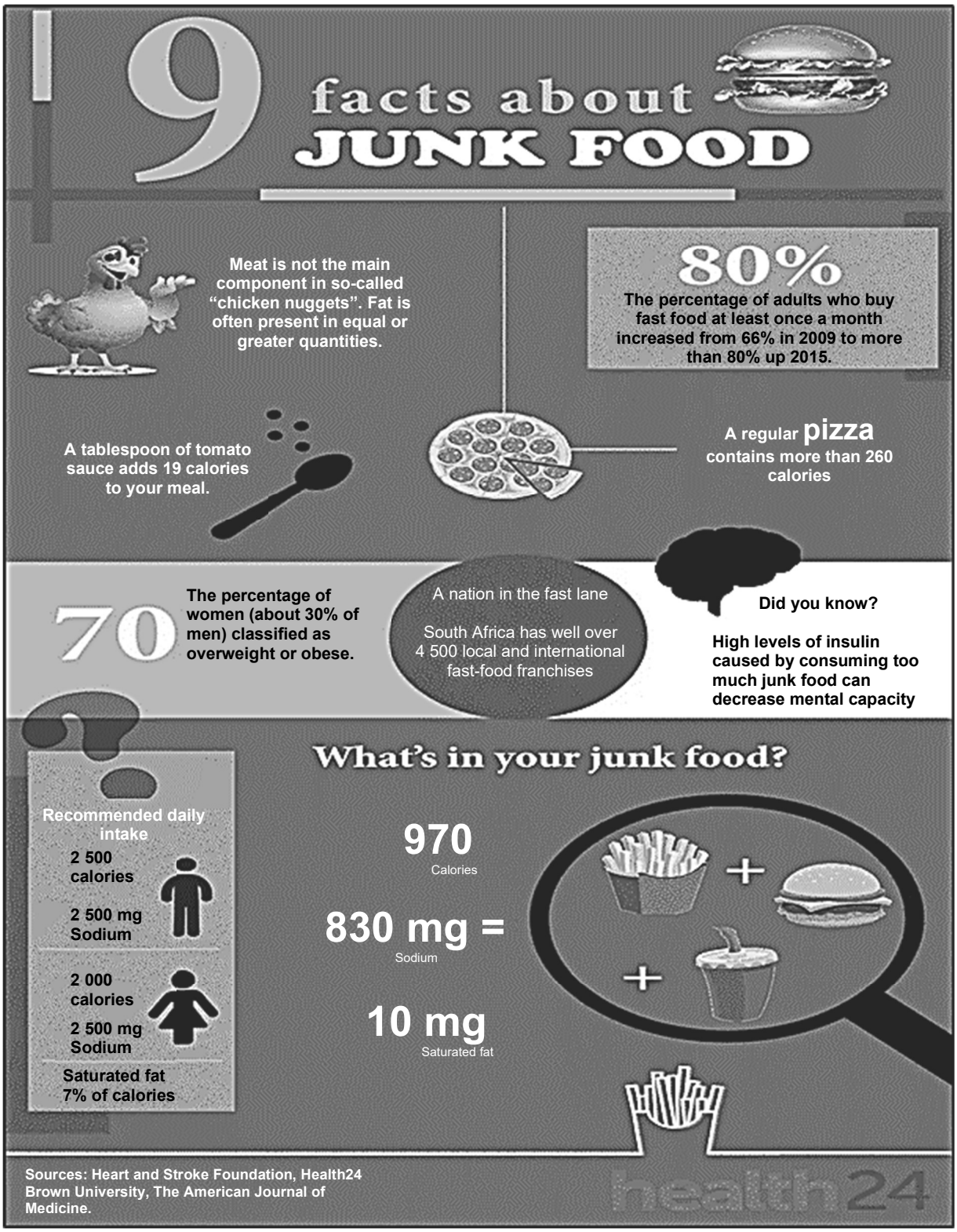
[Adapted from WHO/ UNICEF/PAHO]

GLOSSARY

Sedentary activity[1]: low energy behaviour
Pernicious[2]: destructive/gradual consequences

AND

TEXT B



[Adapted from Health24]

QUESTIONS: TEXT A

1.1 Provide a definition of the word 'tumultuous' in line 2. (2)

1.2 Refer to paragraph 2.

What does the term 'exponential rise' infer about the level of teenage development? (2)

1.3 Describe the writer's attitude regarding teenagers' recreational activities in paragraph 3. (2)

1.4 Refer to paragraph 4.

Explain the euphemism in the term 'unsuspected food items'. (2)

1.5 Show how the diction in paragraph 6 highlights the harmful effects of a sedentary lifestyle. Include TWO examples of diction in your response. (3)

1.6 Refer to paragraph 7.

Critically comment on the validity of the statistics accumulated by the University of South Australia. (3)

1.7 Refer to paragraph 8.

Discuss the point that the writer is making about the socio-economic factors with reference to healthy lifestyle choices. (3)

1.8 Refer to paragraph 9.

Describe TWO 'protective factors' that can promote a healthier lifestyle. (3)

1.9 To what extent does the concluding paragraph support the subheading 'Modern lifestyle habits have created walking time bombs'? (3)

QUESTIONS: TEXT B

1.10 Explain the pun: "A nation in the fast lane." (2)

1.11 Critically discuss the effectiveness of the statistics in relation to the differences between the genders. (2)

QUESTIONS: TEXTS A and B

1.12 Critically discuss the extent to which the 'Did you know?' fact illustrates the writer's view in paragraph 5 of TEXT A. (3)

TOTAL SECTION A: 30

SECTION B: SUMMARY

QUESTION 2: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS

TEXT C discusses the current economic growth trend for South African youth. Summarise, in your own words, **how young adults can be assisted to overcome the high rate of unemployment to become financially independent adults.**

NOTE:
1. Your summary should include SEVEN points and NOT exceed **90 words**.
2. You must write ONE fluent paragraph.
3. You are NOT required to include a title for the summary.
4. Indicate your word count at the end of your summary.

TEXT C

ON-SITE VS REMOTE JOBS: PROS AND CONS

As the world evolves and embraces new technologies, traditional and modern work styles inevitably collide, sparking debates and comparisons. On one side, we have the tried-and-tested on-site jobs, while on the other, the rising star of remote jobs takes centre stage. The question on everyone's lips: Which one reigns supreme?

Employees are tethered to a specific physical location dictated by their employers. This often entails commuting to an office, factory, retail store, or healthcare facility which can consume valuable time and energy, leading to stress and fatigue. Contrastingly, remote jobs offer the freedom to work from virtually anywhere, with home being the most common workspace. The defining characteristic of remote jobs is the ability to perform tasks and communicate with colleagues using technology, primarily relying on an internet connection.

Direct interaction with colleagues, clients, and supervisors is a hallmark of on-site roles, fostering face-to-face collaboration and communication and ensuring immediate access to resources. On the other hand, remote jobs provide a flexibility of location which liberates employees from the constraints of a traditional office setup, enabling them to craft their work environments to be optimally conducive to productivity and comfort. On-site jobs often have fixed schedules. Remote jobs are particularly prevalent in industries such as software development, digital marketing, customer support, and online education, where tasks can be completed independently and communication can seamlessly occur through virtual platforms. Remote jobs often offer more flexibility in terms of work hours and location, it saves time and money that commuting would have consumed, and it also reduces stress.

On-site jobs typically adhere to fixed working hours, while remote jobs often offer more flexibility in scheduling, allowing employees to balance work and personal commitments. Remote jobs offer greater task autonomy, as employees are responsible for managing their tasks and time independently, whereas on-site jobs may involve more structured supervision and oversight.

Navigating office politics and dynamics can be challenging and may lead to workplace stress or conflicts. Remote work can blur the lines between work and personal life, making it challenging to establish clear boundaries and disconnect from work.

Working remotely can lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness, especially for extroverted individuals who thrive on social interaction. Remote work can result in a lack of face-to-face interaction with colleagues, which may hinder relationship-building and collaborative efforts which are easily achieved on-site.

Remote work can contribute to reducing carbon emissions associated with commuting and office energy consumption, leading to a positive environmental impact. On-site work exposes individuals to health risks such as commuting-related accidents or exposure to illnesses in crowded office spaces.

Both models have their merits, and the choice between them ultimately depends on individual preferences, job requirements, and organisational culture.

[Source: https://remote4africa.com/blog/on-site-vs-remote-jobs-pros-and-cons]

TOTAL SECTION B: 10

SECTION C: LANGUAGE STRUCTURES AND CONVENTIONS

QUESTION 3: ANALYSING ADVERTISING

Study the advertisement (TEXT D) below and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT D



[Adapted from Amazon: UK]

QUESTIONS: TEXT D

3.1 Describe the purpose of the movement: FRIDAYS FOR FUTURE. (2)

3.2 Comment on TWO techniques that the graphic artist has used in the written and visual text to influence the reader. (3)

3.3 Account for the tone in the headline: 2019 LED LARGEST CLIMATE PROTEST IN HISTORY. (2)

3.4 Critically discuss the symbolism of the fist. (2)

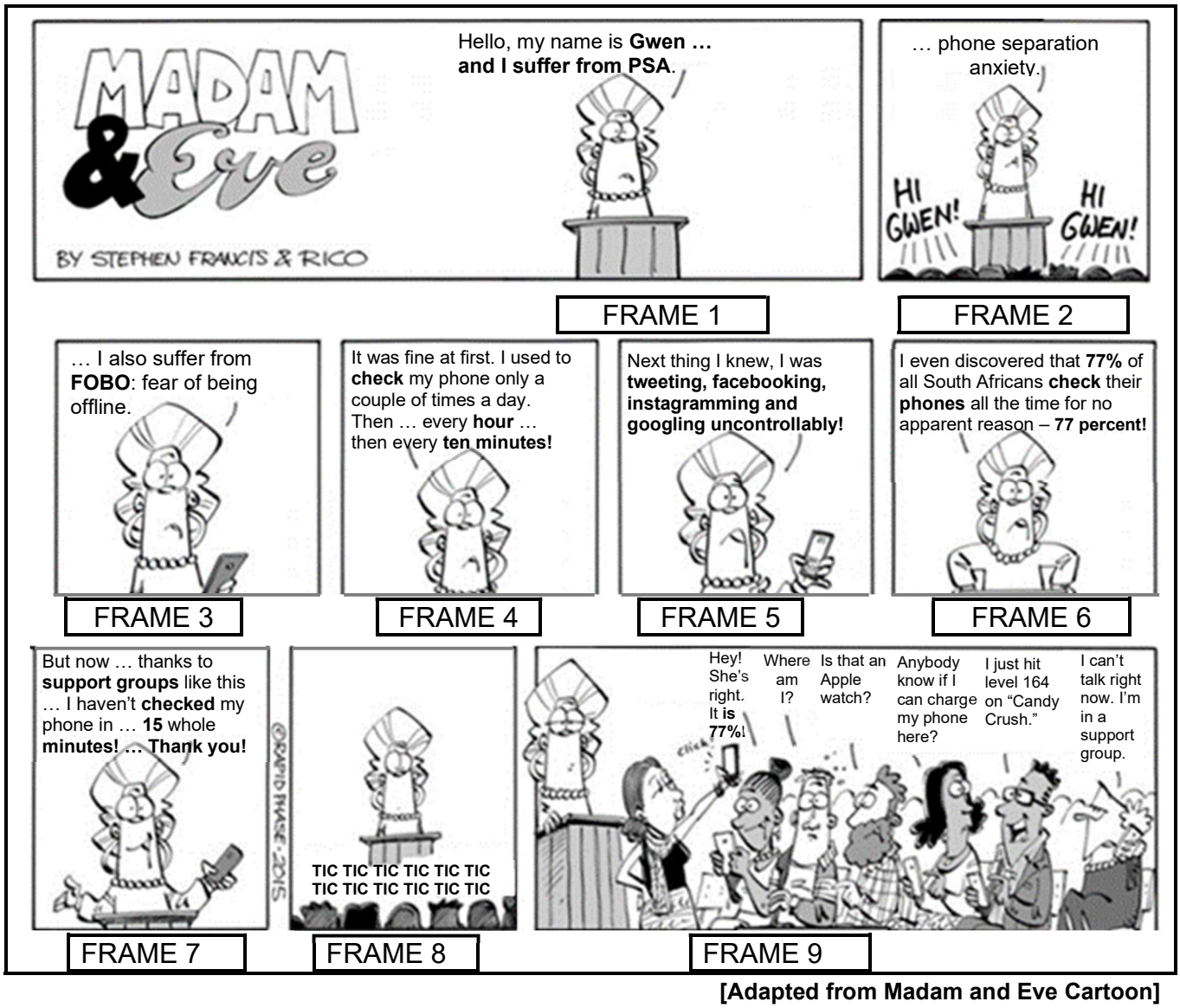
3.5 Find a word in the text that refers to 'across an ocean'. (1)

[10]

QUESTION 4: UNDERSTANDING OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MEDIA

Study the cartoon (TEXT E) below and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT E



[Adapted from Madam and Eve Cartoon]

QUESTIONS: TEXT E

4.1 Account for the use of the bold print in FRAME 5. (1)

4.2 FRAME 3 contains a pun. Write the acronym of the phobia on which the pun is being played. (1)

4.3 Discuss how the visual cues in FRAMES 5 and 6 convey Madam's attitude towards her addiction. (2)

4.4 Refer to FRAMES 7 to 9.

Critically comment on the irony of Madam's reaction and that of the other support group members. (3)

4.5 Comment on the stereotypical characterisation in FRAME 9 to highlight the central message of the cartoon. Choose TWO characters. (3)

[10]

QUESTION 5: USING LANGUAGE CORRECTLY

Read TEXT F, which contains some deliberate errors, and answer the questions that follow.

Write down ONLY the correct word(s) unless an explanation is required.

TEXT F

MEN LEADING WITH KINDNESS

1 Good leaders are tough-minded. They're able to take the heat. They can handle the difficult stuff that comes their way. Leaders who are considered weak are not valued nor respected. But there is another side to leadership. It brings the heart into play. It balances out the tough side. Without heart, leadership can feel like medicine; necessary, but undesirable.

2 The heart brings, among other essentials, kindness into leadership. Kindness is the #1 overlooked quality of a leader. Kindness is a basic human quality that allows trust, connection and genuine exchange to take place.

3 At the airport this week, I noticed a strong young guy jump off the rental car shuttle to help an older gentleman get his suitcase up onto the bus. It took less than a minute, but the expression on the older man's face was priceless. He was surprised, but his grateful smile said it all.
Kindness lowers stress in everyday situations.
Kindness brings peace and joy into pressure-filled situations.
Kindness is not a new idea, but it's often underdeveloped as a leadership trait.

4 I don't believe that leaders generally lack kindness, in fact, I think most good leaders are kind at heart. The problem is that there are things that steal a leader's kindness which in turn has a huge negative impact on any leader's effectiveness.

5 A leader's ability to be kind is often stolen by four challenges: Pressure, where demands for results tempt unkind behavior; busyness, which rushes out the necessary mindfulness for kindness; impatience, which prevents a leader from offering a moment of grace; and finally, insecurity, which masks itself as kindness but is rooted in a self-serving need for approval.

6 Genetic kindness, which stems from humility, demonstrates itself in actions like listening carefully or giving a second chance, making it a crucial component of successful male leadership.

[Adapted from https://www.outreachmagazine.com]

QUESTIONS: TEXT F

5.1 Rewrite the phrase 'take the heat' (line 1) in Standard English. (1)

5.2 Remove the redundancy in paragraph 1. (1)

5.3 Provide a suitable synonym for 'undesirable' in line 5. (1)

5.4 Replace the symbol # in paragraph 2 with the appropriate word. (1)

5.5 Use a conjunction to make the following two sentences into a complex sentence:

"Kindness lowers stress in everyday situations. Kindness brings peace and joy into pressure-filled situations." (1)

5.6 Provide the part of speech of the word 'leadership' as it is used in line 15. (1)

5.7 Correct the punctuation error in paragraph 4. (1)

5.8 Correct the spelling error in paragraph 5. (1)

5.9 Rewrite the following fragment in the active voice:

"A leader's ability to be kind is often stolen by four challenges." (1)

5.10 Identify and correct the malapropism in paragraph 6. (1)

[10]

TOTAL SECTION C: 30

TOTAL: 70