

**St. Francis Secondary School,
Sliema
Half Yearly Examinations
English Language**

Form 2**Time: 2 hours**

Name: _____

Class: _____

Section A: Comprehension*Read the following text and then answer the questions in full.*

It was raining lightly on May 14th 1962 and spring showers are always welcome in the Great Plains. Farmer Emil Ziebart of Ethan, a town in South Dakota, glanced at the churning clouds massing in the south-west. He decided that there was just time to plough another furrow before supper. Nearing the end of the round, he checked the sky again. A grayish-black cloud wall about half a mile wide loomed over his neighbour's tree grove. Below it hung a funnel-shaped mass, tapering towards the earth. Then suddenly, as he stared, horrified, the trees disappeared, flicked up as easily as a vacuum-cleaner sucks up dust specks.

He jerked the plough from the earth and turned the tractor towards home. Behind him, advancing, the cavernous cloud mouth gaped hungrily. He jumped from the tractor, raced towards the shelter belt of trees on the west side of his farmyard, dived headfirst through the wire fence and grabbed the nearest tree trunk. There was a strange, ominous silence. Emil Ziebart gasped for breath. He could hear only the pounding of his heart. Then there was a stupendous sound and he felt a heavy blow on his back. He dug his face into the ground as the tornado roared over him.

Soon the black, omnivorous wall, the pressure and the horrifying noise were gone. Ziebart raised his head slowly. The top of the tree he was clutching was not there. Uprooted trees lay grotesquely like piles of rotting weeds, their roots hanging limp. Twisted, spiky pieces of tin, shattered lumber, an over-turned corn-picker, huge drifts of corn-stalks, dead chickens – all lay in chaotic heaps as far as he could see.

Dazed, Ziebart stood up. He shook his head. Something was wrong. He must be confused about directions, he decided. Where were the barn, the granary, the chicken houses – all his buildings? Gone. There was nothing standing, just mountains of debris. Fearfully, he peered beyond for his house. He saw the remains of the front steps, leading up into empty space. Then he saw his home, completely lifted from the foundations, jammed against the tortured trees, roof fragments dangling pitifully like shattered human limbs. And his family?

He scrambled drunkenly over the littered mess. 'Oh God! They're dead! It's taken everything. They're gone!' It was the immemorial cry of man against nature's cruelty.

Mrs Ziebart had not turned on the radio or TV that May afternoon, and did not hear the tornado warnings. While her freshly-baked banana cake cooled on the kitchen table, she put several loaves of bread into the oven. She noticed it was raining outside. Suddenly, an explosive crash startled her. The house shuddered convulsively; windows popped out.

'Tornado!' she shouted. 'Joey! Diane! Run for the basement!'

The three dashed wildly into the basement and crouched beneath the stairs, seven-year-old Joey between his mother and his sister Diane, 17. Instinctively, Mrs Ziebart pushed Joey down flat, she and Diane protecting his body with theirs.

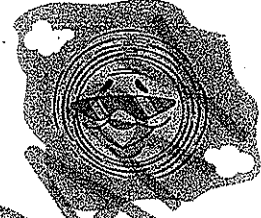
Then – was it one minute later, or five? – everything was quiet. The tornado had passed over them, its suction taking even their hiding-place, the stairs. Above them was the open sky. Wreckage surrounded them – the washing-machine, tubs, heavy pipes, several electric cables, lumber – and mud everywhere. As they clambered out of the basement into the yard, fears flashed through Mrs Ziebart's mind. Where was Emil? Crushed beneath the tractor? Dashed to pieces in the field?

Suddenly she saw her husband – and he saw them at the same moment. He began to run, stumbling over the rubble. The four met and silently clung to one another. It was Diane who spoke first: 'Thank God! We're all alive!'

1. Was it just a light spring shower on May 14th 1962? (1)
2. What were the first signs that a tornado was forming? (2)
3. How did Emil Ziebart try to protect himself? Was he successful? (2)
4. Why was Ziebart confused when it was over? (2)
5. What had Mrs Ziebart been doing that afternoon? (2)
6. What was Mrs Ziebart's reaction when she heard the crash? (2)
7. What in the passage suggests that Diane was protective of her young brother? (2)
8. Do you think that this was the first tornado the Ziebart family had experienced? Give reasons for your answer. (2)
9. What is your impression of the Ziebart family from this passage? (2)
10. Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage: tapering gaped ominous uprooted debris (2½)
11. From the first two paragraphs, list **three** clues which tell us that Mr Ziebart was petrified. (1½)
12. Pick out **one** metaphor and **one** simile which show the power of the tornado. (2)
13. Write the tornado warning that might have been announced on Radio or TV that day. (2)

Section B: Grammar**Exercise 1: Countable and uncountable nouns.****(5 marks)***Which of the underlined parts of these sentences is correct?*

1. Light / A light comes from the sun.
2. We had very good weather / a very good weather while we were on holiday.
3. I need to buy a / some bread.
4. It is very difficult to find a work / a job.
5. We were very unfortunate. We had bad luck / a bad luck.

**Exercise 2: Verbs***Supply the correct PRESENT tense of the given verb.***(10 marks)**

1. I (to wake up) _____ at seven and (to have) _____ breakfast at half past.
2. Mother is cooking some food in the kitchen now; she always (to cook) _____ in the morning.
3. That man in the white hat who is walking past the window (to live) _____ next door.
4. "Why (you / to wash) _____ these clothes in the morning?"
"Because the sun is shining."
5. My children (to work) _____ very hard. John is studying for an examination now.
6. Jack is very good at languages. He (to speak) _____ five languages.
7. I never (to eat) _____ breakfast.
8. Sandra (to look) _____ very pretty today.
9. The sun (to rise) _____ in the east.
10. John often (to go) _____ to the theatre but his wife (not / to go) _____ very often.



Exercise 2: Adverbs**(10 marks)**

Write in the most suitable adverb from the list given and complete the sentence.

Furiously, gracefully, powerfully, quietly, courageously, easily, bravely, swiftly, superbly, carefully.

- 1) She skated _____ around _____
- 2) He sprinted _____ towards _____
- 3) John swam _____ through _____
- 4) The boxer fought _____ until _____
- 5) The referee walked _____ across _____
- 6) She played _____ for _____
- 7) Gary read _____ till _____
- 8) Emma was _____ the best _____
- 9) He wrestled _____ but _____
- 10) The driver drove _____ along _____

Section C: Essay**(30 marks)**

Write approximately 250 words about one of the following. Do not forget the importance of:

- (a) Punctuation
- (b) Presentation
- (c) Paragraphs
- (d) Spelling Mistakes
- (e) Expressions

1. A day I will never forget.
2. My grandparents.
3. How I like to help my parents.



End of Paper