



## ST. FRANCIS' SECONDARY SCHOOL

## ANNUAL EXAMINATION SPECIMEN PAPER

NAME - \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS - \_\_\_\_\_

FORM 4

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

TIME 2HRS

Answer **ALL** questions. You are reminded to pay attention all through the paper to spelling, punctuation and the construction of sentences.

## SECTION ONE: GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

(25 marks)

## 1. Fill in the blanks using the given words.

(4 marks)

patched	greasy	frayed	wig	cream	face-lift	bags	pimples
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John Brown looked at his reflection in the mirror. He didn't like what he saw. His skin was dry, he had several (1) \_\_\_\_\_ on his chin and there were (2) \_\_\_\_\_ under his eyes. He was unshaven and his hair, what little there was of it, was (3) \_\_\_\_\_. His teeth were uneven and he was developing a double chin. The rest of him wasn't any better. His shoulders dropped, his stomach was flabby and his knee-joints ached if he sat down for too long. He opened his wardrobe to look at his clothes - old shirts with (4) \_\_\_\_\_ collars and buttons missing, shabby suits with wide lapels, ties covered with stains, socks with holes in and old-fashioned pullovers.

What could he do to improve matters? A more nutritious diet, perhaps, or try something really drastic like plastic surgery. A (5) \_\_\_\_\_ might make him look younger and perhaps his dentist could straighten his teeth. He certainly needed some (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on his face. There wasn't much he could do about his hair except wash it more often, unless he wanted to wear a (7) \_\_\_\_\_. All these things would take a lot of time and effort and money. Perhaps it wasn't worth bothering, he thought, pulling on a pair of (8) \_\_\_\_\_ trousers. After all,

he still looked better than a lot of other twenty-five year olds.

**2. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.**

**(5.5 marks)**

Since he (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (play) his first major role in the film *The Dark Side of the Sun* in 1988, Brad Pitt (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (become) one of the most successful actors of all time. He (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (star) in around forty movies, including *Legends of the Fall*, *Fight Club* and *Mr and Mrs Smith*. Also, he (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (win) many awards including an Academy Award which he (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) for his role in *Twelve Monkeys* in 1996. So, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (he/always/be) a rich, handsome actor? Well, actually he (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (study) journalism at university, not acting, and he (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (do) many ordinary jobs before he (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (become) famous! He (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) as a chauffeur and a furniture mover and he once even (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a job dressing as a giant chicken to advertise a restaurant!

**3. Rewrite the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first. Use up to THREE words, including a MODAL VERB.**

**(2 marks)**

a) It's forbidden to play your music so loud.

You \_\_\_\_\_ your music loud here.

b) I advise you to keep your room clean and tidy.

You \_\_\_\_\_ room clean and tidy.

c) It's possible for the generation gap to become a serious problem in some families.

The generation gap \_\_\_\_\_ a serious problem in some families.

d) Angela is not allowed to stay up late during the week.

Angela \_\_\_\_\_ stay up late during the week.

**4. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets. (5.5 marks)**

- a) He didn't know what to do so he asked his teacher for (guide) \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) It is compulsory to have car (insure) \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) Mike's (refuse) \_\_\_\_\_ to eat the main course upset Mary.
- d) The police had to deal with a number of (disturb) \_\_\_\_\_ caused by people celebrating their team's victory.
- e) Joan's catering business has grown so fast she has had to take on another secretary to deal with the (correspond) \_\_\_\_\_.

**5. Rewrite these sentences in reported speech. (5 marks)**

- a) "My daughter is getting married next month," said Mrs Micallef.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) "Do you go to the cinema every week?" asked Demaris.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) "We didn't enjoy our holiday at all," complained Melissa and Elisa.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d) "I'll make sure the goods arrive on time," Sarah told me.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e) "I can't order any more goods until I've sold what I have in stock," said the shopkeeper.

6. Put the verb into the ing or infinitive form to complete the text.

(3 marks)

- a) He hated staff meetings and avoided \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to them whenever he could.
- b) Have you considered \_\_\_\_\_ (apply) for this job?
- c) He advised us \_\_\_\_\_ (contact) the police.
- d) It's not worth \_\_\_\_\_ (mend) that old radio. Buy a new one.
- e) I would love \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) the main actor from that TV show.
- f) After considering it carefully, Ritianne decided \_\_\_\_\_ (not/accept) the offer of a promotion.

**SECTION TWO: COMPOSITION**

(20 marks)

Write between **320-350 words** on **one** of the following. **Do not skip lines. Do not go over the word limit.**

1. Write an **ARTICLE** in which you discuss whether traditions are worth preserving or not.
2. Your school has just launched a new library. Write a **REPORT** in which you outline the improvements, and suggest what could be done to attract more students to the library.
3. A popular magazine is holding a short **STORY** competition and you have decided to enter. Write a short story which must **END** with the words: **'She decided never to watch scary movies again.'**

[USE THIS SPACE TO PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION]



ST FRANCIS' SECONDARY SPECIMEN PAPER

WORD COUNT

## SECTION THREE: COMPREHENSION

(25 marks)

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions that follow.

### Daredevils

After strong winds and rain foiled his first attempt, on 14 October 2012 Austrian skydiver Felix Baumgartner completed a record-breaking (and sound-barrier-shattering) 24-mile (38 km) jump. The 43-year-old daredevil teamed up with Red Bull for this bold endeavour, known as the Stratos Mission to the Edge of Space. After seven years of planning, Baumgartner finally stepped off a balloon into the air about 23½ miles above the New Mexico desert, and completed a free-fall toward the earth's surface. It was a risky feat indeed, thus the need to wait for ideal conditions. The former military parachutist has become the first human to break the sound barrier without the protection of a vehicle. Now that Baumgartner has successfully completed the jump, he has broken a total of three world records — and with that, he plans to retire. 5

With his free-fall leap from more than 120,000 feet — 23 miles up — Austrian daredevil Felix Baumgartner shattered a record set 52 years before when U.S. Air Force Colonel Joe Kittinger jumped from 19.5 miles up. Baumgartner's attempt comes after years of preparation and untold sums of money footed by Red Bull to ensure his safety as he plummeted from the “edge of space” down to the rugged New Mexico terrain. Kittinger remained the fastest human to ever hurtle through the atmosphere until Baumgartner's jump, and the elder skydiver shared his first-hand knowledge as an integral member of Baumgartner's Red Bull Stratos team. 10 15

Baumgartner joins an elite crew of daredevils and limit-pushers who've leapt, dove and climbed their way into modern folklore with their stunts. Here are some other daredevils who've engaged in equally stunning feats.

#### Harry Houdini 20

Harry Houdini's name has become synonymous with death-defying escapes, and nothing helped the Hungarian-American magician rise to fame more than the Chinese Water Torture Cell. Houdini's first public performance of this famous stunt took place in 1912. In this trick, Houdini's feet were first clamped together in stocks, and a steel grate was locked to the bottom of the stocks. Suspended pulleys then lowered Houdini upside down into a tank filled with water, and the steel grate manacled to the bottom of his body served as the tank's lid. Locks were fastened on the tank and steel frets covered its top and sides, leaving the audience with a view of Houdini's submerged head. Curtains were then strategically draped, and within two minutes, they were lifted to reveal Houdini standing triumphantly outside the tank, alive and unscathed. The Water Torture Cell became one of Houdini's go-to stunts, and many contemporary magicians have mimicked the illusion. 25 30

#### Alain Robert

If there's a tall building, he'll climb it, no harness required. Indeed, Alain Robert — a.k.a. the French Spider-Man — may have more of a fear of policemen than he does of heights. (It's not quite

legal to scale the outside of a building without permission.)

The agile 50-year-old Frenchman cut his teeth on the rocks and gorges of southern France, where he learned to climb solo, without safety harnesses. He was spotted by a film director, who hired him in 1994 to star in a climbing documentary. According to his 2008 biography *With Bare Hands*, he was flown to Chicago and set his sights on the Citigroup Centre, a 40-story building in the heart of the city's "Loop" business district. It was his first experience free-climbing a manmade structure, and he did it without permission and without safety ropes. The sensational stunt set the tone for the rest of his career. When Robert made it to the top of the building, police were there to greet him – something he would get used to. He's been arrested many times since, as he rarely asks permission to climb. It took him three attempts to reach the top of Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers, and on the third attempt he was fined by police instead of arrested.

Evel Knievel

Evel Knievel may be better known for the jumps he missed than the ones he made. He first shot to prominence with his attempt to jump the fountain at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas; he was unsuccessful, and was injured so badly he spent the next 29 days in a coma. But his greatest stunt gone awry is his ill-fated attempt to leap the Snake River Canyon in Idaho . The stuntman made his attempt on 8 September, 1974, using a specially-made steam-powered rocket called the Skycycle X-2. But his parachute deployed almost immediately, creating enough drag to pull him back nearly to where he had launched his flight. Kneivel landed a few feet from the water, a lucky ending—had he fallen into the river, he would have drowned due to a malfunction that kept him attached to the Skycycle. He emerged from the stunt with minor injuries, but eventually accrued enough broken bones—433 in total—to secure a spot in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

(adapted from TIME magazine October 2014)

Questions:

1. How long did it take to prepare for Baumgartner's jump? (1 mark)

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2. What did Felix Baumgartner previously do for a living? (1 mark)

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3. Did Baumgartner use a vehicle to break the sound barrier? Support your answer. (1 mark)

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4. Who held the record before Baumgartner? (1 mark)

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5. In your own words, explain the phrase 'untold sums of money footed by Red Bull' (lines 12-13), paying particular attention to the underlined words. (2 marks)

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6. Find a phrase in the passage which shows that Houdini was well-known as an escape artist. (1 mark)

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7. Why does the author say that Alain Robert 'may have more fear of a policeman than he does of heights' (line 33)? (1 mark)

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8. Find an expression of no more than three (3) words which means to get your first experience of something. (1 mark)

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9. Quote a sentence which shows that one daredevil mentioned often failed his stunts. (1 mark)

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10. Why was Evel Knievel added to the Guinness Book of Records? (1 mark)

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11. Underline TRUE or FALSE for the following, and give a reason for your answer. (5 marks)

a. Baumgartner had to postpone the original date of his jump because of weather conditions.

(TRUE/FALSE) because \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Kittinger refused to help Baumgartner train for the jump. (TRUE/FALSE) because \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Houdini regularly performed the Chinese Water Torture Cell illusion. (TRUE/FALSE) because

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d. Houdini is the only person to have performed the Chinese Water Torture Cell illusion.

(TRUE/FALSE) because \_\_\_\_\_

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e. The police enjoyed Alain Robert's climb so much that they went to meet him at the top of the building. (TRUE/FALSE) because \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Find words from the passage with the following meanings: (2.5 marks)

- i. Stopped, hindered: \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Important, vital: \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. Top, leading: \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. Under water: \_\_\_\_\_
- v. Unharmed: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Explain the meaning of the following words, as used in the passage. (2.5 marks)

- i. risky (line 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. plummeted (line 13) \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. hurtle (line 14) \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. stunning (line 19) \_\_\_\_\_
- v. agile (line 35) \_\_\_\_\_

14. What do the following refer to in the passage: (2 marks)

- i. his (line 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. it (line 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. his (line 15) \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. they (line 28) \_\_\_\_\_

15. Find examples of the following from the passage: (2 marks)

- i. A verb in the present perfect: \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. A verb in the future simple: \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. A phrasal verb: \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. A modal verb: \_\_\_\_\_

