



ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

PART A

Reading Passages

1.5 hours (for both Parts A and B)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) There are two parts (A and B) in this paper. All candidates should attempt Part A. In Part B, you should attempt either Part B1 (easier section) OR Part B2 (more difficult section). Candidates attempting Parts A and B2 will be able to attain the full range of levels, while Level 4 will be the highest level attainable for candidates attempting Parts A and B1.
- (2) After the announcement of the start of the examination, you should first write your Candidate Number and stick barcode labels in the spaces provided on the appropriate pages of the Part A Question-Answer Book and the Part B Question-Answer Book which you are going to attempt.
- (3) Write your answers in the spaces provided in the Question-Answer Books. Answers written in the margins will not be marked.
- (4) For multiple-choice questions, you are advised to blacken the appropriate circle with a pencil so that wrong marks can be completely erased with a clean rubber. Mark only **ONE** answer to each question. Two or more answers will score **NO MARKS**.
- (5) Supplementary answer sheets will be supplied on request. Write your Candidate Number, mark the question number box and stick a barcode label on each sheet and fasten them with string **INSIDE** the Question-Answer Book.
- (6) No extra time will be given to candidates for sticking on barcode labels or filling in the question number boxes after the 'Time is up' announcement.
- (7) The two Question-Answer Books you have attempted (one for Part A and one for Part B) will be collected together at the end of the examination. Fasten the two Question-Answer Books together with the green tag provided.
- (8) The unused Question-Answer Book for Part B will be collected separately at the end of the examination. This will not be marked. Do not write any answers in it.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART A

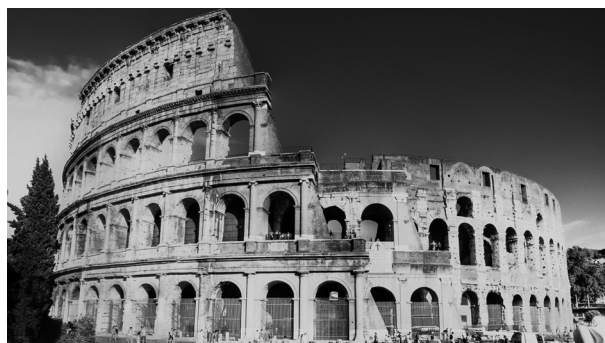
- (1) The Question-Answer Book for Part A is inserted in this Reading Passages booklet.
- (2) Attempt **ALL** questions in Part A. Each question carries ONE mark unless otherwise stated.

PART A

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1–21 on pages 1–4 of the Question-Answer Book for Part A.

Text 1

THE COLISEUM AND THE WORLD



1 Construction on the Coliseum was started by Emperor Vespasian of the Flavian dynasty, and the Coliseum was opened by his son Titus in 80 A.D. It was built with the structure of an amphitheatre, which could also serve as a sports arena. Spectators could sit around the field to enjoy the scene visually, but due to the vastness and openness of the location, it was impossible to hear the events. This explains why the Coliseum was popularly used to publicly execute criminals and slaughter animals, despite its architecturally stunning ranks of arches and columns.

2 The Coliseum, one of the original Seven Wonders in the world, attracts more than 3.9 million tourists yearly. Most visit the site because of its historical and cultural significance, but very few would anticipate knowing about the bloodshed at the monument. In order to reveal to tourists the lesser-known history of the place, Maria Pisano started The Haunting Tour in 2007, which, according to her, is a 'ninety-minute unbelievable walking experience in the city.'

3 'The Coliseum was a place where gladiators would fight to the finish for the entertainment of kings. Prisoners and war victims met their deaths at the jaws of tigers and lions. Animals were killed, some driven to extinction due to Roman's thirst for blood and gore.' Maria also added that there was more beneath the surface. 'The vaults below the Coliseum were where the gladiators waited to fight. Prisoners waited for their time to die in the most ghastly ways, which is why it comes as no surprise that visitors and tour guides today report many paranormal experiences.'

4 Believe it or not, Maria's business is booming. Most of the time, her tour is booked up at least two weeks in advance. 'Some tour attendants have reported feeling cold spots, or being touched or

pushed during the walk. A few told me they heard voices whispering in their ears. If you want to know more, you'd better ask the night workers of the Coliseum.' But Maria declined to comment when asked to share some of her own paranormal experiences.

5 Disregarding the purpose of visit, one is usually blown away by the design and magnitude of the Coliseum upon arrival. Tourists are confronted visually with a series of squares within the framing of arches. These are not accidents. The details reflect the architect's preoccupation with the principles of mathematics. Each storey of the Coliseum has columns of a particular style. The exterior was once decorated at the top with glistening gilded bronze shields, and the arches were filled with painted statues of emperors and gods. There were two grand entrances but these could only be used by the emperor, official presenters of the shows, and no doubt by other grand guests.

6 However, like all historical monuments, the Coliseum could not withstand destruction. A series of earthquakes in the Middle Ages caused structural fractures to the Coliseum, but it was believed that the damage was not fatal because two Roman families still fought for its possession. Perhaps the most detrimental documented damage done to the Coliseum was the terrible earthquakes that happened in 1231 and 1349 that caused part of the external ring to collapse. The structure continued to crumble while the roots of plants and trees which had grown up among the ruins began to work their way between the blocks. Apart from natural disasters, the Coliseum also suffers from damage caused by vandalism and stone robbers.

7 A group of workers discovered vibrantly coloured graffiti and frescoes when the restoration of

75 the Coliseum took place in January 2013. Among the
finds was a picture of a crown believed to have been
drawn by a gladiator fan. Another restored section
has images of a gladiator's body, which officials
said was commonly drawn for good luck. The Latin
80 word 'VIND', referring to victory or revenge, was
also found. Rosella Rea, Coliseum director stated
that less than one per cent of the painted surfaces of
the Coliseum remain today. 'We have to imagine the
historical landmark with extreme contrasts of colour.
85 What a surprise.'

8 Aside from the hallway cleaning, the Coliseum
is set to undergo head-to-toe restoration costing
more than US\$33 million. It is funded by Italian
businessman Diego Della Valle, founder of the
90 Tod's shoe empire. The effort is primarily designed
to shore up the monument, one of the world's most
famous, which is crumbling under years of neglect.
When asked how such details could have stayed
undetected for nearly two millennia, officials said
95 flatly: money.

9 While the restoration of the actual Coliseum
takes time, its glory has in fact been reenacted in
popular culture, more recently in Ridley Scott's 2000
film *Gladiator*. When interviewed by *The Guardian*,
100 the director confessed that he left the real Coliseum
and the city of Rome to the tourists. He preferred to
build from scratch. The result proved to be a triumph
with box office takings of nearly US\$0.2 billion.
According to critics, Scott galloped the audience
105 'through a sprawling metropolis of winding streets,
markets, temples, palaces, avenues and arches at the
Coliseum.'

10 The legacy of the Coliseum influences modern
architecture. For instance, the design and shape of
110 the arches located in the Great Hall of the Yankee
Stadium uses the Coliseum as a model. Furthermore,
modern architects also benefit from the way labour
was organized when the Coliseum was built. It is
particularly important since it is a way of sorting
115 workers and assigning jobs to them according to
their skills.

END OF READING PASSAGE