

NANYANG JUNIOR COLLEGE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

HIGHER 2

9727/1

JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2015

2 SEP 2015

PAPER 1 ANALYSING LANGUAGE USE

3 HOURS

Additional Materials: Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, index number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **ALL** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

Both questions carry equal marks.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

This document consists of **10** printed pages.

Section A: Analysis

The following texts are about using meditation to cope with loss.

Text A is a transcription of part of an interview between Singapore's Ex-Minister Mentor, Mr Lee Kuan Yew and Seth Mydans of *New York Times*.

Text B is from the *Huffington Post*, an American online news.

- 1 Compare the linguistic features of Text A and Text B, considering relevant contextual factors.

In your analysis you should make relevant reference to:

- differences between spoken and written language
- lexis, grammar and phonology
- how the context affects the way language is used

Text A

Text A is part of a transcript of New York Times' interview with Singapore's ex-Minister Mentor, Mr Lee Kuan Yew. Seth Mydans covers Southeast Asian news for The New York Times. In the conversation, Seth Mydan engages Mr Lee in the topic of meditation to cope with loss.

Mr Lee: thank you (.) when you are coming to 87 you are not very happy [sighs]

Seth: NOT (.) well you should be glad that you've gotten way past where most of us will get

Mr Lee: that is my trouble (2) so when is the last leaf falling [laughs]

//

5 Seth: do you feel like that (.) do you feel like the leaves are coming off/

Mr Lee: well (.) yes (.) I mean I can feel the gradual decline of energy and vitality and I mean generally every year when you know you are not on the same level as last year (2) but that is life

10 Seth: my mother used to say never get old (.) well

Mr Lee: well (.) there you will try never to think yourself old (.) I mean I keep fit (.) I swim (.) I cycle =

Seth: = and yoga (.) is that right/ MEDITATION/

Mr Lee: yes

15 Seth: tell me about meditation

Mr Lee: well I started it about two three years ago when Ng Kok Song (.) the Chief Investment Officer of the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (.) I knew he was doing meditation (.) his wife had died but he was completely serene (.) so I said how do you achieve this (.) he said I meditate everyday and so did my wife and when she was dying of cancer, she was totally serene because she meditated everyday and he gave me a video of her in her last few weeks completely composed completely relaxed and she and him had been meditating for years (.)

20 well I said to him (.) you teach me (.) he is a devout Christian (.) he was taught by a man called Laurence Freeman a Catholic (.) when I was in London (.) Ng Kok Song introduced me to Laurence Freeman (.) in fact (.) he is coming on Saturday to visit Singapore and we will do a meditation session (.) the problem is to keep the monkey mind from running off into all kinds of thoughts (.) it is most difficult to stay focused on the mantra (.) the discipline is to have a mantra which you keep repeating in your innermost heart (.) no need to voice it over and over again throughout the whole period of meditation (.)

25 the mantra they recommended was a religious one (.) Ma Ra Na Ta four syllables (.) come to me oh lord Jesus (.) So I said okay I am not a Catholic but I will try (.) he said you can take any other mantra (.) Buddhist Om Mi Tuo Fo, and keep repeating it (.) to me Ma Ran Na Ta

35 is more soothing (.) so I used Ma Ra Na Ta (.) you must be disciplined (.) I find it helps me go to sleep after that (2) a certain tranquility settles over you (.) the day's pressures and worries are pushed out then there's less problem sleeping (2) I miss it sometimes when I am tired (.) or have gone out to a dinner and had wine (.) then I cannot concentrate (.) otherwise I stick to it

Seth: SO

//

40 Mr Lee: for a good meditator will do it for half-an-hour (.) I do it for 20 minutes

//

Seth: SO would you say like
your friend who taught you (.) would you say you are serene

45 Mr Lee: well not as serene as he is (.) he has done it for many years and he is a devout Catholic (.) that makes a difference (.) he believes in Jesus (.) he believes in the teachings of the Bible (.) he has lost his wife (3) a great calamity (2) but the wife was serene (.) he gave me this video to show how meditation helped her in her last few months (.) I do not think I can achieve his level of serenity (.) but I do achieve some composure

TRANSCRIPTION KEY

(.) = micro-pause

(1) = pause in seconds

// = speech overlap

= latch

CAPITALS = to indicate a word/phrase/syllable is said loudly

Underlining = stressed sound/ syllable(s)

/tə/ = phonemic representation of speech sounds

/ = rising intonation \ = falling intonation

Text B

The expression of mourning is so varied, with the Zoroastrian tradition including a Tower of Silence. Judaism observes an intense seven day period called shiva, followed by a year of mourning with yearly anniversary of yahrzeit. Some Sufis whirl in ecstasy as death is understood as a celebratory reuniting with the "Divine Beloved."

- 5 Yet on a personal level grief is infused with paradox. We are encouraged to say goodbye yet design ways to maintain bonds with the ones who have passed through photos and services of remembrance. We find ways to honor the life of the person who passed, and yet grief is about the ones who are here. It's a time for coming to terms with the end of an era, a relationship, and lifestyle, and it's also about new beginnings.
- 10 The normal grief process has many phases and may be experienced as physical symptoms, emotional distress, distorted thinking and behaviors. Grief often has many phases and while there are some core characteristics, each journey is unique.

So how can we navigate this confusing labyrinth of bereavement?

Grief Meditation

- 15 It's common for people to spontaneously reminisce, envisioning the person they have lost. This valuable inner connection can also be intentionally cultivated. This meditation is especially appropriate when the relationship was based in love.

Set aside 15 minutes of undisturbed time, and close your eyes. Start with three minutes simply focusing on natural slow breathing while you relax. Then allow an image to arise of a beautiful place -- one that is peaceful and comfortable. As it takes shape, notice the colors, textures, light and sounds. Be aware of how you feel in this serene place, and bring anything into the environment that would support your comfort and ease. Take a moment to just enjoy being here.

- 25 Now invite the person you have lost to join you, knowing that their image may come in any form, and they may appear any age. Take time to greet them, and then express anything you would like to. Invite them to speak with you. Allow the experience to evolve spontaneously, connecting naturally while maintaining your own comfort.

Thank them for coming, and then close your imagery eyes as you bring your attention back to the room you are in. Take a few moments being present with your feelings and experiences.

- 30 Remember that no matter how your life circumstances change and your feelings ebb and flow, and even grappling with unanswerable questions, come home to the precious, miraculous being that you are, whole and living, here and now.

Section B: Adaptive writing and commentary

Texts C, D and E all relate to the celebration of Singapore's 50th birthday (SG50).

Text C is a press release issued by the SG50 steering committee.

Text D is from a local blog.

Text E is an extract of a podcast on SG50's programme line-up.

Read all three texts, and then complete the following tasks.

- 2 (a)** To celebrate the nation's 50th birthday, a series of activities have been lined up in the month of August. Representing the Singapore Tourism Board, you have been tasked to produce a tourist brochure that will provide information about these activities.

Write the text for the brochure in approximately 300-400 words. Base your writing on the ideas and references which are contained in Texts C, D and E, adapting them in a way which will be suitable for your purpose and audience.

And

- (b)** Write an evaluation of approximately 300-400 words of your adaptation for **(a)**. Your evaluation should illustrate significant linguistic differences between your adaptation and Texts C, D and E, by considering:

- mode of address to the reader
- lexical choices
- grammatical and syntactical cohesion
- morphology

and any other relevant linguistic issues.

Text C

Celebrating Singapore's 50th Birthday as One People

03 June 2014

1. Singaporeans can look forward to an exciting year in 2015 to celebrate our nation's 50th year of independence. The 2015 programme line-up was unveiled today at a press
5 conference with Chairman of the Singapore50 (SG50) Steering Committee, Mr Heng Swee Keat. The Committee also provided an update on the nationwide call for celebration ideas and the SG50 Celebration Fund.
2. The overall theme for SG50 is for all Singaporeans to celebrate as one people. For
10 2014, the focus is to reflect on our journey and to take pride in how far we have come as a country. Hence, the SG50 calendar this year kicked off with a Pioneer Generation tribute at the Istana and there will be more tribute events to honour the special role of our pioneers across different segments of the society for the rest of 2014.
3. For 2015, the focus will shift towards celebrating our shared values, affirming our
15 aspirations and committing to a brighter Singapore. The calendar will comprise national and community-level programmes organised by the public, people and private sectors.
4. Mr Heng Swee Keat outlined the overall theme that shapes the year-long celebrations. "SG50 is about celebrating the enduring values that we share as Singaporeans, values that undergird the Singapore Spirit – values that have stood us in good stead in the past and give us confidence for an even brighter future."
- 20 5. Elaborating on the 2015 programme line up, Mr Heng said, "We want the 2015 calendar to be wide-ranging so that it caters to different segments of society. The programmes will span a calendar year, with events spread across the months. Some are large-scale, national events which encourage mass participation. But there are also small-scale events led by the corporate and people sectors that are more intimate, and cater to
25 specific audiences. We hope that with this mix of programmes, everyone will be able to find something appealing and meaningful as we celebrate Singapore's Golden Jubilee as one people

Text D

SG50 'Must Do' activities for all

Here is a guide for our foreign friends to understand our way of life and for our fellow Singaporeans to prepare their celebrations for this upcoming momentous occasion.

1 Read the Singapore Story

- 5 To understand the significance of SG50, it will be great to catch up on the history of modern Singapore. The Singapore Story from the Memoirs of Lee Kuan Yew is a great book to start. Follow up this book with volume 2, The Singapore Story: From Third World to First.

2 Find a symbolic SG50 souvenir

SG50 LEGO Sets

- 10 A symbolic SG50 souvenir should have the following characteristic. It is unique to Singapore, it is a collector's item, it is easily recognised and it will be treasured if you either queue long hours for it or pay a small fortune for it. Ok the latter is a little extreme, but we will explain more later.

3 Watch a historical local play or movie

- 15 There are 2 noteworthy productions that will be showing during this period. 1965 the movie and LKY the musical are productions that tell the Singapore tale. Regardless of your political inclination, history does not change. One man had his vision, took a chance and Singapore is born.

- 20 See Lim Kay Tong's and Adrian Pang's interpretations of the founding father of Singapore in 1965 and LKY. No need to see both shows, one should be good enough.

4 Eat local food

Chicken Rice

- 25 Other than shopping, the locals takes their chicken rice seriously. Indulge in our famous local 'cuisines' such as chicken rice, satay, teochew porridge and more. Forget all you read in tourist guidebooks about Michelin Stars restaurants. The best food are found in the vicinity of local suburbs. To top it off, these delicacies usually cost less than \$10 per dish! Cheap and shiok, exactly the way we like.

Text E

Podcast script on NDP 2015

Yu Jing: Hello girls, did you know that the theme for this year's Golden Jubilee National Day Parade will be "Majulah Singapura", or popularly known as "Onward Singapore"?

Mabel: Oh my god! I didn't know that! Pray tell!

5 Yu Jing: Alright, alright! 'Majulah Singapura' was the rallying cry to all of us to move forward as one people to overcome our challenges and more. And we have succeeded. So, NDP this year will tell this story of our ancestors, to remind us from where we came, and to recognise the contributions of our pioneer generation and our leaders in nation-building. Not only that, the parade will also showcase our country's defence capabilities and people on parade!

10 Jia Ying: And that's not all. I also know that to allow as many Singaporeans to watch the "historic" Jubilee Year parade, sites around the Marina Bay area – including the Floating Platform, the Merlion Park, the Promontory, the Marina Bay Sands Events Plaza and Gardens by the Bay – will be opened on August 9 to allow more to congregate and watch the parade.

15 Mabel: And, and, and there is even an extra day of national day holiday this year, woots! During the Jubilee Weekend, families will be able to enjoy picnics at parks near them. Jointly organised by Families for Life and NParks, there will be picnics at West Coast Park, Pasir Ris Park and Sembawang Park on 7 August. The picnics will feature carnival activities such as "old school" games, bouncy castles, roving buskers and kite flying. Oh
20 god, I'm soooo excited!

REFERENCE TABLE OF IPA PHONEMIC SYMBOLS (RP)

1 Consonants of English		2 Pure vowels of English	
/f/	<u>f</u> at, rou <u>gh</u>	/i:/	be <u>a</u> t, kee <u>p</u>
/v/	<u>v</u> ery, vi <u>ll</u> age, lo <u>v</u> e	/ɪ/	b <u>i</u> t, t <u>i</u> p, bu <u>s</u> y
/ə/	<u>t</u> heatre, <u>th</u> ank, ath <u>l</u> ete	/e/	be <u>t</u> , ma <u>n</u> y
/ð/	<u>t</u> his, <u>th</u> em, wi <u>th</u> , ei <u>th</u> er	/æ/	ba <u>t</u>
/s/	<u>s</u> ing, thi <u>n</u> ks, lo <u>s</u> ses	/ʌ/	cu <u>p</u> , so <u>n</u> , bloo <u>d</u>
/z/	<u>z</u> oo, be <u>d</u> s, ea <u>s</u> y	/ɑ:/	ca <u>r</u> , hea <u>r</u> t, ca <u>l</u> m, au <u>n</u> t
/ʃ/	<u>s</u> ugar, bu <u>sh</u>	/ɐ/	po <u>t</u> , wa <u>n</u> t
/ʒ/	plea <u>s</u> ure, be <u>i</u> ge	/ɔ:/	po <u>r</u> t, sa <u>w</u> , ta <u>l</u> k
/h/	<u>h</u> igh, <u>h</u> it, be <u>h</u> ind	/ə/	a <u>b</u> out
/p/	<u>p</u> it, to <u>p</u> , sp <u>i</u> t	/ɜ:/	wo <u>r</u> d, bi <u>r</u> d
/t/	<u>t</u> ip, po <u>t</u> , ste <u>p</u>	/ʊ/	bo <u>o</u> k, wo <u>o</u> d, pu <u>t</u>
/k/	<u>k</u> ee <u>p</u> , ti <u>ck</u> , sca <u>r</u> e	/u:/	fo <u>o</u> d, so <u>u</u> p, ru <u>d</u> e
/b/	<u>b</u> ad, ru <u>b</u>		
/d/	ba <u>d</u> , <u>d</u> im	3 Diphthongs of English	
/g/	gu <u>n</u> , bi <u>g</u>		
/tʃ/	<u>ch</u> urch, lu <u>n</u> ch	/eɪ/	la <u>t</u> e, da <u>y</u> , gr <u>ea</u> t
/dʒ/	<u>j</u> udge, gi <u>n</u> , ju <u>r</u> y	/aɪ/	ti <u>m</u> e, hi <u>gh</u> , di <u>e</u>
/m/	<u>m</u> ad, ja <u>m</u> , sm <u>a</u> ll	/ɔɪ/	bo <u>y</u> , no <u>i</u> se
/n/	ma <u>n</u> , no, sn <u>o</u> w	/aʊ/	co <u>w</u> , ho <u>u</u> se, to <u>w</u> n
/ŋ/	si <u>ng</u> er, lo <u>ng</u>	/əʊ/	bo <u>a</u> t, ho <u>m</u> e, kn <u>o</u> w
/l/	lo <u>u</u> d, ki <u>ll</u> , pla <u>y</u>	/ɪə/	ea <u>r</u> , he <u>r</u> e
/j/	y <u>o</u> u, pu <u>r</u> e	/eə/	a <u>i</u> r, ca <u>r</u> e, cha <u>i</u> r
/w/	<u>o</u> ne, <u>w</u> hen, sw <u>ee</u> t	/ʊə/	ju <u>r</u> y, cu <u>r</u> e
/r/	ri <u>m</u> , br <u>ea</u> d		