



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, SPORT, YOUTH
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
DEPARTMENT OF EXAMINATIONS

Qualifying Examination for Supply Learning Support Educators

January 2024

Subject: English Language

Date: 25th January 2024

Time: One hour and thirty minutes

Instructions to candidates:

This examination paper consists of THREE sections. Read the instructions for each section carefully.

Answer Section A on the booklet provided, clearly indicating the question you are answering.

Answer Section B and C in the space provided in this paper.

Section A: Long Writing Task (40 marks)

Write between 180 and 200 words on ONE of the tasks below. You are advised to

- pay attention to layout, paragraphing, vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation
- keep your writing to the number of words indicated.

You will be penalised if you write less than 180 or more than 200 words.

1. Write an **article** to be published on the local newspaper which outlines the problems of plastic waste in the environment and suggests ways of reducing it.

OR

2. You are a member of staff at a middle school, and you are interested in starting a school cookery club. Write a **proposal report** to Ms Pat Smith, the Head of School, in which you make suggestions for the setting up of the club.

Section B: Reading Comprehension and Summary (50 marks)

Read the following text carefully and answer all the questions that follow on the lines provided.



By Alison Herman



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15 November 2023

For the actor Daniel Radcliffe, Harry Potter was the role of a lifetime. Over eight movies and a decade that spanned **his** entire adolescence, Radcliffe became the renowned face of the bespectacled boy wizard. The franchise, now set to retell the core story as a TV show

5 with a brand-new cast, continued on without Radcliffe. Yet, his early success gave him the freedom to pursue quirkier parts like when he starred as Weird Al Yankovic.

For stuntman David Holmes, Harry Potter also changed his life — in equally irrevocable, yet more complicated ways. In January 2009, while filming a scene for “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 1” as Radcliffe’s double, Holmes broke his neck, an injury that left him permanently paralysed. Radcliffe and Holmes were friends on set and **they** have remained close ever since, a relationship that forms the core of the new HBO documentary “David Holmes: The Boy Who Lived.”

10 “Harry Potter’s a big thing for a lot of people, and nobody knows what happened to me,” Holmes says early on in “The Boy Who Lived,” **which** both Holmes and Radcliffe produced alongside director Dan Hartley. “This is the story that matters the most to me from Potter,” Radcliffe says near the film’s end.

As a child on the set of the first “Harry Potter” films, Radcliffe looked up to the slightly older Holmes, a trained gymnast who broke into stunt work with the 1998 movie “Lost in Space.” Holmes describes his former philosophy as “you’re only living when you’re nearly dying”. In fact, he eagerly took to onerous **tasks** like multi-storey falls or “flying” a broomstick for hours on end. He also mentored Radcliffe in matters like how to swing a Quidditch bat, likening his position to that of a Physical Education coach.

20 The first third of “The Boy Who Lived” is illuminating, both about Holmes himself and the nature of film sets. The tabloids may have focused on Radcliffe’s relationships with co-stars Emma Watson and Rupert Grint, the actor reflects, but “the people I was closest to were all people from the crew” — the makeshift families that form in ad hoc workplaces, unbeknownst to the public. Radcliffe emphasises that what happened to Holmes gave him the perspective “to know how random and fleeting everything could be,” and not to waste opportunities he had the privilege of still being available to him.

30 Holmes’s injury transformed his life, instantly ending the career he’d previously pursued with single-minded dedication. “The Boy Who Lived” is nonetheless most affecting when it confronts the more uncomfortable, less overtly inspirational aspects of its story. Holmes shows remarkable perseverance through countless surgeries and an ongoing loss of mobility, working to stay involved with stunt work via education and raising funds for treatment centres despite being totally dependent on his full-time carers. He’s also brutally honest about the mental toll of his paralysis, comparing **it** to “a prison cell”.

35 A particularly wrenching scene sees Holmes reunite with “Harry Potter” stunt coordinator Greg Powell, who once considered Holmes a surrogate son but admits to avoiding him out of shame, having supervised the fateful accident. “I ruined his life,” Powell sobs, though

40 Holmes argues he knowingly went into a dangerous line of work and does not blame Powell at all.

The documentary works to introduce its audience to Holmes, who proves deserving of the spotlight. But **they**’ll go in knowing Radcliffe already, and as a result, it’s the star who feels most illuminated by “The Boy Who Lived” despite his efforts to train our attention on Holmes.

45 Throughout this emotionally intelligent, first-rate film, Radcliffe gives us an unprecedented tour of his London flat but more importantly shows a child actor’s sense of bemusement at the glamorous, exploitative, amazing, capricious industry he was thrust into before he could really understand it. As an adult, Radcliffe knows the system that rewarded him so lavishly is fundamentally unfair, so he works to change what he can and make peace with
50 what he can’t. “It was an incredible 10 years,” he says. “That can all be true — and this terrible thing happened to Dave.”

“David Holmes: The Boy Who Lived” will premiere on HBO and Max at 9pm ET on November 18.

Adapted from <https://variety.com/>

Underline the correct answer.

1. Which title best suits this text? (1 mark)
 - a. Daniel Radcliffe and His Stunt Double
 - b. David Holmes: The Boy Who Lived
 - c. Tragic Film Set Accident

2. In which section of an online newspaper would you find this article? (1 mark)
 - a. Technology
 - b. What to hear
 - c. Television

3. David Holmes used to earn a living as (1 mark)
 - a. a stuntman
 - b. an actor
 - c. a PE teacher

4. This text mainly (1 mark)

- a. describes the plot of a film
- b. narrates the Harry Potter story
- c. reviews a documentary

5. Apart from reading it, in what other way can people access this article? (1 mark)

6. Quote a phrase of eight words from the first paragraph which shows what Daniel Radcliffe is famous for. (1 mark)

7. Why did Radcliffe's early success give him the freedom to pursue quirkier parts (line 5)? (2 marks)

8. Match the names with their descriptions by writing the correct letter in the middle column. (2 marks)

	Letter	
a. Alison Herman		paralysed due to a work injury
b. David Holmes		stunt coordinator on set
c. Dan Hartley		writer of this article
d. Greg Powell		director of this documentary

9. Are the following sentences about Daniel Radcliffe True (T) or False (F)? Circle the correct one and give a reason for your answer. (7 marks)

a. Daniel Radcliffe spent ten years working on the Harry Potter movie.

T / F because

b. Daniel Radcliffe is taking part in the new Harry Potter show.

T / F because

c. Daniel Radcliffe is older than Holmes.

T / F because

d. Daniel Radcliffe was taught certain stunt skills by Holmes.

T / F because

e. Daniel Radcliffe says his relationship with his co-stars is identical to that with the crew.

T / F because

f. Daniel Radcliffe's home was shown on other programmes too.

T / F because

g. Daniel Radcliffe went into acting with his eyes open.

T / F because

10. Fill in the table with dates from the text: (2 marks)

Date	
	when this article was published
	when Holmes got injured
	when Holmes took part in his first movie
	when the documentary will be released

11a. What was Holmes's philosophy before the accident? (1 mark)

b. What did this philosophy show about his character? (1 mark)

c. Why is it now his former philosophy?

(1 mark)

12. Mention TWO reasons why the first part of the film is 'illuminating' (line 22).

(1 mark)

i.

ii.

13. What did Radcliffe learn from Holmes's accident?

(1 mark)

14. In 50-60 of your own words, summarise the ways Holmes's life changed after the injury.

(10 marks)

15 a. How does Greg Powell know Holmes?

(1 mark)

b. How did their relationship change and why?

(2 marks)

c. How does Holmes feel about Powell?

(1 mark)

16. Explain what the author means by the sentence: "The documentary works to introduce its audience to Holmes, who proves deserving of the spotlight." (lines 41-42)

(1 mark)

17. What do these words in bold refer to?

(3 marks)

a. **his** (line 2):

b. **they** (line 9):

c. **which** (line 13):

d. **tasks** (line 19):

e. **it** (line 35):

f. **they** (line 42):

a. his (line 2):	b. they (line 9):
c. which (line 13):	d. tasks (line 19):
e. it (line 35):	f. they (line 42):

18. Find a word or a phrase from the text between lines 16 - 28 which means the following: (2 marks)

a. difficult	
b. temporary substitute	
c. when necessary	
d. hidden from	

Underline the correct answer.

19. Which caption best describes this picture? (1 mark)



- a. Holmes with his friend Daniel Radcliffe in the documentary
- b. Holmes in action on Harry Potter set before the accident
- c. David Holmes: How the film *Harry Potter* changed his life

20. Who would you recommend this article to? (1 mark)

- a. Teens interested in reading fantasy stories
- b. Fans of a reality celebrity show
- c. Fans of documentaries about celebrities

21. People who read this article might be interested in reading more about:(1 mark)

- a. Boys who lived extraordinary lives
- b. David Holmes in Harry Potter
- c. Disabilities and immobility

22a. How does the writer rate this documentary?

(1 mark)

b. Quote a phrase of four words from the text to support this rating.

(1 mark)

23. How does Radcliffe feel towards showbusiness?

(1 mark)

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