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

Qualifying Examination for Supply Learning Support Educators

April 2024

Subject: English Language

Date: 11th April 2024

Time: 09:00 – 10:30 (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. Electric cars seem like a solution in favour of the environment. Write an **article** to be published on the local council website in which you discuss your opinion on the matter.

OR

2. You are a member of staff at a primary school, and you are organising a course about health and safety for students. The Head of your school has asked you to write an **informative report** explaining what arrangements have been made and what remains to be done.

Section B: Reading Comprehension and Summary (50 marks)

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



By Megan Vered

Feb 17, 2024, 08:30 AM EST



42 COMMENTS

A decade ago, **when** I hit 60, I began to see that birthday gifts were overrated, that what I needed were shared experiences. As my 70th approached, I felt motivated to do something meaningful. Something personal. I asked myself, what can I do to fill my memory bank? Swim 70 laps? Make 70 charity donations? More than anything, I wanted to spend cherished time with loved ones. And I was not alone. According to research, people derive more happiness from experiences. Spending quality time with friends and family fosters satisfaction and enduring memories become embedded in the brain.

My objective was to do something that would sidestep the fuss of planning a party during the holidays given that I was born the day after Christmas. A list maker, I landed a plan. I would log 70 experiences during the year with the people I love. **Their** job: to propose. My job: to say yes.

On January 4, 2023, I composed the following email:

Dear person I love,

Having just rolled past 69, I am thinking about the large number looming on the horizon.

I want to log in 70 experiences in 2023 with people I love. My goal is to say yes to whatever **you** might propose, no matter how big or small. Anything from a cup of coffee to a trip to a national park.

But please, no thrill-seeking. No roller coasters or bungee jumping. And nothing that involves a shark tank. I look forward to saying yes to your proposal.

With love,

Megan

I pressed send, wondering if people would regard it as yet another big idea, a so-called Meganism. My daughter was the first to respond. She called **it**: 'Best plan ever!' My inbox quickly swelled with offers. Come pick raspberries on my farm. How about a theatre trip to London?

As responses multiplied, I felt gratitude for my longtime friends. But I wondered, will I have enough pizzazz for six experiences every month? What about my writing deadlines, and teaching schedule? And what about the fact that many of them live in another country? I decided that if in 2023 I didn't manifest the full palette of experiences, I could stretch my birthday into 2024, like chewy sweets.

As offers came in, I added **them** to the master list. Though I did not hang glide or eat insects, I hiked, kayaked, picnicked, rode the ferry, dined out, listened to live music, visited museums, danced, and attended literary events. My year was filled to the rim. To my surprise, most of the experiences that rose to the top were within driving

distance of my home, did not break the bank, and, most important, with each experience I learned something about myself and made a memory with a loved one.

40 I embraced the glee of playing tourist in my hometown while riding the bus through diverse neighbourhoods with Stephanie, who has known me since the days of baby teeth. I discovered that a woman **my** age can up her glow without being garish as I weeded through the overabundance of black and grey in my wardrobe with Linda. I bartered teenage insecurity for a senior sense of cool during disco night with Jen. I reaffirmed that some things are best left in the past while listening to Pink Martini
45 with my once high school rival, Karen. I observed, while floating in the healing waters of Calistoga with Quinn, that though we were missing Lolo, traditions live on even after friends die.

Having crossed the threshold to 70, I feel full, not in a cake-and-ice-cream way but filled with memories of a year well spent. My year of fun helped me see that though I
50 may slow down as I age, neither my dazzle nor my friendships have dimmed. Many people, upon hearing my plan, told me they were going to follow in my footsteps on their next big birthday. Should you decide to do the same, the process is a breeze: 1) count the number of years you've been on the planet; 2) compose an email, setting an intention that expands your comfort zone, even if only a wee bit; and 3) send it to
55 your people. I trust they will respond.

As I recount the events of my milestone birthday and look ahead toward the upcoming year, I wonder-dream what I might do to fill my 71st cup with delight. While watching the sun settle, I remembered a treasured life motto:
..... And I did. Seventy times.

60

Adapted from: <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/>

Underline the correct answer.

(3 marks)

1. Which title best fits this text?

- a. The email that changed my life
- b. The party of a lifetime
- c. 70th birthday experiences

2. In which section of an online magazine would you find this article?

- a. Personal
- b. News
- c. Entertainment

3. The main purpose of this article is to

- a. give instructions on how one can spend their birthday.
- b. describe a different way of celebrating one's birthday.
- c. persuade readers to try different experiences.

4. Why did Megan think 'that birthday gifts were overrated' (line 1)?

(1 mark)

5. What activities did she initially come up with to do on her birthday?

(1 mark)

6. In your own words, list three benefits of spending time with loved ones according to the text.

(3 marks)

7. a. Underline the correct answer. The writer's attitude towards party planning is (1 mark)
i. positive ii. negative iii. neutral

b. Between lines 1 and 12, quote a phrase of three words which supports your answer. (1 mark)

8. Are the following statements True or False? Underline the correct answer and give a reason from the text. (9 marks)

a. Megan's birthday is close to Christmas.
True / False because

b. Megan wrote an email addressed to many people.
True / False because

c. Megan wrote the email when she turned 70.
True / False because

d. Megan wrote an email suggesting experiences.
True / False because

e. Megan enjoys close encounters with sharks.
True / False because

f. The aim of the email was to invite people to her party.
True / False because

g. Megan promised she would agree to all offers.

True / False because

h. This email was the first time Megan tried doing something different.

True / False because

i. People took Megan's request seriously.

True / False because

9. List the three issues which might have stopped Megan from accepting all the offers.

(3 marks)

10. In your own words, explain what Megan means by "I could stretch my birthday into 2024, like chewy sweets" (line 32).

(2 marks)

11. Here are photos of activities Megan did. Tick (✓) the TWO she did not do.

(1 mark)



12. Megan had some favourite experiences. What were the four things these experiences had in common? (2 marks)

13. Here are names of people Megan mentioned in the text. Match the name with the description. (3 marks)

Stephanie	Linda	Jen	Karen	Quinn	Lolo
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NAME	Description
	danced with Megan.
	has passed away.
	has known Megan since childhood.
	made friends with Megan.
	helped revamp Megan's sense of fashion.
	swam with Megan.

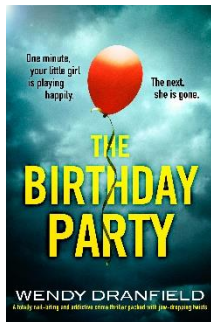
14. What do the following words in bold refer to in the passage? (3 marks)

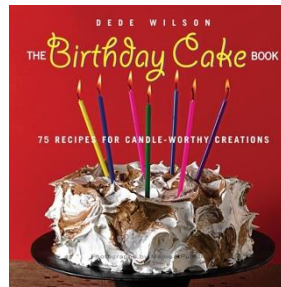
- a. **when** (line 1) _____
- b. **Their** (line 12) _____
- c. **you** (line 18) _____
- d. **it** (line 25) _____
- e. **them** (line 33) _____
- f. **my** (line 41) _____

15. Between lines 39 and 45 find ONE word which means: (3 marks)

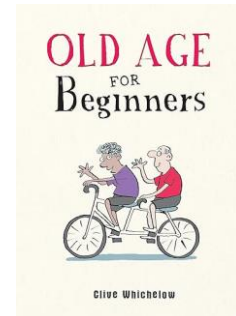
- a. welcomed _____
- b. varied _____
- c. tasteless _____
- d. threw away _____
- e. too much of _____
- f. swapped _____

16. Tick (✓) the correct answer. Which one would Megan be interested in? (1 mark)









17. What do you think the treasured life motto (line 59) is? (1 mark)

- a. I am what I think about
- b. Find a reason to say yes
- c. Tomorrow is another day
- d. Show others that they matter

18. Look at this photo. Underline the caption that fits best. (1 mark)

- a. Grooving with my sisters at the Monterey Jazz Festival
- b. Photo booth silliness with Stephanie back in the day
- c. This is me on the ferry with my writer pal, Jen
- d. Kayaking on the sparkling water with my bestie




19. Here are comments made by readers of this text. Which comment is the odd one out? (1 mark)

Tick (✓) the correct answer.


Michael Snyder ...
 2d ago
 Congratulations on coming up with a thoughtful and creative idea. Looks like you have great friends and family. Oh, and welcome to the club from one septuagenarian to another.


Bonnie Harris
 2d ago
 This must be a suggestion for rich people.


Fantastic Voyager ...
 2d ago
 It really is a number. I may look a bit more weathered at 49 but I still feel like my late 20s mentally.


Henry Solls
 2d ago
 Disconnected and boring.

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