

Index no: _____



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



Candidate's name must NOT be written on any sheet of the examination paper and booklet.

Index Number must be written once ONLY above the perforation.

Qualifying Examination for Supply Learning Support Educators

February 2025

Subject: English Language

Date: 25th February 2025

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 on 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. Children spend a good part of their school day sitting in a classroom. Write an **article** for the local newspaper in which you describe the problem and suggest ways in which physical activity can be increased in schools.
2. You are a member of your local council, and you have recently organised an event to promote recycling. The mayor has asked you for an assessment **report** of the event. In your report, describe and evaluate the activities organised.

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.



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22 August 2024

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Deborah Nicholls-Lee

From Colombia's upcycled sewer pipes to spheres suspended in the sky in Canada, capsule hotels have been reinvented for a new generation of travellers.

The world's first capsule hotel (founded in Osaka, Japan in 1979) must have looked like a morgue, with neat rows of narrow sleeping capsules each containing a recumbent body. But the following day, the occupants would rise up and head back to the office, grateful for **this** efficient sleep solution that had saved them a commute home in the early hours. As the concept spread, tourists happy to sleep in a room no bigger than **its** bed began to bunk up alongside them, eager to sample this unusual aspect of Japanese culture.

Fast-forward to today, capsule hotels have become a popular choice for travellers for various reasons. Affordability is a key benefit of capsule hotels. In cities **where** hotel rates can be exorbitant, capsule hotels offer a budget-friendly alternative without compromising on essential comforts. Another significant advantage is privacy. Unlike hostel dormitories, capsule hotels provide individual sleeping spaces, ensuring personal space and a degree of solitude. This is particularly appealing to younger holidaymakers who value their privacy but still want to stay in a communal environment. Despite their compact size, capsule hotels do not skimp on comfort. Many capsules are equipped with modern amenities such as Wi-Fi, and even entertainment systems. This ensures that guests can stay connected and entertained during their stay. Security is also a major consideration, especially for solo travellers. Secure entry systems enhance safety, providing peace of mind for guests. Staying in a capsule hotel offers a distinctive experience that is both novel and memorable. Lastly, the location of capsule hotels is typically a major draw. They are often situated in central areas, making it easy for guests to access attractions whilst ensuring that they can make the most of **their** time.

With the global capsule hotel market projected to reach €327 million by 2031, curious hybrids have emerged to sustain the trend and attract new customers. **They're** tempting the latest generations with increasingly outlandish forms, all promising a unique experience and shareable stories for social media. As the concept continues to reinvent itself, here are three of the most extraordinary examples.

Hotel A: Sleep laboratory

Nine Hours, a chain of 13 hotels across Japan, has an unusual by-product: sleep data. Guests can sign up for a "9h sleep fit scan" service, where sensors detect everything from breathing to facial expressions to generate a sleep report that tracks their heart rate, identifies sleeping disorders and even monitors snoring. In a sector where a novel or low-budget stay is often prioritised over comfort, Nine Hours' interest in how well its guests are sleeping sets **it** apart.

Across the franchise, the white, minimalist decor continues this clinical theme, while its rows of sleek, shiny sleeping pods would not look out of place on the set of a science-fiction movie. The name refers to the hotel's cost-cutting concept that reduces room rental to the essential nine hours, allowing seven
45 hours for sleep and an hour on either side for washing in their personal showers and dressing. Just need a nap? Hourly rates are also available.

Hotel B: Climb to the sky

A night in a transparent sleeping pod clinging to a cliff face above Peru's Sacred
50 Valley is not everyone's idea of a relaxing stay, but for adrenaline-lovers, it's hard to beat – not least for the panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and the formidable condors that inhabit **them**.

A near-vertical climb of 400 metres is the only way to reach the Skylodge
55 Adventure Suites, but climbing experience is not necessary – only good health and a head for heights – and descending is speedier thanks to a series of zip wires. Each capsule includes a private bathroom ensuring that night trips to the toilet are not life-threatening, and when the sun rises, **you** can enjoy a cup of tea on your private terrace with your very own treats from the mini fridge.

60 Hotel C: Book at bedtime

A traditional mud and wood farmhouse in eastern China's Zhejiang Province got a prize-winning makeover in 2019 including central heating and all. Capsule
Hotel and Bookstore, as the name implies, reopened as a capsule hostel,
65 bookstore and community library, sleeping 20 in tiny single bed-sized compartments concealed between bookshelves made of local bamboo. A smattering of small landings are connected by zigzagging stairways that recall the serpentine paths of the surrounding forests of Tonglu. It's hard to know which is more dramatic: the remote building's transparent floor-to-ceiling panels that light it up like a cathedral at night, or the lush mountainous scenery that's
70 visible through them.

Adapted from <https://www.bbc.com>

Underline the correct answer in questions 1-4.

(4 marks)

1. In which section of an online newspaper would you find this article?

- a. News
- b. Travel
- c. Earth

2. The main purpose of this article is to

- a. give information about different types of capsule hotels.
- b. give suggestions on where to stay while visiting cities.
- c. persuade readers to stay in capsule hotels when travelling.

3. Which title would best fit this article?

- a. The world's most extraordinary hotels
- b. The rise and fall of capsule hotels
- c. The reinvention of capsule hotels

4. People interested in this text might be

- a. first-time buyers looking into different houses to buy
- b. youths searching for innovative holiday accommodation
- c. elderly searching for different health centres and resorts

5. Underline the correct word. The writer presents the original capsule hotel in a (positive / negative / neutral) light. Quote a part sentence of not more than 4 words to support your answer. (2 marks)

6. What makes the capsule hotel different to other hotels?

(1 mark)

7. How did the original capsule hotel help its first occupants with their daily routine? (1 mark)

8. Fill in the grid below about the three capsule hotels with information found in the text. The first one has been done for you. (4 marks)

	Hotel A	Hotel B	Hotel C
Name	Nine Hours		
Country		Peru	
Famous for			hostel, bookstore and community library
Room Amenity	Shower		

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

a. People can sleep in refurbished drainpipes in Colombia.

True / False because

b. Capsule hotels generate €327 million yearly.

True / False because

c. Nine Hours is the name of a number of hotels in Japan.

True / False because

d. Nine Hours was the location of a film set.

True / False because

e. You can stay at Nine Hours for less than nine hours.

True / False because

f. In the sleeping pod in Peru (Hotel B), travellers have a good view of the scenery.

True / False because

g. You can get to the sleeping pod in Peru (Hotel B) by zip wire.

True / False because

h. The rooms in the capsule hotel in Peru (Hotel B) have an outside area.

True / False because

i. 20 people can sleep in a single bed in capsule hotel C.

True / False because

10. i. Underline the correct answer. As the capsule hotels became more modern, they (attracted, discouraged, inspired) other types of guests.
ii. Give a reason why this happened. (2 marks)

11. List FOUR things the sleep report could include after sleeping in a pod in Hotel A. (2 marks)

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

iv. _____

12. What does the author mean by 'the white, minimalist décor continues this clinical theme' (lines 55-56)? (1 mark)

13. In your own words, what type of travellers might be attracted to Hotel B? (1 mark)

14. How did the surroundings influence the building of Hotel C? (1 mark)

15. What do the following words in **bold** refer to in the passage? (4 marks)

- a. **this** (line 6) _____
- b. **its** (line 8) _____
- c. **where** (line 12) _____
- d. **their** (line 26) _____
- e. **They** (line 29) _____
- f. **it** (line 40) _____
- g. **them** (line 52) _____
- h. **you** (line 57) _____

16. Between lines 10 and 24, find ONE word which means: (4 marks)

- a. different _____
- b. overpriced _____
- c. travellers _____
- d. shared _____
- e. single _____
- f. improve _____
- g. original _____
- h. attraction _____

17. Look at this photo. Underline the correct answer.

This photo shows Hotel (A, B, C). (1 mark)



18. Match Column A with Column B by writing the correct letter (b-e) in the middle column. The first one has been done for you. (2 marks)

	Column 1		Column 2
a.	The number of hours you have to sleep.		1979
b.	The number of hours for doing other things rather than sleeping.	a	7
c.	The date when a capsule hotel was renovated.		400
d.	The date when capsule hotels were established.		2
e.	The number of metres one has to travel to reach this hotel.		2019

19. Tick (✓) the correct answer. Which one of the following comments is about a hotel which is NOT described in the text? (1 mark)

😊 "Excellent stay at this hotel! The location was perfect, with easy access to shopping malls, metro rail, and taxis readily available. The food was delicious too! The hotel's proximity to key attractions and amenities made our stay very convenient and enjoyable. Highly recommended!"

😞 Lounge area a bit tiny and our pods were on the ground floor with views to the street. Not that the views were bad but it felt a bit like being on display or not enough privacy. There's a sleep study option with a camera that measures your sleep pattern. This camera made disturbing noises all night. I think you could opt out of it. Otherwise, good budget-friendly place to stay in Tokyo.

😊 THE VIEWS! The climb is challenging, but the reward is worth every step. The food was excellent; you wouldn't guess that the guide on the climb was also the chef!

😞 Nothing! Even the bathroom situation, which is not the most comfortable for 6ft tall people, is tolerable for a night.

20. In between 50 to 60 of your own words, summarise the advantages of capsule hotels found between lines 10-26. (10 marks)

Section C: Short Writing Task (10 marks)

You are Pat Harrison. You are organising a team-building activity, and the proceeds will be donated to charity. However, you had to make several changes to these plans. In between 50 and 60 words, write an email to your colleagues to inform them about these changes and describe your new plans.

From:	patharrison@vol.com.mt
To:	samgreen@example.com; riley smith@example.com; john.doe@example.com; jane.smith@example.com; alex.jones@example.com; emily.brown@example.com
Subject:	Change of Plans

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER

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