



**Annual Examinations for Secondary Schools 2015**

**FORM 4**

**ENGLISH  
LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

**TIME: 15 minutes**

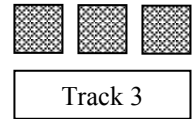
**TEACHER'S PAPER**

**Instructions for the conduct of the Listening Comprehension Examination**

The teacher should instruct the candidates to answer the questions on the paper provided. The following procedure for reading the Listening Comprehension passage is to be explained to the candidates immediately before proceeding with the examination.

*You have been given a sheet containing the Listening Comprehension questions. You will be given three minutes to read the questions based on the passage. The passage will be read at normal reading speed. You may take notes during the reading. After this reading there will be a pause of another three minutes to allow you to answer some of the questions. I shall read the passage a second time and you may take further notes and answer the rest of the questions. After this second reading you will be given a further three minutes for a final revision of the answers.*

- a. 3 minutes – Students read questions.
- b. 3 minutes – Teacher reads passage aloud for the first time while students take notes.
- c. 3 minutes – Students answer questions.
- d. 3 minutes – Teacher reads passage for the second time. Students may answer more questions.
- e. 3 minutes – Students revise final answers.



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**TEACHER'S PAPER**

**Rock Bottom**

Alcatraz, a rocky island in the San Francisco Bay, once housed the world's most notorious criminals. Although the prison has been closed for more than 30 years, it is a very popular tourist attraction.

A rocky little island, hidden in fog, slowly appears ahead. A watchtower stands guard over the fortress-like structure. As you approach you see that the entire complex is surrounded by 15-foot high concrete walls and barbed wire.

This was the chilling sight that greeted the first batch of inmates who arrived at Alcatraz in 1934. The 53 prisoners had been loaded onto a train more than a 1,000 miles away. So deadly was the human cargo – which included America's public enemy Number 1, Al Capone – that every man was clamped in leg-irons and chained to his seat; the train was fitted with barred windows and wire mesh doors.

All of them were being locked away in this remote jail, from which there was no escape, for one reason: they were too dangerous ever to be allowed to walk the streets again.

Today the bad guys have gone and this island in San Francisco Bay has been turned into a tourist attraction. A million visitors a day are now drawn by the legends of Capone, the most notorious prisoner, and other wonderfully named gangsters like George 'Machine Gun' Kelly, Basil 'The Owl' Banghart and the famous Birdman of Alcatraz who spent 54 years of his life in prison, 44 of them in solitary confinement.

But even today, the very name Alcatraz sends a shiver down people's spines. The 12-acre island was originally called the Island of the Pelicans more than 200 years ago when California was under Spanish rule. It was later renamed Fort Alcatraz when the US Army took control in the 1800s. It became a civilian prison in 1934.

The inmates had a very tough daily routine. Woken at 6.30am, they would be marched in single file to the kitchen for breakfast. They had 20 minutes to eat their meal before being taken to a workshop, where the jobs included making uniforms and doing the laundry. Prisoners would work solidly until 4.30pm, with the exception of a 20-minute lunch-break, and be back in their cells by 5.30pm. Lights out was at 9.30pm.

Punishments for misbehaviour were very harsh and there was a special block called D-Block for this.

It's hardly surprising that prisoners spent their lives dreaming up ever more fantastic ways to escape. At least 39 prisoners tried but if the guards didn't manage to stop them, the icy waters or the strong currents most likely would. In fact 7 inmates were shot to death, 26 were captured, 1 prisoner drowned, whilst 5 missing men are believed to have been swept out to sea. But, who knows, maybe they're still around!

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**ENGLISH  
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**TIME: 15 minutes**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**10 MARKS**

- A. Fill in the missing details about Alcatraz in this Fact File with information you will hear in the passage. (5 marks)**

**Fact File :**

Alcatraz : a rocky island

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Size of Island: \_\_\_\_\_ acres

First used as Prison: \_\_\_\_\_

The most famous prisoner: \_\_\_\_\_

Original Name of Island: \_\_\_\_\_



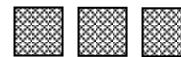
- B. Put a tick (✓) in the correct box to indicate whether the statement is TRUE (T) or FALSE (F). (2 marks)**

1. Alcatraz is still used as a prison by the US Army.
2. Nowadays Alcatraz does not frighten people anymore.
3. The prisoners had to follow a very strict timetable during the day.
4. All prisoners who tried to escape were caught, either dead or alive.

T	F

- C. What do these numbers refer to? (3 marks)**

15	
9.30	
54	



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**FORM 4**

**ENGLISH COMPREHENSION TEXTS**

**30 marks**

Read the following texts and answer the questions which are on the language paper.

**TEXT A**

**Reasons to enjoy those rainy days**



Have you ever thought about which is the “dearest and most indispensable of household objects?” According to William Sangster, in his 1855 treatise, this is the umbrella. “Yet,” he sadly observed, “we treat **it** with shameful neglect.”

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His sentiments are shared by Francesco Maglia, the fifth-generation owner of Ombrelli Maglia, one of the few companies that still employ traditional methods of umbrella-making. “People think an umbrella is just something to use once or twice and throw away,” Mr. Maglia said. “I still have my grandfather’s umbrella. If you take care of an umbrella it lives as long as you do, or more.”

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Now 70, Mr. Maglia still works alongside his brother Giorgio at their workshop on the outskirts of Milan. All their materials - except for some exotic woods - are obtained in Italy. They utilise mostly chestnut, ash, walnut and cherry wood but more prestigious woods like hickory, ebony and rosewood can also be found in their collection. Far more intriguing is the list of additional materials employed in the making of umbrellas which includes hand-stitched leather covers of calfskin, lizard and crocodile skins, inserts of horn and tortoiseshell as well as handles of antlers, tree roots and tooth of warthog.

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“We are really well-known because of the solid sticks,” he said of **their** single shaft umbrellas. “They’re really unbreakable; they look like walking sticks with an umbrella over. For me it’s my best product.” These sticks are painstakingly polished and bent in a process that can take up to six months. Requiring specialist skills, the number of suppliers who make umbrella parts such as these have dwindled, and in many cases disappeared. “Twenty years ago we had four companies for fabric and seven companies for handles.” Mr. Maglia said, “Now we only have two for handles and one for the fabric. This is very sad. It’s a culture that’s going underneath our shoes,” he concluded, using an Italian expression to describe the decline of the industry.

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Ray Garrett, the owner of Fox Umbrellas in London, tells a similar story. The umbrella business was made up of numerous little factories each employing people that just bent the handles, people that just made the runners or just made the fittings. Now most umbrella makers get their parts from China. “We’re losing this little cottage industry. It’s getting

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Established in 1868, Fox has produced handmade umbrellas since the reign of Queen Victoria. Available in any number of colours, from yellow, lilac and aubergine to turquoise and emerald, their range today stretches from ladies' umbrellas made of fine fabrics with a mass of frills and an elaborate tassel priced at 230 dollars, to the more gentlemanly crutch-handle model, with a black beech shaft and fitted silver collar, for 1,202 dollars. "Prince Charles gave one of **those** to his father, the Duke of Edinburgh, last year as a Christmas present," said Mr. Garrett of a Malacca racing umbrella with a pencil in the handle. "You can have the crook of the handle over your arm, and you can take the gold pencil out of the top so you can mark your racing card."

The beauty of a handmade umbrella is that it can be made to fit its customer. There are people who are very tall and want some extra length or people - such as those in Japan - who are much shorter, so they prefer a shorter umbrella.

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**They** are asked to do all sorts of things, Mr. Garrett added, "You'd be amazed. We've got umbrellas with different animal heads and a monkey with eyes that open and a tongue which sticks out. We even used to make umbrellas with swords in but now, of course, it is illegal." Among their most unusual custom-made creations is a diamond and ruby encrusted gold-plated umbrella for the sultan of Brunei. "It's rather nice, but a bit too ornate," Mr. Garrett said of the umbrella that now

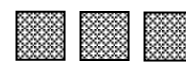
has pride of place in the sultan's private museum.

*(International New York Times Nov 19, 2013)*

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## TEXT B

An advertisement for AT&amp;T's umbrella weather report service. The background is dark with a pattern of light-colored raindrops. At the top, the text "UMBRELLA TODAY?" is written in large, white, bold letters. Below it, a quote reads: "It's like totally the simplest weather report ever, Julie." In the center, a black umbrella is open, with the word "YES" written in large, white, bold letters across its canopy. Below the umbrella, the text says: "We will text message you on days you'll need umbrella with our weather report. Enter your cell below." There is a white input field for a cell number, a dropdown menu for scheduling reports (set to "8:00 AM"), and another dropdown menu for cell carrier (set to "at&amp;t"). A "GO" button is at the bottom right.



**Annual Examinations for Secondary Schools 2015**

**FORM 4** **ENGLISH LANGUAGE** **TIME: 2 hours**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Marks			
Oral Assessment	Listening Comprehension	Written Paper	Total

**A. Fill in the spaces with a word formed from the words in brackets. The first one (0) has been done for you. 5 marks**

A (0) (**power**) **powerful** earthquake that (1) (measure) \_\_\_\_\_ 6.4 on the Richter scale shook (2) (centre) \_\_\_\_\_ Iran on Tuesday. At least 370 people were killed, with hundreds more (3) (injure) \_\_\_\_\_. Heavy rain has made it difficult for (4) (rescue) \_\_\_\_\_ to work. The governor of the province said that (5) (medicine) \_\_\_\_\_ supplies were required because they were in desperate short supply. The epicentre of the earthquake was 56 kilometres northwest of the capital of the province according to the US (6) (geology) \_\_\_\_\_ Survey, and the villages of Hotkan and Khanhook were the most (7) (bad) \_\_\_\_\_ hit. Power supplies have been completely cut off and the hospitals are filled to capacity. Although there is no clear picture of the magnitude of the disaster, it was, however, smaller than the 6.6 magnitude earthquake in December 2003 that (8) (flat) \_\_\_\_\_ the (9) (history) \_\_\_\_\_ town of Bam in the same region. That quake caused the (10) (die) \_\_\_\_\_ of tens of thousands of people.

**B. Fill in the spaces with an appropriate word. The first one (0) has been done for you.**

**5 marks**

Yoga, a Sanskrit word (0) **meaning** union, is an (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Indian practice dating back to 5000 years ago. It was introduced to the West in the late 1880s but has only recently (2) \_\_\_\_\_ popular. Today, millions of people the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ over practise yoga for a variety of reasons including the reduction of mental (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and for physical exercise. Although yoga is usually associated (5) \_\_\_\_\_ twisting the body into different positions, the truth is that yoga can also be performed sitting in a comfortable (6) \_\_\_\_\_ or even while lying in bed. There are many different yoga traditions, but the most popular form in the West is Hatha Yoga. Hatha Yoga's goal is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ health and mental well-being. It uses meditation, over 200 body postures and breathing techniques to help people achieve these goals. The body postures help keep the body in shape, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ helps relax the mind, and deep (9) \_\_\_\_\_ helps get more oxygen to the blood. However, before you start to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ yoga, it is recommended that you first talk to your doctor to be sure that the exercises will not cause you any problems.

**C. Rewrite the following sentences in such a way that the meaning remains the same. You must use the word in brackets in your answer. The first one (0) is an example.**

**5 marks**

0. We haven't seen each other for ten years. (last)

The **last time we saw** each other was ten years ago.

1. You shouldn't be so impatient. (ought)

You \_\_\_\_\_ patient.

2. People believe he won a lot of money on the lottery. (have)

He \_\_\_\_\_ won a lot of money on the lottery.

3. "You must wear a tie to the concert next week," his wife told him. (to)

His wife told him he \_\_\_\_\_ week.

4. We missed the plane because our car broke down on the motorway. (not)

If our car \_\_\_\_\_ on the motorway, we would have caught the plane.

5. He's a better singer than me. (sing)

I can't \_\_\_\_\_ he can.

**D. Put the verb in brackets in the correct form. The first one (0) has been done for you.**

**5 marks**

When we (0) (**arrive**) **arrived** at the cinema, the movie (1) (finish) \_\_\_\_\_ and people (2) (leave) \_\_\_\_\_ at that very moment. We (3) (understand) \_\_\_\_\_ at once that we (4) (miss) \_\_\_\_\_ the film. My cousin became very frustrated. He had told me several times how much he wanted (5) (see) \_\_\_\_\_ this particular movie. So he suggested (6) (buy) \_\_\_\_\_ the tickets for the following day. When we came to the ticket office, we realized that none of us (7) (have) \_\_\_\_\_ any money because we (8) (leave) \_\_\_\_\_ our wallets at home. I wish we (9) (not/go) \_\_\_\_\_ to the cinema! If I had known that the day was going to be such a disaster, I (10) (stay) \_\_\_\_\_ at home.

**E. READING COMPREHENSION**

**30 marks**

**Read TEXT A which is on a separate sheet and then answer the following questions.**

1. This passage is taken from
- a. a treatise
  - b. a business report
  - c. a newspaper
  - d. an advertisement
- (½ mark)
2. Francesco Maglia
- a. is the eldest of five brothers.
  - b. owns the company with other five family members.
  - c. has five sons who will carry on the family business.
  - d. is the fifth person of the same family who has owned the company.
- (½ mark)



3. Underline to indicate whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE and give a reason for your choice. (4 marks)

a. In the past, people used to take very good care of their umbrellas.

True / False because

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b. The umbrella-making firm Ombrelli Maglia can be found in the centre of Milan.

True / False because

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c. Ray Garrett of Fox Umbrellas disagrees with what Mr Maglia said in the interview.

True / False because

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d. There is a standard size for umbrellas which never varies.

True / False because

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4. What is so special about the Ombrelli Maglia and the Fox Umbrellas companies? (1 mark)

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5. Why does Mr. Maglia mention his grandfather during the interview? (1 mark)

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6. List TWO requests that Fox Umbrellas gets from its customers. (2 marks)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Quote the sentence which shows that Fox Umbrellas in London has some very prestigious customers. (1 mark)

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8. Find expressions between lines 6 and 24 in the passage that mean the same as: (4 marks)

a. do something as it was done in the past: \_\_\_\_\_

b. disposable: \_\_\_\_\_

c. appear similar to: \_\_\_\_\_

d. can only be done by an expert: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Find TWO words in the passage that mean the same as **use**. (1 mark)

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

10. What do the following refer to in the text? (2 marks)

a. it (line 5) \_\_\_\_\_

b. their (line 20) \_\_\_\_\_

c. those (line 39) \_\_\_\_\_

d. they (line 46) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Explain in your own words: (2 marks)

a. indispensable (line 2) \_\_\_\_\_

b. painstakingly (line 22) \_\_\_\_\_

c. dwindled (line 24) \_\_\_\_\_

d. elaborate (line 37) \_\_\_\_\_

12. According to the passage, how has the industry changed through the ages?  
Do not write more than 80 words. (6 marks)

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Number of words \_\_\_\_\_

## TEXT B

1. What type of text is this?
  - a. a weather report for the coming winter (1 mark)
  - b. an online subscription to receive weather reports
  - c. a survey about the weather in your country
  - d. an online shopping site for umbrellas
  
2. What time will you get the text message according to the above information? (1 mark)  

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3. What will the message tell you over and above the usual weather report? (1 mark)  

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4. Why do you think is it advertised as “the simplest weather report ever”? (1 mark)  

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5. Write a 5-word text message which you are likely to receive on a rainy day. (1 mark)  

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## F. COMPOSITION

**30 marks**

**Write a composition between 250 and 300 words on ONE of the following:**

1. “Although I didn’t want to do it, I knew I had no choice.” Continue the **story**.
  
2. Sports is said to be good for your body and mind. Yet some people are attracted to dangerous sports and other life-threatening activities such as planking or owling. **Discuss** how sports can be either beneficial or deadly in certain cases. You can use specific examples to support your arguments.
  
3. A magazine has asked its readers to submit reviews of films that they have recently seen and which would be of interest to other people. Write your **review** mentioning the main points of the plot, general comments about the acting, the directing, the sound track and other features, as well as your recommendations.

4. You are a member of the students’ council at your school. Read the note below from Jeff, another member, and then write an **email** to your headmaster, Mr. Deguara, asking for permission to have a carnival party and tell him about the plans that have been made so far.

Please write to Mr Deguara and ask him if we can have a party in the school hall. There were some problems last year, so reassure him that there won't be any complaints!

- 8 - 11.30 pm, Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Ticket holders only (400 maximum)
- Sonic Sounds will do the disco (special price!)
- Luigi Catering doing food and drink, Council doing the decorations

Thanks,  
Jeff

**Composition Number:**

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