

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (DP)

ADMISSIONS EXAM SYLLABUS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The sample examination paper provided below is intended to give candidates an indication of the types of questions that may appear in the exam. Please note that the questions and content in the actual exam may vary in wording, length, and level of difficulty, and the exam may include more questions than those presented in this sample.

The exam will consist of three sections: **Reading Comprehension and Text Analysis, English in Use, and Writing.**

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION AND TEXT ANALYSIS

TEXT A

Read the text below and then answer the questions that follow.

Extract from “*The Hawk*” by Jules Chung

We **swoosh** toward church on wet roads under a sky with no feelings.

You won’t speak to me. That’s typically true, but more so on Sundays. You are thirteen, so I am convinced I still have some say over you.

As we **merge** into the jughandle that dumps us out onto the church’s road, you shout. “A hawk!”

I **glance** upward and see nothing. You hit the window with both hands. “Stop!” you say. There’s no safe place to stop, so I keep driving. “There’s a baby hawk back there,” you say. “It’s hurt.”

I pull into the church parking lot because it’s the best place to turn the car around. Driving past tight rows of vehicles **spattered** with salted snow, I make the left and then another so we can exit.

“You’re going back?”

You sound genuinely surprised, and I admit to myself that **your surprise leaves a little bruise**. You’ve convinced yourself I’m hard. Your assumption that I would ignore an injured animal shows me how hard.

“Of course,” I say. “A baby hawk is hurt.”

Church has been the sorest point between us. You hate it. I don't love it either, to be honest. It doesn't give me the feeling it did when I was a kid. For you, there's no glee from seeing all your Korean friends at the end of the week being "the only" at school.

I am having a hard time admitting to myself that your Dad and I just aren't going to be able to make this particular ritual meaningful for you. It barely feels meaningful for us. Maybe that's what we're in denial about. "Why don't you join a Korean church?" my mother says on the phone from time to time. "Maybe she would like that better", she says. "She" meaning you.

I'm not even sure how to respond. Her question presumes I have somehow missed an obvious and simple solution to your loneliness. I could try to explain that a church like the one your Dad and I grew up in, the kind your grandparents' generation **established** and ran, doesn't really exist anymore. The children of that community have moved on, **scattered**. Or I could say that we've tried a couple of Korean churches, but they felt like an uncomfortable throwback. How can I explain to my mother that we, my family, have found neither a church nor a community where we feel we fit? Wherever we go, we feel like heretics. I can't explain it to her, or I don't know how, or I'm too tired at the prospect, so I just say yes, she has a point, I will think about it.

Our minivan is reaching the part of the road where you saw the hawk. I slow down. "There," you say, pressing your fingertip into the window. "You passed it!"

For the last year, you've been inexplicably angry, sometimes explosive. All the books say this is normal, but your anger seems like something else, something vast and dense, something I must heed. The more I treat you like my darling girl, the more you revolt, so I pull back from babying you as much as I can, knowing that you might **resent** me for this too, not just now but someday. What you will think about me someday haunts me.

You get out of the car and walk the hundred feet to the snowbank with such purpose. Your stride reminds me of your Dad's. The weather is misting and there is no traffic. You remove your orange puffer as you go. Except for the gentle click of the hazards, the world has fallen silent. In the mirrors, I see you crouch down, and a few moments later, you're back at the car with something bundled against you. I stretch and open the passenger side.

You climb in, **curled** around your parcel, and close the door. The fierce gold eyes of the fledgling make me want to laugh. Their intensity **defies** us to call it helpless. I take in the sight of you holding the hawk so tenderly. The hawk's head juts from the spool of your jacket. It looks like a stuffed toy **swaddled** in a tiny duvet, a toy so realistic it bends the brain. And then my brain snaps to...

.... *The hawk is real...*

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the thirteen-year-old's reaction upon seeing the hawk?

- A. indifference
- B. excitement
- C. concern
- D. fear

2. What reason is given for not finding the suggestion to join a Korean church appealing?

- A. The services are held at inconvenient times.
- B. They feel out of place and uncomfortable.
- C. They do not speak Korean.
- D. The narrator and their family are not religious.

3. What is the narrator's reaction to the mother's suggestion to join a Korean church?

- A. She is enthusiastic and willing to give it a try.
- B. She dismisses the suggestion outright.
- C. She is confused and seeking more information.
- D. She is hesitant and somewhat resigned.

4. Which of the following best describes the child's behavior over the last year?

- A. calm and collected
- B. joyful and energetic
- C. irate and volatile
- D. indifferent and distant

5. Identify one of the bolded words in the text that is synonymous with the words provided below. There are more bolded words than you need.

A. disperse (verb)	
B. express bitterness (verb)	
C. wrap (verb)	
D. set up (verb)	

6. "Your surprise leaves a little bruise." Identify the literary device (alliteration, metaphor, simile, personification, etc.) used in this phrase and explain what it implies about the narrator's connection with the thirteen-year-old.

7. What might the hawk symbolize in relation to the child's inexplicable anger?

TEXT B

Read the text below and then answer the questions that follow.

Narwhals: The Unicorns of the Sea

Adapted from UNICORN OF THE SEA: NARWHAL FACTS <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/unicorn-of-the-sea-narwhal-facts>

Narwhals are captivating creatures that inhabit the frigid Arctic waters. With their long, spiraled tusks protruding from their heads, they have captured the curiosity of scientists and nature enthusiasts alike.

These elusive mammals, scientifically known as *Monodon monoceros*, are often referred to as the "unicorns of the sea" due to their unique appearance. Males possess a prominent tusk—a specialized tooth that can grow up to 10 feet long! The tusk is believed to be primarily used for mating rituals and establishing dominance within the narwhal community.

Narwhals have a streamlined body and can reach lengths up to 18 feet. They are well-adapted to their harsh environment, with a thick layer of blubber that provides insulation in the icy waters. Their skin is dark gray, helping them blend in with the surrounding sea ice.

These marine mammals are skilled divers, capable of descending to depths of over 4,000 feet in search of food. Narwhals feed on Greenland halibut, Arctic and polar cod, squid, and shrimp. They chomp at the ice-floe edge and in the ice-free summer waters. Narwhals use echolocation to navigate and locate their prey, emitting clicks and listening for the echoes to determine the location and distance of objects in their environment.

During the summer months, narwhals gather in large groups called pods. These pods can comprise hundreds of individuals, creating a bustling social scene. However, during the winter, when the Arctic freezes, narwhals navigate through narrow channels in the ice, sometimes trapped in small pockets of open water.

Oil and gas development and climate change pose threats to narwhals. Increased development means more shipping vessels, creating more opportunities for collisions and more underwater noise that can interfere with communication among the whales, which is vital for their survival as it aids in navigation, finding food, and maintaining social connections within their pods. WWF helps raise awareness of and address the threat of noise pollution on narwhals and other whales.

Due to their remote habitat and elusive nature, studying narwhals can be a challenge. Researchers use satellite tags and acoustic monitoring to track their movements and gather data on their

behavior. They document the paths of narwhals during their annual feeding and reproductive routines to better understand the species. Studying narwhals provides valuable insights into these enigmatic creatures and their fragile ecosystems that must be preserved.

Answer the following questions:

1. According to the text, why are narwhals referred to as the "unicorns of the sea"?

- A. because they have a long, spiraled tusk
- B. because they are elusive mammals
- C. because they inhabit the frigid Arctic waters
- D. because they are well-adapted to their harsh environment

2. Based on the text, what is the primary purpose of a narwhal's tusk?

- A. to establish dominance within the narwhal community
- B. to capture the curiosity of scientists and nature enthusiasts
- C. to navigate and locate prey using echolocation
- D. to provide insulation in the icy waters

A. Which of the following statements is accurate regarding the echolocation abilities of narwhals?

- Narwhals emit a continuous humming sound to sense their surroundings.
- B. Narwhals use visual cues from the environment to find and capture their prey.
- C. Narwhals rely on auditory cues to hunt for their prey.
- D. Narwhals rely on the temperature of the water to find and capture their prey.

3. Considering the methods used to study narwhals, which question correctly assesses the information provided in the text?

- A. What techniques do researchers employ to overcome the difficulty of studying narwhals in their natural habitat?
- B. How do narwhals communicate with each other in their remote environment?
- C. Which visual monitoring systems are most effective for observing narwhal social interactions?
- D. Are narwhals more active during the day or night, according to satellite tracking data?

4. What does the text suggest about the purpose of studying narwhals?

- A. to establish dominance within the narwhal community
- B. to capture the curiosity of scientists and nature enthusiasts
- C. to gather data on their elusive nature to support conservation efforts
- D. to gather data on their remote habitat and the diverse world of marine life

5. According to the text, what are the major threats to narwhal populations? Explain in your own words.

6. Considering the challenges faced by narwhals in their Arctic habitat, what conservation strategies could be most effective in ensuring the survival of the "unicorn of the sea"?

SECTION B: ENGLISH IN USE

EXERCISE A

Complete the sentences using the verb in the parentheses in an appropriate form.

- If she (1) _____ (study) more consistently, she wouldn't be struggling with the material now.
- Were I to win the lottery, I (2) _____ (travel) the world.
- She always (3) _____ (tell) me the truth when we were kids.
- As soon as the bell (4) _____ (ring), the students will rush to the cafeteria.
- This time next week, I (5) _____ (lie) on the beach if all goes according to plan.
- If they (6) _____ (know) what was at stake, they (7) _____ (never / take) such a careless approach.
- Provided the weather (8) _____ (remain) clear tonight, the astronomical event (9) _____ (be) visible from our observatory.
- They (10) _____ (write) their essays by the deadline if they start working on them now.

EXERCISE B

Use the appropriate linking words and phrases from the list below to complete the text that follows. There are more linking words and phrases than you need.

furthermore /	whereas/	on the other hand /	to sum up/	despite	
in spite of/	to start with/	nevertheless/	in case/	although/	as well as

A package holiday has several advantages over an independently organized one. 1. _____, it is usually cheaper. 2. _____, everything is included so that the customer doesn't have to arrange anything. Normally, a representative at the resort can sort out any problems that may arise. 3. _____, you may not want to travel in a large group or stay in an international-style hotel. So, 4. _____ the attractions of the package holiday, you may choose to make your own arrangements for greater flexibility. A package holiday is a good idea if you want an economical and lively holiday. _____ if your aims are more ambitious, you should organize your holiday yourself.

EXERCISE C

Rewrite the sentences below in reported speech. Use the appropriate introductory verb that reflects the meaning of the direct statement. You may choose from the word bank below. Make sure you use each word only once.

persuade	remind	refuse
admit	beg	suggest
deny	prefer	insist
complain	accuse	urge

1. "Jack, don't give up!" said his coach.
2. "Please, give me another chance!", Mary said to her boyfriend.
3. "You can stay at my place over the weekend.", Robert said.
4. "I didn't want to talk to Tim on my way home last night," John said.
5. "I have been trying to phone you all day!" my mum said.

SECTION C: WRITING

Complete **ONE** of the following tasks. You must write between **200 and 300** words.

1. Our school is launching a writing competition to promote well-being among teenagers. As part of this initiative, we call upon our students to write compelling essays titled “*Media Violence and Its Impact on Society and Teenagers*.” **Write your essay.**

OR

2. Our school newspaper is excited to announce the upcoming “Student Voices” series. In this series, we will feature articles written by you, the students, on topics that matter most to you. We invite all aspiring writers to contribute thought-provoking articles titled “*What motivates you to learn?*”. **Write your article.**

Make sure:

- you demonstrate your understanding of the topic.
- you organize your response logically and coherently.
- you demonstrate an appropriate writing style with precise word choice and varied sentences.
- you use standard conventions for writing.
- your writing is clear, concise, and free of spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.