THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE FORM 1 PLACEMENT EXAMINATION WILL LOOK

ST. MAARTEN ACADEMY

PLACEMENT EXAMINATION 2026

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

FORM : 1

TIME : 1 hour 45 mins

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **This paper is divided into TWO sections**
2. **Answer ALL questions in Section One and ONE from Section Two.**
3. **Write your answers according to the instructions in each section.**
4. **Use BLACK or BLUE ink pens only**

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

SCHOOL:_____

SCORE:_____

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO

SECTION ONE

Answer ALL questions in this section.

Comprehension: Study the advertisement below and then answer questions which follow. **Circle the CAPITAL LETTER beside the word or phrase which gives the best answer to each question.**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

@ SALIM SUPERMART

Join us, be part of the team

Salim Supermart is one of the largest supermarket chains in Singapore. At Salim, we aim to provide our consumers products at the best prices. We are opening our 5th mega store at Bukit Hakus in June. It is our very first 24-hr store. We are looking for a group of enthusiastic and energetic people to join our team.

Cashier
- 10 vacancies
- No experience required
- able to work night shifts
- completed secondary education
- like to interact with people

Storeman
- 10 vacancies
- must be physically fit
- some experience in store management required
- part time positions available

Security Officer (Night Shift)
- 4 vacancies
- experience needed
- relevant experience will command higher pay
- completed secondary education

Delivery Staff
- 6 vacancies
- possess Class 3 driving license
- able to work late
- at least 1 year of relevant experience
- Starting pay: $950

Other benefits:

- ✔ 5-day work week
- ✔ Annual Bonus
- ✔ Attractive salaries
- ✔ Medical and Dental benefits
- ✔ Opportunities for promotion & training

Walk-in Interview

Monday – Saturday
8am – 12noon, 2 pm – 7pm

SALIM SUPERMART headquarters
391 Kim Jian Avenue
Singapore 987654

Please bring along your educational certificates and identity card.

1. The advertiser invites application for _____different jobs.

A. 4
B. 6
C. 24
D. 30

2. Experience is not essential if you are applying to be a _____at Salim Supermart.
A. Cashier
B. Storeman
C. delivery staff
D. security officer

3. Employees at Salim Supermart get_____.
A. one rest day a week
B. two rest days a week
C. four rest days a month
D. five rest days a month

4. Which one of the following statements is true?
A. All Salim Supermarkets are open 24 hours a day.
B. Salim Supermart is opening its fifth branch in June.
C. Salim Supermart Headquarter is situated at Bukit Hakus.
D. Salim Supermart is the largest supermarket chain in Singapore.

5. Interested applicants should_____.
A. apply at the store located at Bukit Halus
B. walk in for an interview at 391 Kim Jian Avenue
C. approach the enthusiastic staff at the 24-hr store
D. send application forms to Salim Supermart headquarters.

(5 marks)

Kinds of Sentences

Directions: In the space provided, identify each of the following sentences as declarative, imperative, interrogative, or exclamatory.

_____ 6. Have you ever seen the tulip fields of Holland in the spring
_____ 7. The saltwater crocodile is one of the world's most dangerous crocodiles
_____ 8. Attend to your own business, please
_____ 9. Use a minimum of three hundred words in your story
_____ 10. "What a shocking report you have brought home this term" screamed his mother.

(5 marks)

Simple and Compound Sentences

In the blank to the left of each sentence, write *S* if it is a simple sentence and *Cd* if it is a compound sentence.

_____ 11. In the centre of the mall was a display of trading cards and other collectibles.

_____ 12. Timothy had a severe headache but he refused to see a doctor.

_____ 13. A winner never quits; a quitter never wins.
_____ 14. Jason enjoyed the barbecued wings but he didn't care for any of the vegetables.

_____ 15. Denzil is the new captain of the basketball team.

_____ 16. Friends greatly influence our thoughts and our actions; we should choose friends carefully.
_____ 17. I want to go to watch the basketball finals but I have to study first.

(7 marks)

FRAGMENTS, RUN-ON, AND SENTENCES

In the blank before each number, write *S*, if the group of words is a sentence; write F*rag*, if it is a fragment; write RO for run-on.

.

_____ 18. Although the Titanic was supposed to be unsinkable, she sank less than three hours after striking an iceberg.

_____ 19. Mark Twain is a well-known author he wrote about life along the Mississippi.

_____ 20. The lesson about fragments which creep into careless students' writing.

_____ 21. A computer can do any mathematical problem faster than a man can.

_____ _ 22. Most inventions have benefitted mankind, some inventions, however, have caused harm.

_____ 23. Yesterday when Sally and Jenny boarded the school bus.

(6 marks)

Parts Of Speech

In the space provided to the left write the part of speech of each word underlined in the sentence. Write **N** (noun), **V** (verb), **pro** (pronoun), **adj** (adjective), **adv** (adverb), **con** (conjunction), **pre** (preposition)

_____ 24. The film shows the wonders of nature.

_____ 25. It is impossible for me to finish this short story in twenty minutes..

_____ 26. Dennis experimented with his new electronic device the entire evening.

_____ 27. The principal spoke sternly to the student who was caught cheating in the examination.

_____ 28. The runner jumped the gun and was disqualified from the race.
_____ 29. She and the committee members planned all the activities for the fair.
_____ 30. The fireman rushed into the blazing building to save the old man.
_____ 31. Thomas works as a waiter in a Chinese restaurant every evening. (8 marks)

Subject Verb Agreement

Underline the verb in brackets that best completes each sentence.

32. "Missions" (was, were) one of the topics discussed at the conference last week.
33. (Aren't, Isn't) anyone going to help the elderly couple unload the furniture?
34. Everyone in our school (enjoy, enjoys) our pre-St. Maarten Day activities.
35. Many of his coughing seizures (is, are) a result of poor health habits.
36. I know that all of them (wants, want) the best solution to the problem.
37. Two-year-old children (become, becomes) restless easily.
38. Every afternoon the athletes (train , trains) for the competition.
39. My grandmother, who is very religious, (goes, go) to church every Sunday.
40. There (seem, seems) to be a lot of fights at football matches these days.

(8 marks)

Reading Comprehension

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions below. **Circle the CAPITAL LETTER beside the word or phrase which gives the best answer to each question.**

"The Transfers"

.(1) Loren had been surreptitiously moving money from the accounts of his bank's wealthiest clients to one he created for himself in the Cayman Islands for over 8 years. He had every reason to believe that no one suspected a thing, and he knew the money would be safe in an offshore account.
(2) **He had been prudent with all the money he had embezzled from Signet Bank**. He wore secondhand suits to his job as a bank teller there. He rode his bike from Anacostia— the squalid, blighted neighbourhood he called home— to his Dupont Circle branch each day. He rarely travelled outside of the Washington, DC area. He did nothing at all **to raise a red flag.** He appeared as nothing more than an 18-dollar-an-hour bank employee in a town where many made millions.

(3) No one, he was sure, had ever scrutinized the **myriad** transactions that had taken place – dozens, sometimes hundreds of small transfers that amounted to $9,000 every other week. **Otherwise, the truth would have surely come to light a long time ago.** "Nine thousand dollars every other week is just **a drop in the bucket** to these rich folks," Loren reasoned. This assuaged his guilt.

(4) In Loren's mind, it was the greedy people who got caught doing these things. It was the **ostentatious** ones, too. It was the guys who built multi-million dollar homes with 24 rooms on a pauper's salary. To him, the bank was **fraught with** idiots; no one was capable of unravelling his master plan. **Now it was too late for them.** Today was the day Loren would begin reaping the benefits of all his patience and cunning and begin living in blissful obscurity.

(5) After an ordinary day at work, Loren got on his bike and road over the river to National Airport. As the plane lifted off the runway for the Caribbean, Loren watched intently out the window. He had close to $2 million collecting interest in the bank and had managed to pull it off, unnoticed.

(6) As the plane landed, Loren finally allowed himself to fully dream of the carefree life he was about to begin. He moved down the airplane steps, across the tarmac and headed toward the airport. The balmy air felt comforting to his skin. He breathed in slowly and deeply with anticipation, and then he was surprised to hear a familiar voice.

(7) "Hey, Loren. Not so fast."

41. As used in paragraph 1, which is the best synonym for surreptitiously?

A. Easily
B. Carefully
C. Openly
D. Secretly

42 "He had been prudent with all the money he had embezzled from Signet Bank."
Which of the following is the best way to rewrite the above sentence from paragraph 2 while keeping its original meaning as used in the story?

A. He had been showy with the funds he had taken from Signet Bank.
B. He had saved all the money he had deposited into Signet Bank.
C. He had felt guilty about all the money he had taken from Signet Bank.
D. He had been discreet with all the money he had stolen from Signet Bank.

43. What were some of the things Loren did to not raise suspicion?

I. He wore second-hand suits.
II. He rode a bicycle to work.
III. He only made a certain number of transactions per week.

A. I only
B. I and II
C. I and III
D. I, II, and III

44. The expression "to raise a red flag" (from paragraph 2) means to

A. be guilty
B. appear impoverished
C. seem very smart
D. give a warning signal

45. What made Loren feel confident his crime would go undetected?

I. The stolen money was being held in the Cayman Islands.
II. He felt no one would suspect a bank teller of fraud.
III. He had done nothing to show that he had become wealthy.

A. I only
B. I and II
C. I and III
D. I, II, and III

46. If Loren carried out his scheme for exactly 8 years, how much money would he have stolen?

A. $9000
B. $2,000,000
C. $72,000
D. $1,872,000

47. What does the phrase “fraught with” (paragraph 4) mean?

A. Filled with
B. Short on
C. Lead by
D. Visited by

48. What kind of expression is "drop in the bucket" (from paragraph 3)?

A. Demonstrative, characterized by the open expression of emotion
B. Idiomatic, characterized by the use of figurative, not literal, language
C. Sarcastic, characterized by the use of harsh or bitter derision, or irony
D. Understatement, characterized by an expression that is weaker than the facts would bear out

49. Loren's attitude toward his bank colleagues was

A. compassionate
B. disdainful
C. accepting
D. fearful

50. Which line from the passage best serves as its climax?

A. “Hey, Loren. Not so fast.” (the final paragraph)
B. Otherwise, the truth would have surely come to light a long time ago. (paragraph 3)
C. Now it was too late for them. (paragraph 4)
D. After an ordinary day at work, Loren got on his bike and road over the river to National Airport. (paragraph 5)

51. What punishment do you think Loren should receive for his action?

_____

_____

_____

_____(2

52. Explain why the story’s title is appropriate.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____(3)

(15 marks)

Spelling

Examine the words in each row below. If a word is not spelt correctly circle the letter before the word (A, B, C). If there is no error, circle the letter D.

53. A. anxious B. Wensday C. libel D. No error

54. A. gainfull B. hypocrite C. queue D. No error

55. A. barrage B. acquit C. gloat D. No error

56. A. acquitt B. devastate C. reciept D. No error

57. A. autumn B. committee C. porridge D. No error

(5 marks)

Paragraph Development: Parts of a Paragraph

58 One sentence in the paragraph below does not belong to the paragraph. Circle the letter that identifies that sentence.

(1) The meanings of words sometimes change over the years.
(2) ***Tabby*** to us denotes a particular kind of cat with pretty markings on its fur; originally it was a cloth made in the East.
(3) ***Silly***, which now means ***foolish***, at one time meant ***innocent***.
(4) Luckily for us, most words still retain their original meanings.
(5) If we find something in literature which reads rather strangely, one possibility may be that the word does not mean exactly now what it did when the writer was alive.

A. Sentence 2
B. Sentence 3
C. Sentence 4
D. Sentence 5

Study the jumbled paragraph below and then answer questions 59-61.

(1) A short time later, my suitcase wouldn't lock, and I had to repack in one borrowed from my parents.
(2) Then, rushing to the shower I slipped and hit my head on the bathroom sink.
(3) From the outset, I knew my driving trip was going to be a disaster.
(4) Finally, my car wouldn't start.
(5) First, my alarm clock failed to wake me up.
(6) As a result, I stayed home!

59. Which sentence contains the main idea of the paragraph?
A. Sentence 3
B. Sentence 4
C. Sentence 5
D. Sentence 6

60. Which sentence order would result in the **BEST** paragraph?
A. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
B. 3, 4, 2, 1, 5, 6
C. 2, 4, 5, 1, 3, 6
D. 3, 5, 2, 1, 4, 6

61. In a paragraph, linking words and phrases are used to tie sentences together. Which of the following is NOT used to link sentences together in the paragraph above?
A. From the outset
B. Finally
C. As a result
D. Then

(4 marks)

Vocabulary

For each question from 62 to 66, choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined words.

An elderly old lady was going down in a lift in a hotel in New York when it stopped at one of the floors. When the doors opened, three men entered. She thought one of them was **(62) vaguely** familiar, but she was not at all impressed by the other two who made large and grim-looking. One of them **(63) muttered** to her, "Hit the ground, Grandma!" Being in New York, she did her best to fall flat on the floor. However, the three men burst out laughing. They helped her up and **(64) explained** that because she was nearest to the lift buttons, all they wanted her to do was to 'hit' the button marked 'Ground'. They dusted her down and she went on her way, a little **(65 shaky**. That day, she went to check out of the hotel. To her surprise, her bill had been **(66) paid in full**! There was also a note for her and it read, 'Sorry to have scared you. I hope this makes up for it.' The signature was that of the film actor, Eddie Murphy.

Adapted from 100 Favourite After-Dinner stories from the Famous

62. A. clearly
B. distinctly
C. slightly
D. .generally

63. A. shouted
B. mumbled
C. babbled
D. whispered

64. A. clarified
B. recounted
C. illustrated
D. described

65. A. sturdy
B. unnerved
C. unruffled
D. composed

66. A. settled
B. cancelled
C. declined
D. discounted

(5 marks)

Antonyms

From the list of words given below, choose the one that is **most nearly opposite** in meaning to the **underlined** word or expression in each phrase.
Write the word chosen on the line provided to the left.

immense	confront	motivate
topple	headstrong	conserve

_____ 67. to squander our limited food supplies

_____ 68. might discourage people who aren't sure

_____ 69. sailing across the tiny ocean

_____ 70. discussions with the submissive guide

(4 marks)

Sentence Completion

Complete each of the sentences below using the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

71. Claudio's parents don't speak English, so he has to _____ his teacher's letters from English to Spanish so they can read them.
A. fabricate
B. divide
C. originate
D. translate

72. Educated people have _____ when applying for jobs; they are more likely to be hired.
A. a challenge
B. a prejudice
C. an advantage
D. a talent

73. My mother said I needed a _____ to come with me to the zoo because I was not old enough to go _____, so I brought my friend with me.

A. partner … together
B. companion … alone
C. friend … accompanied
D. visitor … independently

74. Small cars are _____ for large families; they don't have enough seating or space to be useful.
A. impractical successful
B. inactive
C. profitable
D. damaging

75. Silvio first arranged the anthology in _____ order based on when the writers published each piece, but he later switched to _____ ordering system based on the spelling of the authors' names.
A. reverse … a straightforward
B. chronological … an alphabetical
C. random … an orderly
D. original … a superior

(5 marks)

Punctuation

Each of the sentences below is missing a punctuation mark. Indicate which punctuation mark is missing by writing the LETTER next to the corresponding mark in the blank space provided at the end of each sentence.

A. Period/Full stop	C. Comma	E. Question mark
B. Quotation marks	D. Apostrophe	F. Exclamation mark

76. An interesting story will include humour conflict suspense and reality. _____

77. Have you finished reviewing for your English examination? Mother asked. _____

78. "What a spectacular performance" the audience screamed in disbelief. _____

79. Amy was very disappointed but knew there was no point in arguing with her friends parents. _____

80. Dr C K McDowell will visit the St Maarten Medical Center next month. _____

81. Is common sense really common _____

(6 marks)

One of the words in each of the following sentences is wrongly used. Identify which one it is by circling the letter under the word. There is only ONE error in each sentence.

82. He became angry because I refused to borrow him my geometry set.
A B C D

83. Did you saw them having lunch in the canteen yesterday?
A B C D

84. The constant chatter by the boy in the back of me is very annoying.
A B C D

85. My friend is going to learn me how to play chess in his spare time.
A B C D

86. Shauna's teacher says that she reads good and is, in fact, the best reader in the class.
A B C D

87. The game is too expensive and does not worth more than two hundred dollars.
A B C D

88. We didn't hear the explosion cause the music was extremely loud.
A B C

89. 'Thy cows and sheeps and goats' is a line from the St. Maarten song.
A B C D

90. I have other books beside these so you may borrow the adventure stories on the shelf.
A B C D

(10 marks)

SECTION TWO

Answer ONE question from this section. Your story should be approximately 300 words in length.
Pay careful attention to paragraphing, spelling, grammar and punctuation. (25 marks each)

1. Write a story beginning "When I looked back, my younger brother was nowhere in sight."

2. Write a story entitled An Annoying Classmate.

3. Write a story based on the picture below.

Your answer to the question you have chosen in Section Two should be written here. Remember to write your question number in the box provided below.

Question No. ☐

END OF TEST