

General Tips for the exam :

- 1) Reading Aloud : 12 marks
- 2) Picture Discussion : 12 marks
- 3) Conversation : 16 marks

You will be given 10 minutes for the silent reading. All 3 parts are interlinked by a common theme. Please read quietly on your own. Try to enunciate the difficult words. Spend 5 minutes practising. Then for the next 5 minutes study the Picture Discussion section. Try to link what you have read to the photograph. You may use some of the vocabulary words in the reading passage to describe the photograph. The theme is the same throughout the 3 components of the paper. In the conversation component, you can probably use ideas acquired from the reading passage or the picture.

1) Reading Aloud

- Be guided by the punctuation marks. Short pause for commas and longer pause for full-stop.
- When you see a ? mark, please raise the pitch. Capital letters as in "HEY!" please raise your voice loudly or emphasise the word. Vary your pitch and tone.
- Put feeling and expression in your reading. Take note of the vocal words like "shouted" "muttered" "angrily" "quietly". These will show you how to read a dialogue.
- Do not rush. Pace yourself. Fluency and good pace, appropriate rhythm and stress.
- Remember to pronounce the last consonant (the ending of each word).
- Pronounce the vowels clearly.
- Clear articulation

2) Picture Discussion

- You are required to **interpret** the picture with detailed observations. You need to use a **wide range of vocabulary**. **Coherent interpretation** is very important. You must explain using a logical assumption what you see. ***For every statement you make, explain by giving examples, reasons or elaborating.***
- ***You may speculate on what may happen later.***

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Picture Discussion :

- Always focus on the following :
- 1) What is happening in the picture? (Main Action)
- 2) Who is/are involved? (Participants) How are they related to each other?
- 3) What could they be saying to each other?
- 4) Where is the setting? (Location)
- 5) What is the weather like? (Weather)
- 6) How are they feeling? (Feeling)
- 7) What are they thinking? (Thinking)
- 8) What has happened before/ what will happen next? (Order of action)
- 9) Why was the photograph taken? Significance of photograph (Reason/Significance)
- 10) Why are they doing something? Comment on the likely result.
- 11) Remember to use technical words : tambourines, wheel-chair, hair-dryer, visors, spectators' stand...

Ways to start :

Setting :

This picture **depicts/shows** a ... scene. This **looks like** a family reunion dinner at a restaurant...

It **portrays** a typical market scene...

This picture **captures** what one would see at a market...

This is a **snapshot** of some men at work...

This is a **candid shot** of a group of students playing football...

This photograph is taken at a concert...

I think **this is a scene** at the National Stadium...

I think this photograph was taken at a public rally...

This is a **scene outside** the National Museum...

People are lining/queuing up to buy tickets for a show...

There are _____ (*how many people present*) people at the National Museum... They are all **attired in** ... (*casual clothes/T-shirts/casual wear/comfortable clothing*) because _____ (*give your reason*) they are taking part in an outdoor activity and being clad in casual clothes would enable them to feel more comfortable.

Dressing :

Casually dressed/smartly dressed/sloppy/plainly dressed/richly attired/elegant in evening finery...

Long sleeved shirts and well-pressed trousers/Tee shirt and shorts/Polo neck tee/ Blouse/dress in floral print/Dress/suit with traditional accents...

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The attire tells you much about the person. Men dressed smartly in long-sleeved shirts and ties could be executives or attending a formal function.

Weather :

It could be a rather **scorching day**. The participants are all **wearing caps/carrying umbrellas** to shield themselves from the rays of the sun.

Feeling:

The third man from the left is ---**(give a brief description of what he is doing/how he is feeling)**

Facial Expression :

He is smiling/grinning (from ear to ear)/laughing/frowning/his brows are knitted together/sullen-looking/thoughtful/anxious-looking/attentive...**(explain why he is looking like that)**

Someone who is frowning could be troubled or worried, or simply disapproving of another person's actions.

Description of People :

- Well-built
- Stout
- Plump
- Fat
- Beefy
- Paunchy
- Voluptuous
- Thin
- Slender
- Slim
- Gaunt
- Lean
- Lanky
- Skinny

Posed shot?

He is looking straight at the camera man...**(give your reason : this shows that he is aware that his photograph is being taken) /he is posing for a shot. This shows that...**(give your reason: he is proud to have his photo taken because...)****

Thinking :

The female on the right could be **thinking** that this is such a warm day...**(give your reason)**

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Sequencing/ Order of events:

This **could happen next** :...they would all go back home, exhausted after experiencing such a fun and active day at the camp! You can use **signaling words** : **Foreground (Front) , Background (Back), Extreme right hand corner , To the left of the picture...The far right of the picture shows...At the top of the picture is...At the bottom of the picture...In the middle of the picture...Next to the man I have just described is...In the foreground...in the background**

The façade of the building tells us that this could be the ...

See what they are holding with their hands (**make a logical conclusion**)

Try to sift out the **significance** of the picture. This picture shows the importance of harmony/loyalty/unity to a country like Singapore. All the different races are united to celebrate an important event like the National Day...

Use words like : It seems...this is probably...this could be...it is likely...maybe...it is possible that... it suggests that...

****** Always remember this: Analyse by giving a reason or explanation where possible when making a statement. Attempt at interpretation rather than merely making a statement. Go deeper and elaborate further. Use the present tense..."I see... use the past tense only when you are referring to an incident in the past. Use a wide range of vocabulary. Develop your ideas in a coherent manner.**

3) Conversation

- Give your personal responses to the topic.
- Do not dismiss by saying "No." Elaborate on the reasons why it is negative.
- Develop intelligent responses.
- Express and develop your ideas clearly.
- Use a wide range of vocabulary.
- Share your ideas with the examiner.
- Introduce new ideas or initiates discussion of relevant issues. (Bring in a new idea which is related to the theme).
- Do not wait for the examiner to prompt you. Talk as much as you can.
- When in doubt, always seek clarification : "Is this what you mean..." "I don't really understand the issue, can you rephrase it..."

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Oral :
Picture Discussion

You can possibly use a description when the examiner asks this question :

Q : Pick one person and tell us what he/she is feeling.

Ans : You can then select the person by saying: "The girl on the left ***who is flashing a broad smile*** is ***feeling happy*** because..."

Q: Pick one person and tell us what he/she is thinking.

Ans : "The girl on the left ***who seems to be ecstatic/euphoric*** is thinking that..."

Words to describe feelings :

Always start with the girl/boy/woman/man on the _____ (direction: eg extreme left/right etc) seems to be/is probably...

1) **Happy : because ...**

- I can see her *beaming*...
- Her face is lit up with a smile...
- She is flashing a broad grin...
- She is chuckling with joy...
- overjoyed, she leapt up and put her arms around...
- She seems to be whistling...
- She is winking and showed a thumbs-up sign...
- She is in cloud-nine after receiving the good news that...
- She seems to be cackling as her lips parted... (old woman)
- She is giggling...
- She is smiling shyly/cooly...
- She has a coy smile...
- He seems to have guffawed loudly...
- He broke out in spontaneously, uncontrollable laughter...
- They roared with laughter...
- She broke into a wide smile...
- They laughed so hard that tears came to their eyes...
- Estatic/euphoric/elated, they hugged each other...
- He smiled gleefully...
- The child probably squealed with delight...
- A smile flickered across her face...
- He seems to be over the moon when ...

Do not stop at the description, analyse why the person/people are feeling/thinking that way.

2) Excited

You can talk about excitement when the examiner asks you...

Q: What is the main action taking place here?

Ans : The man on the extreme right seems to ...

- be thrilled because...
- be exhilarated because...
- be in high spirits because...
- be enthusiastic about...
- have an adrenaline rush because
- be excited. Excitement seems to be rolling like waves for him because he has succeeded in...
- so excited. Suspense seems to be unbearable for him as...
- excited because his face is lit up and his eyes are widened.

Anger

Q: What is the main action taking place here?

Ans : The man/woman on the extreme right seems to ...

Q: Pick out one person and tell us what he/she is feeling...

- angry because ...
- he seems to be telling us that looks can kill. He is angry because...
- be seething with anger because...
- screaming hysterically and waving her arm...
- angry as he is clenching his fist in an angry fashion.
- hopping mad because...
- angry. He is ranting and raving about... oblivious to the curious stares of passers-by.
- angry as she is glaring at...
- fuming mad. She seems to be saying that "If looks could kill, you would have withered there and then. She feels this way because..."
- furious because ...

Don't stop short after describing the feelings. Continue with an explanation of why this is so.

Sad :

Q: Pick out one person and tell us what he or she is feeling.

Ans : She is feeling sad. I know this because...

- her eyes seem to be moist...
- tears were brimming in her eyes
- tears were welling up in her eyes
- her face seems to be tear-stained
- her face creased with sorrow
- misery was written all over her face
- she seems to be choking with emotions
- her face was etched with sorrow

Curious :

Q: What is happening here? What is the main action taking place here?

Ans : The man on the extreme left is very curious to see...

- he seems to be raising an eyebrow and looking at the teacher in a questioning manner
- he seems to cast curious glances in her direction.
- He is probably shooting a quizzical look at ...
- He seems to be stealing a glance at...
- He seems to be craning his neck and straining his eyes to look at...because he is interested to know about...
- He seems to be listening intently at...hoping to catch at what they were discussing...
- He seems to be cocking his head and stopping to peer at the teacher's book...

Embarrass:

Q: What is happening here? What is the main action taking place here?

Ans : Someone has just made a blunder. The girl on the right seems to be ...

- lowering her eyes, visibly embarrassed
- speechless as she stood rooted to the ground with her arms hanging limply by her sides...
- fighting back tears as the man was berating (scolding/reprimanding) her for her blunder.
- very sheepish as...
- avoiding the stares of curious passers-by
- smiling nervously at... because

Shock :

- he seems to be astonished at...
- he seems to be startled at...
- he seems to be in disbelief..
- He is dumbfounded as...
- He is stupefied and speechless as...
- There is an incredulous look on his face. He seems to be in denial. He does not believe that ...
- He is probably bewildered by...
- He is astounded by the contraption in front of him...
- He seems to be immobilised with fear as...
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