SECTION A
(Suggested time: 35 minutes)
You MUST answer the question in this section.

1. Read the following extract carefully and then write a summary of it in NOT MORE than 120 words. Your summary MUST be in continuous prose, in paragraph form, and as far as possible, in your own words. If you exceed the word limit, only the first 120 words of your answer will be read and assessed.

We live in a world that is predominantly dependent on oil, a fossil fuel, to produce electricity and to fuel our various forms of transportation. The recent upward trend in oil prices has once again urged the world to expedite efforts in developing practical and cost-effective alternative energy solutions. The higher the price of oil, the more we pay for our electricity and petrol. If we could find another way of generating electricity, or a cheaper fuel source that does not depend on oil, then it might be possible to produce energy at a much lower cost, and maybe in a more environmentally friendly manner.

The use of renewable energy sources provides an alternative way of creating usable energy. Renewable energy is simply defined as energy that is derived from resources that are regenerative, that are constantly replenished and never run out. This type of source includes solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, waste and others. One example is that of biomass and biogas. The gaseous emissions from the natural decay of organic matter or biomass contain flammable components that may be burnt as fuel to boil water for steam generation. The steam is then used to turn turbines to generate electricity. Typical sources of organic matter include dried trees, agricultural crops, organic waste, municipal solid waste and sewage, effluents of agricultural and agro-industrial origin. These gases may also be connected directly to household-type gas stoves and used to provide heat for cooking. The variety of renewable energy options offers an opportunity to diversify the energy supply mix, making it easier to deal with oil price volatility.

Renewable energy sources are usually indigenous to a particular country; hence their use reduces that country’s need for foreign exchange. They also foster cleaner energy production and provide an opportunity for carbon trading. In addition, because renewable energy systems come in such a wide range of power applications, they can be very diverse and applicable to remote locations.

While renewable energy sources may be applicable in the Caribbean and most regions of the world, the biggest challenges to implementing them are the high cost of implementation and lack of adequate funding.

Successful deployment of renewable energy sources requires significant investment from public and venture capital, and the implementation of policies that create incentives for individual households, industries, and start-up companies. Two major incentives are the reduction of import duties for renewable energy materials and equipment, and the introduction of net-metering – a process which allows the entrepreneur to sell any excess electricity into the main national supply.


(30 marks)
SECTION B
(Suggested time: 40 minutes)
Answer ALL questions in this section.

2. Read the following extract carefully and then answer ALL the questions that follow.

I don’t want to say that my father is a bad man, he’s not. It’s just that he is a phoney in a lot of ways, and I can’t stand phoneyes. The only thing he’s got going for him is that he’s adult!

He’s phoney because he goes on at my mother about how she won’t keep her money in the bank – and she won’t. She has this partners* saving scheme where she and her women friends pool their money and take turns getting it. Every month my mother puts one-hundred dollars in the kitty* along with her friends (I think there were nine of them including my mother). One month my mother gets nine-hundred dollars; the next month Daisy gets it; the next month Dorcas, and so on until all nine of them have each got nine-hundred dollars. He, my father, says this is primitive; that she’s losing interest; that she has “got to move into the modern age and leave her past behind her”. He’s an accountant with the government, so this really burns him up. But he plays dominoes – he and all these men from the West Indies sit around all day and play this real stupid game.

My mother doesn’t like him playing; she says he wastes his Saturdays when he could be helping her. He likes the game, but wishes he didn’t like it. I’ve heard him telling my mother that he has done the best of all the men he plays with; that he thinks it too lower class, but he still plays and goes on at my mother about her ‘partners’ saving scheme.

That’s why I say he’s a phoney. He’s not leaving his* past behind him, but he wants her to. And he’s so concerned about being coloured, which as far as I can see means stuffy and boring and not liking anything worth liking, like the Wailers, hip hop, or calypso, or even Caribana.

*aPartners – also called “sou sou”, “meeting turn” or “box-hand” in other Caribbean countries
*bKitty – shared fund.


(a) What is the occupation of the narrator’s father? (1 mark)
(b) (i) What TWO views does the father have about ‘partners’ saving schemes? (2 marks)
(ii) What attitude is suggested by these views? (1 mark)
(c) What is ironic in the attitude of the narrator’s father to his wife’s ‘partners’ scheme? (2 marks)
(d) Quote a phrase to show that the father is uncomfortable about playing dominoes. (1 mark)
(e) Why does the writer place the word his in paragraph 4 in italics? (2 marks)
(f) Quote an expression used by the narrator which can be described as sarcasm. (2 marks)
(g) What does paragraph 1 suggest about the narrator’s feelings about her father? (2 marks)
(h) What does the narrator mean when she says that her father is “so concerned about being coloured” (line 18)? (2 marks)

Total 15 marks

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE
3. Read the following extract carefully and then answer ALL the questions that follow.

No single substance from the earth has tempted and teased the human imagination more than the shimmering metal known by the symbol Au. For thousands of years the desire to possess gold has driven people to extremes, causing wars, strengthening empires and currencies, levelling mountains and forests.

Gold is not vital to human existence; it has, in fact, few practical uses. Yet its chief virtues - its unusual consistency, the fact that it is easily shaped, and that it keeps a permanent shine - have made it one of the world’s most coveted commodities. It is a symbol of wealth, immortality, and the highest level of beauty. Nearly every society through times has given gold a power as strong as religion or mythology. This has been so from the time of the Pharaohs (who insisted on being being buried in what they called “flesh of the gods”) to the time of the ‘forty-niners’ who led the mad rush to find gold in the North American West, to modern bankers and financiers who established it as the bedrock of the global economy.

Modern man should no longer be obsessed with gold. Few cultures still believe that gold can give eternal life. But gold’s luster not only endures: encouraged by global economic uncertainty, it grows stronger.

Aside from its extravagance, gold is regaining its role as a safe haven in difficult times. The price of gold, which stood at $271 an ounce on September 10, 2001, hit $1,023 in March 2006, and it may go even higher. Gold’s recent surge, sparked by the terrorist attack of 9/11, has been made more significant by the slide of the US dollar and jitters over a looming recession. In 2007 demand outstripped mine production by 50%. “Gold has always had this kind of magic,” says Peter L. Bernstein, author of The Power of Gold. “But it has never been clear if we have gold – or gold has us.”

Adapted from Brook Larmer.

“The Real Price of Gold In Dollars and Suffering, it’s never been higher.”
National Geographic, January 2009, p.42.

(a) Identify TWO words in paragraph 1 that the writer uses to show the effects of gold on people.
(2 marks)

(b) To what does ‘flesh of the gods’ (line 10) refer?
(1 mark)

(c) According to the writer, what are the most important qualities of gold?
(2 marks)

(d) What example of gold’s mythological power is given in paragraph 3?
(2 marks)

(e) What is the writer’s purpose in mentioning the Pharaohs, the forty-niners and financiers (lines 9–11)?
(2 marks)

(f) Give the meaning of the expression ‘bedrock of the global economy’ as it is used in paragraph 2.
(2 marks)

(g) What meaning, apart from the ‘natural glow of gold’, is the writer trying to convey in the statement “But gold’s luster not only endures...” (line 14)?
(2 marks)

(h) According to paragraph 4, state TWO factors which could have caused the price of gold to rise.
(2 marks)

Total 15 marks

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SECTION C
(Suggested time: 45 minutes)
Answer ONE question from this section.

Your answer in this section should be approximately 400–500 words in length.
You MUST write in Standard English. However, dialect may be used in conversation.

EITHER

SHORT STORY

4. Write a story based on the picture below.

OR

5. Write a story which includes these words.

“Martine and Sam huddled in the scanty shelter, looked back at what was left of their house and wondered what to do next.”

(35 marks)

OR

DESCRIPTION

6. It seemed that the landscape, the atmosphere, the people—everything had changed, but he had left only five years ago. Describe what he felt and saw.

(35 marks)
SECTION D
(Suggested time: 30 minutes)
Answer ONE question from this section.

Your answer in this section should be approximately 200–300 words in length.
You MUST write in Standard English.

EITHER

7. Speaker A  Homework is a waste of valuable time which could be used to do something more rewarding.

Speaker B  So don’t you think that the reward is the practice that you get which will allow you to do well? Homework is good practice for success in life.

Write an essay supporting the views of EITHER Speaker A OR Speaker B.

OR

8.  It should be mandatory for all secondary school students to participate in extra-curricular activities as a requirement for graduation.

Write an essay giving your views on this statement.  

END OF TEST

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS TEST.