You are allowed 10 minutes to read through the paper before starting to write. This 10-minute period is in addition to the 2 1/2 hours allowed for the examination.

You MAY write during the time allowed for reading through the paper.
You MUST answer questions from ALL FOUR sections of this paper: Section ONE; All of Section TWO; ONE from Section THREE; and ONE from Section FOUR.

SECTION ONE

(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 and in paragraph form. Only the first 120 words of your answer will be read and assessed.

Ethanol production is growing even faster than farmers can plant and grow additional corn. Ethanol production doubled in three years to almost 5 billion gallons in 2006. Last year’s production alone would fill one sixth of America’s strategic petroleum reserve. With 78 more corn ethanol plants (factories) under construction, the country’s ethanol output will likely double over the next two years.

If corn ethanol could meaningfully reduce America’s dependence upon foreign oil, it would be hugely beneficial. America would be far more immune to widely fluctuating oil prices, not to mention the threat of oil supply interruptions. Oil prices would plummet, and consequently, much of Russia’s and the OPEC cartel’s power would be severely handicapped, if not broken. However, some significant factors will most likely prevent that scenario from coming about.

Perhaps the biggest complication with the corn ethanol solution is that, as it is currently produced, America simply doesn’t have enough farmland to break its oil addiction. Corn ethanol production requires massive amounts of land. If America’s entire 2006 corn harvest of 70 million acres was used for ethanol, it would displace just 12 percent of U.S. gasoline consumption.

Then there is the matter of cost. America’s oil based society, fuelled by cheap oil, is accustomed to investing relatively small amounts of energy to get big energy returns. Less than 1 gallon of oil will produce 10 gallons of energy. In contrast, it currently takes approximately 3 gallons of invested energy to produce 4 gallons of corn ethanol energy. That includes energy to make the fertilizer, fuel to run the mechanical harvesters and fuel to transport the corn to the ethanol plants. Ethanol cannot be transported in traditional oil pipelines because it corrodes the seals. Until new pipelines able to cope with this challenge are built, ethanol must be shipped from factory to destination by trains, barges or trucks, all of which are fuel intensive. Energy, of course, is also required to transform the corn itself into ethanol. This energy-intensive process makes corn ethanol more expensive than oil.


(30 marks)
SECTION TWO

(Suggested time: 40 minutes)

Answer ALL the questions in this section.

2. Read the following extract carefully and then answer all the questions set on it.

The river was covered with exploding raindrops, like goose-pimples on a black hand, and
dreary bands of discoloured water meandered into the distance, distinct from the eternal blackness
of the river. Golden Bay was miserable in the rain. The barefoot man on the stelling* laughed
loudly at me when I mentioned going through to Annandale.

‘Is rainy season,’ he said simply, as though that explained everything; ‘you know is rainy
season?’

I began to feel that profound feeling of frustration sweeping over me, a sensation I had not
known during the past six weeks on the rivers. I was prepared to blame everything on Golden Bay,
this phantom outpost of civilization, linked by road and steamer to the city and yet so miserably
isolated. Golden Bay seemed to lie on some boundary between reality and dream, and the almost
opaque curtain of rain blocked even this weak link with the comprehensible. It was as though
Golden Bay was floating down the river like one of those little clumps of muck and weed that were
always present, flourishing in the quick liquid fertility of the river, only to be destroyed by the salt
rage of the sea at its journey’s end. Golden Bay had no end, unless it was the end of one existence
and the beginning – of what?

The other man on the stelling, the one with the long rubber boots, who stood quietly by, now
took it upon himself to explain the situation.

‘Rainy season’, he said, and spat into the river. ‘Every rainy season the road does wash out.
This time he wash out bad. Tractor-self can’t pass; he worse than rice-field. Nothing, nothing can’t
pass now.’ He grinned at me, as though a spirit of humour had suddenly smitten him, arising from
the conspiracy of elements – earth and water – like ghosts that haunted my trip up the river.

*The name given to a pier or jetty on a riverbank.

Adapted from Mark McWatt, Suspended Sentences: Fictions of Atonement
Peepal Tree, 2005, pp. 70-71.
(a) What caused the 'dreary bands of discoloured water' (line 2)?

(b) Why did the man at the stelling (lines 3 - 4) laugh at the writer?

(c) What does the word 'miserable' mean in the sentence 'Golden Bay was miserable in the rain' (line 3)?

(d) What caused the writer to have that 'profound feeling of frustration' (line 7)?

(e) Why does the writer refer to Golden Bay as 'this phantom outpost of civilization' (line 9)?

(f) Identify a word or phrase in the first paragraph that suggests that the river twisted and turned along its path.

(g) What makes Golden Bay appear to be 'floating down the river' (line 12)?

(h) What feeling is the writer trying to convey when the other man spat into the river (line 13)?

Total 15 marks
3. Read the following extract carefully and then answer all the questions set on it.

An advertisement for the United Negro College Fund of America repeatedly reminds us that "a mind is a terrible thing to waste". The phenomenon of the so-called "boys on the block" is a serious problem because it represents a tremendous wastage of mind. At the turn of the millennium a foreign commentator noted that "the 21st century will belong to the intelligent", referring to both intelligent individuals and intelligent societies, societies that marshalled their collective talents, all their collective capacities, to meet the requirements of an increasingly knowledge-based world.

No one seems quite sure how sizeable the so-called 'block phenomenon' is. However, it is evident throughout the length and breadth of the Caribbean. Way back in September of 1993, the magazine *Caribbean Contact* (Vol. 19 No. 9) stated, "Travel throughout any Caribbean country in the daytime and there is one obvious phenomenon. It is the number of young men at street corners, under trees, in uninhabited, dilapidated buildings doing absolutely nothing except, in some limited cases playing dominoes or gambling. When they are not sitting at the street corners or under trees, or in dilapidated buildings, they are in jails."

The 'block phenomenon' is a consequence, in part, of the failure of education to provide adequate, serious compensatory schooling for those slower children who emerge from secondary school with no qualification and are unlikely to pursue or access further training at a polytechnic or through a skills-training programme. Many, as a result, leave school and quickly drift or onto the block. If we refuse to develop children's abilities, they will become liabilities, a social cost in one way or another to all of us. The problem cannot be solved by political platitudes or half measures. It must be tackled root and branch systematically and in a sustained manner.


(a) What is the relevance of the quotation in the first sentence to the rest of the passage? (2 marks)

(b) What single word does the writer use to describe societies 'that marshalled their collective talents ... to meet the requirements of an increasingly knowledge-based world' (lines 5 - 6)? (1 mark)

(c) How does the writer try to persuade the reader in paragraph 2 that the problem of 'boys on the block' is a serious one? (2 marks)

(d) According to the writer which persons are most likely to become 'boys on the block'? (2 marks)

(e) What is the reason given in the passage for the development of the problem of 'boys on the block'? (2 marks)

(f) According to the writer, what will be the consequence of not addressing the problem of 'boys on the block'? (2 marks)

(g) What positive advice does the writer give to solve the problem of 'boys on the block'? (2 marks)

(h) Is the problem of 'boys on the block' presented MAINLY as a problem of gender, education or attitude? (2 marks)

Total 15 marks

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE
SECTION THREE

(Suggested time: 45 minutes)

Answer ONE question from this section.

Your answer in this section should be approximately 400 to 450 words in length.

You MUST write in Standard English. However, dialect may be used in conversation.

SHORT STORY (Questions 4 & 5)

4. Write a story based on the picture below.
5. As my parents sat there discussing me, I could not believe what they were saying. This was my life, not theirs.

Write a story which includes these words. (35 marks)

DESCRIPTION (Question 6)

6. It was a massive, hall-like structure, with glass doors on all sides, but they all moved to what seemed to be the front of the hall and stared out at the city.

Describe what they saw. (35 marks)

SECTION FOUR

(Suggested time: 30 minutes)

Answer ONE question from this section.

Your answer in this section should be approximately 250 to 300 words in length.

You MUST write in Standard English.

7. Speaker A  “I believe that organizations should determine how employees dress.”
Speaker B  “Well I firmly believe I have a right to dress as I want to when I go to work. I have a right to be comfortable.”

Write an essay supporting the views of EITHER Speaker A OR Speaker B. (35 marks)

8. Governments should make it compulsory for all householders to take precautions against natural disasters.

Write an essay giving your views on this statement. (35 marks)

END OF TEST

The Council has made every effort to trace copyright holders. However, if any have been inadvertently overlooked, or any material has been incorrectly acknowledged, CXC will be pleased to correct this at the earliest opportunity.

21218020/F2008