



FINAL
Examination Paper

(COVER PAGE)

Session : April 2017

Programme : Foundation In Business Information Technology (CFPI)
Foundation In Science (CFSI)

Course : ENL1212: English Language Skills 2

Date of Examination : 1 August 2017 (Tuesday)

Time : 2:00pm – 4:00pm Reading Time : Nil

Duration : 2 hours

Special Instructions :

This paper consists of **FOUR (4)** questions. Answer **ALL** questions in the answer booklet provided.

Materials permitted : Nil

Materials provided : Nil

Examiner(s) : Charlotte Nalina Jothy

Moderator : Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ting Su Hie

This paper consists of 7 printed pages, including the cover page.

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FOUNDATION IN BUSINESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (CFPI)

FOUNDATION IN SCIENCE (CFSI)

ENL1212: ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS 2

FINAL EXAMINATION: APRIL 2017 SESSION

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Question 1

(25 marks)

This part consists of ten (10) comprehension questions. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1 Michael Jackson was the world's most famous singer, dancer and entertainer, nicknamed the 'King of Pop'. This famous star had a career that lasted for almost five decades. Fans and music lovers had known from very early that Michael, who started as a young performer in the 1960s, was indeed special.

2 Although Michael was successful, he came under a great deal of criticism for his lifestyle in the later years of his career. During the 1980s, word spread of Michael's increasingly strange way of life. Michael underwent a series of cosmetic surgeries. These operations seemed to have changed the colour of his skin from black to white. At the same time, the shape of Jackson's face altered to become more angular and less rounded. There was much gossip surrounding the transformation of Michael's physical appearance. Despite the public scandals, Michael's sudden death in June 2009 caused deep sadness among millions of his fans worldwide.

3 Michael Jackson's success story began in 1958 in Gary, Indiana USA. Michael was the seventh of nine children. His father, Joe, who was only a steelworker, encouraged his children to sing and dance from a very early age. Together, the five brothers formed a group called '*The Jackson Five*'. Performing with his brothers at a school concert in 1966, Michael shone as a highly gifted lead singer, despite his very young age.

4 As the lead singer of '*The Jackson Five*' Michael toured and performed in numerous clubs, roadhouses and theatres across the US. But Michael's early life was difficult, and his father was a hard taskmaster. As Michael later admitted, "I did not have a pleasant childhood. My father was a tough man and he pushed my brothers and me hard, from the earliest age, to be the best performers we could be". Fortunately, their first pop hit, '*I Want You Back*', reached Number 1 in the American and worldwide pop charts in the 1969. In the following year, the group had three more Number One hits. By the age of 14, Michael Jackson was already an international pop star.

5 Michael's movie career started in 1978 in the film, *'The Wizard of Oz'*. Unfortunately, the film turned out to be a failure. However, the experience helped to give Michael the confidence to develop as a solo star without the support of his brothers.

6 Michael continues to branch out on his own with the help of a music director, Quincy Jones. In 1980, Michael won his first Grammy award for *'Don't Stop 'til You Get Enough'*. Just two years later in 1982, Michael released the album *'Thriller'*. This was the highest point of his amazing career. *'Thriller'* effectively broke all the records. The album sold more than 50 million copies worldwide. Today, it remains the best-selling album of all time.

7 In 1983, Michael continued to inspire fans with his signature dance move, the moonwalk, to the hit song *'Billie Jean'*. For his millions of fans who tried to imitate his moves, Michael was their idol. Even right up to his last days, enthusiastic and excited crowds appeared on the streets whenever Michael appeared, no matter what the event or the country. Thus it is undeniable that as a singer, dancer and entertainer selling millions of records worldwide, Michael Jackson, although is now dead, remains one of the greatest pop idols of the 21st century.

(Adapted from: Hall, Sara. September 2009. <http://magazine.justenglish.com>)

1. What was Michael Jackson known as? (2 marks)
2. How long did Michael's career last? (2 marks)
3. What happened to Michael's skin and face after his cosmetic surgery? (3 marks)
4. When did Michael first shine as a gifted lead singer? (3 marks)
5. Did Michael have a pleasant childhood? Why? (3 marks)
6. How did his experience in the movie 'The Wizard of OZ' help Michael? (2 marks)
7. When was the highest and most amazing point of Michael's career? (3 marks)

8. What was Michael's hit song in 1983 and why was it special? (2 marks)

9. Give the meaning of the following words and phrase as used in the passage. (5 marks)

(a) famous ... (paragraph 1)

(b) altered ... (paragraph 2)

(c) gifted ... (paragraph 3)

(d) pleasant ... (paragraph 4)

(e) imitate ... (paragraph 67)

Question 2

(25 marks)

Summarize this article about the use of fertilizers in not more than 120 words.

In the early days of farming, people did not understand how plants obtained essential nutrients. It so happened that wood ash, fish remains and slaughterhouse waste were thrown on vacant land just to get rid of them. Then, people started to notice that the grass, bushes and shrubs on this vacant land began to grow very well. They reasoned that if their farmland were similarly treated, the growth of their crops would also improve. People gradually began to realize that the nutrients required by plants came from the soil and that the amount of nutrients could be increased by the application of such organic remains to the soil. Thus, started the manuring process in farming.

The practice of manuring has been practiced as early since the seventeenth century. However, the importance of manuring was not properly understood until scientists began to study the nutritional needs of plants and gave birth to fertilizers. Thus, gradually, the use of fertilizers became accepted by farmers.

There are many types of manure and fertilizer currently being used. Manure is a substance derived from animals and plants. The most important advantage of using manure is the fact that they not only supply a wide range of plant nutrients, but also improve the structure of the soil. It cements together the soil particles to form soil crumbs. The crumb structure is a desirable condition of cultivated soil. The addition of manure to soil will increase the inorganic and humus content which helps to prevent soil erosion and loss of plant nutrients when it rains. The common manure used in farming consists of farmyard manure, compost, blood meal, bone meal and fish meal.

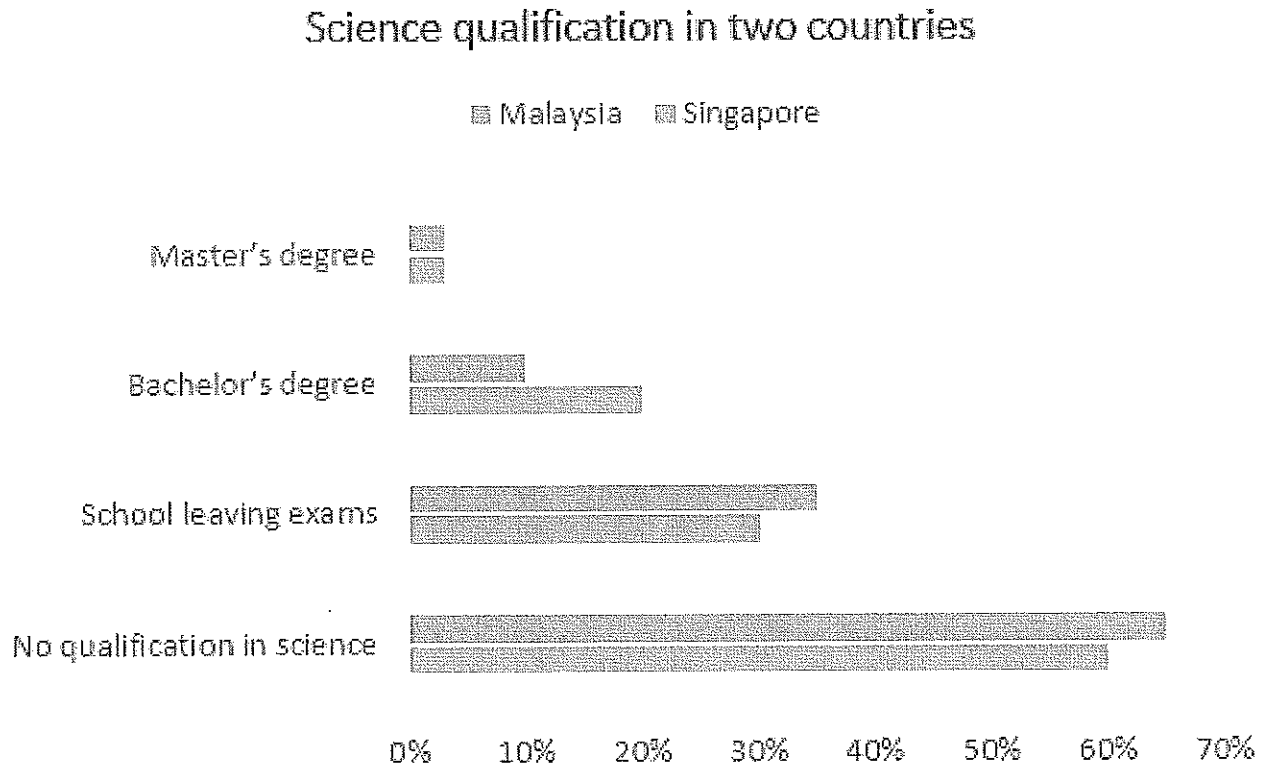
Unlike manure, fertilizers are inorganic substances which do not improve the structure of the soil. They only supply extra amounts of nutrients to the growing plants when applied to the soil. The commercial fertilizers commonly used today can be classified into three major categories; namely, nitrogen (N), phosphate and potash fertilizers.

Besides knowing the type of fertilizer to use, a farmer also needs to know when to apply the fertilizer and how to apply it. The fertilizer should be applied at the time when the plants need a particular nutrient most. The time and method of application will determine how profitably the fertilizers have been used in farming. Fertilizers which have not been properly applied cannot be absorbed in large quantities by plant roots. These fertilizers may be washed away by rain or they may kill the plants. This would mean a definite financial loss for the farmer.

Question 3

(25 marks)

The chart below gives information about science qualifications held by people in two countries. Interpret the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. Your written interpretation should be between 120 – 150 words.



Question 4

(25 marks)

Write an essay of about 200 to 250 words on ONE of the following topics:

1. Based on statistics, Malaysians have the highest water consumption rate in Southeast Asia. Despite the recent water crisis in Selangor, this situation has not changed much. As a result, the government along with other NGOs' are trying to educate the public on why it is necessary to reduce water usage and how it can be done.

Do you think educating the public would be an effective way to reduce water consumption, or should other drastic measures like hiking up water prices be implemented instead? Give reasons to support your answer.

2. What gives us more pleasure and satisfaction: the journey in reaching our dreams or achieving them? Give your reasons with suitable examples.

~ **The End** ~

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