



ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

PART B1

Reading Passages

8.30 am – 10.00 am (1½ hours)
(for both Parts A and B)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Refer to the General Instructions on Page 1 of the Reading Passages booklet for Part A.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART B1

- (1) The Question-Answer Book for Part B1 is inserted in this Reading Passages booklet.
- (2) Candidates who choose Part B1 should attempt all questions in this part. Each question carries ONE mark unless otherwise stated.
- (3) Hand in only ONE Question-Answer Book for Part B, either B1 or B2, and fasten it with the Question-Answer Book for Part A using the green tag provided.

PART B1

Read Text 2 and answer questions 31-44 on pages 1-2 of the Question-Answer Book for Part B1.

Text 2

The World Needs More Love Letters



5 [1] The website *The World Needs More Love Letters* aims to spread joy through letters. Not through emails, or your usual love letters, written to real people you love, but surprise letters for strangers. These letters don't say "I love you", but they are full of kindness, telling people how special they are. It's the sort of stuff that most people don't really say out loud even to the people they care about, let alone a total stranger.

10 [2] The website was started by a 24-year-old woman named Hannah Brencher. After college, she moved to New York City but was hit by depression and loneliness. One day she felt so alone, she wanted to reach out to someone. So she
15 started writing letters. Letters to complete strangers.

[3] But these weren't sad letters about how she was feeling. They were happy letters, all about the other person, not her. She would write messages for people like "Have a bright day" or "You're brilliant!" Brencher began dropping the notes all over the city of New York, in cafes, in library books, in parks and on the train. It made her feel better, knowing that she might be making somebody's day through just a few short, sweet words. And so, *The World Needs More Love Letters* was born.

[4] Brencher's idea of writing random letters to strangers has now exploded. She has personally
30 written hundreds of letters. Last year, she was invited to speak at a global conference. At the conference, she talked about a woman whose husband, a soldier, came back from the war and they struggled to reconnect. The wife tucked love
35 letters throughout the house as a way to say: "Come back to me. Find me when you can." In another example, she talked about a university student who slipped letters around her campus. Soon everyone was writing them and there were
40 love letters hanging from the trees.

[5] Now there are more than 10,000 people who join in all over the world. Sometimes, they write letters that people have requested to order, to people who are lonely and down and just want
45 someone to tell them that everything will be OK. Mostly, though, they scribble notes and leave them somewhere unlikely, for somebody to find.

Text 3

- [1] *The World Needs More Love Letters* is a very cute idea. It also sounds, well, a bit American touchy-feely. I'm not sure that's something we British do well. But I know that if I received such a letter, it would put a smile on my face. So I decide to give it a try.
- [2] On the morning I decide to write my love letters to strangers, I made the journalistic schoolgirl-error of forgetting my notepad and pen. So I go to the nearest stationery shop and also buy some cards with matching envelopes.
- [3] With my supplies to hand, I can't stop thinking about what I might say. By the time I sit down to write my letters, I feel very self-conscious. I don't want to make a spelling mistake, cross it out and ruin the whole thing. I browse Brencher's website for inspiration. But everything I start to write sounds, well ... cheesy. And stupid. "Hey! You! Yes, you!" Nope.
- [4] I try again, and write a few over-used expressions before I cross them out and start afresh. "In a city like London where people go out of their way not to smile or even catch your eye, I just felt like saying hello." I add, "I hope you had a good day, but if not, wishing this random note will make you feel better." That'll do for a first attempt.
- [5] My next letter is basically the same, except I address it to "the stranger sitting on the train". By letter number three, I figure less is more so simply say: "YOU ARE WAY BETTER THAN YOU THINK YOU ARE." Which, let's face it, we'd all love to hear someone say. I mark the envelope: "Something to cheer you up if you're having a bad day." I like that one. I think I nailed it.
- [6] The next part is the letter-drop: where to leave them? I slip one in the sofa in the cafe that I'm in, between the cushions so the next person notices. Then I drop the other one on the train, as if it wasn't me that left it on that seat at all. On my way home I notice a nice-looking bike with a basket. So I drop the last note in there.
- [7] It's kind of exciting leaving these notes behind. (I actually stand a safe distance from the bike, pretending to window shop just in case I catch the bike owner coming back.) I'd like to think they would appreciate the gesture, although I can equally understand why they might think I am a lunatic. But I guess, as Brencher's experiment shows, it's really not that much weirder to take the time to write a random letter for someone with the aim of making their day that bit brighter than it is to, say, Tweet a whole bunch of people you'll never meet or never really know.
- [8] When I get home, I realise I have got one card and one envelope left. So I scrawl a lil' something for my husband and leave it under his pillow. Way better than sending a text.

END OF READING PASSAGES

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the *Examination Report and Question Papers* published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.