

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 4: EXTENDED COMPREHENSION &
DIRECTED WRITING 1310/4

Wednesday **23 MAY 2012** 9.00 – 11.10 A.M.
including 10 minutes
reading time

Additional materials:
Answer booklet

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

BAHAMAS GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Write your school number, candidate number, surname and initials in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.

Answer **ALL** the questions.

Number your answers clearly.

Special attention should be given to the directions for each question.

Work should be neat and well organized.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks available for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

Dictionaries are **NOT** permitted.

SECTION A

Read the following passage carefully, and then answer the questions that follow. In it, a woman living apart from her family receives a letter from her teenage daughter and reflects on another she has been sent by her husband. You should spend no more than one hour on this section.

Almost a year after Delia had walked away from her life in Baltimore, when she had settled into her job in Bay Borough, as a caregiver, a letter arrived from Susie.

Hi Mom!

Just a quick note to fill you in! How you doing? Thanx for the graduation card!

Nothing special to report except Dad is being so-o-o-o difficult right now! I know you'll see my side of things so could you maybe phone him and have a talk? Don't tell him I asked you to call – just say you got a letter from me and thought you should discuss my plans. You wouldn't believe how mean he's being! See ya!

Luv, Susie.

Delia had a sudden sense of exhaustion. She refolded the letter.

Well.

It took her back to that time when, shortly after she had arrived in Maryland, she had received a letter from Sam. She had been coming in from lunch at the Bay Arms Restaurant, an elaborate task to fill empty white hours. She had been wearing an inexpensive gray cardigan made of something synthetic that she had bought on her first day in Bay Borough. The evening before, she had eaten at the boarding house, a little carton of bland Chinese takeout, a stark contrast to the Chinese dish she had sometimes prepared for family and friends, which required eleven different bowls of minced ingredients. Feeling dispirited, her inclination had been to get lunch over with as fast as possible, but she forced herself to work her way through it in a leisurely fashion. Her daughter Susie had once announced that every woman ought to learn how to dine alone in a formal restaurant without a book. Delia had wished Susie could see her now.

When she had left the Bay Arms Restaurant she had headed north to the library, but the door had been locked tight. She had had to buy a book – invest actual money. In the pharmacy on George Street, she had chosen a romance called *Moon Above Wyndham Moor*, hiding the book in her purse after she had paid for it. Then she had headed back to her room in Belle's Boarding House, taking quick, firm steps so that anybody watching would think, *That woman looks completely self-reliant.*

But there was no one watching.

She had opened the front door, stepping over the mail, and started up the stairs. Then she had halted and turned to look back at one of the envelopes on the floor. She knew the name on the upper-left-hand corner: SAMUEL A. GRINSTEAD, M.D.

He would settle for just writing her a letter?

She had stooped to pick it up. *Mrs. Delia Grinstead*, the address read. *George Street, Bay Borough, Maryland.* Delia, he wrote. No Dear. He had used the office typewriter and he hadn't bothered to change the margins from when she'd prepared the bills.

Delia, it is my understanding from your sister Eliza that you have requested some time on your own due to various stresses.

Naturally, I would much rather you had forewarned us. You cannot have been unaware of the anxiety you would cause, simply strolling off down the beach like that and disappearing. ~~Do you have any idea how it feels to~~

Nor am I entirely clear on what "stresses" you are referring to. And frankly I ~~feet~~ Perhaps you view me as one of the stresses. If so this is regrettable but I have ~~always tried to be a satisfactory husband~~ vowed while I was growing up that I would be a rock for my wife and children and to the best of my belief I have fulfilled that vow ~~and I don't understand what~~ but if you have any complaints against me I am certainly willing to hear what they are.

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In the meantime you may rest assured that I will not invade your privacy.

45

xx

Sam

The fifth correction had been so thoroughly x-ed over that she couldn't figure it out even when she held the letter up to the light. Well, no doubt that was for the best.

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That night, lying on her metal cot, feeling oddly lackluster, Delia had kept lowering Moon Above Wyndham Moor to stare blankly at the dim, far corners of the narrow room. The floorboards revealed the ghost of a rug and there was a smell like a hornet's nest - a dry, sharp, moldering smell. She thought of the large house in Baltimore, with its brown, streaked shingles and its louvered shutters a paler, flatter brown. Until now, Delia had never lived anywhere else. Sam had lived there for twenty-two years. He had first walked into her father's waiting room early one morning. Delia had been sitting in her usual place at the desk. Young Dr. Sam Grinstead had stepped through the outside door and Delia could still remember the pang of pure desire that had caused her insides to lurch as if she had leaned out over a canyon. She had married her father's assistant and simply installed him among her sweet-sixteen bedroom furniture.

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And now this letter from Susie, the first time she had heard from her since she'd left. She scrounged through her handbag and various pockets for change, and then strode to the pay phone at Bay and Weber Streets. She had finally gotten accustomed to walking everywhere.

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First the phone at the other end rang twice, and then Sam said, "Dr. Grinstead. Hello? Is anyone there?"

Delia said, "Sam?"

"Where are you?" he asked immediately.

He assumed this was a plea for help, she realised. He thought she was admitting defeat - calling to say, "Come get me." She stood taller. "I'm calling about Susie," she told him.

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A dead silence. Then: "Oh. Susie."

"I wonder if you know what's troubling her."

"I believe my feeble brain can encompass that much," he said icily. "But I suppose you're going to tell me anyhow, aren't you?"

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"What?" Delia pressed her fingers to her forehead. "No, wait - I mean I honestly asking! She wrote me there was some..."

"Oh." Sam

with her wedding, I suspect." 80

"Susie's getting married?"

"She wants to. I'm opposed."

"But - " Delia said. *But she didn't talk to me about this!* she wanted to protest. *Didn't even consult me!* Unreasonable, she knew; so she changed it to, "But Driscoll's a very nice boy. It is Driscoll, isn't it?" 85

"Who else? However, that's not the issue. She can marry whoever she chooses, of course, but I told her she'll have to live on her own for one calendar year beforehand."

"A year! Why?" A delivery truck wheezed past and she covered her free ear.

"I hate to see her jumping straight from school to marriage. From her father's house to her husband's house. You know she doesn't have a job yet," Sam was saying. She sleeps till all hours, and then heads down to the swimming pool. No interviews set up, no mention of careers ..."

Delia asked, "Well, have you and Susie talked about what kind of work might interest her?" 95

"No," Sam said.

"And where could she afford to live? I mean, if she isn't earning money yet."

"We haven't gone into that," Sam said.

"Well, golly, Sam, what have you gone into?"

"Nothing," Sam said. He gave a slight cough. "It appears that we're not speaking." 100

"So no one's sat Susie down and discussed her options with her."

"I fail to see how I can hold a discussion with someone who walks out of a room the instant I walk in," Sam said.

You follow her, is how, Delia wanted to tell him. *You walk out after her. What's so hard about that?* 105

"All right," she said, "here's what I propose. I'm going to write and tell her that if she wants you to pay for her wedding, she'll have to accept your conditions. And if she doesn't like them, then she can pay for her own wedding. Either way, you will go along with it." 110

Sam was quiet. Finally he said, "How about the not speaking part?"

"How about it?"

"Could you tell her to talk all this over with me?"

"I could suggest it," she said.

"Thank you." 115

Delia said, "So! Everything else all right?"

"Oh, yes."

"Boys okay?"

"They're fine."

"Who's taking care of the office now?" 120

"I am."

"Maybe that's a job for Susie."

"Never," he said flatly.

Another stab to the heart. *Never,* he must have meant, *would I let my daughter follow her mother's wretched example.* She said, "I guess I'll be going, then." 125

"Oh. Well. Goodbye."

After she hung up, it occurred to her that on the other hand, maybe he was just saying Susie, who was hopeless when it came to organizational matters, would be a disaster in the office. Unlike Delia, who had a gift for them. Could that have been what he'd meant? she mused, as she headed back to Belle's Boarding House.

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Adapted from Ladder of Years by Ann Tyler

Your response to the following questions should be based on the information presented in the passage, and should be expressed as far as possible in your own words. You should spend approximately one hour on this section.

1. In no more than 180 words, give an account of the specific changes that Delia made to her lifestyle. [10]
2. How does the writer use language and other techniques to convey the experiences and interactions that Delia has had in her lifetime? [14]

Section Total [24]

SECTION B

Read the following passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

Conflict Resolution

What should be done when conflict occurs at school, in the workplace and in the home? What is the appropriate response to maintain an environment that allows people to contribute and thrive instead of engaging in struggles with one another? Unresolved conflict will eventually affect everyone, causing division among individuals and dampening creativity, energy and productivity. Therefore, no matter what the environment is, it is critical to deal with conflict as it arises in a manner which will leave all parties feeling respected and important. The key to effective conflict resolution involves recognizing when to use the various conflict management strategies. This usually depends on the situation as well as the people involved. 5

Consider the following scenario. Felix arrives at school on Monday with a face of stone. His body rigid and arms folded across his chest, he stands at the classroom window before the bell goes, his eyes seemingly fixed on the empty playing field. His friend Marcia wanders over to his side and pulls at his hair. He explodes. Although hot-tempered herself, and although she is deeply hurt, she accommodates him, because it is more important to her to maintain harmony and balance. Raising her arms, palms outward, she steps back and says, "Okay, okay. I get the message." Then she turns to talk to another friend, ignoring Felix, who has subsided. This style of conflict resolution is used when the issue at stake is more important to the other person than it is to you. It usually is an unassertive and cooperative style of dealing with things. People using this style will neglect their own concerns just to keep the peace. 10 15 20

However, neglecting his own concerns is far from Mr. Caine's mind. He and Mr. Jackson both want to attend a relatively insignificant conference in New Orleans to which only one employee from the office can go. Once office buddies who shared more than the occasional lunch, now he and Jackson daily exchange nothing more than cold nods as they wait for the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) decision. The deteriorating friendship disturbs Caine. He rapidly brings the festering matter to a head by negotiating a special meeting with the CEO, convinces him that he is a better prospect than Jackson, and secures the trip to New Orleans. Directly after the meeting, he stops by Jackson's cubicle, and shares the good news, patting him on the shoulder. Jackson gives a closed-mouth smile and murmurs a few congratulatory words. Caine's style is certainly very different from Marcia's. It is power-oriented, with individuals realizing that quick decisions have to be made. It is also said to be most effective when the issue is unimportant. 25 30

What is to be done in situations where the goals are fairly important and time is of the essence, a situation such as the following? After an accident on the Milo Butler Highway, newlyweds Patrick and Marian need to replace their co-driven Mazda. Marian is partial to the Volkswagen Beetle. Patrick, however, is determined to get an Explorer, although the couple would have to make extreme sacrifices to meet the bank payments. The two try to reach a middle ground between competing for what each wants and being accommodating. They decide on a Rav4. Getting up from the sofa, they hug, and then go for a walk before retiring for the night. 35 40

Here's one more scenario to examine. Four high school students, John, Jackie, Alex and Melanie, have been given an independent group assignment by their history teacher. A major problem arises during the first meeting – everyone has a different idea about what the theme of their project should be and is unwilling to bend. There are pouts and the sucking of teeth and several shouting matches ensue. Things escalate to the pointing of fingers in faces and improve only when John gets them to acknowledge that everyone's ideas are important and that they need to work as a team. This collaborative approach calls for those involved to attempt to meet the needs of all parties concerned and to exercise cooperation in getting the best solution. It is an effective method to use when the matters on the table are very important to everyone and nobody wants to compromise.

In the 1970s, sociologists Kenneth Thomas and Ralph Kilmann identified the aforementioned four main styles of dealing with conflict. They saw them all as being healthy, but identified a fifth style, which is characterized by seeking to evade conflict entirely, as weak and ineffectual. According to Thomas and Kilmann, using the correct skills to confront conflict is a powerful way to develop and grow as an individual and a leader.

In answering the questions below, you should write as far as possible in your own words. You should spend approximately one hour on this section.

3. The individuals in the passage use non-verbal cues as well as conversation as a part of their communication style. Identify these non-verbal cues, explaining why they were probably used and commenting on whether they achieved their purpose.

Use information from **Passage B** only.

Use no more than 250 words. [12]

4. Write a magazine article explaining the negative ways in which people respond to difficulties, misunderstanding and disagreement in their relationships and the positive ways in which they should manage such conflict.

In your response you are expected to:

- (a) present ideas based on information from **BOTH** passages;
- (b) develop ideas clearly and logically;
- (c) include one or two ideas of your own.

[16]

Section Total [28]