

Number _____
Surname _____
Name _____
Father's name _____



THE G C SCHOOL OF CAREERS

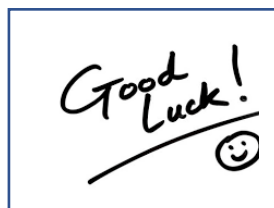
ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

ENGLISH

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

- Answer **ALL** the questions in the spaces provided.
- Your answers must be clearly and neatly presented.
- This paper consists of **16 pages including the cover page.**



Section 1: Use of English

Tick (✓) the most appropriate way to complete each sentence:

1. I wish we ____ on holiday next summer, but we'll be preparing for our wedding in September.
 will go
 would go
2. Your brother never helps with housework, _____?
 does he?
 doesn't he?
3. The media covered ____ extensively .
 witness's testimonies
 witnesses' testimonies
4. The Principal announced that he _____ to cancel that year's talent show.
 had decided
 has decided
5. My daughter hasn't studied for this test. She _____.
 is definitely going to fail
 will definitely fail
6. Our luggage _____ overweight. We have 3 suitcases of 30kg each.
 are
 is

7. By 2030, we _____ each other for 15 years.
- will have been knowing
 - will have known
8. I wish we _____ an extra portion last night. I was still a little hungry when we left the restaurant.
- had ordered
 - ordered
9. Their flight departed 6 hours ago. They _____ by now.
- have landed
 - will have landed
10. She's an exceptional student. So far this month, she _____ 3 unconditional offers from top universities.
- has received
 - received
11. Let's head to the pond. They _____ the animals now and we don't want to miss it.
- have been feeding
 - will be feeding
12. I will speak to your mum when she _____ to pick you up.
- will come
 - comes
13. While they were playing football, the ball _____ the neighbour's window.
- was smashing
 - smashed

14. While the students we were rehearsing for the play, Mrs. Appleby _____ the costumes.

had been ironing

was ironing

15. Dad _____ the flight last night, if his car hadn't broken down on the way to the airport.

wouldn't have missed

wouldn't miss

16. The boy asked _____ he would be allowed to complete the form electronically.

whether

weather

17. When my brother lived in Sydney, he _____ (go) windsurfing every weekend.

would go

was going

34 marks

Fill in the blanks using prepositions:

1. I'm busy _____ the moment, but I'm free _____ the evening.

2. Let's meet _____ midday _____ Saturday.

3. The new couple posed for pictures _____ sunset, and instantly posted them _____ their social media.

4. Our boss doesn't eat _____ often, but he likes to dine _____ style when he does!

8 marks

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

1. Driving that fast was wrong. Now, thanks to you, a little puppy is injured. **(only)**
If _____ fast, the little puppy would be fine!

2. Looking back, I made the right choice studying mathematics at university. **(regret)**
Looking back, I _____ mathematics at university.

3. "Have you always lived here?" asked the mayor. **(there)**
The mayor wanted to know _____.

4. If you hadn't believed in yourself, you wouldn't have won the first prize. **(not)**
Unless you _____ the first prize.

5. I told them not to cross the park at night. **(warned)**
They _____ cross the park at night.

6. Please don't smoke in this room. **(rather)**
I'd _____ in this room.

18 marks

Circle the word which means the opposite of the word in bold:

1. I find rats and snakes **repulsive**.

- (a) revolting (b) appealing (c) appalling

2. We all know his lecture about generosity was **hypocritical**!

- (a) sincere (b) pretentious (c) theatrical

3. Sue said **pompously** that she had an important business appointment.

- (a) arrogantly (b) boastfully (c) modestly

4. When James sang opera at the talent show, the judges were **flabbergasted**.

- (a) awed (b) unsurprised (c) astonished

5. The woman walked past us looking **certain** about her next move.

- (a) bewildered (b) confident (c) jubilant

10 marks

Read Michael's email to George. Then using your own words, give the meaning of the words in bold.

Dear George,

I am writing to you, as (1) **a last resort** since all our cries for help (2) **have fallen on deaf ears**. Our centre, which offers afternoon care to less privileged children, needs financial support to survive and sponsors are not easy to find. A set of sofas and a bed for when a child (3) **feels under the weather** and needs to rest, are an urgent necessity. We have reached out to some big companies for support, but they seem to have (4) **short arms and deep pockets**. They keep (5) **beating around the bush** and respond as if our requests are (6) **costing the earth!** The truth is that we need around €2000 worth of furniture.

I took the liberty to write to you because I know you are close friends with Mr. Worthington the owner of the big furniture warehouse, and was hoping that you could reach out to him. I know it might be too much to ask of you, but now is the time (7) **to grab the bull by the horns**. I have seen an advert on TV, saying that Mr. Worthington's company will have a final clearance next week, so he might be willing to donate some of those pieces to us. Anyway, please ask him, and then he can decide if and how he will help. (8) **He calls the odds!** I know you are a (9) **hard-nosed** negotiator, but I think Mr. Worthington won't be hard to convince. In fact, I (10) **take my hat off to him** for his donations to the new children's hospitals that were recently built.

I will be deeply grateful if you help us with this matter. Please call me for any details or clarifications you may need.

Best,

Michael

| | | | |
|---|--|----|--|
| 1 | | 6 | |
| 2 | | 7 | |
| 3 | | 8 | |
| 4 | | 9 | |
| 5 | | 10 | |

End of Section 1
Total: 100 marks

30 marks

Section 2: Reading Comprehension

Read the article carefully and answer all the questions that follow:

Adapted from: *Help Guide*

BBC Science Focus



Want to be happy? Stop trying to be

Society teaches us to chase: success, wealth, fame, power, good looks, romantic love. But are they really the keys to happiness?

All humans want a little of the good life, but is the sole **pursuit** of happiness actually making us a society of sad, selfish and **solitary** creatures? In our effort to be happy, we often get caught up in bad habits and cycles of misery.

5

We might also worry about becoming so **obsessed** with being happy in itself that we forget to enjoy how things feel along the way. But if you pay attention to the activities that make you feel good, you will be happier without even having to think about it. And who wouldn't want that...?

Cultivating Happiness



Researchers in the field of positive psychology have found that you can genuinely increase your happiness and overall satisfaction with life; and it doesn't require a winning lottery ticket or some other drastic change of circumstances. What it takes is an inner change of **perspective** and attitude. That's fantastic news, because it's something anyone can do.

10



Tip 1: Train your brain to be more positive

Our brains are wired to notice and remember the things that are wrong; this negative mindset though, contributes to stress and unhappiness. Thankfully, we can train our brains to be more positive by choosing to notice, appreciate, and **anticipate** goodness as a powerful happiness booster.

15

Teaching yourself to become more grateful can make a huge difference in your overall happiness. Research shows that **gratitude** helps you experience more positive emotions, decrease depression, feel better about yourself, improve your relationships, and strengthen your immune system. A recent study revealed that **gratitude** even makes you smarter about how you spend your money.

20

There are a number of simple exercises you can practise to increase and cultivate an attitude of **gratitude**, such as to quickly verbalise your thanks and appreciation to whoever helps make your day easier. It is also a good idea to count your blessings by regularly reflecting on the things you have to be thankful for. Focus on all blessings from the people who love you, to the roof over your head and the food on your table. You will soon see it's a pretty long list.

25

30



Tip 2: Nurture and enjoy your relationships

Relationships are one of the biggest sources of happiness in our lives. The happier the person, the more likely that he or she has a large, supportive circle of family and friends, a fulfilling marriage, and a thriving social life. That's why **nurturing** your relationships is one of the best emotional investments you can make.

35

If you make an effort to cultivate and build your connections with others, and as you become happier, you will attract more people and higher-quality relationships, leading to even greater positivity and enjoyment. It's the happiness gift that keeps on giving.

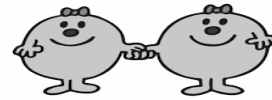
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Make a conscious effort to stay connected to the people who make your life brighter. Research shows that happiness is contagious, so seek out happy people and take the time to call, write, or see each other in person, but make sure that you always spend quality time together. Don't forget to offer sincere compliments about what you admire in people.

45

One of the things that truly boost happiness and determine healthy, fulfilling relationships is how the partners respond to each other's good fortune and success. Show genuine enthusiasm and interest when someone experiences something good and the excitement and joy will become yours.

Tip 3: Help others and live with meaning



When happiness is defined according to feelings of both pleasure and purpose, it becomes easy to see how helping others is good for happiness. We get a warm glow from helping other people, which comes in large part from the purpose we feel when we do so. Helping other people is, in fact, one of the main causes of happiness. Doing good is entirely **consistent** with feeling good.

50

Higher rates of volunteering are observed when potential volunteers are reminded that behaviour intended to benefit others increases happiness. So, we should do much more to celebrate the 'selfishness' of selflessness, and not make claims about the superiority of purely selfless acts.

55

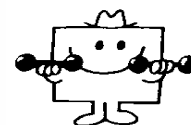
So, volunteer to stay happy, and do so for an organisation that allows you to contribute in a meaningful way! In your everyday life, practise kindness and look for ways to be kinder, more compassionate, and giving! Remember, it doesn't take much to make others happy, so something as small as brightening a stranger's day with a smile, might go a long way for both of you.

60

The happiest people know what their unique strengths are and build their lives around activities that allow them to use those strengths for the greater good. Therefore, it's always a clever idea to play to your strengths.

65

Tip 4: Take better care of your health



You can be happy even when you're suffering from illness or bad health, but that doesn't mean you should ignore the aspects of your health that you are in control of. Exercise and sleep are particularly important when it comes to happiness.

70

LEXICAL ANALYSIS

The cells on the left contain words from the passage, while the bubbles on the right contain their synonyms or definitions.

Draw lines to connect the words to their meaning.

Note: The words on the left appear in bold in the passage.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| pursuit | preoccupied |
| solitary | an attempt to achieve something |
| obsessed | feeling of appreciation |
| perspective | viewpoint |
| anticipate | care for and protect something while it's growing and developing |
| gratitude | systematically correlated |
| nurturing | expect |
| consistent | existing alone |

24 marks

READING COMPREHENSION

1) According to the passage, society teaches us to:

Please tick (✓):

| | True | False |
|---|------|-------|
| Pursue affluence | | |
| Be altruistic | | |
| Chase after affectionate companionship | | |
| Focus on physical appearance | | |
| Avoid mental distress | | |
| To form solidarity | | |

18 marks

2) List two activities you can do to develop an attitude of gratefulness:

- _____

- _____

4 marks

3) State the specific action which has beneficial effects on financial decision making.

3 marks

4) How does a positive mind-set affect physical health?

3 marks

5) What kind of cycle does the expression “*It's the happiness gift that keeps on giving*” describe? [Line 39-40]

-

3 marks

6) “One of the **things** that truly boost happiness and determine healthy, fulfilling relationships is how the partners respond to each other's good fortune and success.” [Line 46]

Replace the word “**things**” with another suitable word that does not affect the meaning of the sentence: _____

2 marks

7) List five things you can do to be happier through your relationships with others:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

10 marks

8) According to the passage, how can organisations attract a higher number of volunteers to contribute to their cause?

2 marks

9) *Paradoxes use contradictory ideas usually as an entire statement, a standalone sentence or even a full paragraph.*

Find one example of a paradox in the passage.

“ _____

_____ ”

3 marks

10) An oxymoron is a figure of speech that combines contradictory words with opposing meanings.

Find one example of an oxymoron phrase in the passage.

“ _____

_____ ”

3 marks

Section 3: Composition

Write 120-180 words on ONE of the following topics:

- I. Write an **argumentative article** discussing the advantages and disadvantages of student involvement in their school talent shows. Use the title:

It's showtime!

- II. Write a **letter** to your friend, describing in detail an experience when you helped someone in need.

Explain what happened and say how this experience has affected you.

- III. Write a **story** beginning or ending with the following:

He slowly reached the top of the hill, stood still and brought his wrinkled shivering hand over his forehead. He stared at the sun setting behind the mountains across the meadow, and in a trembling voice he murmured: "Good night Anne, good night".
