

## Vocabulary Extension

What is the meaning of the words in bold in the context of the texts below? These are for further practice.

## From Text 1

1. to stop that itch and cure that **aggravation**. \_\_\_\_\_
2. powerful herbal and **aromatic** prescriptions. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Both Comfort Cream **formulations** are suitable for ... \_\_\_\_\_

## From Text 2

4. ... before **sauntering** out of the room ... (line 19) \_\_\_\_\_
5. ... She sat, **entranced** ... (line 23) \_\_\_\_\_
6. ... Ella would be **incensed** that this star was wearing the same dress ... (line 35) \_\_\_\_\_

## From Text 3

7. ... effective as a mild **analgesic** ... (line 10) \_\_\_\_\_
8. ... showed sharp **entrepreneurial** skills ... (line 15) \_\_\_\_\_
9. ... allowed in free of charge to the **exotic** garden ... (line 34) \_\_\_\_\_
10. ... with its unique statues and **depictions** (line 35) \_\_\_\_\_

**Practice Paper 4****What It's All About**  
**Skimming for Prediction (Strategy 1)**

Skim Texts 2 and 3 by reading the first sentence of each paragraph. Then, write the focus of each text.

**Text 2:**

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**Text 3:**

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**Scanning (Strategy 5)**

Scan Text 3 to find the answers to as many of the following questions as you can within one minute.

1. Where were locks first built?

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2. Who built a new type of lock for a canal in Milan?

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3. Where is Neptune's Staircase?

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4. How much water may be saved by side-reservoirs?

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5. How high is the highest individual lock mentioned?

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**Text 1** [5 marks]

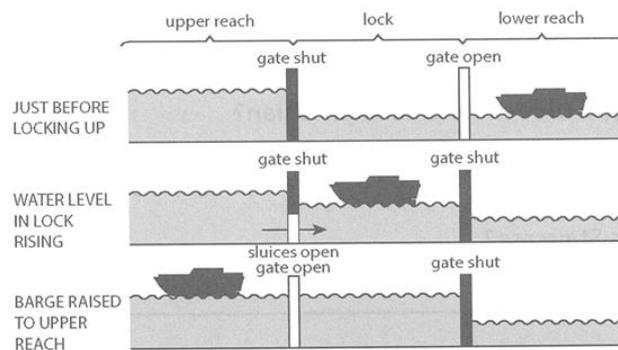
Study the information leaflet below and answer Questions 1–4.

## How Do Canal Boats Pass Through Locks?

Do not worry if you are about to go on your first canal boating holiday and have no idea how to operate a lock. Your boat operator will talk you through it before you set off. Once you get to grips with them, locks are all part of the fun of a canal holiday. It is also a most efficient form of exercise!



Locks have two sets of gates (top and bottom) and a chamber which your boat enters into. Locks are a means of moving boats 'uphill' or 'downhill'. One end of the lock on a canal is at a higher level than the other. At each end of the lock, a gate can be raised, either to let water in from the higher level, or to let water out at the lower level. A boat in the chamber of the lock between the two gates is thus raised or lowered with the water. You and your crew will open and close the gates using a lock handle (or windlass), which you will carry with you on your cruise.

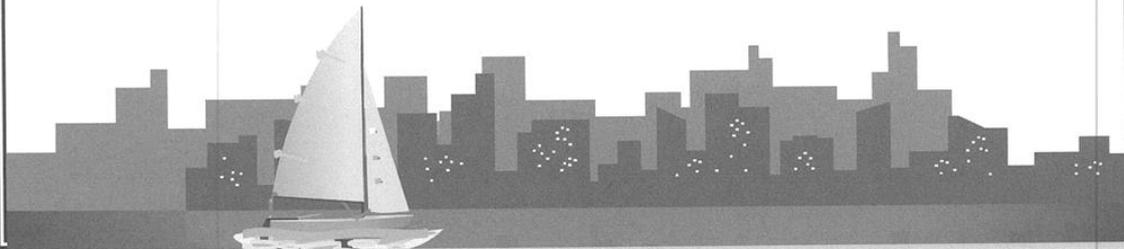


### Things to Remember

Water always flows downhill and lock gates are closed against the pressure of this water. The lock gates will not open until the water pressure (level) is equal on both sides.

### How Long Does It Take?

Passing through a lock will generally take between 10 and 20 minutes.



1. Who is the intended reader of this information leaflet?  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]
2. What is happening at the second stage of the operation, in relation to the water level shown in the illustration?  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]
3. Explain how you would operate a lock gate, from the information given.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]
4. What is the main purpose of this information leaflet?  
\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

**Text 2** [20 marks]

The text below is about two animals living by the riverside. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5–11.

<b>1</b>	After working very hard all morning cleaning his little home, Gecko decided to go out and enjoy the day. He wandered to the end of the garden and dared to sneak just outside — something he had never done before. He wandered aimlessly along, lost in his happy daydreams, when he suddenly came upon a fast-flowing river, or so it seemed to him. Never in his life had he seen a river before. He watched as the water raced past him, chuckling, gripping things with a gurgle and leaving them with a laugh. It shook, shivered, chattered and bubbled. Gecko was entranced.	5
<b>2</b>	He then noticed a dark hole in the bank just below him, just above the water's edge. He immediately saw the potential of the place — this could be the holiday home he had always dreamt of, a place of his own that he could retire to when the day's work was done. It would make an attractive riverside residence, above flood level and remote from noise and dust. As he gazed at it, something bright and small seemed to twinkle down in the heart of it, before vanishing and then twinkling once more like a tiny star. But it could hardly be a star in such an unlikely situation. It was also too glittering and small to be a cat's eye. As he looked, it winked at him, and soon revealed itself to be an eye. A small face gradually began to appear, like a frame around a picture.	10  15
<b>3</b>	It was a brown little face, with whiskers, a grave round face, with the same twinkle in its eye that had first attracted his notice. It almost seemed as if the eyes were vibrating quickly inside their sockets. Gecko noticed small neat ears and thick silky hair. It was Rat! For a moment, the two animals regarded one another warily.	20

4	<p>Once they overcame the initial uncertainty, Rat invited Gecko to visit his dwelling. Gecko could not resist the opportunity to check out this dream residence. The chamber was very spacious, although Rat seemed to fill up the space almost entirely and they had trouble moving past one another. The chamber led to an alcove with luxurious straw bedding. Gecko was tempted to snooze there and then but Rat had another delight to show his new friend.</p>	25
5	<p>They exited the apartment and Rat showed Gecko a narrow pathway down the side of the storm drain. Gecko had not noticed it before, but under an overhanging part of the side of the drain was a small rowing boat. Gecko had never seen a boat before and was not sure that he wanted to take up the offer of a ride. But Rat was being so sociable and Gecko was having such a fun adventure that he agreed to take a ride in the end.</p>	30
6	<p>In the boat, he leant back in his seat and surveyed the cushions, the oars, all the fascinating fittings and felt the boat sway lightly under him. Rat started to row upstream and there were so many fascinating things to see such as cartons, pieces of plastic and fruit peelings. Gecko was quite contented and told Rat that it was a nice experience.</p>	35
7	<p>“Nice? It’s the ONLY thing,” said Rat solemnly, as he leaned forward for his stroke. “Believe me, my young friend, there is NOTHING — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats. Simply messing,” he went on dreamily. “Messing ... about ... in ... boats —”</p>	40
8	<p>“Look out, Rat!” cried Gecko suddenly.</p>	
9	<p>It was too late. The boat struck the bank at full tilt. The dreamer, the joyous oarsman, lay on his back at the bottom of the boat, his heels in the air.</p>	45
10	<p>“— about in boats — or WITH boats,” Rat went on composedly, picking himself up with a pleasant laugh. “Look here! If you’ve really nothing else on hand this afternoon, why don’t we row down the drain together, and make a long afternoon of it?”</p>	
11	<p>Gecko waggled his toes from sheer happiness, exhaled in full contentment and leaned back blissfully onto the soft cushions. “What a day I’m having!” he said. “Let us start at once!”</p>	50
<p><i>Adapted from ‘The Wind in the Willows’ by Kenneth Grahame</i></p>		

**Text 1** [5 marks]

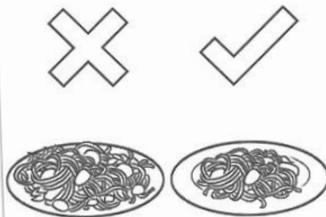
Study the information sheet below and answer Questions 1–4.

## CUT IT OUT— OR SUFFER?

We Singaporeans love our food, including myself. Many cannot go without their *mee pok* and *char kway teow*.

The good news is, you do not have to go without them! Instead, why not reduce the portion sizes of the less healthy food and increase the portion sizes of healthier food?

For example, many are worried about salt intake. Diets high in salt increase the risk of heart diseases and stroke. So, try to take less of it!



### Food with High Salt Content

The following food are almost always high in salt. To cut down on salt, eat them less often or have them in smaller amounts:

- pickles
- prawns
- salted and roasted nuts
- salted fish
- smoked meat and fish
- soy sauce
- yeast extract



### Foods that Vary in Salt Content

The following foods have salt content that varies widely between different brands or varieties. Therefore, you can cut down on your salt by comparing brands and choosing wisely. You can study the nutrition labels of:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bread and pastries such as crumpets, bagels and ciabatta</li> <li>• pasta sauces</li> <li>• chips</li> <li>• pizza</li> <li>• ready-made meals</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• soups</li> <li>• sandwiches</li> <li>• sausages</li> <li>• tomato ketchup, mayonnaise and other sauces</li> <li>• breakfast cereals</li> </ul> |
|--|---|



1. What does the heading, 'CUT IT OUT — OR SUFFER?' mean in reference to salt intake?

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

2. Which suggestion in the text is illustrated by the plates of food?

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

3. How can reading the label on a can, bottle or jar help you to reduce your intake of salt?

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

4. What is the main purpose of this information sheet?

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

**Text 2** [20 marks]

The text below is about Robinson Crusoe, who has just survived a shipwreck and has managed to reach dry land. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5–9.

1	I walked about on the shore, lifting up my hands and my whole being, as I may say, as I tried to come to terms with my deliverance. I spent much time reflecting upon all my comrades who had drowned. I was sure by this time that the only survivor was myself and I can tell you now that I never saw them afterwards, except three of their hats, one cap and two shoes that were not a pair. I cast my eye to the stranded vessel. The swell and froth of the sea were so big that I could hardly see it as it lay so far off. I wondered how it was that I could possibly have made it ashore when everyone else had been swallowed by the ocean.	5
2	After I had comforted myself with my luck, I began to look around to see what kind of place I was in and what was to be done next. I soon found my sense of comfort rapidly diminishing. I began to realise that my situation was a most unhappy one. I was wet, had no clothes to change into and had nothing to eat or drink. What was worse, I could see no prospect before me but that of perishing with hunger or being devoured by wild beasts. It worried me that I had no weapon, either to hunt and kill any creature for my sustenance, or to defend myself against any other creature that might desire to kill me for their meal. I had nothing but a knife, a tobacco-pipe and a little tobacco in a box. This was the sum of my possessions. As the horrors of my situation sank in, I nearly lost my mind and for a while, I ran about like a madman. With night coming, I began to consider with a heavy heart what would happen to me if there were any ravenous beasts around, as they always come out for their prey at night.	10 15 20

3	<p>My first concern was how to prepare for the night and a possible attack by wild animals, although I had seen no sign of any yet. Looking around, I decided that a particular thick bushy tree similar to fir, but thorny, might be the best that I could hope for. After all, the more I walked around, the more likely I might draw the attention of any wild creatures to me and my plight. Therefore, I resolved to sit all night on as high a branch as I could reach and consider the next day what death I should die, for as yet I saw no prospect of life.</p>	25
4	<p>Having resolved that, I walked a short distance inshore to see if I could find any fresh water to drink, which I did, to my great joy. After drinking, I put a little tobacco into my mouth to prevent hunger. I went to a tree and climbed it, positioning myself so that I might not fall off when I slept. Having cut a short stick, like a truncheon, for my defence, I took up my lodging; and having been excessively fatigued, I fell fast asleep. I slept as comfortably as, I believe, few could have done in my condition, and found myself more refreshed than I could possibly have expected in the morning.</p>	30  35
<p><i>Adapted from 'Robinson Crusoe' by Daniel Defoe</i></p>		

5. (a) At the end of paragraph 1, the narrator says, 'I wondered how it was that I could possibly have made it ashore when everyone else had been swallowed by the ocean' (lines 7–8).
- (i) Which word suggests that the sea is a person?
- \_\_\_\_\_ [1]
- (ii) What does the word tell us of the narrator's experience?
- \_\_\_\_\_ [1]
- (b) The narrator believed that he was the only survivor of the shipwreck. What **two** assumptions did he make that led him to this conclusion?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ [2]
6. (a) In paragraph 2, the narrator realised that his 'situation was a most unhappy one' (line 11). Apart from his immediate problems, what **two** future possibilities troubled him?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ [2]
- (b) From paragraph 2, find a phrase which has the same meaning as being depressed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ [1]

7. (a) According to paragraph 3, explain **in your own words** why the narrator did not want to explore the area on that first day.

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

- (b) Find a word from paragraph 3 which has the same meaning as:  
(i) 'decided'

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

- (ii) 'hope'

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

- (c) (i) From paragraph 3, explain **in your own words** what issue the narrator decided to leave until the following day?

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

- (ii) Why did the narrator think that the issue would be necessary?

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

8. (a) Preparing for the night ahead, the narrator positioned himself carefully and took a stick with him. Explain his reasons for these actions.

Preparations	Reasons
(i) 'positioning myself' (line 31)	[1]
(ii) 'cut a short stick' (lines 32)	[1]

- (b) What surprised the narrator about his night up in the tree?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]



3	<p>These days, the greatest use of salt is in the production of chemicals. Demand for salt has even increased in this area because of the concerns over dioxins — chemical compounds which are environmental pollutants. Salt is also used to make sodium chlorate and hydrochloric acid. It is also the most readily available, economical and effective de-icer. It ensures driving safety and continued mobility in countries which have to deal with snow and ice on roads. Salt is used in many processes to make water 'softer' in those areas of the world where water is 'hard', the most noticeable sign of which is the furring up of the inside of kettles. There are many more such industrial uses.</p>	20  25
4	<p>Salt has also been a source of power for many authoritarian governments and a predictable product for black market operations. It has been taxed heavily in several countries, with the most infamous example being the British rule over India. It served as the focal point of Gandhi's civil disobedience campaign, during which he led a march over hundreds of miles to the ocean to collect tax-free salt.</p>	30
5	<p>Salt may look ordinary to you, but it continues to have many uses in our lives. You could say that it is truly the salt of the earth.</p>	

10. '... common salt is just an ordinary food flavouring...' (lines 1–2) What **two** different facts in paragraph 1 suggest that salt is much more common or ordinary?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

11. (a) Explain **in your own words** the meaning of a slave '...not worth his salt' (line 7).

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

(b) What main point of paragraph 2 is supported by the Ethiopian and Tibetan examples?

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

12. How does the use of salt by the Pueblo Indians differ from its use by the Hopi tribe?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

13. According to paragraph 3, what are **two** benefits of using salt as a de-icer on roads?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

14. (a) What makes salt a 'predictable product' (line 28) for black market operations?

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

(b) Why was the taxing of salt in India regarded as 'infamous' (line 29)?

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

15. **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the various uses of salt apart from food production.

USE ONLY INFORMATION FROM PARAGRAPHS 3–5.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than **80** words (not counting the words given to help you begin).

Begin your summary as follows:

*Apart from flavouring food, salt has many uses ...*

**Method**

1. Underline the key words in the summary question that tell you what to focus on.
2. Read the passage and underline the points that answer the summary question.
3. List the points and make brief notes in your own words about what you have underlined in the passage.

Points from passage	No.	Paraphrased points
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
	8	

