

## Section I

25 marks

### Attempt Question 1

Allow about 50 minutes for this section

Answer each question in a SEPARATE writing booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

In this section you will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate understanding of the ways language shapes and expresses perceptions

### Question 1 (25 marks)

Examine **Texts one, two and three** carefully and then answer the questions on page 6.

#### Text one

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**DAY AND NIGHT**  
YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT AND LEISURE

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# Hey you . . . up in the sky!

By Eugene Ng

Some people consider Australian Paul Smith totally insane. And no wonder. He jumps off planes some 14 000 feet up in the sky, with a parachute strapped to his back and a surfboard fastened to his feet, performing acrobatics while freefalling at the breakneck speed of 120 mph.

To many, this choice of career would seem incredibly stupid, perhaps even suicidal, but Paul Smith is completely 'at peace' while cavorting and executing spins, loops and rolls, at these ridiculous vertigo-inducing heights.

Going by his official job description, 25-year-old Paul Smith is a skysurfer, and an ace one at that too. He has been skydiving for nine years. Here in Malaysia as part of the Golden Dreams Live tour which includes tandem jumpers, accuracy jumpers and aerobatic pilots, Paul's act was a highlight.

A relatively new sport, skysurfing was pioneered by skydivers in the US in 1980. Tired of conventional freefall jumps, they first experimented by lying flat on styrofoam 'boogie boards' while freefalling. The sport developed further when a French skydiver executed a freefall jump standing on a surfboard. Then, another Frenchman tried using a skateboard-sized board instead, and the sport of skysurfing, in its present form, was born.

It was Paul's dad who encouraged him to make that all-important first jump. 'I recall being quite scared. But after I did it, I remember thinking, "Let's do that again",' Paul reveals. And he has kept on doing just that. He is now a veteran of 5 700 freefall jumps, quite a feat for someone in the sport for such a short time.

Watching Paul manoeuvre 360-degree spins, forward and backward loops and somersaults,

Question 1 continues on page 3

Question 1 (continued)

all in 30 short seconds, on a giant screen, one gets an awesome close-up view of Paul's obvious mastery of the skills involved. A skill which not many people can emulate. 'It has to do with balance,' Paul reveals, quite emphatically. 'That's the difference.'

Speaking to him, one realises that he actually is quite down-to-earth. Luckily, all his trips 'down to Earth' have been gentle ones so far. But is there a voice of reason which speaks to him, ensuring that he does not land with a THUD and SPLAT instead?

'I know this may sound strange, but I actually feel safer in the air. In the air, you are the master of your own destiny. When you're on the ground, you have to always look behind. Someone might steal your bag, or you might get shot in a drive-by shooting. I feel more frightened being in a car driven by someone I don't know than being in the air,' he pronounces emphatically.

'When I'm in the air, it's like being a kid all over again. Like when you get your first skateboard and you feel like you can do anything. You feel invincible. There are no rules!' he proclaims excitedly.

He calms down and adds, 'But you must accept the reality of the sport and acknowledge that things can go wrong. Accept that it is your responsibility to take care of your own life whenever you jump.

You must never get complacent. For me, I make sure I check my equipment is in order before I get on the plane. And I must be prepared mentally.'

Life began, for the young Paul Smith, in Sydney, Australia. As a kid, he reveals, he was ever willing to have a go at anything and everything. 'I have very fond memories of riding my pushbike,' he says, and then quickly adds, '... oh, and of course, falling off it as well.'

But it was, in a way, by design, that Paul was to take up skydiving. Both his dad and his sister also enjoy the sport. Only his mum prefers to have her feet firmly planted on the ground, although she has no qualms about the rest of the family having their 'heads in the clouds'. Even Paul's girlfriend skydives.

Now, he literally lives for the sport. He skydives every day. He also watches videos of himself in the air and is very critical about his routines. 'I have to be. I want to be the best skysurfer around. My ultimate ambition is to win the world championships one day,' he states firmly.

But for now, while he is practising, he also tries to promote the sport. Some 28 000 people in Australia did their first skydive last year (only 20 did the same in Malaysia) and Paul believes this to be a good thing. 'It gets young people out of bad habits. It becomes a lifestyle and a very good career prospect. I mean, look at me. I get paid to do something I truly love!'

He even demonstrates a sense of humour by offering this anecdote. 'I took this 85-year-old lady tandem jumping (jumping off the plane strapped to an experienced skydiver) last year. And when we landed, you know what she said? She said it was boring! Can you believe it? I was speechless.'

Regardless of what 'Grandma' thought, the Malaysian audiences were left in raptures by the team's performance. The show in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, saw a turnout of 30 000. In Kuching, Sarawak, there was a 40 000-strong crowd and most recently, 50 000 in Penang.

With this kind of response, nerves of steel and easy access to the sport, who knows, skydiving may just take off here. And those involved may just find the 'peace' which Paul has found – 10 000 feet up in the sky.

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**Question 1 continues on page 4**

Question 1 (continued)

Text two

**BRIDGECLIMB** - Climb The Sydney Harbour Bridge

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Question 1 continues on page 5

Text three

# CLIFFHANGER (1993)

## Critical Comments

‘Eye-popping photography, white-knuckle stunts, a swift pace, and entertaining characters add up to what a well-made action film should be: tons of fun. Story is thin, though.’  
— *Leonard Maltin*

‘The best non-stop action picture of the year!’ — *Vernon Scott, UPI*

‘Spectacular, heart-thumping, throat-tightening, pulse-pounding, sweaty palms suspense.’ — *American Movie Classics*

‘Movies like this are machines for involving us and thrilling us. *Cliffhanger* is a fairly good machine.’  
— *Robert Ebert, Chicago Sun Times*

Copyright clearance has not yet been received for this text (a poster advertising the film *Cliffhanger*).

## Facts

**Release date:**  
28 May 1993 (USA)

**Box office opening:**  
\$20.4 million (USA)

**Box office result:**  
\$84.0 million (USA)

**Worldwide box office:**  
\$255.0 million

**Budget:**  
\$65 million (USA)

Set in Colorado, but filmed in Italy. The American Environmental Protection Agency wouldn't allow filming in America for fear of damage that could be left by the film crew.

## Production information

**Director:** Renny Harlin (*Die Hard 2*)

**Writers:** Michael France and Sylvester Stallone, with Ross LaManna, John McCormick and Michael Vickerman (all uncredited)

**Producers:** Renny Harlin and Alan Marshall

**Associate Producers:** Jim Davidson and Tony Munafo

**Co-producers:** David Rotman, Gene Patrick Hines and James R. Zatolokin

**Executive Producer:** Mario Kassar

**Co-executive Producer:** Lynwood Spinks

**Original Music:** Trevor Jones

**Distributor:** Tristar Pictures

Question 1 continues on page 6

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In this section you will be assessed on how well you:

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	<b>Marks</b>
Question 1 (continued)	
<b>Text one</b>	
(a) Why would many people consider Paul Smith’s choice of career ‘incredibly stupid’ (line 9)?	<b>1</b>
(b) Identify TWO perspectives Paul expresses about his sport.	<b>2</b>
(c) Identify ONE language technique used in paragraph 7 (lines 50–55). Describe its effect.	<b>3</b>
(d) How does this article on skydiving engage the responder?	<b>4</b>
<b>Text two</b>	
(e) What is the purpose of <b>Text two</b> ?	<b>1</b>
<b>Text three</b>	
(f) Explain the meaning of ‘heart-thumping, throat-tightening, pulse-pounding, sweaty palms suspense’ quoted in the Critical Comments.	<b>2</b>
<b>Texts two and three</b>	
(g) Compare the use of language, images and layout in <b>Texts two</b> and <b>three</b> .	<b>6</b>
<b>Texts one, two and three</b>	
(h) Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper giving your opinion on the increasing popularity of adventure activities. (Please do not use your real name, address or school name.) Write approximately 100–150 words.	<b>6</b>

**End of Question 1**