



PAPER A

Practice
Questions



ICAS International
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for Schools

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL INSTRUCTED.

STUDENT'S NAME:

Read the instructions on the **ANSWER SHEET** and fill in your **NAME, SCHOOL** and **OTHER INFORMATION**.

Use a 2B or B pencil.

Do **NOT** use a pen.

Rub out any mistakes completely.

You **MUST** record your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

Mark only **ONE** answer for each question.

Your score will be the number of correct answers.

Marks are **NOT** deducted for incorrect answers.

Use the information provided to choose the **BEST** answer from the four possible options.

On your **ANSWER SHEET** fill in the oval that matches your answer.

Questions may sometimes be placed next to each other.

Make sure you read **ACROSS** the page and answer the questions in the correct order.

You are **NOT** allowed to use a dictionary or an electronic translator.

ENGLISH

Educational

Read *Old Ginger Nut's Holiday* and answer questions 1 to 8.

Old Ginger Nut's Holiday



Here I am at the farm.

One Tree Farm
Kangaroo Valley

Dear Mum

MONDAY

When you left me at Grandad's I cried. Grandad said, 'Come on, Old Ginger Nut. Dry those tears and let's see if Aunty Irene has got our tea ready.' I don't like being called 'Old Ginger Nut'! I want to come home.

TUESDAY

Bubbles made such a fuss and licked me all over. Aunty Irene told me not to cuddle him as he had fleas. Grandad said, 'A few fleas never hurt anybody.' I don't want to get fleas. I wish I was at home.

WEDNESDAY

When I was helping Aunty Irene collect eggs I found a rat's nest. Grandad said, 'Rotten pests, they're a rotten nuisance!' I'd like a pet rat when I get home.

THURSDAY

Grandad took me fishing in the creek this afternoon but we didn't catch any fish. Grandad kept saying, 'We'll have a fish as big as a whale in a minute.' Aunty Irene cooked fish fingers for tea. I wish we had a creek at home.

FRIDAY

We had a picnic today. All we could hear were bees buzzing. Grandad said, 'It's going to be a lot quieter next week without you buzzing around!' Aunty Irene says I'd better post this letter today; otherwise I'll beat it home.

Lots of love from Old Ginger Nut.

P.S. PLEASE let me stay here a little longer. I don't want to come home yet.



This is Bubbles.

1. Who wrote this letter?
 - (A) Grandad
 - (B) Aunty Irene
 - (C) Old Ginger Nut
 - (D) Old Ginger Nut's mum

2. The word 'pests' is used to describe things which are
 - (A) ugly.
 - (B) dirty.
 - (C) dangerous.
 - (D) troublesome.

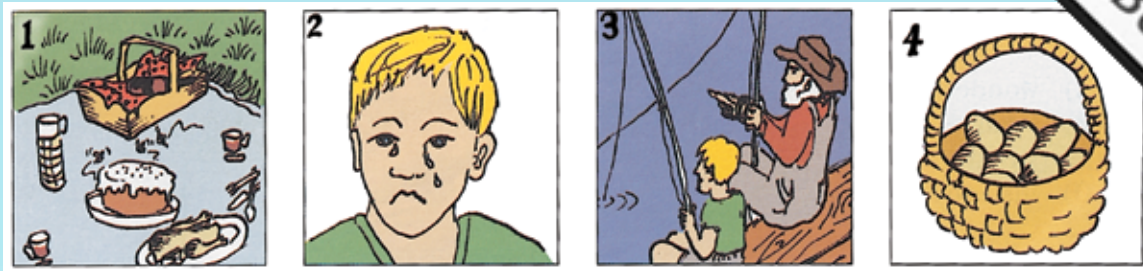
3. When Old Ginger Nut says 'I'd like a pet rat', the contraction 'I'd' is made up of the words
 - (A) I did.
 - (B) I had.
 - (C) I could.
 - (D) I would.

4. When Grandad says, 'It's going to be a lot quieter here next week without you buzzing around!', he means
 - (A) 'Your constant noise keeps me as busy as a bee.'
 - (B) 'I'll miss you when you're not here next week.'
 - (C) 'You're so noisy I can't wait for you to go home.'
 - (D) 'I'll be able to work harder on the farm when you go.'

5. On which day does the reader first notice a change in Old Ginger Nut's feelings about staying with his grandfather?
 - (A) Monday
 - (B) Tuesday
 - (C) Wednesday
 - (D) Friday

6. Why are the words 'MONDAY' to 'FRIDAY' written in CAPITAL LETTERS?
 - (A) They are days of the week.
 - (B) They are subheadings in the letter.
 - (C) Old Ginger Nut is angry with his mother.

7. Put these pictures into the correct order to show what Old Ginger Nut did during his holiday.



The correct order for the pictures is

- (A) 4, 2, 1, 3
 - (B) 2, 4, 3, 1
 - (C) 3, 2, 1, 4
 - (D) 2, 3, 4, 1
8. If Old Ginger Nut wrote a story about his holiday, the best title would be
- (A) *Holidays with Mum.*
 - (B) *Helping Aunty Irene.*
 - (C) *Fishing with Grandad.*
 - (D) *My Time at Grandad's.*

For questions 9 and 10 choose the best option.

9. Choose the sentence which is **PUNCTUATED CORRECTLY**.
- (A) The shaggy brown dog chased Michael's cat up into the tree.
 - (B) The shaggy brown, dog chased Michael's cat up into the tree.
 - (C) The shaggy brown dog chased Michaels' cat up into the tree.
 - (D) The shaggy, brown, dog chased Michaels' cat up into the tree.
10. Lynette is very caring. She always thinks about other people.

Which of the following words describes Lynette?

- (A) patient
- (B) reliable
- (C) considerate
- (D) independent

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Sources

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The following year levels should sit THIS Paper:

Australia	Year 3
Brunei	Primary 3
Hong Kong	Primary 3
Indonesia	Year 4
Malaysia	Standard 3
New Zealand	Year 4
Pacific	Year 3
Singapore	Primary 2
South Africa	Grade 3



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PAPER

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ICAS

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HOW TO FILL OUT THIS SHEET:



- Rub out all mistakes completely.
- Print your details clearly in the boxes provided.
- Make sure you fill in only one oval in each column.

EXAMPLE 1: Debbie Bach

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

EXAMPLE 2: Chan Ai Beng

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

EXAMPLE 3: Jamal bin Abas

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME to appear on certificate

[illegible]

LAST NAME to appear on certificate

[illegible]

Are you male or female?

☐ Male ☐ Female



Does anyone in your home usually speak a language other than English?

☐ Yes ☐ No

School name: _____

DATE OF BIRTH

Day		Month		Year	
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2		2	2	2
3	3		3	3	3
	4		4	4	4
	5		5	5	5
	6		6	6	6

CLASS
(optional)

(A)	(K)
(B)	(L)
(C)	(M)
(D)	(N)
(E)	(O)
(F)	(P)
(G)	(Q)

TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Example:
Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word.

I want you to give this important matter prompt attention.

- (A) quiet
- (B) careful
- (C) immediate
- (D) deliberate

Immediate is the word closest in meaning to prompt in this sentence, so you would fill in the oval (C), as shown.

- (A) (B) (C) (D)



START

- 1

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 2

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 3

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 4

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 5

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 6

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 7

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 8

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 9

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)
- 10

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

QUESTION	KEY	DESCRIPTION OF SKILL	AREA	DIFFICULTY
1	C	Interpret information in a personal recount to identify the writer	RL	Easy
2	D	Infer the meaning of a word: pests	VOC	Medium
3	D	Identify the parts of contraction in a personal recount	SYN	Easy
4	B	Interpret the meaning of an idiomatic expression in a personal recount	VOC	Medium
5	C	Identify the change in the writer's tone in a personal recount	RL	Medium/Hard
6	B	Identify the use of capital letters for subheadings	TD	Easy
7	B	Synthesise a personal recount to sequence a set of illustrations	RL	Medium/Hard
8	D	Identify the theme of a personal recount	RL	Medium
9	A	Identify the correct use of list commas and the possessive apostrophe	SYN	Medium
10	C	Synthesise a description to identify a character trait	VOC	Medium

LEGEND

Area refers to the particular curriculum area or strand assessed by the question.

RL Reading – Literary	questions which require students to comprehend and interpret texts such as stories, poems, extracts from novels, reviews, plays
RF Reading – Factual	questions which require students to understand and interpret information and argument texts, including texts which incorporate diagrams, tables and images from a range of curriculum areas, e.g. reports, editorials, advertisements, explanations
TD Textual devices	questions which require students to recognise and to interpret textual devices which include figurative and rhetorical language (e.g. metaphor, rhetorical question, pun) and text conventions (e.g. use of different font sizes and types, captions)
SYN Syntax	questions about accuracy and clarity within sentences or texts (e.g. pronoun reference, tense) and the recognition of grammatical terms (e.g. noun, main clause)
VOC Vocabulary	questions about the meaning of words or phrases

Level of difficulty refers to the expected level of difficulty for the question.

Easy	more than 70% of candidates will choose the correct option
Medium	about 50–70% of candidates will choose the correct option
Medium/Hard	about 30–50% of candidates will choose the correct option
Hard	less than 30% of candidates will choose the correct option