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**ENGLISH B – HIGHER LEVEL – PAPER 1**  
**ANGLAIS B – NIVEAU SUPÉRIEUR – ÉPREUVE 1**  
**INGLÉS B – NIVEL SUPERIOR – PRUEBA 1**

Wednesday 5 November 2014 (afternoon)

Mercredi 5 novembre 2014 (après-midi)

Miércoles 5 de noviembre de 2014 (tarde)

1 h 30 m

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**TEXT BOOKLET – INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet contains all of the texts required for paper 1.
- Answer the questions in the question and answer booklet provided.

**LIVRET DE TEXTES – INSTRUCTIONS DESTINÉES AUX CANDIDATS**

- N'ouvrez pas ce livret avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Ce livret contient tous les textes nécessaires à l'épreuve 1.
- Répondez à toutes les questions dans le livret de questions et réponses fourni.

**CUADERNO DE TEXTOS – INSTRUCCIONES PARA LOS ALUMNOS**

- No abra este cuaderno hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Este cuaderno contiene todos los textos para la prueba 1.
- Conteste todas las preguntas en el cuaderno de preguntas y respuestas.

TEXT A

# Sea Turtles



Sea turtles are one of the Earth's most ancient creatures. The seven species that can be found today have been around for 110 million years, since the time of the dinosaurs. The sea turtle's shell is streamlined for swimming through the water. Unlike land turtles, sea turtles cannot retract their head into their shell. Their color varies between yellow, green and black depending on the species.

5



**[ - X - ]**

Sea turtles are found in all warm and temperate waters throughout the world. Most sea turtles go on long migrations, some as far as 1400 miles, between their feeding grounds and the beaches where they nest.

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**[ - 3 - ]**

Green sea turtles can stay underwater for as long as five hours even though the length of a feeding dive is usually five minutes or less. Their heart rate slows to conserve oxygen, and nine minutes may elapse between heartbeats.

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**[ - 4 - ]**

Sea turtles spend most of their lives in the water, where not much information can be gathered on their behavior. Most of what is known about them is obtained by observing females that leave the water to lay eggs. Sea turtles, like salmon, will return to the same nesting grounds in which they were born. When females come to the shore, they dig out a nest with their back flippers, bury their clutch of eggs and return to the ocean. After hatching, the young may take as long as a week to dig themselves out of the nest. They emerge at night, move toward the ocean and remain there, solitary, until it is time to mate.

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**[ - 5 - ]**

A new study has shown that endangered green turtles are swallowing more man-made debris, including plastic products, than ever before. This debris can ultimately kill them.

25 “We found that for green sea turtles, the likelihood that they have eaten debris has nearly doubled in the last 25 years,” said Qamar Schuyler from the University of Queensland, who led the study.

**[ - 6 - ]**

30 Plastic products swallowed by turtles can be lethal. Schuyler said the data showed that dead turtles discovered on beaches with lots of plastic inside them were not necessarily found in the most polluted places.

35 “So it means that they are usually eating that debris somewhere far away from where they end up,” she said, adding that this meant that a global response was needed to counter the problem. “What we really need to look at is a large scale movement to stop debris entering the oceans.”

Text: Adapted from [www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org) and [www.nzherald.co.nz](http://www.nzherald.co.nz) (2013)  
Image: “Green turtle swimming over coral reefs in Kona” by Brocken Inaglory.

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[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Green\\_turtle\\_swimming\\_over\\_coral\\_reefs\\_in\\_Kona.jpg#mediaviewer/File:Green\\_turtle\\_swimming\\_over\\_coral\\_reefs\\_in\\_Kona.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Green_turtle_swimming_over_coral_reefs_in_Kona.jpg#mediaviewer/File:Green_turtle_swimming_over_coral_reefs_in_Kona.jpg)

TEXT B

# Telling good information from bad

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5 Like many Singaporeans these days, Mr Nicholas Lauw keeps himself informed by reading both mainstream and other news. But the 32-year-old lawyer is careful about trusting what he reads online as he finds some local blogs and sociopolitical sites to be less reliable than mainstream outlets.



10 This issue of online credibility has become more acute as more people turn to blogs and social media as sources of information, and in these sources more cases have arisen where false news and rumours have spread quickly online.

15 Back when the news was largely provided by print and broadcasting companies staffed by professional journalists, editors acted as gatekeepers to ensure standards of accuracy and balance. Often they were backed by support staff trained to check facts.

25 However, today social media have blossomed into news sources. They now play a small but significant role in the communication of current affairs.

How can the public navigate this new information landscape?

30 One suggestion is that individuals use short and simple checklists to guide them. There is one on the website of the Media Literacy Council, and it has five elements.

35 **Who**  
Look at who created or uploaded the piece, whether the author can be trusted, and whether it is an authoritative source or if there is a potential conflict of interest.

**When**  
Check when it was published and if it is up-to-date and relevant now.

40 **What**  
Check if the piece has a hidden agenda and if it offers more than one perspective. Does it claim to be objective reporting or is it clearly a point of view? Cross-check the information with other sources if possible.

45 **Why**  
Ask yourself why you are reading that medium, and consider that people tend to go to information sources that are in line with their own beliefs and perceptions. Try to be objective and seek out other sources of information.

**Think**  
Always have an inquiring mind and remember that photographs and videos can be manipulated.

50 Dr Michael Netzley of Singapore Management University says that, 55 as with any new medium, it is inevitable that consumers become more alert as time passes. “So the pendulum may swing for a while but it will always settle in the middle with time. Consumers will become better at spotting fakes, rumours and conjecture,” he says.

Image: “Computer keyboard” by User Gflores on en.wikipedi—  
<http://www.epa.gov/win/winnews/images05/0510keyboard.gif>  
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[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Computer\\_keyboard.png#mediaviewer/File:Computer\\_keyboard.png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Computer_keyboard.png#mediaviewer/File:Computer_keyboard.png)  
 Text: Adapted from Tessa Wong, *The Straits Times* (July 2013) “Telling good information from bad.”

TEXT C

# Changing English

This is an extract from an interview with David Crystal, who is an authority on a wide range of aspects dealing with language in general and English in particular. He is not only a highly respected academic, but through his books and radio programmes he has made clear the mysteries of English to a much wider audience.



**Jack Scholes:** How is the internet changing the English language and how do you see the future of standard English, taking into consideration the whole spectrum of the so-called new language created by the digital generation?

**David Crystal:** It isn't a new language. That's one of the myths created by the media who have noticed an occasional new linguistic feature and have exaggerated its presence. What has happened is that languages have evolved new styles as a result of the internet. English has styles such as blogging, texting, tweeting, instant messaging, social networking, and so on, which were not there before. These styles have emerged in response to particular technologies. They have no impact on the rest of the language. Nothing I am writing now shows any influence of the way I write when I blog, text, or tweet. Nor does it influence my speech. This has always happened. When broadcasting came along, it introduced us to many new styles, such as sports commentary and news-reading. The arrival of these styles hasn't made our daily speech sound like a sports commentary or a news broadcast. And it is the same with the internet.

**Jack Scholes:** On the BBC Channel Four programme, *It's only a theory*, you debunked several myths about text messages and successfully proved that texting is good for the English language. Could you summarize your arguments?

**David Crystal:** There are five main myths:

- **Myth 1:** texting is full of abbreviations.
- **Reality:** it isn't. Only around 10 per cent of the words used in the texts are actually abbreviated.
- **Myth 2:** the abbreviations are new, thought up by a young generation.
- **Reality:** they aren't. Most of them can be traced back to origins over a century ago.

- 35 • **Myth 3:** the fact that people leave letters out shows they don't know how to spell.
- **Reality:** people leave letters out because it's economical and "cool" to do so; but if it's cool to leave a letter out, you have to know that it's there in order to leave it out. The research shows that the best texters are actually the best spellers.
- 40 • **Myth 4:** young people are putting these abbreviations into their homework and exams.
- **Reality:** they aren't. Such things are hardly ever seen. And if a student did try to get away with such a thing, there is a fine cadre of people whose job it is to deal with the inappropriateness. They are called teachers.
- 45 • **Myth 5:** texting shows the decline of the English language.
- **Reality:** on the contrary, it shows that English is alive and well, capable of adapting to the new demands placed upon it.

50 Finally, when asked how he finds the time to write so many books, Crystal replied, "Language cries out for prolific treatment. It has so many aspects, all calling 'study me', and of course it is changing every day. Language never stands still. Whatever it was like yesterday, it will be different tomorrow."

Image: "Texting" by Alton—Own work. Licensed under CC BY 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons-  
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Texting.jpg#mediaviewer/File:Texting.jpg>  
 Text: Interview with David Crystal by Jack Scholes, www.davidcrystal.com (2013)

TEXT D

## Mother and Daughter

5 Like many ambitious women of her generation, Annie had been determined to prove the compatibility of motherhood and career. However, she had never broadcast it, and refused so many requests for photo spreads of her with her daughter Grace that women’s magazines stopped asking. Grace had found such a piece about a TV anchor-woman with her new baby.

“Why didn’t we ever do this?” she asked. Annie answered that she thought it was immoral. Grace had continued, “I guess people think you’re younger if you make out you haven’t got kids.”

10 This comment and the fact that it was uttered without a trace of malice had given Annie such a shock that for several weeks she thought of little else than her relationship with Grace, or, as she now saw it, her lack of one.

15 Until four years ago when she had taken her first editorship, Annie had prided herself that she and Grace were closer than almost any mother and daughter she could think of. As a celebrated journalist, more famous than many of those she wrote about, her time until then had been her own. If she so chose, she could work from home or take days off whenever she wanted. When she travelled, she would often take Grace with her.

20 Executive life was very different. In the strain and euphoria of transforming a stuffy, little-read magazine into the hottest read in town, Annie had at first refused to acknowledge the toll it was taking at home. She and Grace had what she proudly referred to as “quality time”, but now its main quality seemed to Annie to be oppression.

25 They had one hour together in the mornings when she forced the child to do her piano practice and two hours in the evening when she forced her to do her homework. Words intended as motherly guidance seemed increasingly doomed to be taken as criticism.

30 At weekends things were better, and the horse riding helped keep intact what fragile bridge there remained between them. Annie herself no longer rode but, unlike her husband Robert, had from her own childhood an understanding of the peculiar tribal world of riding and show-jumping. She enjoyed driving Grace and her horse to events. But even at its best, their time together never matched the easy trust that Grace shared with Robert.

35 It was to her father that the girl first turned, and Annie was resigned to the notion that history was repeating itself. She herself had been her father’s child, her mother unwilling or unable to see beyond the pool of golden light encircling Annie’s brother. Now Annie, with no such excuse, felt herself propelled by pitiless genes to replicate the pattern with Grace.

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TEXT E

## Time and Childhood

So this is a book about not very much: about being small and getting larger slowly. One of the great myths of life is that childhood passes quickly. In fact, because time moves more slowly in KidWorld – five times more slowly in a classroom on a hot afternoon, eight times more slowly on any car journey of over five miles, and so slowly during the last week before birthdays, Christmases and summer vacations as to be functionally immeasurable – it goes on for decades when measured in adult terms. It is adult life that is over in a twinkling.

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The slowest place of all in my corner of the youthful firmament was the large, cracked leather dental chair of Dr D K Brewster, our spooky, cadaverous dentist, while waiting for him to assemble his instruments and get down to business. There, time didn't move forward at all. It just hung.

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Dr Brewster was the most unnerving dentist in America. He was, for one thing, about a hundred and eight years old and had more than a hint of Parkinsonism in his wobbly hands. Nothing about him inspired confidence. He was perennially surprised by the power of his own equipment. "Whoa!" he'd say as he briefly enlivened some screaming device or other. "You could do some damage with *that*, I bet!"

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Saturdays and Sundays were the longest days in Kid World. Sunday mornings alone could last for up to three months depending on season. In central Iowa for much of the 1950s there was no television at all on Sunday mornings, so generally you just sat with a bowl of soggy Cheerios\* watching a test pattern until WOI-TV sputtered to life some time between about 11.25 and noon with an episode of *Sky King*, starring Kirby Grant, "America's favourite flying cowboy" (also its only flying cowboy). Sky was a rancher by trade, but spent most of the time cruising the Arizona skies in his beloved Cessna, *The Songbird*, spotting cattle rustlers and other earth-bound criminals.

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Even at six-years-old, and even in an age as intellectually undemanding as the 1950s, you didn't have to be hugely astute to see that a flying cowboy was a fairly flimsy premise for an action series. Sky could only capture villains who lingered at the edge of grassy landing strips and to whom it didn't occur to run for it until Sky had landed, taxied to a safe halt, climbed down from the cockpit, assumed an authoritative stance and shouted, "OK, boys, freeze!" – a process that took a minute or two, for Kirby Grant was not, it must be said, in the first flush of youth. In consequence, the series was cancelled after just a year.

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\* Cheerios: a breakfast cereal