

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

2011

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

TEST CODE: 011B

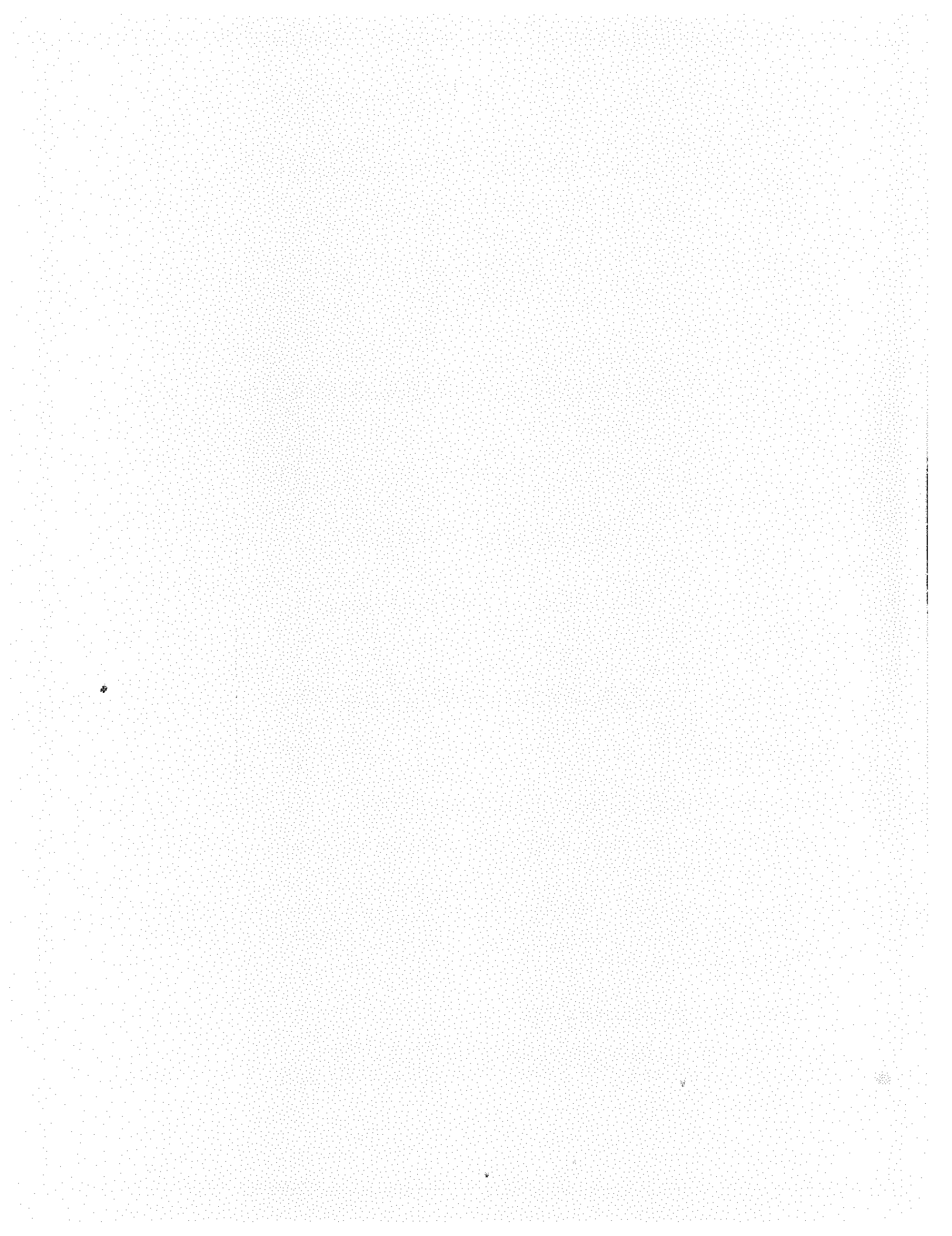
Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions:

1. This examination has **only** multiple choice questions.
2. There are fifty (50) items. Each item has four possible answers: **A, B, C, or D**. Choose the correct answer.
3. On your answer sheet, shade the circle which has the letter **A, B, C, or D** that is next to the answer you have chosen. You have **seventy-five (75)** minutes to answer **all** the questions.

Please use a No. 2 or HB pencil.

4. **Do not take any paper out of the examination room.**
Return this booklet, your answer sheet and all scrap paper to the invigilator before you leave the room.



For items 1-5, choose the synonym (the word that is CLOSEST in meaning) of the word underlined.

1 We will commence the meeting with prayer.

- A. end
- B. begin
- C. conclude
- D. continue

2 The wedding was a joyous occasion for all who attended.

- A. festive
- B. peaceful
- C. disastrous
- D. disappointing

3 The enraged man chased the thief from his house.

- A. furious
- B. excited
- C. joyful
- D. fearful

4 I did not recognize him because his clothes were torn and dirty.

- A. view
- B. greet
- C. ignore
- D. identify

5

Houses that are built too close to the sea are vulnerable in the event of a storm or hurricane.

- A. victorious
- B. resistant
- C. unsteady
- D. defenceless

Items 6-11 are based on the passage below. Read the passage and then answer the questions which follow.

Natural Disasters

A natural disaster is a catastrophe or extremely unfortunate event which is caused by nature. Natural disasters include tropical storms and hurricanes, cyclones and tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and floods. Natural disasters can cause damage to roads and buildings and often result in the loss of life or severe injury to 5 people and animals.

Natural disasters can take place in any country. St.Vincent and the Grenadines, for example, is home to the La Soufriere volcano. When this volcano erupted in 1902 people lost their lives. However, the last time it erupted in 1979, only livestock and crops were lost.

10 Another form of natural disaster which affects our country is hurricanes. A hurricane is a system of strong winds which revolve around a calm centre called the eye. The strength of those winds can blow off house roofs, uproot mighty breadfruit trees and flatten fields of bananas and plantains, all in a few hours. Everyone experienced the power of a hurricane when Hurricane Tomas blew into St.Vincent in October, 2010.

15 It is impossible to prevent a natural disaster but there is much we can do to prepare for them. For example, if a hurricane is approaching, people should make sure that house roofs, windows and doors are secure. Water must be stored in buckets and drums and people should buy non-perishable food such as biscuits and food in cans or tins. Flashlights, batteries and a transistor radio are important things to have 20 during a hurricane. Being prepared will help reduce the negative consequences of a natural disaster.

6 Based on the passage, which of the following **BEST** tells us what is a natural disaster?

- A. An event caused by nature
- B. An event which causes loss of life
- C. A natural event which has very strong winds
- D. A natural event which may cause death and destruction

7 According to the passage, which of the following is a **consequence** of natural disasters?

- A. Damage to roads and buildings
- B. Volcanic eruptions and floods
- C. Damage to cans and tins
- D. Cyclones and tornadoes

8 According to the passage, which of the following statements is **TRUE**?

- A. The last volcanic eruption in St.Vincent occurred in 1902.
- B. The last volcanic eruption in St.Vincent occurred in 1979.
- C. Both animals and people died in the 1979 eruption.
- D. Only animals and plants died in the 1902 eruption.

9 What is the **MOST LIKELY** meaning of the phrase "**non-perishable food**" (line 18)?

- A. Food that is poisonous
- B. Food that is nutritious
- C. Food that will spoil if it is not stored in a refrigerator
- D. Food that will last even if it is not stored in a refrigerator

10 Why would flashlights, batteries and a transistor radio be useful during a hurricane?

- A. They can keep house roofs secure.
- B. There may not be any electricity.
- C. They can help prevent hurricanes.
- D. People can sell them after the hurricane.

11 Which word from the passage means “**to circle around**”?

- A. secure
- B. revolve
- C. catastrophe
- D. consequence

For items 12- 16, identify the error in each sentence.

12 The classroom was small and hot and I was boring so I fell asleep.

- A B C D

13 That is the best book that has being published by that firm.

- A B C D

14 Irregardless of the situation, he is always calm.

- A B C D

15 My neighbour is also a competitor in this rather wierd game.

- A B C D

16 When she swept the floor she discovered the loss necklace.

- A B C D

For items 17-21, for each underlined word, choose the correct part of speech.

17 Sammy's birthday party was held yesterday.

- A. noun
- B. verb
- C. adverb
- D. adjective

18 The walk took us through the field and under the bridge.

- A. adverb
- B. adjective
- C. preposition
- D. conjunction

19 Our teacher advised us to read through our work carefully.

- A. noun
- B. adjective
- C. adverb
- D. conjunction

20 The sun glitters on the waters of Bequia, creating a beautiful picture.

- A. verb
- B. noun
- C. adjective
- D. conjunction

21 The student could not contain his joy when he realised he had passed his examination.

- A. adjective
- B. pronoun
- C. conjunction
- D. preposition

For items 22-27, read the conversation between Jane and her Principal, Mrs. Grant, and answer the questions that follow.

Jane: I am writing my Common Entrance Examinations today.

Mrs. Grant: That is very good. I hope that you are well prepared.

Jane: Yes, I studied every evening after school and listened to everything my teacher said.

5 **Mrs. Grant:** Did you eat well and get enough sleep?

Jane: Yes, my Mummy gave me fish, rice and a lot of vegetables. I even started to drink water but I had some orange juice as well! I love orange juice just as pigs love mud! I went to bed at nine o'clock every night as well.

10 **Mrs. Grant:** All of that sounds quite good but I hope that you found time to relax and play with your friends!

Jane: Of course! My teacher took us all to the beach and every weekend Mummy allowed me to watch some television.

Mrs. Grant: You seem well prepared Jane. All the best!

Jane: Thank you Mrs Grant.

22 Which verb tense is Jane using in the sentence "I am writing my Common Entrance Examinations today"?

- A. past perfect
- B. present perfect
- C. present continuous
- D. past continuous

23 Which figure of speech is used in "I love orange juice just as pigs love mud!"?

- A. simile
- B. metaphor
- C. personification
- D. onomatopoeia

24 Which punctuation mark is used before each speaker speaks?

- A. full stop
- B. comma
- C. colon
- D. semi-colon

25 Which of the following was NOT done by Jane as she prepared for the exam?

- A. She drank a lot of water.
- B. She studied after school.
- C. She went to bed at nine every weekend.
- D. She went to the beach with her friends.

26 Which word is CLOSEST in meaning to the phrase "time to relax" (line 9)?

- A. happiness
- B. leisure
- C. laziness
- D. sleepiness

27 Which of the following is an example of a **compound** sentence?

- A. You seem well prepared Jane .
- B. I am writing my Common Entrance Examinations today.
- C. Yes, my Mummy gave me fish, rice and a lot of vegetables.
- D. I even started to drink water but I had some orange juice as well!

For items 28-32, select the antonym (the word most **OPPOSITE** in meaning) of the word **underlined**.

28 Her grandmother gave her a pair of rather cheap shoes.

- A. durable
- B. expensive
- C. economical
- D. wonderful

29 The diligent student was praised by her teacher.

- A. hardworking
- B. dishonest
- C. indolent
- D. intelligent

30 Shawn was asked to destroy the two-storey house.

- A. create
- B. continue
- C. design
- D. demolish

31 Peter prepared for an arduous day in the garden by eating a good breakfast.

- A. difficult
- B. laborious
- C. exciting
- D. effortless

32 St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the home of people with diverse backgrounds.

- A. different
- B. similar
- C. various
- D. varied

33 The aggressive dog barked loudly at the stranger.

- A. angry
- B. violent
- C. calm
- D. disruptive

For items 34-38, read the song and answer the questions which follow.

Oh, there's a lovely island in the Caribbean Sea,
With cocoa, citrus, coconuts and fine banana trees,
There's arrowroot and sugar cane a-waving in the breeze,
St. Vincent is its name.

Refrain

5 *We're out to build a new St. Vincent,
We're out to build a new St. Vincent,
We're out to build a new St. Vincent,
The future's in our hands.*

We'll learn to kill our country's pests and rid her of their blight,
10 And while against these deadly foes we earnestly will fight
We'll not forget those other pests, more deadly in their might,
That spoil St. Vincent's name.

Refrain

The hate we bear within our hearts, the grudge that never ends,
The envy, greed and selfishness, the pride that never bends,
15 The ugly self that keeps us back from saying "let's be friends",
These spoil St. Vincent's name.

Refrain

God has a plan for everyone, for me as well as you.
To rebuild this little island till it's altogether new.
So men and women, boys and girls, there's work for us to do,
20 To build St. Vincent's name.

34 Which device is used at the end of the first three lines of verse two?

- A. rhythm
- B. rhyme
- C. simile
- D. metaphor

35 What is the **MOST LIKELY** meaning of “**We’re out to build a new St.Vincent**” (line 5)?

- A. St.Vincent will be thrown away and a new one built.
- B. St.Vincent will be thrown away and a new one bought.
- C. Vincentians’ attitude towards St.Vincent will be changed.
- D. Vincentians’ attitude towards St.Vincent will remain the same.

36 Which of the following is an example of **CONTRAST**?

- A. We’ll learn to kill our country’s pests and rid her of their blight
- B. The envy, greed and selfishness, the pride that never bends
- C. So men and women, boys and girls, there’s work for us to do
- D. We’ll not forget those other pests, more deadly in their might

37 What is the **MOST LIKELY** meaning of the word **blight** (line 9)?

- A. rodents
- B. disease
- C. problem
- D. vermin

38 Which word **MOST LIKELY** means the same thing as **refrain**?

- A. chorus
- B. repeat
- C. verse
- D. stanza

39 Which of the following lines suggests that it is every Vincentian's responsibility to improve St. Vincent?

- A. nine and ten
- B. thirteen and fourteen
- C. fifteen and sixteen
- D. seventeen and eighteen

For items 40-44, read the topic sentence and supporting sentences, then choose the supporting sentence which does NOT belong.

40 **The earth is one of the planets in our solar system.**

- A. The earth is the only one of those planets that sustains life.
- B. Earth is the third closet planet from the sun.
- C. Stars seem close but are actually millions of miles away.
- D. The earth revolves on its axis around the sun.

41 **Most people spend their free time in hobbies which interest them.**

- A. A favourite hobby for some people is reading.
- B. Some strange hobbies include collecting snakes and reptiles.
- C. Hobbies are a good way to express oneself and to relax.
- D. Some people are always working and never take a vacation.

42 A person who has manners is always well behaved and polite.

- A. Manners make it easier to get along with those around us.
- B. Children are often disruptive when a teacher is not present.
- C. Children without manners grow up to be impolite adults.
- D. Manners help us know how to behave at home, school and in the community.

43 Students with a wide vocabulary have a large number of words which they can use to express themselves.

- A. The word “express” has several different meanings.
- B. You can broaden your vocabulary by reading many books.
- C. Using your dictionary is another way to build your vocabulary.
- D. Knowing a wide variety of words will improve your writing and speaking skills.

44 For many persons, the time they learned the most was during primary school.

- A. Some people still use the information learned during primary school.
- B. In primary school persons are taught many basic life skills.
- C. Students learn many games and other fun activities in primary school.
- D. There are many primary and secondary schools in St. Vincent.

For items 45-50, choose the punctuation error in each sentence. If the sentence contains no error, then choose D.

45 The desk at the front₂ of the room is covered with students' books₁. No error
A B C D

46 “I am hurt₂, screamed Peter”₁ as he held his bleeding arm. No error
A B C D

47 She has₂ several toys including the following: dolls₁, teddy bears and puzzles. No error
A B C D

48

“Will you be attending Clare’s party” asked Rodger ? No error

A

B

C

D

49

He enjoys walking through the country; with his son-in-law. No error

A

B C

D

50

Jason’s puppy made its way over to his two cousins’ house . No error

A

B

C

D



