



Communications 12

Examination Booklet
Sample 2007
Form A

DO NOT OPEN ANY EXAMINATION MATERIALS UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.
FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS REFER TO THE RESPONSE BOOKLET.

PART A: LITERARY TEXT

8 multiple-choice questions
Value: 15%

Suggested Time: 20 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following selection and answer the multiple-choice questions. For each question, select the **best** answer and record your choice on the **Answer Sheet** provided.

The speaker in this poem encounters a new house, and wonders how different it would be if it were an old house.

House History

by John Steffler

If this were an old house
I would write its imagined history
in a poem:
what dreams stirred in the minds
5 of the first young man and woman
as they gazed from its windows
at the trees and new fields
a hundred years ago,

how the lives that swelled and
10 dwindled here, the voices,
the currents of feelings that flowed
through doors and papered halls and up
and down the dark stairs
shaped the place
15 and left a quiet calling
in the very walls.

If this were an old house
I would compare it to a
building under water
20 changing slowly in the eddies
of a living sea.

But this house is factory-new;
it still stinks of vinyl flooring
and plastic weather seals.
25 Some guys knocked it together in
Stephenville in two separate halves
like a stage property.

When two long trucks
brought the pieces
30 and joined them here
in this mountain valley
it was raining.
I know this because
the basement ceiling is
35 spattered with highway mud.

The fellows who painted the walls
didn't think much of the place.
It couldn't have seemed like
a house to them at all.
40 They butted their cigarettes
on the kitchen floor and burned
holes in the vinyl flowers.

This is all of its early history
I know.
45 We came here over the
raw earth and torn roots
of the back yard and
we have become
its history.



You have **Examination Booklet Form A**. In the box above #1 on your **Answer Sheet**, fill in the bubble as follows.

Exam Booklet Form/ Cahier d'examen	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
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- Which statement is true about the “young man and woman” in line 5?
 - The speaker imagined them.
 - They are the speaker’s ancestors.
 - The speaker dreamed about them.
 - They lived to be a hundred years old.

- Which is an example of a metaphor?
 - “as they gazed from its windows” (line 6)
 - “the currents of feelings that flowed” (line 11)
 - “If this were an old house” (line 17)
 - “and plastic weather seals” (line 24)

- In stanzas three and four (lines 17 – 27), which literary technique is used to present the ideas?
 - contrast
 - dialogue
 - foreshadowing
 - understatement

- Where was the house when the basement ceiling became mud-splattered?
 - on the trucks
 - in the factory
 - in Stephenville
 - on the building lot

- How does the speaker react to the builders of the house?
 - with surprise
 - with acceptance
 - with hopelessness
 - with disappointment

6. According to the last stanza of the poem (lines 43 to 49), which is an accurate statement about the house?
- A. Its history is unknown.
 - B. Its history is almost nonexistent.
 - C. The speaker wishes he knew its history.
 - D. The builders explain its history to the speaker.
7. According to the poem as a whole, when does a house establish a meaningful history?
- A. when someone buys it
 - B. after people have lived in it
 - C. after it has begun to deteriorate
 - D. when its construction is completed
8. What is the point of view in the poem?
- A. objective
 - B. omniscient
 - C. first person
 - D. limited omniscient

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PART B: INFORMATIONAL TEXT

8 multiple-choice questions
1 written-response question
Value: 30%

Suggested Time: 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following selection and answer the multiple-choice questions. For each question, select the **best** answer and record your choice on the **Answer Sheet** provided.

This article explains the development of the Greater Vancouver Zoo since its opening over 35 years ago.

The Greater Vancouver Zoo

by Darah Hansen
(adapted)

- 1 It's been 35 years since strange and exotic animals started showing up on a 48-hectare parcel of farmland in Aldergrove. Butter, a three-month-old lion cub, was the first to arrive in June 1970. He was joined a week later by an adult female hippopotamus called Gertrude. Two months later several more unusual occupants were added to the property—a grizzly bear, a small herd of buffalo, antelope—and the Vancouver Game Farm was born.
- 2 Sure there was a price to get through the gate, but the stated purpose of the farm when it officially opened to the public in August 1970, was about public education and wildlife conservation. "We intend to get all of the endangered species we can and breed them on the farm," stated Claus Mueller, one of the two men behind the farm at the beginning. "Otherwise, a lot of animals are going to be gone forever in a few years."
- 3 Over the years, the game farm—now known as the Greater Vancouver Zoo—has faced much criticism for conditions in which many of the animals in its care have lived and died. Four hippos have died prematurely over the past 20 years, most recently Gertrude and her mate Harvey.
- 4 Cages, pens and aquariums have long been cited by animal welfare groups as too small and outdated for many of its animals, including Arctic wolves, crocodiles, monkeys, snakes, lions and tigers.
- 5 Despite some opposition from animal welfare groups, more than three decades after it opened, the Greater Vancouver Zoo remains a fixture in the Lower Mainland, with celebrations set to get underway at the park to mark its 35th anniversary.
- 6 The bears, buffalo and big cats are still on display, along with 140 different species, for the enjoyment of the 200,000 people who go through the gates every year. According to zoo general manager, Malcolm Weatherston, it's his intention to expand and modernize the business, taking it into the 21st century in the image of cutting-edge zoos such as the San Diego Zoo. "Our goal is to make it one of the leading zoos in North America," he said. Like his predecessors at the game farm, Weatherston talked of conservation and education as the key principles driving the business.
- 7 In that vein, the zoo is currently host to a breeding project designed to help increase the Oregon spotted frog population, a local species currently considered endangered because of its sensitivity to pollution and environmental change. The small hatchery breeds approximately 700 frogs each year and releases them into the wild. The zoo is also taking part in a salmon restoration project in a creek that cuts through the Aldergrove property.

(continued on next page)

- 8 New, larger pens for the animals have also been a focus for the zoo in recent years. The Arctic wolves have been moved to a larger pen, as will the zoo's four Bactrian camels. The new camel enclosure is under construction and features the latest in zoo trends: It is not fenced. In this case, a portion of the enclosure is open to visitors, with a three-metre-wide stretch of rock lining the space where a fence would normally stand. Weatherston said the fenceless design gives visitors the sense they're viewing animals in a more natural habitat.
- 9 This increased emphasis on wildlife conservation at the Greater Vancouver Zoo is largely in part to pressure put on the zoo in the early 1990s. According to Peter Fricker, an animal behaviourist, the humane society has had its sights set on the zoo since 1994, when the provincial government launched an investigation into its alleged mistreatment of deer on the property. While the zoo was exonerated¹, the humane society and another animal welfare group, Zoocheck Canada, remained concerned. In 1997, both groups commissioned reports looking into zoo conditions. A lack of adequate space and lack of behavioural enrichment for the animals were two major problems cited.
- 10 According to Fricker, the animal behaviouralist contracted by the humane society to write the report, the boredom exhibited by Tina the elephant was so extreme she appeared to be "going insane." "Everyone remembers seeing Tina standing out in the rain in the winter and seeing her head bob up and down repeatedly. People were complaining all the time," Fricker further stated.
- 11 The death of the two hippos in 2004 and 2005 only increased concerns. But earlier this year, animal welfare activists eased up on the zoo when it hired Weatherston. With Weatherston

at the helm, Fricker said there were "encouraging signs" things were going to improve.

- 12 Pen sizes were increased for many of the animals, new landscaping designs were introduced to vary the simulated habitat of other enclosures, and plans were put in place to replace the outdated pens currently housing the zoo's lions and tigers. This week, the hippo barn will be built—estimating it to be open in the new year.
- 13 Weatherston and Dorgan, an employee at the Vancouver zoo, are adamant that zoos are a necessary means of wildlife and wilderness conservation, now more than ever before. Children, said Weatherston, "can only go so far with books and pictures. This is the place to see wild animals and really understand what they're all about." Dorgan said it's important people develop a connection with animals, particularly top-of-the-food chain species such as lions or tigers. That bond, which he believes comes with seeing the animals first-hand, can inspire conservation efforts necessary to benefit all species sharing the habitat.



Figure 1

¹ exonerated: *found blameless*

9. What is the **main** purpose of paragraph 1?
- A. to give a full history of the zoo
 - B. to introduce the topic of the zoo
 - C. to encourage the reader to visit the zoo
 - D. to show the crowded conditions of the zoo
10. Which suggests that many people approve of the Vancouver zoo?
- A. The zoo has operated for several decades.
 - B. Customers must pay to enter the gates of the zoo.
 - C. The zoo is allowed to set free some of the creatures that it breeds.
 - D. The provincial government investigates any complaints about the zoo.
11. Which factor makes the camel pen resemble a natural habitat?
- A. It is unfenced.
 - B. It is lined with rock.
 - C. It is open to visitors.
 - D. It is a large enclosure.
12. With which statement would Fricker most likely agree?
- A. "All endangered species should be raised at a zoo."
 - B. "Living conditions for the animals in a zoo must be humane."
 - C. "Environmental pollution must be decreased to keep animals healthy."
 - D. "The government, and not animal welfare groups, should assess zoo conditions."
13. What is the **primary** method of presentation throughout the article?
- A. personal stories
 - B. cause and effect
 - C. chronological order
 - D. step-by-step process

14. Which word **best** describes Weatherston’s character?
- A. practical
 - B. ambitious
 - C. traditional
 - D. kind-hearted
15. Which word accurately describes the tone of the article?
- A. objective
 - B. persuasive
 - C. indifferent
 - D. exaggerated
16. How does the photograph (Figure 1) support the information in the article?
- A. It suggests why people should tolerate zoos.
 - B. It illustrates the newer design of animal pens.
 - C. It demonstrates how sociable wild animals can be.
 - D. It shows that live animals are interesting to observe.

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PART B: INFORMATIONAL TEXT
WRITTEN RESPONSE

INSTRUCTIONS: In paragraph form and in approximately **125 words**, answer question 1 in the **Response Booklet**. Write in **ink**. Use the **Organization and Planning** space to plan your work. The mark for your answer will be based on the appropriateness of the examples you use as well as the adequacy of your explanation and the quality of your written expression.

1. Refer to the article **The Greater Vancouver Zoo** on pages 5 to 6.

Based on information in the article, is it appropriate to keep animals in zoos?
Support your answer with references to the article.

Organization and Planning

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the **Response Booklet**.

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PART C: COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

2 written-response questions

Suggested Time: 35 minutes

Value: 25%

VISUAL DESIGN

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question 2 in the **Response Booklet**. Use the **Organization and Planning** space to plan your work.

Read the situation below and create an appropriate visual design (complete with title). Use a variety of text, visuals, and graphics to support the message.

You may use some of the following symbols in your visual design.

- underline words to indicate *italics*
- (circle) words to indicate **bold**
- | |
|---------------------|
| describe
graphic |
|---------------------|

 use a box to indicate the look and placement of a graphic

2. Scenario:

You are **Terry Koppanick**, a student at Meadow Lake Community School, and a keen skateboarder. The School Board is holding a meeting on April 19, 2005 to discuss a proposal for a skateboard park to be built at the far end of Meadow Lake's playing field.

Task:

Read the information below and create an effective handout for the participants at the School Board meeting to encourage them to accept the proposal to build a skateboard park.

Information:

You and two of your friends are discussing the proposed skateboard park.

Terry: "It would be awesome to have our own skateboard park at the school. How can we convince people to build it?"

Maria: "Well, they're always complaining about skateboarders using the driveway. The park would end that problem."

Yukio: "It would be far away from any buildings, so there shouldn't be any complaints about noise."

Terry: "I know Centennial Mall will be happy not to have us hanging around there so much. We'll all be spending our time at the skateboard park instead."

Maria: "My parents will be relieved to know that I will be somewhere safer than the streets, at least."



Yukio: “There’s bound to be some discussion of the cost. Could we help out with some fund raising?”

Terry: “My dad is a member of the Business Improvement Association. He can probably give us some contacts for donations.”

Maria: “This park would make so many people happy, and I’m not just talking about us skateboarders!”

Organization and Planning

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the **Response Booklet**.

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PART C: BUSINESS LETTER

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question 3 in the **Response Booklet**. Write in **ink**. Use the **Organization and Planning** space to plan your work.

Writing as the individual below and using the information provided, write a **business** letter of **more than one** paragraph. Use complete and correct sentences.

3. You are **Terry Koppanick**, a student at Meadow Lake Community School, and an enthusiastic skateboarder. Your address is 1529 Skye Street, Nanaimo, BC V2S 6T4.

The School Board has passed a proposal to build a skateboard park at the far end of Meadow Lake's playing field. You and your friends have agreed to help raise the necessary funds.

Write a formal letter of request for a donation to Mr. Raymond Cheong, Manager of Home Creations Hardware Store, 719 Station Avenue, Nanaimo, BC V2S 3Z3.

Organization and Planning

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the **Response Booklet**.

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PART D: COMPOSITION

1 written-response question

Suggested Time: 35 minutes

Value: 30%

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer **one** of the following questions in the **Response Booklet**. Write in **ink**. Use the **Organization and Planning** space to plan your work.

Write a multi-paragraph composition of approximately **200 to 250** words based on **one** of the following topics, using standard English. In your composition, you may use any appropriate method of development. You may explain, persuade, or describe, or you may tell a story.

If you write on more than one topic, only the **first** will be marked.

4. Every community should provide a place for teenagers' leisure activities.

OR

5. I learned that a little respect goes a long way.

Organization and Planning

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the **Response Booklet**.

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END OF EXAMINATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Steffler, John. "House History." *31 Newfoundland Poets*. Eds. Adrian Fowler and Al Pitman. Breakwater Books, 1979, pp. 128–129.

Hansen, Darrah. "The Greater Vancouver Zoo." Adapted from "Zoo promotes conservation and education." *Vancouver Sun*. August 20, 2005.