



English Sample Paper Year 7

Name: _____

Marks: _____

I hired a bicycle from the little shop outside my hostel with the few Yuan I had left in cash, so I could bicycle to the Bank of China on the far side of the city. The friendly rental guy had wanted a deposit for his precious vehicle (bike thefts compromise most of the crime rate in China) and for this he wanted hard cash. On any other day this would have been fine but today just happened to be the day when I needed to change my US Dollars into local currency, hence my trip to the bank and the requiring of the bike. The irony of the situation was apparent, but just as I began to resign myself to the long wet walk, he pointed out that he also accepted passports as deposits. This is a common thing to do in hotels, both in Asia and Europe, to ensure that you pay your bill, but in this case I had my doubts. I had heard stories from fellow travellers of people locking their hired bikes up somewhere, only to find that they had gone when they returned to them later- the bikes having been liberated by their owner with a spare key! I was far less willing to risk my passport than cash in such a scam, but luckily I had my own lock and chain, so reluctantly handed the document over and headed off into the pouring rain.

I was pleased not to have been killed by the hoards of cyclists who, along with the drivers of the occasional motor vehicle, seem to choose to ignore any rules at junctions. However my good mood, which increased upon finding my bike where I had left it when returning from the bank, suddenly changed when I found it with 'added security'. I could not believe what I was seeing and it took me several useless tugs at the chain to fully accept the predicament. My first solution to the problem admittedly did not rank on the all time top ten of brilliant solutions! Noticing that the post was fixed into a concrete base, I wondered if I could carry the whole affair back to the hostel, and present it to the rental man to sort out.

Suddenly a man popped out from goodness knows where and began to make suggestions. After a lot of futile exchanged words and gestures, it gradually became clear that he was telling me to look for a man with a pointy hat. It dawned on me that this mysterious clue meant the ancient-looking policeman, who had begun to hover behind my new found friend. He was less willing than my friend to try and communicate. After what seemed like an eternity, it transpired I had been given my first ever parking ticket – the chain being the equivalent of a wheel clamp!

In the end I had no choice but to pay the fine, but not before learning a moral to this story which is not, as you might expect, never to let your passport out of your sight, but rather this: Never lock your bicycle to a handy post if the sign that it bears transpires to translate as 'No Parking!'

Section A:

1. Why does the writer hire the bicycle? (1)
2. What does the writer intend to do at the bank? (1)
3. What two things does the rental man accept as a deposit? (2)
4. Why does the writer 'reluctantly' hand over his passport – even after the stories he has heard from others? (2)
5. Paragraph 2 - Find a quotation which suggests what the experience, of cycling in China, was like for the writer. (1)
6. The writer returned to his bicycle to find it had 'added security'. What had happened to it? (1)
7. The writer describes what has happened as a 'predicament'. What does this suggest about the situation he finds himself in? (2)
8. If you were in this situation what two things would you do? They must be different to what the writer tried! (2)
9. Paragraph 3-The policeman is described as 'ancient looking' – what could this suggest about his appearance and age? (2)
10. What mistake had the writer made and why had he made it? (2)
11. Give the meanings of the following words as they are used in the passage: (4)
 - a) eternity (paragraph 3)
 - b) precious (paragraph 1)
 - c) liberated (paragraph 1, line 12)
 - d) tug (paragraph 2)

Section B:

Write about an event into which you put a lot of effort.

It could be real or fictitious.

There are marks for:

- ✓ neat handwriting and paragraphs
- ✓ well chosen vocabulary
- ✓ spelling, punctuation and grammar
- ✓ devices used such as: simile, metaphor, personification

(20)