



**CERTIFICATE for GENERAL EDUCATION
ELECTIVE ENGLISH
SEMESTER ONE — SECOND SESSION**

TIME: 3 hours

TOTAL MARKS: 70

This paper has 3 pages

READING 1 (Items 1 – 6)

Read the text. Then for each question, write a short answer (**ONE or TWO WORDS only**).

Chichibu is a small Japanese town just a ninety-minute train ride away from central Tokyo. It's in a mostly agricultural region, and its main product is the well-known tea which is grown on the surrounding hills and sold all over the world. Most of the year, it's a very quiet place, with not much going on, but every December the town comes to life for a few days during the Chichibu Night Festival, which is considered one of Japan's top three festivals.

The best time to visit the festival is on its third and final day. In the afternoon, six huge floats, each representing one of the areas of the town, are pulled through the streets to the main square. Each of these floats is decorated with lamps, wooden statues and brightly-coloured cloth. For the spectators, there are hundreds of stalls lining the streets, all selling excellent food, though prices are rather high during the festival.

Then, in the evening, from 7.30 until 10 o'clock, a long and spectacular fireworks show is held, which can be seen from many places in the town. If you have any difficulty seeing the show, you can always watch it on a giant TV screen outside the main railway station.

During the festival, the normally quiet town is crowded with people, and all the hotels are full, so it's probably a good idea to keep your hotel in Tokyo and visit the festival from there. (The last train back to Tokyo leaves just before midnight.) I would also strongly recommend that you put on some warm clothes, as temperatures can drop well below freezing.

1. How long does the festival last? _____
2. How many areas does the town have? _____
3. What can you see in the evening? _____
4. Where does the writer advise visitors to stay? *In a hotel in* _____
5. What does he advise them to wear? _____
6. Apart from the festival, what is Chichibu also famous for? _____

Write your answers on your answer paper.

READING 2 (Items 7 – 10)

Read these four texts. What are they about? For each text, choose one of the items in the box. Write **A, B, C**, etc, as in the example. (There are two extra items in the box.)

e.g. *It's light and easy to carry around, and it takes excellent pictures.*

F

7. I must get it repaired. It's losing about two minutes every hour.

8. It started well, but by the time I reached Chapter Four, I'd completely lost interest!

9. It's a nice place to go at the weekends. I often take the family for a picnic there.

10. I really like the colours. I'm going to hang it up on my bedroom wall. It'll brighten the place up.

A a book

B a painting

C a watch

D a park

E a timetable

F a camera

G an office

WRITING 1

Write a PARAGRAPH about **Paolo Canetti**. Use the picture and ALL the information in the box. Your writing should be correct and well-organised.

Paolo Canetti

left school/ 14 enjoys good food

owner/ four factories/ tinned food

strong-willed/ quick-tempered

born/ Rome/ 1949 father/ waiter/ cafe

successful businessman good talker



WRITING 2

Write a letter of at least 60 words.

Situation: You want to invite your pen-friend *Paul/ Paula* in Australia to visit you in Oman. Write to him/her with some suggestions. Also, ask him/her for one important piece of information.

Your name is *Nasir/ Nada*. Do **not** write an address. Your letter should be friendly and clear.

Write your answers on your answer paper.

WRITING 3

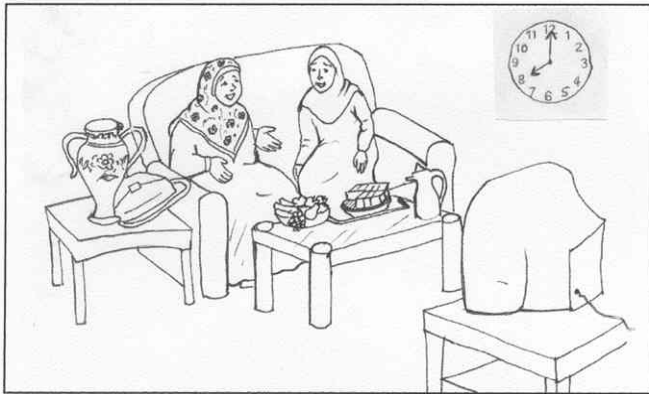
Write a **story** of at least 100 words based on the following pictures.

You can use the words in the box to help you.

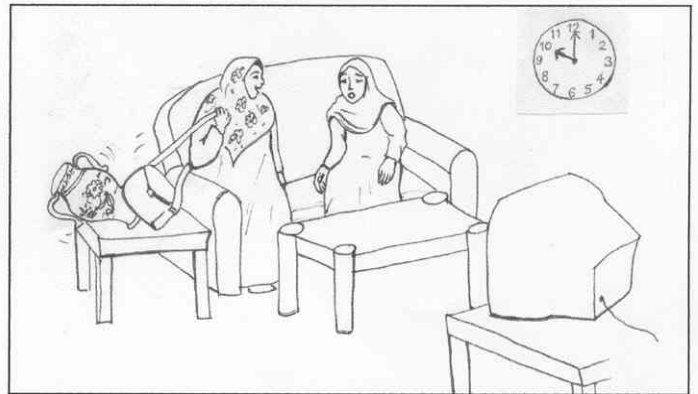
You can also put in more details to make your story lively and interesting.

| | | | |
|---------|-------|---------|--------|
| friends | visit | chat | vase |
| upset | new | package | broken |

①



②



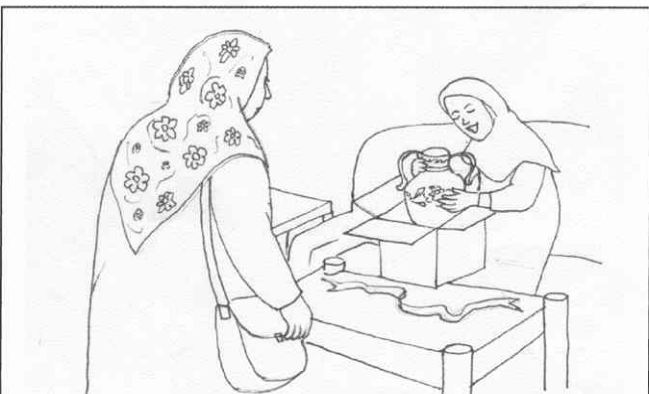
③



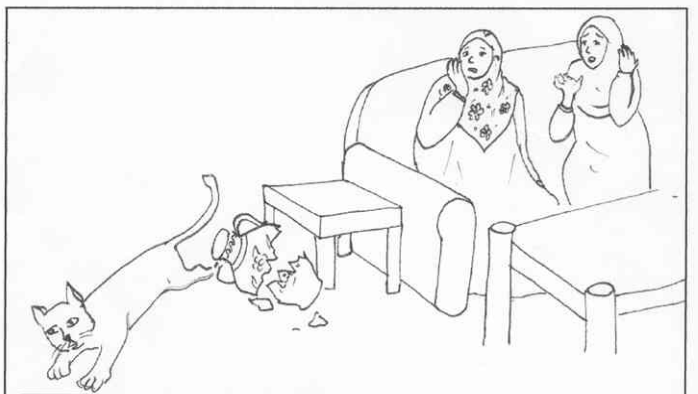
④



⑤



⑥



Write your answers on your answer paper.