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SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD (HL): GRADE 7

DATE: 15 AUGUST 2024

TIME: 60 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 6 questions.
2. Answer on the paper below.
3. Read the questions carefully before answering.
4. Visit the websites: www.saolympiads.co.za.

NAME OF LEARNER:	
SCHOOL:	**GRADE:**

QUESTION ONE: TEXT A

Read the following passage and then answer the questions that follow.

SPACE CRUSADERS

*If you're waiting for little green or grey men to invade planet earth, you may have the DC! **Keith Bain** learns about humanity's imminent conquest of space, and how technology is leading the way forward.*

Jim Adams is one of those rare people who look forward to going to work each day. He's not a rock star or a TV talk show host, but much of what he does has some kind of spin-off that fundamentally alters the course of human history. Jim is a technology expert, with a background in physics and systems engineering. For almost forty years, he's worked for the same US government agency: NASA.

"Am I a rocket scientist?" he asked rhetorically. "Well, I've never designed a rocket, but I've helped others do that. I'm not an astrophysicist, though I've helped others build telescopes to understand the cosmos."
Like most of his colleagues, Jim considers what he does to be one of the coolest jobs on the planet. "Because we make history every day."

If he is not a rocket scientist or an astronaut, though, what precisely does Jim do? Over four decades, he's worked his way up from radiation analyst to systems engineer to project manager. At one stage, he was the deputy director of Planetary Science – "probably the best job I ever had" – and today he is the deputy chief technologist for the entire agency.That means he's had his fingers in a lot of **diverse** projects, all of which, he says, have contributed in some way to humanity's presence in space.

"I've built communication satellites and science satellites," he says. "I have sent satellites around the moon and probes to Mercury, contributed to the design of the International Space Station (ISS) in its early days, and worked on humanity's understanding of climate change. "Heck, I even helped design the toilet for the space shuttle!" "Most of us who work here know that it's our destiny to move off this planet in a permanent sort of way," says Jim. "Several years ago, I was asked to look 50 years into the future and I said I believe that we will have people who were conceived and born and raised off the planet. Right now, we have this tiny foothold in space, and that's the ISS.

Making the leap from having astronauts aboard the ISS for a few months at a time to full-blown off-planet existence is at the heart of much of NASA's current technology development. Although it's been publicised as a one-way trip, any of us would like to know what the consequences of a manned mission to Mars might be, considering the farthest that we humans have ever travelled is to the moon."We know very little about the effects of being in space on humans," says Jim. Most of the clues, though, are being collected from astronauts who spend time on the ISS. In March last year, NASA wrapped up a study of the ISS's first one-year residents, which should shed considerable light on

the short-term effects of being in space for **prolonged** periods. Of course, it'll take some time before the long-term effects on those astronauts can be measured.

What is known, though, is that being in space is quite harmful to humans. "Firstly," says Jim, "microgravity in space causes your body to release the calcium in your bones. To prevent excessive calcium loss, astronauts must exercise two hours per day to be able to prevent calcium loss.

While regular exercise helps to deter bone decay, what's not so easily countered is space radiation. "The Earth's magnetic field provides a shielding bubble against radiation. Without it, we'd be bombarded with all kinds of radiation that basically cause our DNA to disintegrate." "Currently," says Jim, "travel time between Earth and Mars is eight and a half months. Any passengers on such a trip would be spending an enormous amount of that time within deep space, with no protection against that radiation."

What NASA is interested in though is not in sending people into the future or back to the time of the dinosaurs, but the basic question of whether or not we understand the mechanics of the universe as it has been laid out in the physics of Newton and Einstein.

Choose the correct answer from the following:

1. **Why does Jim Adams look forward to going to work each day?**

   (a) He looks forward to work because he feels very important at work.
   (b) He looks forward to work because he learns so much and feels like an expert.
   (c) He looks forward to work because he has worked for NASA for so many years.
   (d) He looks forward to work because he feels that what he does makes a difference to history.

(1)

2. **Is Jim a/an:**

   (a) astronaut (b) deputy director
   (b) deputy chief technologist (d) rocket scientist

(1)

3. **Jim feels that it is mankind's destiny to:**

   (a) understand Climate change.
   (b) forecast the future of space travel.
   (c) eventually move off Earth and live somewhere else.
   (d) increase the foothold that humans have in space.

(1)

4. **Choose a synonym for the word "prolonged" as used in the passage.**

(a) dull
(b) lengthened
(c) destroy
(d) delayed

(1)

5. **What part of speech is the word "rhetorically" as used in the text?**

(a) adverb
(b) adjective
(b) verb
(d) preposition

(1)

6. **Choose an antonym for the word "diverse".** **(1)**

7. **Why do astronauts need to do regular exercise while in space?**

(a) They need to exercise because they are sitting down all the time.
(b) They need to exercise because they lose calcium in their bones.
(c) They need to exercise because they have no shield against radiation.
(d) They need to exercise because they need to have stability.

(1)

8. **Who is the author of this article?**

(a) NASA
(b) Jim Adams
(c) Keith Bain
(d) ISS

(1)

9. **What is at the very heart of NASA's current research and development?**

(a) The design of bigger and better communication and science satellites.
(b) The attempt to counteract the effect of radiation on astronauts.
(c) Analysing the effects of being in space on astronauts.
(d) Planning to have humans living permanently on other planets.

(1)

10. **Why was Jim Adams a good person to interview for this article?**

(a) He was a good person to interview because he loved his job so much.
(b) He was an excellent person to interview because he had worked with satellites and probes to Mercury.
(c) He was a good person to interview because he was an expert in his field.
(d) He was a good person to interview because he makes history every day.

(1)

11. Two slang words are used in this passage. Please identify them and substitute a more formal and correct word for each of them.

(4)

(14)

QUESTION TWO:

I. Change the following sentences from DIRECT SPEECH to INDIRECT speech.

a) Mickey says, "I will sail on the riverboat tomorrow." **(2)**
b) **"**You will be in the wrong if you do that, Joseph!" Chris said. **(2)**

II. Change the following sentences from the ACTIVE voice to the PASSIVE voice.

a) The local shops sponsored the decorations for the dance. **(2)**
b) The learners put the school magazine together creatively. **(2)**
(8)

QUESTION THREE:

"We played soccer on the beach until it was too dark to see."

a) What is the direct object in the above sentence? **(1)**
b) What part of speech is the word "on"? **(1)**
c) Write down the adverbial clause in the sentence. **(1)**
d) Write down an example of the infinitive from this sentence. **(1)**
(4)

QUESTION FOUR:

Replace the negative phrases below with one word from the box.

invincible	**invisible**	**irrelevant**
indelible	**irreplaceable**	**immortal**

a) Not to the point **(1)**
b) That which cannot be conquered **(1)**
c) That which cannot be forgotten in the case of loss **(1)**
d) Unable to die **(1)**
(4)

QUESTION FIVE:

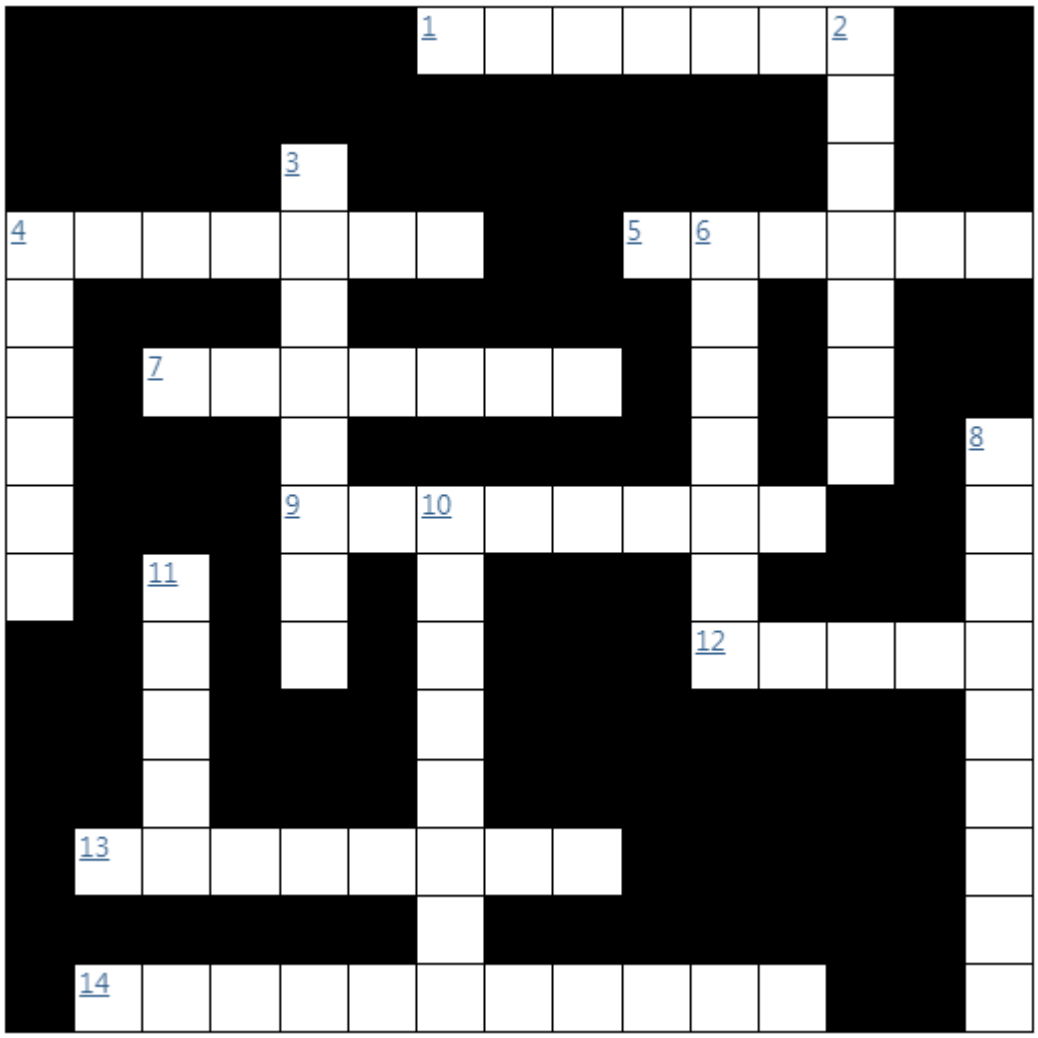
Write down the homonym for a – e. There are two clues for each word.

a) A mark with a meaning / to write one's signature
b) A machine for weaving / to appear out of the mist
c) To tell an untruth / to recline
d) To speak to an audience / a residential location
e) A resting place for the deceased / something very serious

(5)

QUESTION SIX: CROSSWORD: VOCABULARY

Read the clues below and then fill in the answers on the crossword puzzle.



Across:	**Down:**
1 15 ….. by 3 equals 5.	2 Five cars were …… in the accident.
4 What would you …….. for dinner? (give an idea)	3 The government has …… a national emergency.
5 How does your friend …. towards you? (mannerism)	4 John has ….. eight goals this season.
7 Do you …….. in life after death?	6 Talking can help children ……. their feelings.
9 I haven't …….. any e-mails from you.	8 The band ……. for the Concert quite a few times.
12 They try to ……. the mystery of the missing key.	10 She's going to ……. to the Captain about this. (moan)
13 The opposite of increase is……	11 Why do the British ……. so much? (stand in line)
14 How do whales …….. with each other?	

(15)

Total for paper: 50