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SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS
ENGLISH OLYMPIAD HOME LANGUAGE (HL)
GRADE 6

DATE: 7-21 AUGUST 2025

TIME: 60 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 7 questions.
2. Answer on the paper below.
3. Read the questions carefully before answering.
4. Visit the website: www.saolympiads.co.za.

NAME OF LEARNER:	
SCHOOL:	GRADE:

QUESTION ONE:

Read Text A and then answer the questions that follow:

WORLD'S LARGEST SEAL by Guy Belleranti

In the freezing ocean waters of Antarctica, the planet's largest seals make their home in a frozen world. These giants are southern elephant seals, and they can grow as long as the length of a car and weigh as much as two cars combined. The name "elephant seal" comes from both the males' enormous size and from their giant trunk-like nose, called a proboscis. Females do not have a proboscis, and they are much smaller. A thick layer of blubber keeps southern elephant seals warm in their icy habitat.

The seals are clumsy on land, but in water they're graceful swimmers and incredible divers. They can easily dive 1,000 to 4,000 feet to hunt for squid, octopus, and various kinds of fish. Elephant seals are able to stay underwater for 20 minutes or more. The longest underwater session researchers observed was an amazing two hours! When they return to the surface to breathe, it's only for a few minutes. Then they dive again. While elephant seals spend most of their time swimming, they also gather on beaches in groups called colonies.

One reason they come to land is to give birth and breed. Males arrive before females. They battle for dominance, deciding who will have large harems of females. Raising their enormous bodies, the males inflate their snouts and bellow. Usually these confrontations end quickly. However, sometimes only a physical battle can settle the matter. These fights can be bloody, but permanent injury is rare. Females arriving on land give birth to a single pup they've been carrying since the previous year. Newborns weigh about 90 pounds. The mother nurses her pup for a little over three weeks. After this, she breeds with a dominant male and then returns to the sea to feed.

Her pup now weighs well over 200 pounds and is on its own. If it survives, it too will enter the sea within a couple of months. A second reason elephant seals come to land is to molt. When they molt, they shed old skin and fur and new skin and fur grows. A smaller species, the northern elephant seal, lives in the Pacific Ocean, dispersed from Mexico's Baja California to Alaska. Both northern and southern elephant seals were once hunted nearly to extinction. However, under legal protections both have made incredible comebacks.

Choose the answer which you feel is correct from the questions below:

1. Why does the writer call the environment "a frozen world"?

(a) There is never sunshine.
(b) The ocean is always frozen.
(c) The temperatures are very low.
(d) The area is usually full of ice and snow. **(1)**

2. What are the differences between male and female Elephant seals.

(a) The female is smaller.
(b) The female has a much smaller proboscis.
(c) A male can be as long as the length of two cars.
(d) Only the female sheds skin and fur. **(1)**

3. Why do you think Elephant seals are clumsy on land but graceful in the water?

(a) They are very heavy when walking on land with just flippers.
(b) In water, weight is not a problem.
(c) They spend most of their time swimming so have more practice in the sea.
(d) Their heavy layer of blubber helps them to float. **(1)**

4. Elephant seals gather in groups called "colonies". What other animal gathers in a colony?

(a) Elephants
(b) Penguins
(c) Monkey
(d) Wild dogs **(1)**

5. What is the meaning of the word "harem"?

(a) Something forbidden.
(b) Group of females usually linked to one male.
(c) Female relatives of the male.
(d) Only young females who are not related to the male. **(1)**

6. Newborn pups gain weight rapidly in their first 3 weeks. How much do they gain?

(a) 100 pounds
(b) 90 pounds
(c) 200 pounds
(d) 110 pounds **(1)**

7. What does "molt" mean?

(a) To lose weight after having the pup.
(b) To lose feathers and fur after winter.
(c) To lose teeth to make way for adult teeth.
(d) To assist with breeding. **(1)**

8. In the sentence below, state what part of speech the following words are:

8.1 "Raising their enormous bodies, the males inflate their snouts and bellow."

(a) their **(1)**
(b) inflate **(1)**
(c) snouts **(1)**
(d) enormous **(1)**
(e) the **(1)**
(f) and **(1)**

8.2 State the subject of the sentence and the direct object of the above sentence in 8.1. (2)

9. What is the purpose of this article that you have just read?

(a) to inform
(b) to entertain
(c) to complain
(d) to consult **(1)**

Total: 16

QUESTION TWO:

Punctuate the following sentences:

where are you going with that yawned grasshopper. back to the nest replied ant we are storing food for the winter

(5)

QUESTION THREE:

Choose a subordinating conjunction from the list below to fill in the gaps in the sentences.

when unless until

while before

(a) Leave your boots outside _____ you go inside. **(1)**
(b) You are not coming shopping with me _____ your homework is done. **(1)**
(c) He gave my book back _____ I asked for it. **(1)**
(d) My father will wait outside _____ I take books out of the library. **(1)**
(e) You will be punished for being late _____ you have a good reason. **(1)**

Total: 5

QUESTION FOUR:

Choose the correct word from the words in brackets to make sure your subject agrees with your verb.

(a) Life Orientation (was/were) very interesting today.
(b) Boys usually (love/loves) to play cricket at break.
(c) Swimming in my friend's pool (is/are) fun in the summer.
(d) We (love/loves) it when our grandmother tells us stories about when she was young.
(e) The girls always (wriggle/wriggles) during assembly when they are supposed to sit still.

Total: 5

QUESTION FIVE:

RIDDLE:

Two children are born on the same day from the same Mother but they are not twins. How is that possible? **(2)**

QUESTION SIX:

Change the following sentences from the Simple Tense to the Past Perfect Tense:

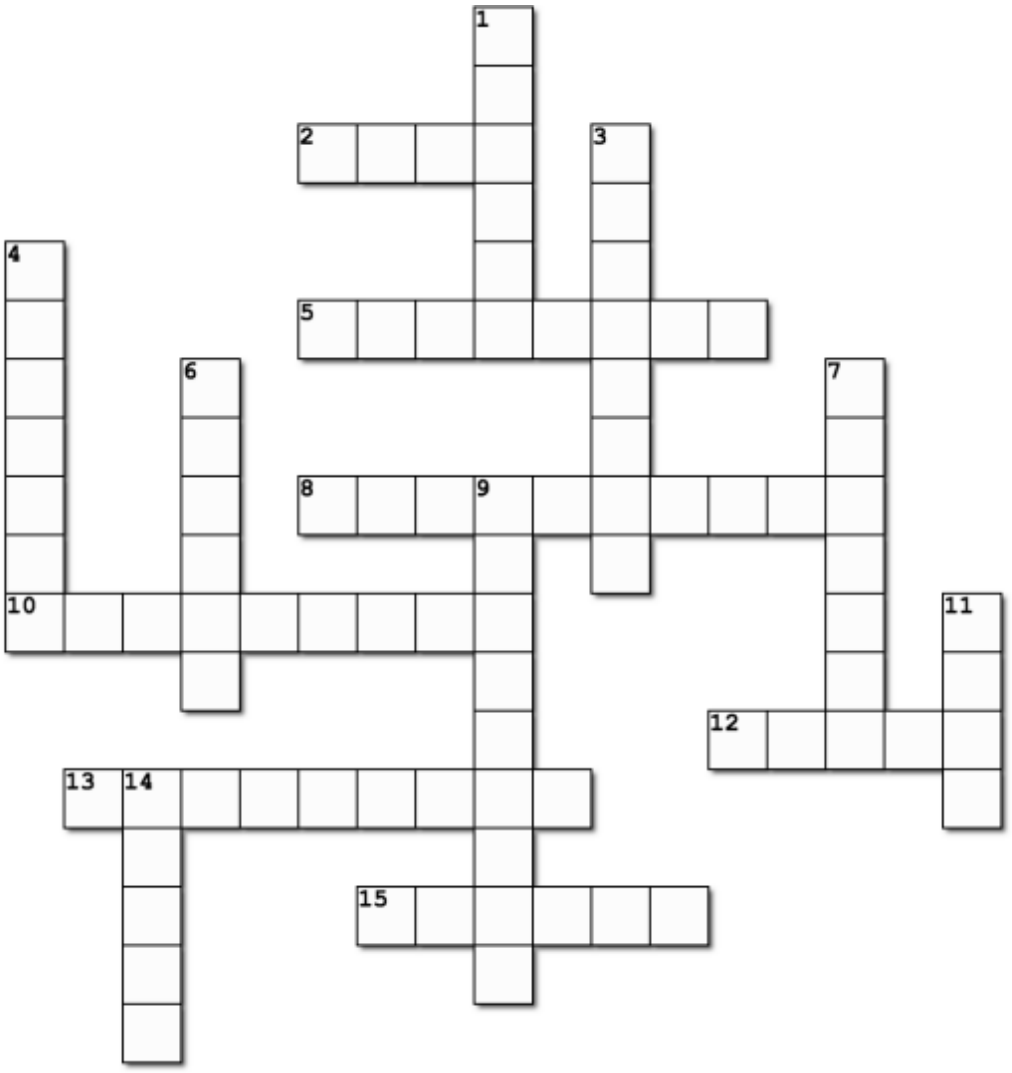
(a) I shall be driving. **(1)**
(b) I showered before I brushed my teeth. **(1)**

QUESTION SEVEN: CROSSWORD: SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

CLUES:

Across:	Down:
2 Antonym of apathy	1 Synonym of hesitate
5 Antonym of abundance	3 Antonym of dim
8 Synonym of thorough	4 Synonym of wordy
10 Synonym of overhear	6 Synonym of accelerate
12 Synonym of suppress	7 Antonym of dynamic
13 Synonym of roadblock	9 Synonym of imminent
15 Synonym of ignite	11 Synonym of nasty
	14 Synonym of wane

barricade quell passive kindle vile impending zeal
meticulous luminous hasten verbose
falter scarcity eavesdrop abate



(15)

Total for paper: 50