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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 1: CONTINUOUS WRITING 1310

Wednesday **18 MAY 2011** 9.00 – 10.10 A M

1 hour plus 10 minutes

Additional materials:

reading and planning time

Answer booklet

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

BAHAMAS GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Write your school number, candidate number, surname and initials in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.

Write a composition based on **ONE** of the topics overleaf.

You should write between **350** and **500** words.

You should pay attention to punctuation, spelling and handwriting.

You will have **10** minutes to read and plan your topic. You should **NOT** begin to write your composition during this time. However, you should write your plan.

At the beginning of your composition write the number of the topic you have chosen.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Dictionaries are **NOT** permitted.

This paper accounts for 40% of the total marks available for the examination in this subject.

This question paper consists of 4 printed pages and 4 blank pages.

Choose **ONE** of the following topics. Your writing should be planned on your answer paper.

1. "After thinking it over, I realized I was going to regret those angry words." Include these lines at an appropriate point in your story.
2. Describe a cause about which you are passionate.
3. Discuss the challenges of being a male or female in the 21st century.
4. "The sun always rises." Write a story of personal victory.
5. Many students have part-time jobs after school hours. It has been suggested that businesses should employ only those students who are successful in their studies. Is this a fair suggestion?
6. Write a composition based on the following lines of poetry. You may write about any ideas that the poem suggests to you, or you may write a story or a description based on the subject of the poem.

*When in front of the mirror I stand and stare,
Although for hours I searchingly peer,
The most important parts of me,
Are those parts that I will never see.*

7. There are certainly benefits *and* challenges involved if The Bahamas hopes to feed its people almost entirely through its agricultural programme. Discuss.

8. Write a story, description or any other form of composition suggested by **ONE** of the photographs.

Your composition may be directly about the subject of the photograph or take some suggestion/s from it. There *must* be a clear connection between the photograph and your composition.

(a)



(b)



www.poemsandprose.blog.co.uk/tags/garbage/

School Number	Candidate Number
Surname and Initials	

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 2 AURAL COMPREHENSION 1310/2b
CANDIDATE'S COPY

Tuesday 12 APRIL 2011 9.00 – 10.15 A.M.

Additional materials:

Compact disc recording

Compact disc player

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

BAHAMAS GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

DO NOT open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Write your school number, candidate number, surname and initials in the spaces provided on the booklet.

The recording will be played **TWICE**.

FIRST PLAYING

Listen carefully to the **FIRST PLAYING** to gain a general impression of what is being said. **DO NOT** look at the **NOTES SECTION** or the **QUESTIONS** during the first playing.

AFTER THE FIRST PLAYING, turn to the **NOTES SECTION** of the paper. Read through the suggested points. Make any notes you wish on the points listed. Your notes will not be marked. **You will have 3 minutes.**

SECOND PLAYING

Listen again to the recording. You may make additional notes as you listen. **AFTER THE SECOND PLAYING**, complete your note making. **You will have 3 minutes.** You will be allowed a total of **45 minutes** to complete your answers to **PART TWO** of the test. Answer **ALL** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks available for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

Dictionaries are **NOT** permitted.

This question paper consists of 9 printed pages and 3 blank pages.

PART ONE

You have just heard a recording of two friends discussing the distractions young people face.

Make some detailed notes on the **SEVEN** points listed below. **REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL NEED THESE NOTES IN THE SECOND PART OF THE TEST**; therefore, make them as full and as accurate as you can.

LISTEN CAREFULLY

YOUR NOTES ON THE RECORDING

1. Mena and Barry's conversation about Michael

2. Details about the mothers of the two friends

3. Names Barry calls Mena, and why

4. Details about Mena and Barry's friendship

5. Details about Carla

6. (a) Different things that distract young people

(b) Ways to avoid these distractions

7. Various sounds the friends make during the conversation, and why

PART TWO

Write your answers to the following questions. Base your answers on the notes you took when you listened to the recording in **PART ONE**.

1. How does Barry respond to the fact that Mena enters his home without knocking?

[1]

2. Mena clearly disbelieves Barry when he attempts to explain his conversation with Michael. What response does she give and how does she give it?

[2]

3. Barry obviously appreciates his mother. Support this statement.

[3]

4. Explain **TWO** specific ways in which Carla and Mena differ.

5. Mena and Barry enjoy a very close friendship. Provide **FOUR** specific details as proof that this statement is true.

[4]

6. Barry calls Mena "Queen of the Middle Class". What does this name suggest about his friend and what does he hope to achieve by using it?

[3]

7. We learn much about Mena's mother from the recording. What does this information reveal about her personality?

Place your opinions in the chart below, supporting them with details from the recording.

PERSONALITY TRAITS OF MENA'S MOTHER	SUPPORTING DETAILS
1.	
2.	

[4]

8. Mena and Barry mention the temptations of television and videos.
- (a) Identify **SIX** *other* things they mention that sometimes prevent young people from staying focused on their success.

(b) Identify **THREE** of Mena's suggestions for avoiding distractions.

[3]

[PAPER TOTAL MARKS 30]

FILE COPY

ENGLISH LANGUAGE**PAPER 3 WRITTEN COMPREHENSION &
DIRECTED WRITING 1310/3****Friday 20 MAY 2011 9.00 – 11.10 A.M.****including 10 minutes
reading time****Additional materials:
Answer booklet****MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS****BAHAMAS GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION****INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES*****Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.***

Write your school number, candidate number, surname and initials in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.

Answer **ALL** the questions in the answer booklet provided.

Number your answers clearly.

Special attention should be given to the directions for each question.

Work should be neat and well-organized.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks available for each question or part question is shown in brackets.

Dictionaries are **NOT** permitted.



SECTION A

Read the following passage carefully before you attempt any questions.

The Problem of Litter

Litter is a problem. Any waste disposed of in the wrong place by unlawful human action is called litter. However, waste that is abandoned in a private space is not considered litter. The term litter refers to a form of solid waste – material which, if thrown or deposited, tends to create a danger to public health, safety and welfare.

From ancient Greece to the present-day Western hemisphere, humans have thrown litter onto streets and discarded it in the countryside and other remote places. The only pre-modern exception was the Arab Empire, which had facilities for litter collection in a number of locations. In the 14th century, the rise of waste in Europe helped contribute to the bubonic plague. Black rats, which carried the fleas that spread the plague, fed on waste that was discarded by the public.

In our region, the Caribbean, during the times of colonial exploration and expansion, littering frequently took place on seafaring vessels. Boats were small, dirty, packed with goods and crammed with people. After meals people would discard leftovers or broken plates or cups by throwing them overboard into the sea. Certain goods that were found to be spoiled or broken were also thrown overboard.

In The Bahamas, before the mid to late 19th century, sanitation was not a priority on the lists of things governments planned to do. Waste was disposed of by the roadside or in small local dumps. This was unsanitary for local inhabitants and the growing piles of waste led to the spread of disease. However, today, farmers and gardeners recognize the benefits of composting – collecting food waste and biodegradable waste and using them as fertilizers.

Nowadays, litter is all around us. City streets and sidewalks in New Providence are covered with candy bar wrappers, soda bottles, tissues and papers. Waste is often thrown out of windows of automobiles or out of hands of people, causing accidents and other mishaps. Done intentionally in order to discard unwanted items, this behaviour is both unsightly and rude. Furthermore, it is not unusual to find disposable diapers, plastic shopping bags, and all kinds of private articles scattered in the streets. School campuses show evidence of litter as well, with chewing gum, candy and sandwich wrappings constantly blowing hither and thither along hallways and across lawns. Even in the Family Islands of The Bahamas, which once prided themselves on being unspoiled, discarded paper, cans and bottles often ruin the landscape.

This is not to say that there are not those who take pride in keeping their surroundings clean. Many have vied for that Bahamas National Pride Association sign declaring their yard the best-kept one in the neighbourhood, and numerous individuals have spearheaded campaigns to keep their communities clean. However, litter can be expensive to clean up, which is one of the reasons it has been made a fineable offense by law in many places. For example, in The Bahamas, the punishment for littering is a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) or a nine-month prison sentence. Compare this to the state of Georgia in the USA, where the Comprehensive Litter Prevention and Abatement Act was signed into law in 2006. Individuals who litter can be fined up to

one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and be ordered to clean a littered area in the community. In the United Kingdom, there is a maximum fine of two thousand, five hundred pounds (£2,500) for persistent littering. Different local authorities also have the power to impose on-the-spot fines on those residents caught littering. These are generally under one hundred pounds (£100). UK offenders are not threatened with incarceration, however. 45

Many factors contribute to why people choose to litter, according to Francis McAndrew, author of *Environmental Psychology*. He argues the "presence of other litter" is a powerful leading cause. Studies confirm that litter begets litter. Other studies show that areas which are allowed to remain dirty are likely to become dirtier, such as areas near fast-food restaurants, bus stops and cigarette-smoking zones. Litter gives "permission" to litter. 50

Apathy plays an important role in why people litter. People's indifference about changing their behaviour has caused some communities to have persistent dumping problems. In a recent research study, 75 percent of Americans admitted to littering in the last five years. Ironically, 99 percent of the same individuals admitted they enjoyed a clean environment. Negligent or lax law enforcement also contributes significantly to littering, the problem being that, generally, violations of the laws against littering must be witnessed in order to be pursued legally. 55

A third factor is poor education of individuals. Some research links littering with lack of education. According to the experts, dumping is a social activity we learn from parents and pass on unconsciously to children. Some sociologists claim that litterers are "raised badly" by parents, referring to them as "... vandals with little sense of the damage they do." Lack of environmental awareness is believed to be one of the main reasons for littering. These research results are used by many governments to tailor and enforce litter eradication programmes. The experts also state that the temptation to litter can be motivated by ignorance about the law and its actual enforcement. Additionally, there are natural causes, such as high winds which disturb litter containers, toppling them. 60 65

Few would challenge the statement that litter is unsightly. However, worse than its physically unappealing nature is the fact that it is damaging. Because of litter in their habitats, animals may be trapped or poisoned. Litter can end up in rivers and canals, polluting the water supply, and a large amount of floating waste ends up in the ocean. Plastic waste can be consumed by wildlife, with negative health consequences. Cigarette butts and filters have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds and whales that have mistakenly eaten them for food. 70 75

Additionally, litter is a breeding ground for insects, rodents, and diseases. These are a prominent aspect of its "ugliness". For example, rats use littered grounds as a source from which they obtain food. Discarded open containers such as paper cups or beverage cans hold rainwater, providing breeding locations for mosquitoes which have been known to cause disease like the West Nile Virus or Malaria. 80

Some argue that governmental neglect influences littering. They claim that when governments fail to pay attention to negative behaviours that may pose health threats to communities, they encourage these behaviours. How has the government of The Bahamas recently been meeting the challenge of littering? In The Bahamas, the Ethan S. Bain Environmental Health Foundation became a partner with the Ministry of Health 85

hands in the battle against littering, by donating thousands of vehicular litter bags to health and environment officials in The Bahamas. These bags were specifically designed by members of the Foundation and distributed to drivers island-wide for use in their vehicles. The programme was part of the Ministry's overall strategy to help keep The Bahamas clean by, among other measures, discouraging people from illegally dumping and throwing litter onto the streets. 90

In one of his addresses to the public, Minister of Health and Social Development, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis said many drivers and their passengers can still be observed throwing garbage out of their vehicles and onto the streets and verges of New Providence, despite the negative impact such practices have on the environment. He further stated that because the tourism industry forms 60 per cent of our Gross Domestic Product and provides more than 70 per cent of the jobs in the country through related industries, it is important that we keep the island clean. He also warned that The Bahamas is a coastal area; therefore, whatever we do in the environment affects the marine life and will eventually enter the food chain. Hospitals and healthcare facilities register these negative consequences when there is an increase in the number of cases of gastric disorders and food poisoning. 95 100

Indeed, The Bahamas is extremely dependent on the tourism trade. As a result, it is important for us to maintain clean and safe environments in order to have our economy remain competitive in this ever-increasing field. An appropriate way of keeping The Bahamas "clean, green and pristine", as a popular slogan goes, is participation in environmental projects, such as beautification, anti-litter and stray-dog campaigns. 105 110

It is believed that behaviours like littering can be changed, although it is difficult to alter the mindset of individuals who believe that, because their taxes pay for public areas to be cleaned, they are entitled to litter! Bahamians do not have to be litterbugs. No matter how inconvenient it may be to dispose of trash properly, it is something we must do. A clean, healthy environment is a choice that people can embrace. We can start to make a difference in our country by cleaning up our yards, and then get involved in projects to beautify the environments in which we work or play. Such involvement, no matter how big or small it is, will heighten our community spirit and our sense of civic responsibility. 115

Answer **ALL** the questions in the answer booklet provided.

Unless otherwise indicated, **ALL** answers must be based on the information presented in the passage.

In answering questions 1–4, write down the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the most appropriate answer.

1. According to the passage, litter is:

- A solid waste that has been left in private spaces
- B any kind of waste that has been collected in drums
- C waste that has been discarded in public areas
- D liquid waste that has negatively affected coastal areas [1]

2. Which one of the following is accurate according to paragraph two of the passage?

- A The ancient Greeks littered more than any nationality of people.
- B Because of the bubonic plague, black rats infested European countries.
- C Pre-modern-day Arabs designed a system for the disposal of litter.
- D Throughout history, people have been depositing their litter in other people's countries. [1]

3. What is the meaning of “apathy”, as used in paragraph eight of the passage?

- A disinterest
- B awareness
- C guilt
- D contempt [1]

4. The passage mentions a positive use of waste. Which one of the following is it?

- A removing the need for landfills
- B making biodegradable aluminum products
- C educating people about the laws against littering
- D using certain types of waste as manure [1]

5. The passage states that some "governments tailor and enforce litter eradication programmes". Tailoring eradication programmes means:
- A hiring uniformed personnel to organize anti-litter programmes
 - B altering any number of existing anti-litter programmes
 - C providing specially sewn bags in which to place litter
 - D cutting research programmes investigating why people litter [1]

Unless otherwise instructed, questions 6–10 should be answered as far as possible in your own words.

Your answers should be based on the extract.

6. Explain your understanding of the term, "Litter gives permission" to litter. [3]
7. Explain specifically how the penalties for littering in The Bahamas differ from those of The United Kingdom. [4]
8. Write a paragraph of no more than 100 words summarizing why litter is harmful to mankind and the environment. [8]
9. Write a paragraph identifying and explaining the factors that contribute to littering. Use no more than 150 words in your response. [10]
10. Imagine that you are a youth leader. You have decided to launch a neighbourhood campaign against litter, using "Let's team up to clean up" as your theme.

Write the words of the speech you will deliver at a community meeting, in which you discuss what members of government, parents, youth and other individuals in the community can do to combat the problem of litter.

Your speech should be no more than 400 words and should be based on ideas from the passage. [15]

[PAPER TOTAL MARKS 45]

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 4: EXTENDED COMPREHENSION & DIRECTED WRITING 1310/4

Wednesday **25 MAY 2011**

9.00 – 11.10 A.M.
including 10 minutes
reading time

Additional materials:
Answer booklet

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

BAHAMAS GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Write your school number, candidate number, surname and initials in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.

Answer **ALL** the questions.

Number your answers clearly.

Special attention should be given to the directions for each question.

Work should be neat and well organized.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks available for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

Dictionaries are **NOT** permitted.

This question paper consists of 6 printed pages and 2 blank pages.

SECTION A

The following passage is based on the narrator's interview with Sam Johnson, a scavenger, with whom he spends a day. Read it carefully, and then answer the questions that follow. You should spend no more than one hour on this section.

Turning Trash to Treasure

For many people, garbage is simply garbage. But what they have thrown away could be incredibly useful to others, especially if the latter are artists or handymen who can easily transform things. Sam Johnson is a scavenger who makes a fantastic living from other people's cast offs. His keen eyesight enables him to identify treasures in peculiar places. He lives in Nassau on an acre of property in a modest house with ornate trimmings – all retrieved from Bahamian residences over the years. The garage of his home has been converted to a small furniture store, operated by his only son. A self-taught carpenter, sixty-five-year-old Johnson lives in considerable comfort. 5

Even though Johnson no longer has to get up early to go to “work”, he finds it difficult to refrain from his almost daily scavenger hunt. When he awakens, he becomes excited, anticipating the possible treasures he will uncover. Many of his family's needs have long been met through scavenging. The saying, “One man's garbage is another man's treasure”, is a way of life for Johnson. He is the beneficiary of those too careless or lazy to properly dispose of their unwanted belongings. Johnson's day normally starts by walking or driving around neighbourhoods, scouting the bushes or garbage disposal bins, where he uncovers empty beer, malt tonic and other bottles, for which he will be paid at various depots around town. Armed with only a bag and a pair of gloves, he can make up to \$300.00 a week from this exercise alone, in addition to the bonus of playing his part in keeping the environment litter free! Sam explains that walking works best for easiest scanning of garbage. “If you find something too big to carry, you can always go back and get a wheelbarrow or car.” Johnson advises you that scavengers look only at the top few levels of trash, “where most people put the most useful items. Anything lower will be covered in stale food and worse!” 10 15 20

Later on, Sam heads for secluded, unauthorized dumping sites. It is a rare day when he does not discover some gem. Often under cover of night, individuals discard sofas, mattresses, dining sets, bookshelves, various bathroom faucets, tubs and appliances in these areas, instead of taking them to the public dumps. From furniture pieces and huge picture frames to quilt tops and wedding dresses, Sam has seen them all piled in heaps of trash. “A day or two ago, I spotted a perfectly good mirror in the trash,” says Johnson. “Of course I carried it home with me!” 25 30

Quite often these items can be repaired with little or no effort. Sam opts to give them new life or pass them on to someone else who will do just that. Often after salvaging an item, he “gifts” it to some less fortunate soul. Johnson is somewhat of a slim Santa Claus figure in his community, and also uses his church's outreach programmes to make regular donations of scavenged items to needy families. In addition to enjoying sharing his free-of-charge finds with friends and neighbours, he's even inspired others to give his foraging techniques a try. 35

Sam reveals that people's private garbage bins and dumpsters are other sources of treasure in trash. So are parks, public areas, airports, garage sales and bus stops.

Furthermore, not all of Sam's trash heap finds are "used". He remarks that "recently I found a Hummel figurine in its original box!" He has also discovered new appliances, cutlery, jewellery and linen. Of course, these things are not usually located in *ordinary* household garbage. Johnson notes that houses being cleaned out for a move or before an estate sale offer the most potential. Then there are affluent neighbourhoods. Sam confides, "Here's a secret – rich people sometimes throw out things that have expired warranties or are outdated!" He says that over the years, he's found collectibles, electronic games, televisions, clothes and other items in good condition. 40 45

"Call me crazy, but our conversation about scavenging is really getting me worked up!" says Sam as we chat about his job. "Just thinking about being able to change so-called 'junk' into my own personalized creations makes me want to head out to see what I can find to play with." Sam declares that looking at less-than-perfect antiques and collectibles with a fresh eye is the first step in transforming a discarded item into something that is useful or fun. "I spend about two hours a day re-crafting items. And I sell a lot of what I restore. I put my own personal stamp on them, make them Sam Johnson originals. I just made my grandson a highchair from a small cedar table I found tossed on the side of the road." 50 55

Johnson admits that over the years he has received some odd looks and has even been yelled at and chased away. But he just ignores the negativity and keeps on scavenging. He never leaves a mess, aiming always to leave the area as neat as he found it. "Nowadays," says Johnson, "we all need extra money. It takes discipline to make money and there are times when you have to disregard your pride." Once a year, after twelve months of collecting a variety of items, he holds a lucrative sidewalk sale. "And it's all profit from what I've found in the trash." 60

Behind his home is Johnson's vegetable and fruit garden in which he produces more than he needs for his family's consumption. Always a business man, Sam often trades his produce for other goods or services that he needs. What is the secret of his green thumb? Composting. Yes, Sam has a way with other garbage as well. The decomposing garbage in his backyard provides him with excellent, fertile soil. "When I pass, I want my tombstone to read, *"He wasted not and wanted not,"* he says, beaming. Indeed, that would be a fitting epitaph for Sam Johnson. 65 70

Your responses to the following questions should be based on the information presented in the passage, and should be expressed as far as possible in your own words.

1. Give an account of Sam Johnson's regular behaviour as a scavenger. You should use no more than 140 words. [10]
2. Most people do not consider scavenging to be an appealing profession. Explain how the writer uses language and other devices to make this activity more attractive to the reader. [14]

SECTION B

Read the following passage carefully; then answer the questions that follow.

Champion Garbage-Makers

There is no question that Bahamians produce thousands of tons of garbage every day. To be oblivious to the garbage crisis is to ignore the practices of our wasteful society. For example, do we Bahamians find paper towels in the kitchen a more attractive option than cloth ones? How many of us rely on convenient disposable cameras? Few young Bahamian students and teachers today have ever written with a fountain pen; throwaway ballpoint pens have long since taken their place. Businesses order ballpoints, pretty buttons and practically useless gadgets, gizmos and gimmicks by the thousands. Advertisers give them away by the millions.

The restaurant business has also become a throw-away one. Take-out orders of tea, coffee, colas, milk shakes, fast-food hamburgers and chicken are no longer put in paper cups, bags and on paper trays. Polystyrene containers have made them obsolete. Plastic knives, forks, and spoons have replaced stainless steel, all to be thrown into the trash after one use. The number and variety of throwaway conveniences are endless.

There is no aspect of our lives that has not been affected. Now there are plastic milk bottles instead of glass; plastic shoes instead of leather; plastic raincoats instead of those made of water-repellent natural fibres. Take note, too, of products in oversized containers on the shelves of supermarkets and drug stores. The use of excessive packaging materials is common – a small container of cologne is buried in layers of pretty paper and plastic, and then placed in a huge box. The age of computers – spewing out millions of pages of paper – adds to an already mountainous paper pile.

How much inconvenience of time and money are we willing to tolerate to see some relief from this mounting garbage problem? Chances are that we Bahamians, who weekly toss into our garbage cans hundreds of thousands of disposable diapers and even razors, are not likely to step back a half century to the time before the age of plastics and high-tech disposables. It seems that we would rather pay the staggering price for progress. Several million diapers, containing tons of excrement and urine, are dumped each year into a dwindling number of landfills around the nation. "It is a perfect case," said an expert on solid waste, "where we're using a disposable product that costs more than a re-usable product, is more environmentally dangerous and uses up non-renewable resources." What is worse is that every plastic diaper made since they were first introduced in 1961 is still there; they take about 500 years to break down.

It is for this reason that environmental experts and officials of government say we must change our habits and attitudes or else be buried alive in our own garbage. Plastics are not biodegradable and, contrary to popular belief, the millions of pounds of paper thrown out each day by humankind do not break down and disappear in landfills, even under tons of garbage for years. Newspapers unearthed in landfills after being buried for over thirty-five years were as readable as on the day they were published!

Additionally, buried garbage in landfills not only presents a noxious eyesore to those who must live nearby but can become a health hazard as well. As waste decomposes in landfills, it produces a colorless, odorless, flammable gas called methane. If not controlled, methane may migrate underground away from the landfill

and kill vegetation. In some cases, human death has resulted when methane has seeped into nearby buildings, and exploded when accidentally ignited. Underground water reservoirs, or aquifers, are also threatened as hazardous chemicals from discarded electronic items such as computers, DVDs, cell phones and keyboards percolate through the earth and contaminate man's water supply. If these items are burnt then the chemicals are released into the atmosphere, impacting nearby communities and the environment. 45

Even pre-schoolers know the word "recycle", and recycling is presented as a fantastic solution to humankind's garbage crisis. It is estimated that more than 75 percent of solid waste in The Bahamas is recyclable. Because of public indifference, however, and the deficiencies in technology, this potential is presently not being achieved. Elsewhere, the plastics industry has been scrambling to support recycling. In the USA, for example, plastic bottles, for example, are turned into fibre for making polyester carpets and fillings for parkas. The industry does well to be concerned about its market. Some countries have already passed legislation banning the use and sale of all polystyrene and PVC (polyvinyl chloride) products in retail food establishments. The ban includes plastic grocery bags, polystyrene cups, meat trays, and the containers that hold fast-food hamburgers. 50 55

Paper is by far more easily recycled, yet even paper presents problems. The problem with recycling newsprint, in particular, is the tremendous oversupply. Paper dealers have in their warehouses over one million tons of newspapers, which represent a third of a year's production. There comes a point when the warehouse space will be completely filled. As a consequence of this paper glut, many businesses are now paying contractors to haul it away – to be burned or dumped in landfills. Recently a new business has begun servicing such places to shred and discard paper alone! 60 65

Some officials say that burning the garbage in giant communal incinerators is the answer. However, environmentalists warn that incinerating plastics and other trash releases toxic chemicals, including dioxin, into the air. The incinerators also produce tons of ash often contaminated with lead and cadmium. Citizens living near proposed incinerator sites rightfully view incinerators as a hazard to health and environment, ruining buildings and claiming lives. 70

City dwellers are well aware of pollution and the defiled environment. They see it in uncollected garbage, in litter carelessly left on the streets, and in refuse dumped into the sea. They smell it in the choking fumes from dense traffic and in the acrid smog that plagues some areas of New Providence. Could these factors be why some tourists shun the capital, with its sophisticated but garbage-marred attractions, for the pristine Family Islands? Could they be why many Nassau dwellers try on occasion to spend time on the Islands as well, filling their lungs with clean air, drinking crystal-clear water from a natural well or taking a refreshing swim on a pollution-free beach? 75 80

But while they do so, the garbage crisis continues to escalate. Does anyone have the answer?

In answering the questions below, you should write as far as possible in your own words. Please ensure that you read through both questions (3 and 4) before attempting either, so that you do not repeat the same points and ideas. You should spend approximately one hour on this section.

3. Explain how people's daily habits result in the production of large amounts of garbage. Your answer must identify the distinct situations or settings in which large-scale garbage production occurs. Use no more than 180 words. [12]
4. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper, in which you discuss the many negative effects of the **production** and **disposal** of garbage. Your letter should mention the changes in lifestyle that must take place in order to reverse the damage done.

You must not use substantially the same points made in your response to Question 3.

In your response you are expected to:

- (a) present ideas based on information from **BOTH** passages;
- (b) include one or two ideas of your own. [16]

[PAPER TOTAL MARKS 52]