Directions
Do not open this testpaper or start writing until the supervisor directs you to do so.

1  Time allowed:  2 hours
2  Perusal time:  10 minutes
3  Equipment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permitted</th>
<th>Not permitted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pens (black ink)</td>
<td>correcting fluid/tape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pencils</td>
<td>highlighter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pencil sharpener</td>
<td>transparent container</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eraser</td>
<td>other approved items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>own paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dictionary</td>
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<td>thesaurus</td>
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<td>electronic devices</td>
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You are not permitted to borrow or lend equipment.

4  This testpaper contains stimulus material in the form of printed and visual texts, all related to an overall concept.

5  You are to respond in writing to some aspect of the overall concept and the stimulus material.

6  Don’t plagiarise. Your response must be your own work and not a reproduction of someone else’s writing.

7  Write your response in about 600 words of continuous prose. You may write in any form other than poetry.

8  Give your work a title.

9  Tick the appropriate outline/s on the cover of your response book to identify the stimulus piece/s you responded to in your writing.

10 Markers will look for the following qualities in your writing:
    - responsiveness to the concept and stimulus material
    - clarity and development of ideas
    - effectiveness of organisation of ideas
    - control of form to create the desired effect
    - control of vocabulary, sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, spelling
    - appropriateness of length.

11 Points to observe:
    - Use the loose sheets of paper provided to write a rough draft.
    - Edit and proofread your draft.
    - Write your final version in your response book.
    - Ensure that your writing is legible.
    - Write your final version in black ink.
    - Do not hand in your loose sheets of paper.

12 You will be given warnings 45 minutes and 30 minutes before finishing time.
    You will be given a final warning 10 minutes before finishing time.
We are baffled by so much. We search for reasons. We try to understand what made past civilisations strong and what provided the human motivation to explore, to succeed, to compete, to conquer, to love.

In this foreign place I sometimes feel confused and lost. I want to ask the people around me why they do the things that they do.

I've done my best to learn my grandmother's secrets of the kitchen. For instance, that pastry ingredients must be cold. That scones need a light touch. However, for me, something still seems not quite right; something is missing.

Einstein believed that the most beautiful experience is the mysterious — the beginning of all true art and true science.

Most myths from times past have been stories created within a culture to make sense of something not understood.
About your task

The stimulus material on this writing task is associated with the concept of **things unknown**. Through its words and images, each piece of stimulus material provides starting points for your writing. You may choose to use one or more of these starting points from one or more stimulus pieces.

Establish a central idea and develop it. You may write in any form other than poetry.

For example, you may choose to write a persuasive text, an exposition, speech, review, feature article, procedural text, description, scientific report, personal reflection, monologue, short story or drama script.

Whatever form your writing takes, you must make sure that your response relates directly to the concept of **things unknown** and to your chosen stimulus piece/s.

The existence of the universe is a mystery absolute and perhaps the only miracle worthy of the name.

Suspense and mystery are two fundamental ingredients of narrative, whether it be in print or on screen. In fiction and in real life, a solved mystery reassures us, asserting that reason will triumph over instinct, and that order will prevail over anarchy.

Most people don't realise the pleasure of facing the challenge of an unanswered question, as scientists and mathematicians do.

Fermat's Theorem

\[ x^n + y^n = z^n \]

where \( x, y \) and \( z \) are positive integers

for \( n = 1 \) or \( n = 2 \), infinitely many solutions

for \( n > 2 \), no solutions

How do we explain the charm of a powerful piece of music, an experimental dance, an abstract painting? Surely, part of our enjoyment lies in the fact that we don't know what they mean.

There is something elusive in this land, some soul that I cannot find, some spirit that I have never seen, something that I can only feel.