a wake-up call	an event that warns people to take action	The fall in maths scores should be a wake-up call.

Writing Task 1

TASK 1 · QUESTION

You have offered to help at a community centre near your home. The coordinator, Encik Zul, has sent you the email below. Read it and the notes you have made. Using all the notes given, write a reply of at least 100 words in an appropriate style. (Suggested time: 25 minutes)

Email from Encik Zul	Your notes
Dear Volunteer, After the recent news about Malaysian students' maths results, our community centre will start free weekend maths classes for Form Three students in November. Would you be able to join us as a volunteer tutor? Classes will run on Saturdays and Sundays, with a morning slot (9–11 am) and an afternoon slot (2–4 pm). Please let me know which suits you. As many students find maths boring, I would also welcome ideas on making the lessons more interesting. Lastly, is there anything you would need from us? Warm regards, Encik Zul, Coordinator	• yes – Sundays only • morning slot • real- life problems, games • whiteboard, worksheets

SAMPLE REPLY (written by our team for practice)

Dear Encik Zul,

Thank you for inviting me to be part of this meaningful programme. I would be glad to volunteer, although I can only help on Sundays because I have classes on Saturday mornings.

I would prefer the morning slot, as students tend to be fresher and more focused before the afternoon heat sets in.

To make maths more interesting, I suggest linking each topic to real life, for example working out discounts during a sale or planning a budget for a class trip. Short team games and quizzes could also keep students motivated.

As for what I need, a whiteboard, some markers and printed worksheets would be very helpful.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
Daniel Tan

± 120 words

social safety net	support that protects people in hard times	Gig workers often fall outside the social safety net.
a stopgap measure	a temporary solution until a better one is found	Cash aid is a useful stopgap measure, not a cure.

Writing Task 1

TASK 1 · QUESTION

Your friend Kumar has sent you the email below. Read it and the notes you have made. Using all the notes given, write a reply of at least 100 words in an appropriate style. (Suggested time: 25 minutes)

Email from Kumar	Your notes
Hi! Big news: I finally got my first full-time job at a logistics company in Shah Alam! The pay is RM2,200 a month. I was so excited at first, but after just two months, I'm worried. By the 20th of every month, my money is almost gone, and I'm not even sure where it goes. Rent, petrol and food seem to eat up everything. My parents keep telling me to save, but how can I save when nothing is left? You're always good with money. Any tips? Also, should I take a part-time job at night to earn more? Cheers, Kumar	• congratulate him • track every ringgit • save first, spend later • part-time – not yet

SAMPLE REPLY (written by our team for practice)

Hi Kumar,

Congratulations on your first full-time job! That's a huge step, and you should be proud of yourself.

Don't worry, many people feel the same when they start working. My first tip is to track every ringgit you spend for one month, using a notebook or a free app. You'll soon see where your money goes, whether it's drinks, parking or online shopping.

Next, try to save first and spend later. As soon as your salary comes in, move a fixed amount, even RM100, into a separate account, and live on what is left.

As for the part-time job, I wouldn't rush into it yet. You're still settling in, and working at night could leave you exhausted.

Good luck, and let's catch up soon!
Priya

± 125 words

mainstream recognition	acceptance by the general public and by official bodies	Medal status has given esports mainstream recognition.
to boost national pride	to make citizens feel proud of their country	A single gold medal can boost national pride overnight.
to strike a balance (between A and B)	to give fair weight to two different needs	Young gamers must strike a balance between screen time and outdoor activity.

Writing Task 1

TASK 1 · QUESTION (spend about 25 minutes)

Your cousin, Hakim, is thinking of joining his college's new esports club. Read his email. Using all the notes given, write a reply of at least 100 words in an appropriate style.

From: Hakim Subject: Should I join the esports club?
Hi,
Did you watch the esports events at the Asian Games? *[Note: Yes – describe]*
My college has just started an esports club and I'm thinking of signing up. What do you think? *[Note: Good idea, because …]*
My parents are worried that I will neglect my studies. *[Note: Suggest]*
By the way, are you free to watch the next match with me this Saturday? *[Note: No, because …]*
Take care,
Hakim

MODEL REPLY · sample written by our team for practice

Hi Hakim,

Thanks for your email. Yes, I watched the esports events, and I was glued to the screen when our sim racer won the Gran Turismo 7 gold. It was Malaysia's first esports gold at the Asian Games, so the whole family cheered!

Joining the club is a great idea, because it will sharpen your teamwork and strategic thinking, and you will make friends who share your passion.

As for your parents' worries, I suggest drawing up a weekly timetable that fixes your training hours and protects your study time. If you show them your results every month, they will trust you more.

Unfortunately, I can't join you on Saturday because I have a family wedding in Ipoh. Let's watch the next one together!

Take care,
Aina

128 words

to showcase	to display something in an attractive way	Festivals showcase Malaysia's cultural diversity.
hospitality	the business of hotels and food; also friendliness towards guests	Warm hospitality is one reason visitors return.
geopolitical tension	conflict between countries that affects a whole region	Geopolitical tension in West Asia disrupted many flights this year.

Writing Task 1

TASK 1 · QUESTION (spend about 25 minutes)

Your friend Jess lives overseas and plans to visit Malaysia during the year-end holidays. Read her email. Using all the notes given, write a reply of at least 100 words in an appropriate style.

From: Jess Subject: My trip to Malaysia!
Hi!
I've seen so many Visit Malaysia 2026 posts online that I finally booked my flight for December! ***[Note: Great!]***
Which place should I visit if I only have four days? ***[Note: Suggest]***
What local food must I try? ***[Note: Describe]***
Also, could you be my tour guide for a day? ***[Note: Yes, but …]***
See you soon,
Jess

MODEL REPLY · sample written by our team for practice

Hi Jess,

Great news! I'm thrilled that you're finally coming, and December is a lovely time for a holiday here.

Since you only have four days, I suggest Penang. You can wander through the heritage streets of George Town, hunt for the famous wall murals and ride the funicular up Penang Hill for a breathtaking view of the island.

You must try char kuey teow, which is flat rice noodles stir-fried with prawns and bean sprouts over a fiery wok. Then cool down with cendol, a sweet, icy dessert that is perfect for our hot weather.

Yes, I'd love to be your tour guide, but only at the weekend because I have classes on weekdays. Send me your dates soon!

Warm regards,
Nadia

123 words

brain drain	the loss of skilled people who move abroad to work	Better pay at home can help to slow the brain drain.
to bridge the gap	to reduce the difference between two things	Internships help to bridge the gap between university and work.

Writing Task 1

TASK 1 · QUESTION (spend about 25 minutes)

Your cousin, Danial, has just received his SPM results and is unsure what to study next. Read his email. Using all the notes given, write a reply of at least 100 words in an appropriate style.

From: Danial Subject: Need your advice!
Hi,
I got my SPM results last week, and I did better than I expected! *[Note: Congratulate]*
I'm choosing between a degree course and a TVET diploma. Which one gives better job chances? *[Note: Give your opinion]*
My friends say AI will take away most jobs anyway, so why bother? *[Note: Disagree, because …]*
Can we meet up this weekend to talk more? *[Note: Suggest a place]*
Thanks,
Danial

MODEL REPLY · sample written by our team for practice

Hi Danial,

Congratulations on your excellent results! All your late-night revision has clearly paid off.

In my opinion, both paths can lead to a good job, so choose the one that matches your strengths. If you enjoy hands-on work, a TVET diploma in a field that employers need, such as electrical or automotive technology, could get you working sooner. Either way, pick a course that has strong links with industry.

I disagree with your friends, because AI changes jobs more than it removes them. People who can use new tools, solve problems and communicate well will always be in demand.

Let's meet at the café next to the town library on Saturday afternoon. I'll bring the course brochures I collected.

See you then,
Irfan

124 words

ridership	the number of people who use a public transport service	Cheaper monthly passes can boost ridership.
to cushion the impact	to reduce the harm caused by something	Subsidies cushion the impact of rising prices on households.

Writing Task 1

TASK 1 · QUESTION (spend about 25 minutes)

Your friend Irfan is starting an internship in Kuala Lumpur and is thinking about how to travel to work. Read his email. Using all the notes given, write a reply of at least 100 words in an appropriate style.

From: Irfan Subject: Car or not?
Hi,
Fuel prices were in the news again this week. Did you see them? *[Note: Yes – explain]*
My internship starts next month and I'm thinking of buying a second-hand car. *[Note: Not a good idea, because …]*
What other ways could I get to the office? *[Note: Suggest]*
Also, do you want to join our college's Car-Free Day next Friday? *[Note: Yes!]*
Cheers,
Irfan

MODEL REPLY · sample written by our team for practice

Hi Irfan,

Yes, I saw the news. This week, unsubsidised RON95 went up to RM4.57 a litre, although eligible Malaysians like us still pay RM1.99 under BUDI95. That's quite a gap!

Honestly, buying a car isn't a good idea right now, because the monthly loan, insurance, parking and maintenance could swallow most of your internship allowance. The traffic jams would also make every trip stressful.

Instead, I suggest taking the LRT or MRT and using a feeder bus for the last part of your journey. You could also share rides with colleagues who live nearby, which is cheaper and more sociable.

Yes, count me in for Car-Free Day! I'll cycle over, and we can grab breakfast together afterwards.

Cheers,
Hana

120 words

people-to-people ties	links between ordinary citizens through travel, study and culture	Direct flights strengthen people-to-people ties between the two nations.
mutually beneficial	good for both sides	Trade agreements should be mutually beneficial.
to diversify	to widen the range of something to reduce risk	Exporters should diversify their markets instead of relying on one buyer.
a level playing field	a situation where everyone competes under fair and equal rules	Small traders want a level playing field with large foreign firms.

Writing Task 1

TASK 1 · QUESTION (spend about 25 minutes)

Your friend Hana is planning a family holiday in China. Read her email. Using all the notes given, write a reply of at least 100 words in an appropriate style.

From: Hana Subject: Holiday in China!
Hi,
Guess what? My family is spending ten days in China during the year-end holidays! *[Note: Great!]*
Do we need visas for a short holiday? *[Note: Explain]*
Which city do you think we should visit? *[Note: Suggest + reason]*
Could you help me plan our itinerary this Sunday? *[Note: No, because …]*
Love,
Hana

MODEL REPLY · sample written by our team for practice

Hi Hana,

That's fantastic news! A family trip to China sounds like the perfect way to end the year.

You probably won't need visas. Since July 2025, Malaysians with ordinary passports have been able to visit China visa-free for up to 30 days per visit. Still, do check the latest official rules before you fly.

I suggest Chengdu, because you can watch giant pandas up close and try the famously spicy Sichuan food. Malaysia Airlines has also restored daily flights there, so getting there is easy.

Sadly, I can't help you plan on Sunday, because I'm helping out at my aunt's open house. How about Monday evening over a video call instead?

Love,
Mei

114 words

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