



KULLEĠĠ SAN BENEDITTU

Secondary School, Kirkop

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION – 2014/2015

Levels

7 - 8

YEAR 8

ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION TEXT

Text 1 – Read the following text and then answer the questions on the Language Paper.

The Red Kangaroo

What Australian mammal can leap eight metres in one hop and move for short periods at 56 kilometres an hour? The answer is the red kangaroo. A full grown male usually reaches the height of 1.82 metres and weighs 90 kilograms. This is slightly bigger than the grey kangaroo, making **it** the world's largest marsupial, which is a mammal where the mother has a pouch for carrying, feeding and protecting her young.

While a red kangaroo may be the largest marsupial, the newborn baby is tiny, under three centimetres long. After a few months of sleeping, nursing and growing in mum's stomach pouch, the young kangaroo, which is called a joey, begins to come out. However, it hurries back to the pouch fast when frightened, hungry or cold. Eventually, the joey gets so big it hangs out of the pouch. Then, at eight months old, it stays out. The joey remains close to its mother until ready to live on **its** own.

Red kangaroos are good swimmers. However, they are best known for their hopping abilities. Their long, powerful hind legs have big feet. Hopping moves them quickly over their grassy, shrubby and desert habitats. Meanwhile, a thick tail helps them keep their balance.

Red kangaroos eat mostly grass, leaves and other vegetation. The red kangaroo's vegetarian diet provides much of its water. It can also go for long periods without drinking. Staying in the shade, panting and limiting most activity to night time helps the red kangaroo conserve water and stay cool. In fact, these creatures are nocturnal and active at dawn and dusk. They spend most of the daylight hours sleeping or resting.

Red kangaroos travel together in groups called mobs. Mobs include both males and females, with one male being dominant. Males show **their** dominance by "boxing" with other males. They balance on their tails and try pushing each other off balance with their forearms or by kicking their hind legs. This kicking ability, along with their sharp claws, can also be used by kangaroos to defend against Australia's wild dog, the dingo.

On 17 January 2003, a film starring a red kangaroo was released. *Kangaroo Jack* is a comedy film that follows the misadventures of two friends **who** are forced to deliver \$50,000 to Australia. While taking pictures of a red kangaroo, one of them puts his jacket on it and the kangaroo bounces off with all the money inside the jacket pocket. The two friends have to chase Kangaroo Jack to try and get back the money.

Text 2 – This is an entrance ticket to Brookwood Zoo. Answer the questions on your language paper.

