



## A. READING COMPREHENSION (15 marks)

### THE TEXT

1. Hiroshima survivor Itoko Kanagawa has vivid memories of the nuclear bomb attack which scarred the rest of her life. The 80-year-old grandmother never recovered properly from the massacre, so she moved to Japan's northeast coast well away from painful memories. But after last week's terrifying tsunami, she feels as though she is reliving the Second World War's deadliest moment when an American atomic bomb killed tens of thousands.

2. As she walks from the modest home in Kamaishi where she lived with husband Kazuya, she shakes her head in sorrow. Itoko has lost every single photograph of her three beloved grandchildren and all of the possessions which she and her ex-school teacher partner have saved for over the years. "What I witnessed in 1945 scarred me forever, but this is even worse," she says. "It feels worse because this was nothing to do with war, it was just nature. Nothing could have survived that wave. It came rushing in at such speed."

3. "After the earthquake warning sounded I managed to get up to the temple above the hills. A man took us in his car. Otherwise we could have died like so many other retired people around here who were not quick enough, or who didn't have transport. We slept overnight in the hospital, with just our jackets over us, and then we came down the day after to see what it was like. I thought, Oh no, it's happened again. Everything was just gone or broken just like Hiroshima. I was just shuddering after that. To be taken back to such a dark time when you're old and settled down like me doesn't seem fair."

4. "I have suffered enough in this life. I don't feel I deserve this." Itoko and Kazuya are now sleeping on camp beds in an old school building being used as a temporary shelter on the higher ground above Kamaishi. "I have no idea what happens next," she adds. "We might go to stay with my daughter's family in Tokyo, but that is not safe because of the threat of radiation. We don't know whether we will receive compensation or a new house. Everything is uncertain."



## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) Tick ( ✓ ) the right alternative (2 marks).

a. The text is mainly :

1. argumentative. ☐ 2. descriptive ☐ 3. narrative ☐

b. The text is about :

1. The disastrous effects of Hiroshima Bombing. ☐  
2. The continuing bad luck of an old lady. ☐  
3. The childhood memories of an old lady. ☐

2) Match the places with the statements (3 marks).

Place	Statement	Answers
1. Tokyo	a. Itoko lived there a long time ago.	1. +.....
2. Kamaichi	b. Itoko's grandchildren live there.	2. +.....
3. Hiroshima	c. A tsunami hit it severely.	3. +.....

3) Answer the following question with reference to the text. (1 mark)

What did Itoko do in order to forget the bomb attack on Hiroshima ?

.....

4) Circle the two adjectives that best describe Itoko's feelings. ( 2 marks)

fortunate - insecure - honoured - bitter - calm

5) Complete with words from paragraphs 1 and 4. ( 3 marks)

Itoko, an aged ..... of two disasters, is..... about what the future holds. She thinks that living through such disasters is too much for her and that she doesn't .....it.

6) What do the underlined words refer to ? ( 2 marks)

a. this (paragraph 2) refers to .....

b. that ( paragraph 4) refers to .....

7) Tick ( ✓ ) the right option .“ Scarred for the rest of her life” nearly means : (1 mark)

- a. Left her with a feeling of sadness and mental pain. ☐  
b. Left her with marks all over her body. ☐  
c. Left her with feelings of anger and revolt. ☐