

COMPREHENSION ANSWERS (50M)

FROM PASSAGE A

1. Through the use of exclamation marks, the title and subtitle are intended to make the reader excited/enthusiastic about the Dream Big! cause. [1]
2. (i) The target audience of the website are potential contributors/donors to the Dream Big! cause. [1]
(ii) The use of the word “you” under the subheading “Ways to Contribute”.
The two “Donate Now” buttons.
The “Ways to Donate” and “Get Involved” links.
“Become a CHAMPION for Dream Big! Your support will help change a girl’s life, and possibly save one.”/ The invitation to become a champion for Dream Big! by supporting it.
3. They provide direct equipment, uniforms, sneakers and sports attire for these girls. [1]
[No marks are to be awarded if a student mentions covering programme fees.]
4. There are many young Singaporeans taking part in this protest, showing that they are passionate about the happenings in the country they live in [1]. Also, from the ponchos that some of the protestors are sporting, it shows that despite bad weather conditions, they still turned up to show their passion for the cause that they believe in [1].

FROM PASSAGE B

1. The writer recalls that people often said his ambition to be a comic-strip artist was just a phase in his childhood [1] and that he will move on to other things someday [1].
2. The phrase is “idle speculators” OR “hopeless romantics”.
3. The writer was distinguishing the difference between doing something with the comic-strip [1], and just drawing the comics itself [1]. The italicised word referred to the latter.
4. “That” refers to the writer forgetting the comic the next morning. [1]
5. “Read by the sort of people who were always taking books out of the library”
“sitting under trees and wearing glasses”
“squinting and turning pages with licked fingers” Any 2 of the above. 1m each
Penalise 1m for excess if student gives more than 2.
6. The first “it” refers to the decision whether or not to send the comic for publication [1]. The second “it” refers to the comic he drew [1].
7. “Sickening” is defined as causing great annoyance or disappointment [1]. In this case, the writer was feeling a great sense of disappointment when he found out that his comic was returned by the magazine [1].
8. The writer is now saying that “there was no future in it” [1] and that “it was risky and unsure” [1].
9. He had earlier dismissed his peers as having ambitions that were comparatively unrealistic to his [1]. Now, he feels that he is one of them because he could not be what he ever dreamed to be, a comic-strip artist [1].

Paragraph 1:	Paragraphs 4:	Paragraph 5:	Paragraph 7:
annoyed	scornful	resolute	dejected

FROM PASSAGE C

1. The word 'elusive' can be defined as 'difficult to find' [1]. In this case, the concept or correlation between ambition and success is very difficult to determine [1].
2. It refers to the aspirations of people. [1]
3. People who have big aspirations persevere [1] to see their hard work compensated in tangible terms like career recognition and salary increments [1].
4. (a) High achievers value the achievement of doing well whether they receive a pay raise or not [1]. Ambitious people value more the rewards of their competencies in task performance [1].
(b) Ambition is a habitual level of striving for or desiring accomplishment in life situations associated with important human capital-related outcomes [1] which also means that they do strive for outcomes that are not only monetary as well [1].
5. Work OR life satisfaction.
Any 1 of the above for 1m.
Penalise for excess if student mentions both.

From Paragraph 2:
... "the persistent and generalised striving for success, attainment, and accomplishment "
... strivings in the context of worldly success,...
...ambition impacts our behaviour more directly than broad traits such as extraversion or conscientiousness.
Since it is a personality trait,
ambition is stable and consistent over time.
Ambitious people have an enduring interest in seeing that their efforts tie to outcomes of success like promotions or pay raises.
Ambitious people value more the rewards of their competencies in task performance.

From Paragraphs 4:
Ambition does not constitute a character flaw that leads to the dishonesty and dissatisfaction ...
...ambition does not make one miserable
nor does it create feelings of unquenchable desires for outcomes beyond stretch goals.

Suggested answer:

Although unclear, ambition can be identified as the drive to continually improve and better oneself to attain success. It is a personality attribute that tends to remain constant. Ambition's effect on people can be directly discerned from their outward behaviours. Ambitious people have a tendency to pay more attention towards the rewards that come from the result of their labours. Increasingly, ambition is seen as necessary in people who strive to attain positive results in various fields.

(70 words)