



RAFFLES GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRIMARY 6
SEMESTRAL ASSESSMENT (1)
2014

Your Score Out of 95 marks	
Parent's Signature	

Name: _____ () Class: P6 _____

7 May 2014

English Language

Duration: 1 h 50 min

BOOKLET A

Instructions to Pupils

1. Write your Name, Class and Index No. in the spaces above.
2. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
3. Follow all instructions carefully.
4. Answer all questions.
5. Shade your answers in the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS) provided for questions 1 to 30 only

Section A : Comprehension (Graphic Stimulus) (5 x1 mark)

Study the brochure below carefully and then answer questions 1 to 5.

Nara Shopping Mall is Opening Soon!

Come join us as we open doors to shoppers on 1 May 2014, Saturday!
Enjoy fantastic discounts and performances from 1 May to 30 May!

Catch the Stars!



Get a glimpse of your favourite local celebrities or take a photograph with them. Allow their songs to take your breath away!

Dates: 1 May – 3 May
Time: 10am – 11am
Venue: Glamour Fountain

Shopping Deals

All shoppers get a 10% discount on purchases at all stores in the mall on 1 May!

Enjoy 20% discounts at the following merchants when you present this brochure between 2 May and 30 May.

- Footworks
- Glamour Suits
- Kelly's Dresses
- Toys and You
- Fancy Nails

Delectable Deal at Stanson Café*

- Weekday set lunch and dinner at only \$9.90. (Normal price: \$15.90)
- Free scoop of ice-cream with purchase of every kid's meal (weekdays only)

*Valid till 20 May.



Disney Meet-and-Greet

Bring your children down and watch exciting performances by popular Disney characters! Parents and children will be invited to come on stage to sing and dance with the characters!

Dates: 1 May – 30 May (weekends only)
Time: 2pm – 3pm and 6pm – 7pm
Venue: Central Stage

Children Painting Workshop

Register at the information counter and enjoy the free workshop!

Mum-can-Cook Competition on 8 May

Registration forms can be obtained from the information counter. All registration forms to be submitted by 5 May at the information counter. For more information, call 63334333 or visit our website: www.narashoppingmall.com. A \$20 registration fee applies.

Spend and Win!

Spend a minimum of \$180 on a single receipt and you are allowed take part in our Nara Lucky Draw! Cash prizes are given out to the top 3 winners! Ten 32-inch television sets and 20 supermarket shopping vouchers worth \$100 each are also given out as consolation prizes!
Prizes sponsored by: City Buildings Development, Top Electrics and Best Supermarket

Event organiser: Nara Shopping Mall

For each question from 1 to 5, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

1. Janice went to Nara Shopping Mall on 2 May, Sunday, and spent a total of \$150. She can _____.
- (1) get to participate in a lucky draw
 - (2) enjoy a 20% discount at the toy shop
 - (3) buy a set lunch at a special price at Stanson's Café
 - (4) purchase all merchandise in the mall at a 10% discount
2. Mrs Tan and her 5 year-old daughter were at Nara Shopping Mall on the opening day in the evening. They could _____.
- (1) take photographs with local celebrities
 - (2) enjoy 30% discount at selected stores
 - (3) get a free scoop of ice-cream at Stanson's Cafe
 - (4) ~~could~~ get a chance to perform with Disney characters
3. Which of the following statements is true?
- (1) All prizes in the lucky draw are cash prizes.
 - (2) All offers featured in the brochure are valid only in May.
 - (3) There are two daily performances by Disney characters.
 - (4) Shoppers get a chance to sing with the local celebrities during their performances.
4. _____ is not a sponsor of the prizes for the lucky draw.
- (1) Top Electrics
 - (2) Best Supermarket
 - (3) Nara Shopping Mall
 - (4) City Buildings Development
5. All the activities highlighted in the advertisement are free except _____.
- (1) Disney Meet-and-Greet
 - (2) Children Painting Workshop
 - (3) Mum-can-Cook Competition
 - (4) Photo-taking with the celebrities

Section B: Grammar (7x1 mark)

For each question from 6 to 12, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

6. You have not been listening to what I am saying, _____ you?

- (1) has
- (2) have
- (3) hasn't
- (4) haven't

7. Neither Mr Tan nor the basketball players _____ able to participate in the opening game last week due to the thunderstorm.

- (1) is
- (2) are
- (3) was
- (4) were

8. I don't want to go to the swimming complex, _____ do I want to go to the cinema.

- (1) or
- (2) nor
- (3) and
- (4) yet

9. Max is usually bold. It is surprising to see him yield _____ Jenny's unreasonable demands.

- (1) to
- (2) on
- (3) with
- (4) from

10. Tommy's love for his pet dog made him _____ to its mischievous acts.

- (1) blind
- (2) blinds
- (3) blinded
- (4) blinding

11. The haze, which affected many children, occurred _____ April and August.

- (1) from
- (2) over
- (3) through
- (4) between

12. Uncle Ken had promised to take my brother and _____ to Universal Studios next week.

- (1) I
- (2) me
- (3) myself
- (4) ourselves

Section C: Punctuation (3 x1 mark)

For each question from 13 to 15, choose the correct punctuation to complete the passage. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

The LTA has been keeping an eye on the development of traffic conditions for about two years now, but has not come out with rules about payment.

"Simple rules might include requiring that drivers have full-time jobs," Mr Moh Hon Meng commented (13) and not rely on carpooling payments as their main source of income."

Also, rides must be "on the way" - meaning if car owners live in Hougang and work in Shenton Way (14) they cannot drop someone off in Jurong.

Mr Moh added, "Even if we have altruistic drivers who are willing to give rides, passengers would not want to take them, because they will feel bad. The passengers actually want to pay their share (15)

Adapted from <http://ride.asiaone.com/news/general/story/carpooling-there-could-be-new-rules>

13. (1) [,] comma
(2) [.] full-stop
(3) [. "] full-stop and inverted commas
(4) [, "] comma and inverted commas
14. (1) [:] colon
(2) [,] comma
(3) [.] full-stop
(4) [!] exclamation mark
15. (1) [,] comma
(2) [.] full-stop
(3) [, "] comma and inverted commas
(4) [. "] full-stop and inverted commas

Section D: Vocabulary (5x1 mark)

For each question from 16 to 20, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

16. I was saddened by the _____ of my old neighbour who had finally succumbed to her crippling illness after a long battle.
- (1) demise
 - (2) devastation
 - (3) catastrophe
 - (4) condolences
17. The tiger waited for the prey to let down its guard before it _____ for the kill.
- (1) broke in
 - (2) moved in
 - (3) closed up
 - (4) stepped up
18. Stealing is a crime and we should not _____ such behaviour. Lawbreakers should be punished.
- (1) conduct
 - (2) condone
 - (3) conserve
 - (4) condemn
19. The bullet _____ and hit him squarely on the forehead.
- (1) flitted
 - (2) hovered
 - (3) pirouetted
 - (4) ricocheted
20. He was so tired after running the 42km marathon that he _____ the moment he got home.
- (1) hit the hay
 - (2) lost his head
 - (3) held his horses
 - (4) bent over backwards

Section E: Vocabulary Cloze (5x1 mark)

For each question from 21 to 25, choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined words. Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

Claire and Judy had savagely busy lives – kids, dogs, husbands and job. Topping that off would be the onerous, time-consuming dedication to looking ten years younger than their actual age. They were whizzing off around in minivans perpetually, dropping off their sons at rugby practice, picking up daughters from the dentist, racing across town to get to a meeting. Multitasking was an art form for them. They were accustomed to the dead seconds stuck at traffic lights to rub their calves with fake-tan wipes, they answered emails from their seats at the cinema and they baked red velvet cupcakes at midnight while simultaneously being mocked by their cheeky teenage daughters. However, they would not be deterred by any obstacles which might take their focus away from their aim in life – making sure there was no moment wasted.

Adapted from The Mystery of Mercy Cloze by Marian Keyes

21. (1) simple
(2) gruelling
(3) effortless
(4) complicated
22. (1) randomly
(2) constantly
(3) incidentally
(4) occasionally
23. (1) rambling
(2) dawdling
(3) scurrying
(4) lumbering

24. (1) taunted
(2) berated
(3) praised
(4) exalted

25. (1) urged
(2) trapped
(3) instigated
(4) restrained

Section F: Comprehension MCQ(5x1 mark)

Read the passage below and answer questions 26 to 30.

<p>Back in college, my roommate, Sofia, and I invented a ritual we called "Power Wednesdays." Every week, we headed to the campus fitness centre for a workout, and then to the library for four hours of hard studying. We would stride back to our room with a huge feeling of accomplishment. However, that uplifting cocktail of virtuousness, productivity and sore muscles — rewarding as it was — was not what kept us repeating Power Wednesdays. Our real motivation was each other's company.</p>	5
<p>I've been immersed in the study of friendship for the past several years and among the many things I have learned, one idea stands out: If you truly want to change some aspect of your life, developing friendships with people who aspire to the same goals as you do — like I did with Sofia 15-plus years ago — can lead to more successful endeavours than embarking on solitary efforts.</p>	10
<p>Shortly after we make a decision to change our behaviour, we often sense a softening of what at first felt like ironclad conviction. We blame ourselves for our inability to be motivated and return to the poor habits we are trying to break to comfort us, hence being unable to achieve our goals. What a disheartening cycle. However, research shows that having friends with the same goal can interrupt that cycle.</p>	15
<p>Researcher James Fowler feels that weight loss and gain may spread through friend groups, most likely via a process of altered behaviours. For example, if you meet your friends at an all-you-can-eat brunch every Sunday, but then one friend starts to beg off after starting a diet, you might suddenly question whether the practice for the weekly indulgence is best for you. You may even think about the calories you have piled up over the weeks and how you could get rid of them. It is not that you will necessarily adopt your friend's new habits right away, but the seed will be planted. If you want to continue to feel close to her, you might even start changing your own routines (perhaps unconsciously) to align them more with hers.</p>	20 25
<p>Charles Duhigg has proven that friends can help one reinforce individual willpower in his or her weight loss programme. In <i>The Power of Habit</i>, he recommends replacing the cues that trigger and the rewards that follow, bad behaviours with new, healthier ones. The cue and reward of a real person knocking on your door for a joint jog and a stimulating talk over coffee afterwards, is a particularly alluring replacement for whatever previously sucked you into sedentary television watching.</p>	30
<p>In a recent New York Times column, "<i>How People Change</i>", David Brooks noted, "There's a trove of research suggesting that it's best to tackle negative behaviours by redirecting attention toward different, positive ones." Paul Brown, a psychologist, agrees that investing in fulfilling friendships with those who have the values and habits you admire may lift you up to those friends' level more easily.</p>	35
<p>The desire to be with, be like and be liked by friends is primal. We are all built to seek out strong bonds with friends on whom our very survival might have once been dependent. While we do not necessarily need friends to help hunt or fight off predators these days, most of us probably still feel like we cannot live without them.</p>	40
<p>Adapted from "<i>How Friendship Makes You More Successful</i>" by <u>Carin Flora</u></p>	

For each question from 26 to 30, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

26. What was the main intention of the writer going to the fitness centre with Sofia every Wednesday?
- (1) She wanted to study.
 - (2) She wanted to keep fit.
 - (3) She wanted to bond with Sofia.
 - (4) She wanted her life to be productive.
27. The word "blame" (line 13) means _____.
- (1) laud
 - (2) endorse
 - (3) chastise
 - (4) regurgitate
28. In line 15, what is the "disheartening cycle"?
- (1) Giving oneself the excuse to fail through self-criticism.
 - (2) Having friends who constantly undermine one's goals.
 - (3) Lack of motivation which causes us to return to poor habits.
 - (4) Not having any conviction which will cause us to repeatedly fail.
29. _____ has proven that friends can help us strengthen our determination to lose weight.
- (1) Paul Brown
 - (2) James Fowler
 - (3) David Brooks
 - (4) Charles Duhigg
30. Based on the passage, which one of the following statements best describes the purpose of friends?
- (1) We need friends to help us become better hunters.
 - (2) Friends can help protect ourselves from physical harm.
 - (3) We need friends to prevent ourselves from forming unhealthy habits.
 - (4) Carefully selected friends will influence us to adopt negative behaviours.

BOOKLET B

Name: _____ ()

P6 ()

Section G: Structural Cloze (10x1 mark)

There are 10 blanks, numbered 31 to 40, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted to avoid confusion during marking.

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

(A) about	(E) for	(J) to	(N) under
(B) above	(F) in	(K) till	(P) why
(C) by	(G) of	(L) through	(Q) where
(D) even	(H) on	(M) up	

Singapore is a peaceful city with a vibrant mix of races and cultures. Sometimes we take (31) _____ granted the harmony we experience in a multi-racial and multi-cultural city. We are (32) _____ different races and religions, yet we live together peacefully in our housing estates, learn and play together in our schools and the community, rely (33) _____ one another and are able to celebrate this occasion together. This happy state of affairs did not come (34) _____ by chance. It is the result of sustained efforts by Singaporeans to nurture a harmonious society.

Many of you here would not have experienced the racial riots of 1964, and would not know that these racial riots led to the loss of lives and injured many people then. However, Singaporeans living in that period were deeply shaken (35) _____ those riots and resolved from then on to maintain racial harmony. That is (36) _____ schools commemorate Racial Harmony Day on 21st July every year.

Whatever the challenges and global developments that come our way, we must not allow anything to come between our relationship with our friends, classmates, neighbours and loved ones. We want to continue to build trust and establish strong ties across races so that we will stand (37) _____ for one another. We have to continue to do so, even (38) _____ pressure.

Let us rejoice (39) _____ our harmony, but let us never forget what being a Singaporean means. It is not just tolerating other groups but understanding and appreciating our fellow citizens and opening our hearts (40) _____ them. It makes us a stronger and more resilient nation in a globalised world.

Adopted from "Speech by Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education, at The Racial Harmony Day Celebrations at 9.00am on 19 July 2013 at Pioneer Secondary School"

Section H: Editing for Spelling and Grammar (10x1mark)

Correct each word in bold for spelling and each underlined word for grammar. Write the correct word in the relevant box.

Typhoon Haiyan was an extremely powerful tropical cyclone that devastated Tacloban.

41)

Kyrie Boniface is only a few hours old and seven weeks early, one of the many

42)

births before dawn in an under-equipped and over-crowded hospital in the typhoon-

43)

ravaged city in the Philippines.

44)

The nurses, which were working on 24-hour shifts, wrapped him in plastic to keep

45)

him warm because they did not have an incubator. They were worried that Kyrie might not

46)

survive. His exhausting mother, 21-year-old Emily, lay on a bare mattress on the floor of the

next room, watched over by her cousin. Nurse Jerbie Lames said Kyrie needed antibiotics

47)

48)

to help him fight off a possible infection picked up during the komplekayed 4:00am

delivery. He could breathe for himself, but needed oxygen from a tall green cylinder that

49)

stands nearby, one of only a few dozen the neo-natal ward had access to. Every bit of

50)

available space was used to acomodate the many patients streaming into the hospital. The

women and their children perched on bed frames that lined the corridor was a pitiful sight.

Adapted from "Typhoon Haiyan: Nurses battle fatigue in tide of Philippine typhoon births-Straits Times"

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PAGE**

Section I: Comprehension Cloze (15 x 1 mark)

Read the passage below carefully and fill in each of the blanks with a suitable word.

A huge part of the attraction of diving is the sense that you are visiting another world. When diving, I like to consider myself a ghost in this other (51) _____; I float over the bottom, I do not touch or interact with anything, I just observe. Most injuries sustained from animals while diving are the result of the animal (52) _____ itself. If you do not touch them or settle on the seabed where they might be hidden, your chances of getting harmed are greatly (53) _____

The most dangerous animals are often beautiful and may not look dangerous at all. Unlike their larger counterparts, blue-ringed octopuses are (54) _____ enough to fit in the palm of your hand and look cute rather than deadly; cone shells look like an unthreatening snail (55) _____ their poison dart can actually kill. Research what you are likely to see when diving in a new area. You will notice far more on your dive and will also know (56) _____ the troublemakers are.

Some animals may be aggressive (57) _____ they feel threatened or are defending their territory. Most fish will first display a warning sign. For example, the lionfish will spread his fins and beautiful as it may look, it is actually telling you to back (58) _____. If something has decided that it does not want you near its territory, you may find yourself being chased away. As a general rule, (59) _____ away horizontally.

In an event when the diver is already confronted by an aggressive creature, maintain eye (60) _____ with the animal and attempt to move away. Bubbles from the secondary regulator of your oxygen tank can be used as a form of (61) _____ if the animal starts to approach. Your buddy should join you and swim with you, shoulder (62) _____ shoulder, presenting the largest outline to the animal. Move away quickly and in a controlled manner. Discard anything you may have collected (63) _____ as a spear-fishing catch because it may be attracting the animal instead.

If the animal gets very close despite persistent avoidance and is clearly aggressive rather than curious it may be necessary to strike it. It would be best not to use your bare (64) _____. A pole, fins, camera or dive knife would be better if they are available. Aim for the delicate areas such as the eyes or gill openings. Get a good distance away from the animal before making an ascent to the (65) _____. Remember to remain observant.

Adapted from 'Asian Diver' 2012

Section J: Transformation / Synthesis (5 x 2 marks)

For each of the questions 66 to 70, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

66. Siti was careless. She forgot to switch off the lights when she left the room -

As a result of _____

67. Mary will not ask for help. She prefers to keep her troubles to herself.

Mary would rather _____

68. She refused to accept the offer. The company suffered a huge loss.

Due to her _____

69. John will be upset if you disagree with his point.

Unless _____

70. Nobody comes early to work except Sally.

With the exception of _____

Section K: Comprehension Open-ended (10×2 marks)

Read the passage below and answer questions 71 to 80.

<p>It was lunch on October 11, 2011, when an alert first came through to the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust.</p>	
<p>"Help! My yacht has lost its motor, steering and electrics! Please send someone over!" Jim, a sailor, cried into the phone anxiously. He was in trouble about 93km out to sea and weather conditions were worsening. There was no way he could get back to shore on his own.</p>	5
<p>Dean, a rescue pilot for seven years, Steven, a St John Advanced Paramedic trained in winching and water rescue, and Jeff, a volunteer aircraft engineer since 1999, responded to the call of distress. Time was not on their side though; they only had an hour before darkness set in. Together, the three of them prepared for the rescue.</p>	
<p>Each had a clear role, each as vital as the other. Steven, the paramedic, put on a harness so that he could be lowered down to retrieve the sailor. Jeff was in charge of the winch, constantly feeding out the line or pulling it in depending on how the situation below changed with each passing second. Too little wire and Steven would not be able to manoeuvre effectively. Too much, and he would be dragged under the water. Dean's challenge was to keep the helicopter steady, an extremely <i>challenging job</i> with no visual reference point. On top of that, he had to be close enough to get near the yacht but far enough away so they would not hit the mast. It was no easy task in those conditions. One minute, the yacht's mast was nearly level with his line of vision, the next, it would plunge metres below him as the waves passed.</p>	10 15
<p>The rescuers had a quick discussion. They would lower Steven into the water and, still connected to the winch, he would swim over to Jim. Once they were away from the yacht and in the sea, they could both be winched back up to the helicopter. As swimming in these conditions was so difficult, it was up to Jeff to manoeuvre the winch to steer Steven in the water.</p>	20
<p>Despite his nylon, foam and neoprene survival suit, the cold water gave Steven a startle. Swimming towards the life raft in the roiling sea, he finally reached Jim, who was up against the side of his yacht. That was where the distressed sailor told Steven that he could not swim. "The only way out of here is for me to put this harness around you," shouted Steven, indicating the gear attached to his own harness. "Come with me and I'll take you away from this yacht and we'll be out of here in a few minutes," he yelled above the roar of the waves and wind. "Trust us. Let us take care of it."</p>	25
<p>Steven managed to get the strap over Jim's head and under his arms. Then he needed him to roll out of the yacht and into the sea. Confused by fear, cold and fatigue, Jim suddenly turned back to the yacht, attempting to throw his leg over the side rail. All he wanted to do was to get back to the safety of the yacht. The harness tangled in the tether rope between the yacht and the raft, pulling him back. Increasingly frantic, he struggled, becoming more and more entangled in the process. Steven could do nothing as the depressing scene unfolded before his very eyes.</p>	30
<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Adapted from Reader's Digest 01/2013</i></p>	

Name: _____ ()

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ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

71. Why did Jim have to make a call of distress to Hawke's Bay?

72. Explain clearly why the team gave themselves only an hour for the rescue mission.

73. With reference to paragraph 4, how were Jeff and Steven required to work together to rescue Jim?

74. Why was Dean's job a challenging one as mentioned in line 15?

75. Why was Steven startled in line 23?

76. What does "it" in line 18 refer to?

77. Why did Steven have to strap the harness over Jim in line ~~30~~^{line 26?}

78. What caused Jim to suddenly turn back to the yacht in the last paragraph?

79. Which word from paragraph 6 has the same meaning as "turbulent"?

80. What does the 'depressing scene' in line 34 refer to?

End of paper

Set by:
Vincent Chia
Serene Chan
Pek Xueyan

ANSWER SHEET

EXAM PAPER 2014

SCHOOL : RAFFLES GIRL'S

SUBJECT : PRIMARY 6 ENGLISH

TERM : SA1

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17
2	4	2	3	3	2	4	2	1	1	4	2	4	2	4	1	2

Q18	Q19	Q20	Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30	Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34
2	4	1	2	2	3	1	4	3	3	1	4	3	E	G	H	A

Q35	Q36	Q37	Q38	Q39	Q40
C	P	M	N	F	J

- 41)was 42)births 43)ravaged 44)who
- 45)incubator 46)exhausted 47)fight 48)complicated
- 49)stood 50)accommodate 51)world 52)protecting
- 53)reduced/decreased 54)small 55)but 56)who
- 57)when 58)off 59)swim 60)contact 61)distraction
- 62)to 63)such 64)hands 65)top/surface

66)As a result of her carelessness, Siti forgot to switch off the lights when she left the room.

67)Mary would rather keep her troubles to herself than ask for help.

68)Due to her refusal to accept the offer, the company suffered a huge loss.

69)Unless you disagree with John's point, he will not be upset.

70)With the exception of Sally, nobody comes early to work.

71)Jim's yacht had lost its motor, steering and electric's and weather conditions were worsening so he could not get back to shore on his own.

72)It was getting dark soon and they could not see what they are mission doing.

73)Jeff was in charge of the winch attached to Steven who would be lowered down to retrieve Jim.

74)He had to keep the helicopter steady, with no visual reference point. He had to be close enough to get near to the yacht but far enough away so that he would not hit the mast.

75)The seawater was very cold and when Steven was lowered into the water, he was startled even though he was wearing his nylon, foam and neoprene survival suit.

76)It refers to the yacht's mast.

77)Jim did not know how to swim and they needed to go away from the yacht.

78)He wanted to get back to the safety of yacht as he was confused by fear, cold and fatigue.

79)The word is "roiling."

80)It refers to the situation of Jim being entangled in the tether rope between the yacht and the raft as struggled to get back to the yacht.