

What Does "Pass" Mean?

One day, when I was in the sixth grade of elementary school, I was walking with my friends after cram school. We found a handkerchief that had fallen in the street. I picked it up and saw that "pass" was printed on it. My friend said, "Someday the owner will come to get it." But I was sorry to leave someone's handkerchief in the street, and I couldn't forget the word "pass." I took it home and washed it well, hoping that the owner would pass the exam. Thanks in part to that handkerchief, I (a)passed the entrance exam. However, I later realized that the word "pass" meant that it (b)had passed the Imabari Towel production test. (じゃれマガ 2/19 より)

問：下線部(a), (b)は具体的にはいつのことか。日本語で簡潔に説明しなさい。