Cambridge IGCSE

Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

CANDIDATE NAME									
CENTRE NUMBER						CANDIDATE NUMBER			

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE **0510/12**

Paper 1 Reading and Writing (Core) **May/June 2015**

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.
DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **all** questions.
Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **13** printed pages and **3** blank pages.

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CAMBRIDGE International Examinations

Exercise 1

Read the following article about birthday celebrations, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

Happy Birthday!



People around the world celebrate their birthdays in many different ways. Here are some examples of customs from different countries:

United Kingdom:
A special cake is made and small candles are put on the top. The person celebrating their birthday has to blow out all the candles at the same time if their wishes are to come true. Then all their family and friends sing a song wishing them a happy birthday. Some people also like to give the birthday boy or girl 'the bumps'. This means that one person holds their legs, another person holds their arms, and then they lift them up and down, bumping them each time they touch the ground. The number of bumps is the same as the person's age, and then one extra bump is given for good luck.

Germany:
Small candles are placed in a special birthday candle holder and put on the dining table. Then a large, beautifully decorated candle is placed in the centre. The candles are lit early in the morning and kept burning until the evening, when the birthday boy or girl has to try and blow out all the candles with one breath. One interesting custom involves single men celebrating their 30th birthday. They have to take a brush and sweep the steps of the city hall. At the same time, some friends throw rubbish onto the steps, making them more difficult to clean. In this way, all the women can see which man is still single at 30, and they can find out whether he is good at cleaning.

Brazil:
On their birthday, Brazilian children usually enjoy eating sweets which are in the shape of fruit and vegetables. Their homes are decorated with banners and brightly coloured flowers. Adults and older children pull the ears of the birthday boy or girl, one pull for every year of their age. There is a cake and the birthday boy or girl has to give the first slice to their most special friend or relative.

Mexico:
A model of an animal is made out of papier-mâché. It is filled with sweets and good things to eat, and then hung from the ceiling. The birthday boy's or girl's eyes are then covered up, and they try to hit the animal shape until it breaks open and the sweets fall out. Then they share the contents with family and friends and they all sing a birthday song.

View solution

Canada:
In Canada, it is traditional for Canadians to cover the birthday boy's or girl's nose with butter. The idea is that the greasy nose makes it too slippery for bad luck to stick to them. They hope that only good luck will follow them for a year.

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(a) In the UK, why do people try to blow out all their birthday candles at the same time?

.....[1]

(b) How many bumps are given to someone on their birthday in the UK? View solution

.....[1]

(c) In Germany, when are the candles lit on a person's birthday? View solution

.....[1]

(d) What sort of sweets do Brazilian children have on their birthday? View solution

.....[1]

(e) In Brazil, how do you benefit when your best friend has a birthday? View solution

.....[1]

(f) What do Mexicans do to get sweets on their birthday? View solution

.....[1]

(g) What do Canadians do to people on their birthdays?

.....[1]

[Total: 7]

View solution

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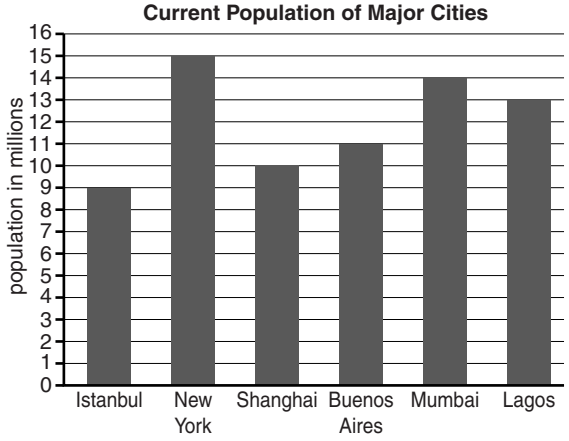
Exercise 2

Read the following article about cities of the future, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

Cities for tomorrow

Imagine a city of the future. Do you see clean streets, flying cars and robots doing all the work? No-one really knows what the future holds, but the reality now is that our urban spaces are overcrowded and polluted.

Almost 50% of the world's population currently lives in cities, and by 2050 that is expected to increase to 75%, which will put pressure on resources. Experts say that it is time to start designing better urban environments. We need new cities to sustain an ever-growing population, and we have to redesign the ones that we have lived in for centuries.



There seem to be two main opinions about how cities should look in the future. There are some planners who believe that we need to go back to a simpler life, and others who think that advanced technology will solve all the problems.

On one hand, sustainability experts predict carbon-neutral cities full of electric vehicles and bike-sharing schemes. People are already starting to use these forms of transport in many cities of the world. Some skyscrapers combine living and office space and have vegetable gardens on their roofs. Many people are attracted to growing their own food, and we may need to combine urbanisation with a more rural lifestyle.

On the other hand, computer experts believe that the answer may lie with the use of electronic technology. "The use of this technology will bring a wide range of new services to citizens," says Professor James. "Many of the big technology companies believe that the most efficient cities will be those that are connected to networks. One company already has 2,000 projects in cities around the world. These projects include crime prevention, recording water usage and smarter public transport systems. This company's most important project is in Rio de Janeiro, where it has built an operations centre which controls the city. This centre was first built to help manage the floods that regularly threaten Rio de Janeiro. It now co-ordinates 30 government agencies and provides mobile applications to inform people about traffic problems, and to give other city updates. There is clear evidence that the number of accidents has fallen because drivers take greater care if they have advance warning of incidents."

However, critics such as Fatima Khan question how quickly this kind of city may become outdated, just like the computer systems they rely on. Professor James responds to such concerns by explaining that developers are constantly updating systems. He also says, "In our experience, although some people are worried about loss of privacy, most people are happy for us to collect data, as long as they are informed." He explains about a project his company completed, where households were given information about their water consumption. Most people quickly changed their habits and saved water when they realised how much they were using. Those who also had access to their neighbours' information saved twice as much.

Ms Khan is concerned that ordinary citizens will no longer have a voice in the development of their cities. She is convinced that successful cities will be able to provide something for everybody, but only if everyone is involved in planning and creating them. The developers building the cities of the future would be advised to take notice of her views.

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(a) What is true about today's cities?

View solution

.....[1]

(b) According to the graph, which city has the second highest population? How many people live there?

.....[1]

(c) What are the **two** different views about how to plan future cities?

View solution

.....

.....[2]

(d) How will people travel in an environmentally-friendly city? Give **two** details.

View solution

.....[1]

(e) What traditional activity is likely to continue in future cities?

View solution

.....[1]

(f) What practical benefits could internet networks bring to cities of the future? Give **two** details.

.....

.....[2]

(g) What proof is there in Rio de Janeiro that shows that internet networks are effective?

.....[1]

(h) In Professor James's project, which group of people saved the most water?

View solution

.....[1]

(i) What does Ms Khan believe is necessary for cities to be successful?

.....[1]

[Total: 11]

View solution

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Exercise 3

Dominique Gosselin is French and lives at 93 Boulevard Hugo in Paris, France. He is planning a trip to London to spend August at a college which offers intensive language courses in English. His English language skills are good enough for him to have conversations at a basic level, but he needs to improve his writing skills. Dominique will be 17 in July, and so his parents have said that they will pay the fees for his course as a birthday present, by credit card. He has a friend, Gary Brown, who lives in London and Gary's family has offered him a room to stay in while he is studying. Dominique plans to email him as soon as possible at garybrown@btinternet.co.uk to confirm that he would like to take up his offer of accommodation.

Dominique has always enjoyed learning languages. He already speaks German and Spanish, and he is really looking forward to improving his English. He wants to be a translator when he graduates from university and he would love to work at the United Nations. His friend, Gary, is a little bit older and is already at university studying to be a teacher. Dominique met Gary when they were both competing in a Junior European swimming championship last year in Paris. Both the boys are excellent swimmers and had been chosen to represent their schools. The boys found that they shared an interest not only in swimming, but also in computer games, and since then they have kept in touch with each other by email. Dominique thinks that it will be great to stay with Gary in London, because he will be able to go swimming with him in the evenings after college.

Dominique is a vegetarian and is rather worried about the food when he goes to England. He is concerned in case this causes a problem at the college. However, Gary has told him not to worry. In any case, he will only have lunch at the college because he will be attending just the morning lessons, and then he will have his main meal with Gary's family in the evening.

Imagine you are Dominique. Fill in the form on the opposite page, using the information above.



View solution

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The London College

Summer Intensive English Language Course
Application Form

Section A: Personal details

Full name: .....

Home address: .....

Full name of contact in England: .....

Age at time of starting the course: .....

Section B: Further details

Which English skill(s) do you wish to improve most? (please circle)

Speaking Writing Listening Reading

Other foreign languages you speak:.....

English level: (please tick ✓)

complete beginner ☐ basic knowledge ☐ advanced ☐

Preferred course: (please delete) full day / half day

Method of payment: .....

Hobbies: .....

Section C

In the space below, write **one** sentence about your ambitions, and **one** sentence about any concerns you may have about attending the college.

[Total: 14]

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Exercise 4

Read the following article about second-hand markets in the UK, and then complete the notes on the opposite page.

View solution

Second-hand Markets



The second-hand market has now become a very popular British event. It is not complicated; you load your car with things you no longer want, drive to a field and park next to other people doing the same thing. Then open the back of your car, take out the goods you want to sell and put them on a table.

As these second-hand markets have developed, they have become more sophisticated, but it is still inexpensive items that most shoppers are looking for. Buyers know that the starting price will probably not be the final price they have to pay, and for many buyers, half the fun is bargaining over the price. If you are a seller, it is very important to be friendly to your customers, because if you can engage a customer in conversation, it is amazing what they will buy. For example, at a sale a few weeks ago, an old chess set, with some pieces missing, was sold to a very happy customer. One seller happily reported he had made an impressive £118 profit, even though he had to pay £6 to park his car, and another £3 for the hot chocolate that he bought to warm himself up. It was a bitterly cold day and he had forgotten to bring along a piece of cardboard to stand on, a well-known trick of the regular sellers to keep their feet warm.

There are some amazing stories, such as the one about a valuable vase which was sold at a market for £1 in 2008, and which later sold for £32,450 at an antiques auction. Jane Smith, a regular visitor to second-hand markets, has her own story to tell. “It is a good idea to arrive early to try to get the best goods. Once I bought a ring for £2 and I later discovered it was real gold and diamonds, valued at £1,200. I didn’t sell it; I now wear it as a good luck charm!” Sellers are always advised to check that they are not selling something at a give-away price which is actually very valuable.

If a seller asks for too much money, customers will move on. However, if you ask for too little, they might still move on. Once, a woman had some nicely packaged soap. Several women stopped and asked, “What scent is it?” When the woman could not tell them, they walked away. Even at a second-hand market, customers want to be sure that the people who are selling items have some knowledge of their goods.

There is a great sense of fun at second-hand markets. Buyers should enjoy looking at the variety of goods without feeling disappointed if they do not actually purchase anything. Sellers also enjoy doing something different for a few hours, and they know it is best to go for the fun rather than with a serious intention to make a lot of money. There are no rules and regulations, buyers must understand they have no rights to return faulty goods. Moreover, you can always be sure of finding someone stretching the idea of the second-hand market to its limit. Recently there was a man who was not only selling the contents of the back of his car, but also the car itself.

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You are going to give a talk to your business class about second-hand markets. Prepare some notes to use as the basis of your talk.

Make short notes under each heading.

Advice for sellers

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

Advice for buyers

- .....
- .....
- .....

[Total: 7]

Exercise 5

View solution

Imagine that you have given your talk to the business class. Your teacher has asked you to write a summary for those who did not attend the talk.

Look at your notes in Exercise 4. Using the ideas in your notes, write a summary about second-hand markets.

Your summary should be about 70 words long (and no more than 80 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

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[Total: 5]

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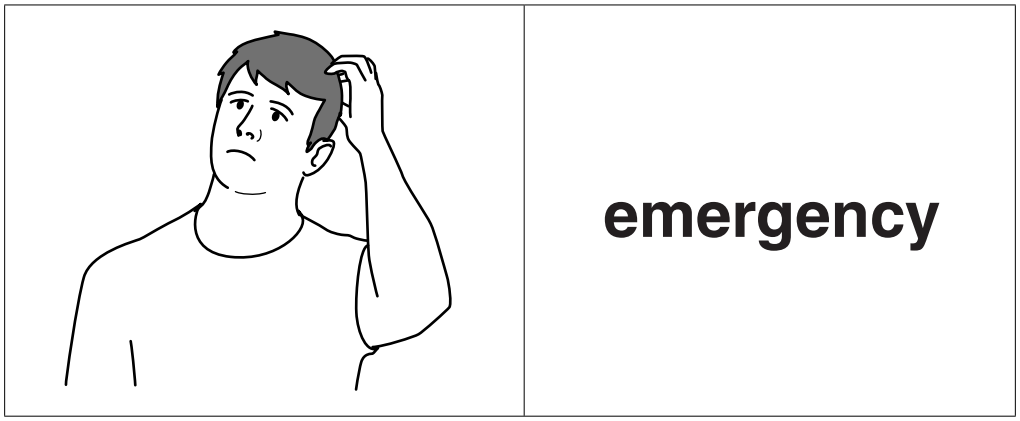
Exercise 6

View solution



You recently helped someone in trouble.

Write an email to a friend, explaining what happened.

In your email you should:

- describe where you were and what happened
- explain what you did to help
- say what you learnt from this experience

The pictures above may give you some ideas, and you should try to use some ideas of your own.

Your email should be between 100 and 150 words long.

You will receive up to 7 marks for the content of your email, and up to 6 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

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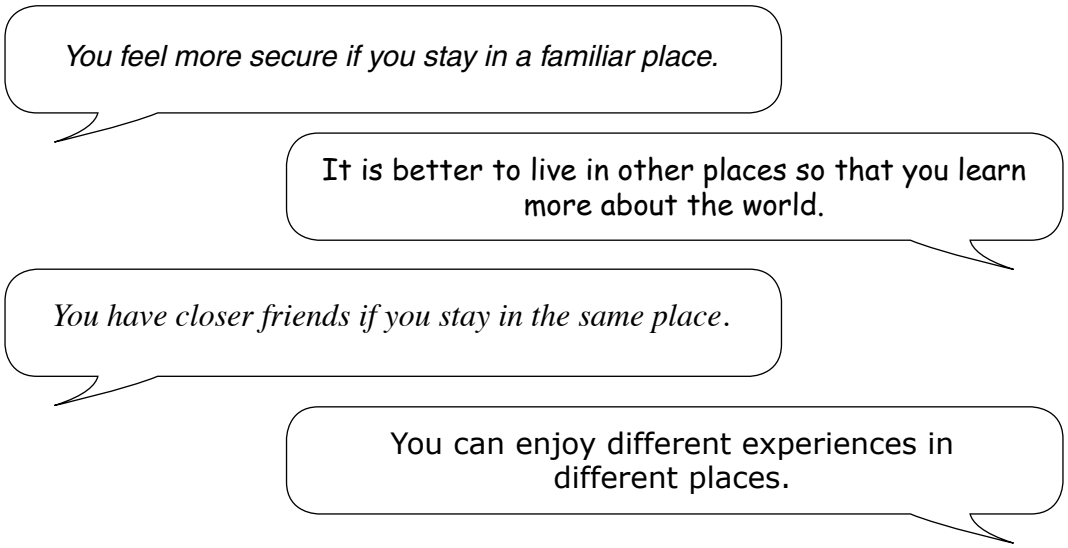
[Total: 13]

Exercise 7

Some people think that it is better to live in one place all your life, but others think that it is better to experience life in different places.

View solution

Here are some comments from young people about this idea:



Write an article for your school magazine, giving your views on this issue.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you should try to use some ideas of your own.

Your article should be between 100 and 150 words long.

You will receive up to 7 marks for the content of your article and up to 6 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

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