Cambridge IGCSE

Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

CANDIDATE NAME									
CENTRE NUMBER						CANDIDATE NUMBER			

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE **0510/23**

Paper 2 Reading and Writing (Extended) **May/June 2017**

2 hours

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 **15** printed pages and **1** blank page.

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CAMBRIDGE International Examinations

Exercise 1

Read the information about a company called Real-Life, which produces short books about the life stories of their customers, and then answer the following questions.

Real-Life

The company background

Several years ago, Steve O'Brien was researching his family history. He realised that the internet makes it relatively easy to find facts about births, marriages and deaths, but the really interesting information about what people did in their lives is often missing. So, Steve decided to offer a service to help ordinary people make a record of their lives.

After coming up with the idea for Real-Life, Steve decided he would move from the UK to Ireland, where he grew up, because he wanted to test the service by setting it up on a smaller scale. He brought together a small team of editors and a larger group of professional writers. Now, three years later, Real-Life is growing and moving into larger markets.

What we do

At Real-Life, we provide you with a carefully selected professional writer who will produce a beautiful 'life-book', complete with your memories and stories, your personal photos and an eye-catching cover.

We can also produce a 'life-book' as a gift for someone close to you, whose life you think should be recorded. The majority of our orders are for birthdays and wedding anniversaries, but some customers also request books for other occasions such as graduation and retirement.

How it works

First, you tell us something about yourself, and we choose a writer who will explain the process to you. To help you bring back your memories, you complete a special questionnaire. Answering the questions enables you to select the stories you want to focus on.

Next, you have a long conversation with your writer. This can be by phone or video call, in a café or at work, but generally people prefer to talk face to face at home. Your writer wants to hear the details of your memories, and you will remember more if you feel comfortable.

Your writer will then start work on the first draft using the details you have given. You might be contacted by email or phone during this time. An artist provides several versions of a cover design, and you select your favourite one. The artist will include one or two of the photos that you chose when the writer first talked to you.

The first draft usually takes 3–4 weeks to complete. Our editors review it, then send it to you to approve. At this stage, customers often ask the writer to add more stories. The writer then finalises the text, and after further editing and proofreading, we print and deliver it to you.

People sometimes ask what distinguishes Real-Life from other companies which offer 'life-books' for special occasions. We believe it is all about the individual attention given to customers. Why not get in touch and see what you think?

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(a) What was Steve O'Brien doing when he had the idea of starting Real-Life? View solution

.....[1]

(b) Where did Steve O'Brien start the company? View solution

.....[1]

(c) Which events do Real-Life customers mainly want books for? Give **two** details. View solution

.....

.....[1]

(d) What is the purpose of the questionnaire? Give **two** details. View solution

.....

.....[2]

(e) Where do Real-Life writers usually interview customers? View solution

.....[1]

(f) What does the customer need to choose during the first draft stage? View solution

.....[1]

(g) What do many customers request when they see the first draft? View solution

.....[1]

(h) What makes Real-Life different from other companies that produce personal biographies?

.....[1]

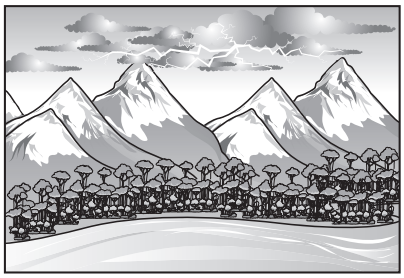
[Total: 9]

View solution

Exercise 2

Read the article about a place which tourists visit to see huge storms, and then answer the following questions.

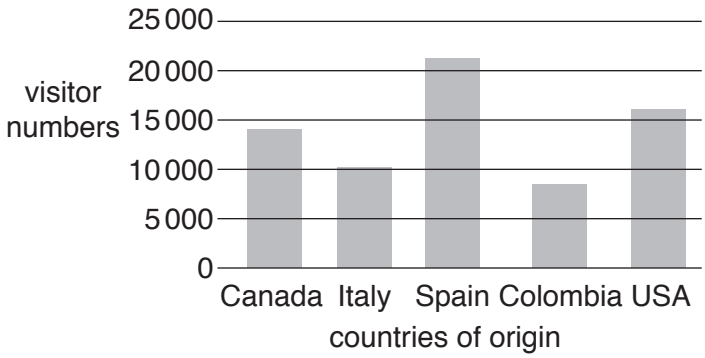
Storms in Venezuela



At the southern end of Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela, people can see some of the world's most spectacular thunderstorms. The main feature of the storms is the amazing lightning that occurs each night. In recent years, increasing numbers of tourists have started to travel there to watch this exciting lightning display. The fishing communities who live by the lake are happy to welcome these visitors and benefit from this 'storm tourism'.

Last month, I joined a group of 'storm tourists' led by guide Alan Highton in Mérida, a city in the west of Venezuela. Alan was originally from Barbados in the Caribbean, and he settled in Mérida after he married a Venezuelan. We set off for the lake and drove through stunning landscapes. Alan is keen for tourists to support local businesses, and always stops along the way to visit some roadside stalls which sell a variety of hand-made crafts.

Countries of origin of visitors to Catatumbo in the last 10 years (excluding Venezuela)



After a while, the road dropped down through tropical rainforest to the mouth of the Catatumbo River, which flows into Lake Maracaibo. At the river, which the lightning display is named after, speedboats waited to take us out onto the lake. The rainforest was full of strange wildlife, and from the boats we could hear the scary screaming of the howler monkeys, the world's loudest animals.

A huge petroleum industry is located at the northern end of Lake Maracaibo. "Has the oil industry damaged the environment at the southern end of the lake?" I asked Alan. He shook his head, saying that scientists had found about 130 species of fish there. Then he pointed to the freshwater dolphins near our boat, and water snakes slithering across the lake's surface alarmingly close to the boat. "I guess not," I said.

Besides being a guide, Alan is a wildlife expert and has discovered a new species of butterfly. "Finding something like that is a sign of how unexplored some areas around the lake still are," he said. "It was amazing."

The boats took us to Ologa, a lakeside fishing community. Our hut was basic. "Visitors don't mind it because they spend very little time inside the hut," said Alan. "Most of the night they're outside watching the lightning." I thought sleep might be difficult for other reasons: we were being bitten by mosquitoes and there were caimans, small crocodile-like animals, in the water near the hut. Apparently, they don't attack humans, but I was still anxious.

Night came, and across the lake huge storm clouds appeared and thunder started. Some of the villagers joined us. They welcome the tourists, without fully understanding why they come. After all, the storms are just part of everyday life in the village. At that point a bat flew past, just millimetres from my face, and I jumped up in fright. The villagers were highly amused.

Suddenly, the first flash of lightning shot down to earth, followed by deafening thunder. Then lightning exploded in all directions, lighting up the sky. It continued like this for the next eight hours until daybreak.

These storms occur when warm winds from the north meet cold air from the mountains in the south, and methane gas rises into the air from the natural oil reserves under the lake. This combination results in the spectacular lightning displays.

In 2010, the storms stopped unexpectedly. You might think that the local residents would be pleased – a quiet night finally. However, the sudden absence of something that had always been there worried them. The media were excited by the story and scientists were also very interested. Then, after six weeks of silence, the night storms returned, as intense and regular as ever – fortunately for me.

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(a) Why did the guide go to live in Venezuela?

.....[1]

(b) Why does the guide encourage visitors to buy things at roadside stalls?

.....[1]

(c) According to the chart, which country has provided the most visitors to Catatumbo in the last ten years?

.....[1]

(d) Where does the lightning display get its name from?

.....[1]

(e) According to the guide, what does the amount of wildlife in the southern part of Lake Maracaibo show?

.....[1]

(f) What does the guide think his discovery of a species of butterfly indicates?

.....[1]

(g) Why are tourists satisfied with their simple accommodation in Ologa?

.....[1]

(h) Why are local people in Ologa surprised that visitors go to see the lightning?

.....[1]

(i) Which conditions cause the Catatumbo lightning? Give **two** details.

.....

.....[2]

(j) How did local people feel when the lightning disappeared for some time in 2010?

.....[1]

(k) Which wildlife did the writer feel uncomfortable about, and why? Give **four** details.

.....

.....

.....

.....[4]

[Total: 15]

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Exercise 3

For the past 20 months, Brendan Roberts has been working at weekends and two evenings a week in El Loro, a busy café in the centre of Hepton in the UK. He is in his last year at school and would like to study law at university in two years' time. However, he is worried about how much it will cost and realises that he won't be able to save much money in his current job.

Brendan is keen to make money by setting up his own business. The only places where people his age get together are fast food outlets that sell unhealthy food. His friends are actually quite health-conscious, but the only healthy eating places in town are too expensive. So, Brendan would like to set up a café to cater for young people, offering meals made with locally-grown vegetables and herbs. His speciality, which he has created himself, is called Vegeboost, and the people who have tried it have all given very positive feedback. He has also identified a possible location for the café, which he intends to call Tastebuds. It is in a large old building at 14 Anchor Street, which is currently being turned into a new shopping and entertainment complex. It will be very convenient for Brendan because his house is only five minutes' walk away at 87 Grange Road, Hepton, H6 4NQ. What's more, he is convinced that the new centre will be very popular with young people.

Brendan wants to establish his business in the next two years. He then plans to leave someone else in charge while he studies for his degree in another city. At university, he will try to open a second café aimed largely at his fellow students. If that takes off, he'll open several more cafés in other university cities after he has graduated in five years' time.

Brendan knows he needs funds to start the business, and he has persuaded two local people to finance his project: David Gregory, a lawyer who is his father's friend, and Alice Hope, an IT developer. His business studies teacher Mr Lyon told him about the Young Business Starter Competition. Brendan looked it up online and realised he was exactly the type of person the competition was aimed at – a young person with ideas for a new business. If he won, the prize money would be very useful, but he could also select another prize in addition to the money. Although as an 18-year-old he would benefit from the advice and support on offer, what attracts him more than anything is the free publicity. Brendan has decided to enter the competition, which involves presenting his business plan to the judges. He is concerned that because of school, on the day of the competition, he will only be able to attend after 5.00pm even though it finishes at 6.30pm. However, he is still keen and has downloaded the entry form. His current boss, Mike Garcia, has advised him to replace his email address – kingofthecappuccinos@mymail.com – with something more professional. Brendan has decided to use robertsb@hepton.co instead.

Imagine you are Brendan. Fill in the form, using the information above.



View solution

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YOUNG BUSINESS STARTER COMPETITION (YBSC)

Entry Form

Section A: Personal details

Full name: .....

Age: .....

Home address: .....

Email: .....

How did you hear about the YBSC? .....

Your availability on the competition day: .....

Section B: Your business idea

Name of your proposed business: .....

Type of business: .....

Who the business is aimed at: .....

Names of investors: .....

Do you have any previous experience of running a business? (please delete) YES / NO

The winner receives two prizes: cash and one of the following. Which would be most useful for you? (please tick)

advertising ☐ business advice ☐ IT support ☐

Section C

In the space below, write **one** sentence of between 12 and 20 words describing your plans for your business in five years' time.

[Total: 8]

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Exercise 4

Read the article about a mountain-bike race in France called Megavalanche, and then complete the notes on the following page.

Megavalanche – the craziest mountain-bike race in the world?

With helicopters circling overhead and a DJ playing loud electronic dance music, the noise level at Megavalanche is higher than at any other mountain-bike race in the world.

We're in the French Alps – at 3320 metres, to be precise – and we're on the Sarenne glacier, a huge ice sheet covering a section of Pic Blanc mountain. When Megavalanche was first held in 1995, around 400 mountain-bikers took part. By 2015, there were over 2000 competitors from 30 different countries. It's a three-day event consisting of practice, qualifying rounds and a final 30-kilometre race.

There are other dramatic mountain-bike races around the world, but none of them start on a glacier. They usually involve a series of stages in which riders are timed and the winner has the fastest time over all the stages combined. Megavalanche is not about racing against the clock, however – it's about getting to the finish line before anyone else. It's also the longest mountain-bike race in the world.

On the third day, the 300 mountain-bikers who have qualified set off for the final race down the mountainside. For the first five minutes, they slide down ice, often on their backs, holding on tight to their bikes. The next section of track is easier to ride on as it is covered in fresh snow, but then comes an area of loose rocks. The impact on the body is extreme, but if, at this point, they are desperate for the soft sand tracks found on some mountain-biking trails, then they are out of luck. As they speed on downwards, there are steep drops on both sides. Further down, they get to stony paths in the forest, where the sunlight shining brightly through the trees makes it difficult to see properly. Fortunately, the heavy mud which is found in many cross-country bike races is absent from Megavalanche, but the grassy paths through the fields on the lower slopes of the mountain are far from straightforward. For the experienced mountain-biker, the whole route will take under an hour, and it's a major test of stamina, strength and nerve.

Surprisingly, injuries are not usually serious. "Most accidents happen in training," said one of the organisers, Cathy Labouyrie. "We get the occasional broken arm. Although many riders fall off their bikes on the glacier, they generally don't hurt themselves too badly." So, the race is safer than it might seem. The event is open to anyone, amateurs as well as professionals, but only the most skilled riders make the final.

"The organisers say anyone can enter. I'm not so sure about that," said Josh Naylor, a regular competitor. "You need a level of skill which you only get from many hours of practice. There's certainly a sense of danger about it and that's something we're all attracted to."

"It's a chance to compete against the best mountain-bikers in the world," said Florence Toulon. "And the whole atmosphere is really exciting too. Spectators say the scenery is glorious," she adds. "But we don't notice it. We're too busy pedalling, trying not to fall off, avoiding other riders, picking ourselves up off the ground, and checking the bike's still OK!"

View solution

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9

You are going to give a talk about the mountain-bike race, Megavalanche, to your class.

Prepare some notes to use as the basis for your talk.

Make short notes under each heading.

How Megavalanche is different from other mountain-bike races:

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

Different surfaces Megavalanche competitors have to ride over:

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

Reasons mountain-bikers give for taking part:

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

[Total: 9]

Exercise 5

View solution

Read the following article about using wind turbines to produce electricity.

Write a summary about the advantages and disadvantages of using wind turbines to produce electricity.

Your summary should be about 100 words long (and no more than 120 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your summary and up to 5 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Wind power

Wind is a result of the sun unevenly heating the earth's surface; air heated by the sun rises and cooler air moves into the space left by the warm air. This movement becomes wind, and we can use this energy for our own purposes.

Using wind power is not a new idea, of course. For thousands of years, sailors and fishermen have used sails to capture the energy of the wind, and farmers have used windmills to grind their grains and pump water. But in the last 20 years, a large number of wind turbines have been built in many parts of the world for the purpose of generating electricity.

Although producing energy from wind power is becoming increasingly popular, wind turbines still only provide a small amount of the world's energy. The advantages and disadvantages of using wind power in comparison with other energy sources – nuclear power; fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal; and renewable sources such as solar and wave power – have been the subject of much debate.

Wind power is a relatively clean source of energy. In fact, the impact on the environment is insignificant when compared with the greenhouse gases and other pollutants caused by burning fossil fuels. Wind is also renewable; we cannot use up the wind in the way that we can use up oil or gas. However, wind is not constant, which means that turbines do not produce the same amount of energy all the time.

Once turbines have been manufactured and installed, wind energy is cheap because the wind itself is free. Turbines also take up less space than the power plants associated with nuclear power and fossil fuels. Although they can be tall, each turbine only occupies a small area of land.

In more remote locations where it may be difficult to connect to main power grids, wind turbines are a very useful resource. They can also be designed to supply energy to communities of different sizes, although huge windfarms are necessary to produce sufficient energy for larger communities.

There are mixed opinions about the visual impact of wind turbines on the landscape. Many people think that wind farms on the land and at sea are ugly structures, which spoil areas of natural beauty. They can be noisy as well, and people living near them sometimes find the noise level disturbing. There has also been research showing that the rotating blades of turbines kill birds and bats which fly into them by accident. There is no doubt, however, that pollution from fossil fuel energy use has a much more harmful effect on wildlife and natural habitats – thousands of birds have been killed as a result of oil spills.

No single source of energy is entirely problem-free, and it is likely that our future energy requirements will have to be met by a combination of different energy sources. However, energy experts predict that if the wind industry continues to grow at the same rate, by 2050 the answer to 30% of the world's electricity needs could be found blowing in the wind.

[Total: 11]

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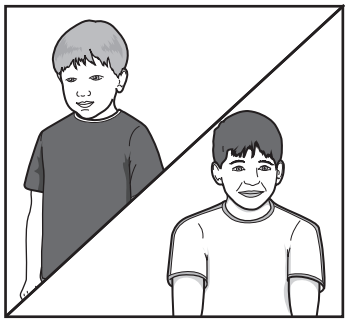
[Total: 11]

Exercise 6

View solution





Last week you met a person who you hadn't seen for a few years.

Write an email to a friend about it.

In your email, you should:

- explain how you know this person
- describe how this person has changed in the last few years
- say what you did together when you met last week.

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

Your email should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 10 marks for the content of your email, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

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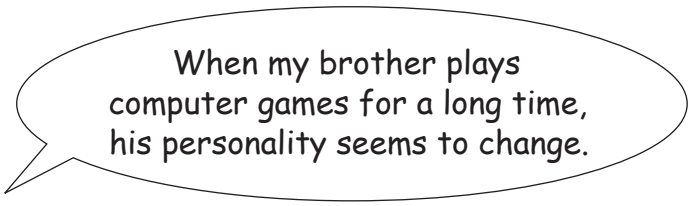
[Total: 19]

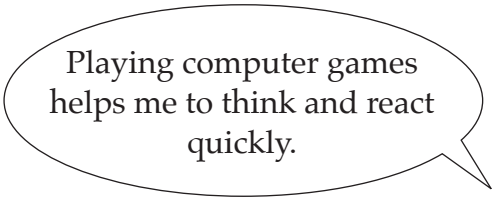
Exercise 7

In class, you have had a discussion about playing computer games. Your teacher has asked you to write an article for the school magazine on this subject.

View solution

Here are two comments from your friends:





Write an article for the school magazine, giving your views.

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

Your article should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 10 marks for the content of your article, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

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