Cambridge Assessment International Education

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

Paper 1 Reading and Writing **October/November 2025**

2 hours

You must answer on the question paper.

No additional materials are needed.

INSTRUCTIONS
- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION
- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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[Turn over

Exercise 1

Read the article about an unusual train in the Pyrénées mountains of southwest France, and then answer the questions.

The Train d'Artouste

By travel writer Kamal Hassan

My journey on the Train d'Artouste began under bright sunshine at Ossau2000, the first station on the line.

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I spent 90 minutes there, mainly taking photos of the dam, the lake and the surrounding mountain peaks, before catching the train back to Ossau2000.

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Question 1

View solution

What type of passengers was the Train d'Artouste originally intended for?

..... [1]

Question 2

View solution

What did the Train d'Artouste remind the writer of when he first saw it?

..... [1]

Question 3

View solution

Why did the writer prefer the Train d'Artouste to other trains in the region?

..... [1]

Question 4

View solution

In which part of the train did the writer sit?

..... [1]

Question 5

View solution

Which type of animal was the writer disappointed not to see?

..... [1]

Question 6

View solution

What different weather conditions did the writer experience while on the Train d'Artouste?

Give **three** details.

.....

.....

..... [3]

[Total: 8]

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Exercise 2

Read the article about four people (**A–D**) who enjoy the sport of mountain biking. Then answer **Questions 7(a)–(i).**

Mountain biking

A Arif Khan

Since I finished school six months ago, I've been doing a boring supermarket job, but my main interest in life is competing in mountain-bike races. I'm hoping a professional team might invite me to race for them. There are lots of excellent young mountain bikers and the chances of becoming a professional are limited, but I have great belief in my ability. I was eight when I started mountain biking. My parents, who are now in their 50s, are both extremely fit road cyclists and runners, and they love nature and being outdoors. So, my choice of sport is hardly a great surprise. When I was 14, I damaged my shoulder in an accident and it was two years before I rode again. I needed time to recover, physically and psychologically, but I wish I'd re-started sooner than I did. While I wasn't riding, my rivals were improving fast and I wasn't.

B May Foo

I'm a 42-year-old mother of two young children and I work full-time as a lawyer. Too much work, tiredness and stress are often associated with the type of life I have, but I'm actually in better shape, physically and mentally, than I've ever been before. That's mostly because twice a week I ride my bike along rough tracks through the forests that cover my region. Mountain bikers like me have been using those tracks for years, and we're careful to avoid doing any harm to the soil, plants and wildlife in the area. Unfortunately, though, that's not always the case in other places where some bikers do their sport. I understand wanting to be able to cycle anywhere you feel like, without any regulations, but there have to be limits on what you do in all areas of life. In fact, that's an important lesson I've learned from mountain biking.

C Jana Hleb

I love exploring new mountain-biking routes through a beautiful national park near my home. The physical challenges and closeness to nature mean it's a whole world away from creating software security systems, which is how I make a living. I did some mountain biking as a teenager and enjoyed it. I'd been quite timid as a child, but I realised that if I could cope with mountain biking – you can only really do it if you're fit and brave enough – I needn't be afraid of anything, and that's still how I see it. But I found many people in the sport rather arrogant, which annoyed me, so I quit when I was 19. Then, three years ago, my older sister, who loves mountain biking, encouraged me to try it again, and now I actually like most people I meet – I can see that they're just very competitive.

D Keith Shaw

I was a professional mountain biker for 12 years, taking part in competitions worldwide. I loved the training and friendship with other team members. Like most riders, however, I never made much money and I had to increase my income by doing some journalism. I wrote about mountain biking, but also about deforestation and the climate crisis because these issues affect the places where we do our sport. Nowadays, I'm a full-time journalist and there are times when I can't fit mountain biking into my schedule. But it's still important to me. It's simple really: there's just me, my bike and the landscape, with no deadlines and no-one telling me where to go or what to do. At the same time, there's so much to learn from it: how to concentrate, make decisions and deal with difficult situations. They're all things I need as a journalist as well as in daily life.

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For each question write the correct letter, A, B, C or D, on the line.

Question 7

Which person …

View solution

(a) highlights the sense of freedom that comes with mountain biking? ..... [1]

(b) points out how different mountain biking is from the work they do? ..... [1]

(c) suggests that it was predictable they would take up mountain biking? ..... [1]

(d) says that mountain biking has made them more self-confident? ..... [1]

View solution

(e) points out the health benefits that mountain biking can bring? ..... [1]

View solution

(f) thinks that skills developed through mountain biking are useful in other activities? ..... [1]

View solution

(g) regrets a period that they spent away from mountain biking? ..... [1]

View solution

(h) says that their feelings about other mountain bikers have changed? ..... [1]

(i) expresses concern about the effect mountain biking can have on the environment? ..... [1]

[Total: 9]

View solution

Exercise 3

Read the article about a woman called Rosa Perera who works as a video game designer, and then complete the notes.

My work as a video game designer

Video game designers get to play lots of video games. They try out new ideas, develop games and test them. They can also get involved in researching what the latest video games on the market are like. In my case, it was a love of gaming that drew me into the field of game design about 15 years ago.

I also liked the idea of doing something that could make people happy. Video games get criticised a lot. It's thought, for example, that games make some players aggressive, and there may well be some truth in this, which is obviously a worry for me. Recent studies have shown, however, that on the whole, video games do a lot of good.

When I tell people what I do, I get different reactions. While there is some respect and even admiration for game designers, others accuse us of being irresponsible, which doesn't bother me as I know that's wrong. Learning that game design is actually a career can also come as a genuine surprise, and some people don't take the job seriously. This is something I find very hard to deal with.

Video game design has been going for over 30 years now, so it's actually quite well-established as a profession, with some game designers having international reputations and earning lots of money. On the other hand, projects often get cancelled. This can be for all sorts of different reasons, and for people in my industry that can be a real problem.

The process of creating a video game involves lots of people with different skills and responsibilities, so teamwork is a key part of the job. This point appealed greatly when I was trying to decide whether to specialise in game design, as did knowing I'd be sharing similar interests with future colleagues – films, music, graphic art, pop culture in general, as well as gaming.

People working in video game development come from many different backgrounds. For example, I studied literature at university. And although I've acquired some programming and other technical skills, I specialise in developing the storyline of a game and its characters, rather than details of how you play a game. The opportunity to be creative like this was a very important factor when I was considering what sort of employment I should go for.

One typical feature of game development is that individuals will work long hours but can choose when to work to suit different lifestyles. This flexible daily timetable helped convince me to try game design, in fact. Another common aspect of game development is that, unfortunately, project deadlines can be unrealistic – this is something that everyone working on a game, including designers like me, is likely to experience at one point or another.

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Imagine you are going to give a talk to your classmates about Rosa's work as a video game designer.

Use words from the article to help you write some notes.

Make short notes under each heading.

View solution

Question 8

What first attracted Rosa to a career as a video game designer:

Example: a love of gaming

- .....
- .....
- .....
- ..... [4]

View solution

Question 9

What Rosa dislikes about her work:

- .....
- .....
- ..... [3]

[Total: 7]

Exercise 4

Read the article by a student called Erin Barker about a competition she took part in that involved picking up rubbish.

The litter-picking competition

Australian student Erin Barker describes her experience of SpoGomi, a sport in which players pick up litter in public spaces

One Sunday morning last month, I spent two hours picking up litter in central Tokyo. I'd never been to Japan before and it was an unusual way of getting to know it. Back home in Australia, my friends Jess, Paul and Caitlin had formed a team to take part in an international litter-picking competition. Competitive litter-picking, known as *SpoGomi*, was established in Japan in 2008 to make people more aware of waste and the damage it causes. It's an issue my friends and I are very concerned about. Unfortunately, Caitlin had to drop out at the last moment, so Jess and Paul were worried they wouldn't be able to go to Japan. They're close friends of mine, and I was keen to help out, so I offered to take Caitlin's place.

Eight teams from different countries entered the competition. Equipped with gloves and large sacks, we had to collect as much rubbish as possible in two hours, with results based on the types of litter and overall weight collected. Officials checked that competition rules were followed. Players couldn't take rubbish from bins and front gardens, which seemed fair enough, but anyone seen jogging lost points, which my friends and I thought was ridiculous. After all, speed was an element of the competition. Another rule was that we couldn't follow other competitors; we had to work out for ourselves where to find the most litter.

Shibuya, the district where the competition was held, is famous for being one of the busiest parts of Tokyo. It has two railway stations, clothes stores, restaurants, night-clubs and millions of people passing through every day. I was amazed when we got there as I'd seen photographs of it and had assumed that early on Sundays it would be full of the previous day's rubbish. It didn't look dirty at all, though, and I realised that finding enough litter to fill our bags would be tough.

We thought we were a pretty good team. We're all young and fit. Paul is tall and strong, and can carry large sacks full of rubbish. Jess and I are smaller, but very fast. Although we study different subjects – history, engineering and medicine – we all have lots in common, and we agreed we'd try our best to win while making sure that we also had fun. I'm pretty sure this attitude is what gave us an advantage over some of our opponents.

Soon after the race started, we realised we wouldn't win if we tried to pick up every single item of rubbish we saw. Some smaller things like cigarette ends earned more points than larger, more obvious things, like pieces of paper. But smaller objects usually take longer to lift up off the street or pavement and put in sacks, so we decided to mainly collect bigger things, like drinks cans and plastic bottles. After two hours, we'd gathered a total of 53 kg of litter, and with different points for different kinds of litter, we came third.

Back in Australia, Jess and Paul asked if I'd join them again in another competition. I said yes, but only with much more training – in litter-picking techniques, for example – than was possible for Tokyo. *SpoGomi* is becoming increasingly popular, especially in Japan, but also elsewhere. I didn't have much opportunity to talk to people from the teams we raced against, but when I did, I learned there's plenty of interest internationally. The idea of doing something about the problem of waste is something I fully support, of course.

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For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C, and put a tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

View solution

Question 10

Erin says she decided to take part in the litter-picking competition because she

A saw it as an effective way to protect the environment. ☐

B wanted to do some people she knew a favour. ☐

C liked the idea of visiting another country. ☐

[1]

View solution

Question 11

Erin was annoyed that her team wasn't allowed to

A study what other competitors were doing. ☐

B collect rubbish from private properties. ☐

C run through the streets during the event. ☐

[1]

View solution

Question 12

How did Erin feel about the district where the competition was held?

A impressed by the reputation it had ☐

B surprised at how clean it appeared to be ☐

C excited by the amount of activity going on there ☐

[1]

View solution

Question 13

Erin thinks her team's key strength was

A the way they approached the competition. ☐

B the variety of backgrounds they came from. ☐

C the range of physical qualities they each had. ☐

[1]

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Question 14

View solution

During the race, Erin's team focused on larger items of rubbish because

A they were worth more points. ☐

B they were easier to see on the ground. ☐

C they could be picked up more quickly. ☐

[1]

Question 15

View solution

If she was to take part in another litter-picking competition, Erin would

A spend more time raising awareness of pollution. ☐

B prepare differently for what was involved. ☐

C try harder to get to know other competitors. ☐

[1]

[Total: 6]

Please turn over for Exercise 5.

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Exercise 5

View solution

Question 16



You have decided to take part in a language course for teenagers during your next school holidays.

Write an email to a friend about the language course.

In your email you should:

- say how you heard about the language course
- describe what you will do on the language course
- explain why you think your friend should take part in the same language course.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your email and up to 9 marks for the language used.

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[Total: 15]

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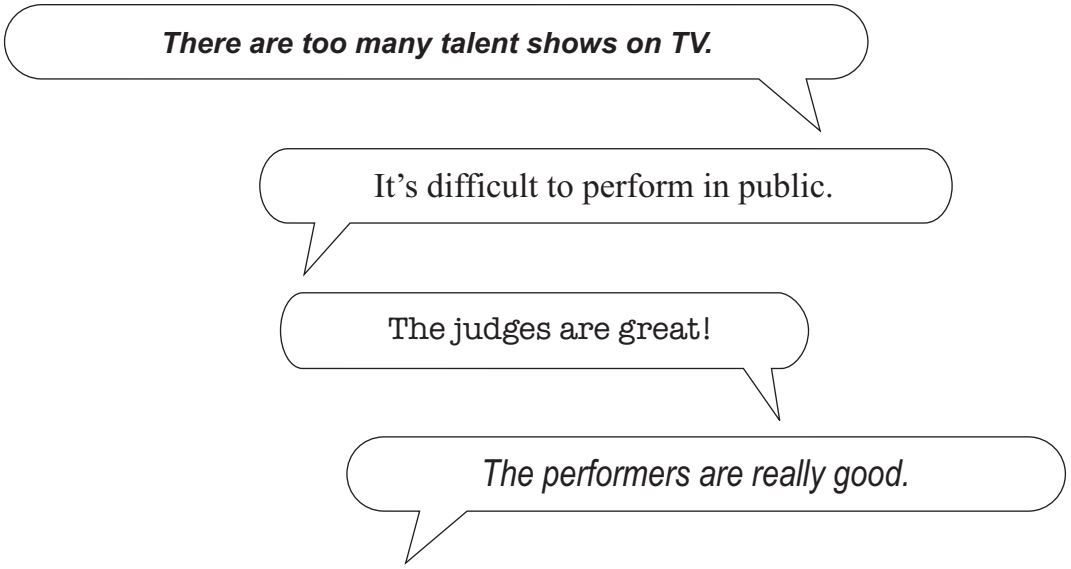
Exercise 6

View solution

Question 17

You recently watched a new television talent show in which ordinary people perform in front of a group of judges and a studio audience. You have decided to write a review of the show for your school magazine.

Here are some comments about the television talent show:



Write a review for your school magazine.

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

Your review should be between 120 and 160 words long.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your review and up to 9 marks for the language used.

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[Total: 15]

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