Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

CANDIDATE NAME									
CENTRE NUMBER						CANDIDATE NUMBER				

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE **0510/13**

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 island called Surtsey, near Iceland, and then answer the questions.

Surtsey Island

A fascinating place for scientists

On November 14, 1963, a series of huge underwater explosions was heard by fishermen 32 km from the southern coast of Iceland. They used their radios to let people know, and within a day, dozens of military and research planes and boats were in the area. A volcano had come to life: the result was the new island of Surtsey.

Surtsey's appearance raised interesting questions. What forms of life would appear on the island? When? How would they get there? In order for scientists to find out, Surtsey is closed to tourists. Researchers wanting to study there need to obtain written permission stating when and for how much time they can go. The next step is to do a special training course. This includes learning how to check clothing and other gear for what's known as hitchhikers – things such as seeds which could grow on Surtsey but which didn't arrive naturally.

Once researchers reach the island, there are certain things they must do. They can't just travel anywhere, but instead have to use established footpaths. No vehicles are allowed, and people can only work in certain areas. Once an expedition has finished, literally everything that came to the island must also leave it.

All these rules have been worth it – Surtsey remains unspoilt, which allows scientists to learn about how life establishes itself on a new island. Some of the first signs were observed in 1965, when a plant called sea rocket was found growing on Surtsey and a mosquito was also spotted. Other early arrivals included spiders and various types of insects which were either blown there or floated on pieces of wood or plastic. Perhaps unsurprisingly however, sea birds were observed on Surtsey from the very beginning, and species now visit from as far away as southern Europe. Research trips to Surtsey are not allowed during the egg-laying season. This finishes in July. There is then a short period for visits, which ends with the arrival of grey seals. Over 100 babies, or pups, are now born there each year.

Although warm ocean currents around Surtsey mean temperatures there are never especially cold, research work becomes almost impossible due to frequent severe storms in the winter. The constant action of the ocean has already reduced Surtsey's size by about 50 per cent. Indeed, in the long term, it's only expected to remain above water for another 100 years or so. Before then, though, an ongoing challenge faced by Surtsey is its popularity. Because people cannot land there, they have to look at it from the sea or the air. As activity around the island increases, it is likely to result in oil pollution, which could have devastating effects on the island's species.

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Question 1

View solution

Who noticed the first signs that Surtsey was being formed?

..... [1]

Question 2

View solution

What do all scientists have to take part in before a trip to Surtsey?

..... [1]

Question 3

View solution

How must visitors to Surtsey find their way around the island?

..... [1]

Question 4

View solution

What was the first type of animal seen on Surtsey?

..... [1]

Question 5

View solution

What is the most serious potential threat to wildlife on Surtsey?

..... [1]

Question 6

View solution

What factors does the writer say limit how long scientists can spend on Surtsey?

Give **three** details.

.....

.....

..... [3]

[Total: 8]

Exercise 2

Read the article about four young female actors (**A–D**) who perform in a play in a famous London theatre. Then answer **Question 7(a)–(i)**.

Young actors

Four young female actors share their thoughts on acting and how it affects their lives

A Ayeesha

I've been performing in this show for three months now. I really only got the role by accident. My friend wanted to be in it but was nervous about going to the auditions on her own, so I said I'd keep her company. Unfortunately for her, I got the part, and she didn't – we're still friends, though! I really enjoyed acting at school, but this is my first paid work. I still can't believe it. Before I started, I loved hearing about the strange and interesting people working in theatre. Everyone said, 'Oh, they're probably really boring in reality.' I'm glad to report that actors really are 'different'. They're also the most generous people you'll meet, especially when it comes to helping new actors. Thanks to them saying things like 'maybe you should try this' or 'have you thought about that?', I'm a better actor by far than I was.

B Lisa

I joined the show two months ago. I'm only on stage for about an hour a day, but when I first started, I couldn't believe how exhausted I felt afterwards. It's been a fantastic experience, though, and I've learned loads. Whatever their reputation might be, actors are fun and very encouraging. I could easily get suggestions for improving my performances, but I've always tried to follow my own feelings. Other aspects have been less positive. I always thought people went to the theatre to watch the play, but all too often, they'll do things like make phone calls, talk loudly, film the show and even have picnics. It never ceases to amaze me! I know acting's not great in terms of career security, but I love it. As for the future, my only real plan is to go to college. After that, I might consider a return to the stage.

C Yuko

I've really enjoyed being in this show. As a result, I want to stay in the theatre. I find myself increasingly interested in costume design, though. That's more where I see myself working in the future, rather than acting. That might be because performing on stage, even in front of hundreds of people, seems no different to school drama classes. It's just a bit of fun, and it's hard to believe some people get paid a fortune to do it. My friends certainly think – wrongly – that I am. That's probably why they're always asking me to help them get into acting. Sadly, I don't have that much influence! I'm glad it hasn't affected our friendships. It reminds me there's a life outside acting – and acting certainly does take up a lot of time. With all my schoolwork and sports – I play lots of tennis – I'm always busy. Luckily, that's not a problem for me!

D Ara

Although I love being in this show, I'm not one of those people who give every moment to their acting. Because I'm so young, I can only work three nights a week – I share the role with other people. That's much less demanding than professional actors' jobs but doesn't stop me getting stressed about trying to fit in homework and a social life with all the rehearsals and shows I do. So far at least, all my friends are still there for me, and I still get to do 'normal' teenage things. It can be easy, especially after a tough performance, to tell yourself you're too tired to meet friends. It all depends on the people watching the play. If everything goes well, their reaction can be a real boost to us all; if it doesn't, there's nothing worse than a silent theatre.

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

Question 7

View solution

Which person …

(a) suggests that a long-term career on stage is unlikely? ..... [1]

View solution **(b)** mentions the physical demands of acting on stage? ..... [1]

View solution **(c)** finds it a challenge to balance performing with other commitments? ..... [1]

View solution **(d)** was pleased to find that actors are exactly as she imagined? ..... [1]

View solution **(e)** is frequently shocked by the behaviour of audiences? ..... [1]

View solution **(f)** became an actor as a result of trying to help someone else? ..... [1]

View solution **(g)** emphasises the importance to actors of a satisfied audience? ..... [1]

View solution **(h)** has benefited from the advice of more experienced actors? ..... [1]

(i) finds it hard to take acting seriously? ..... [1]

[Total: 9]

View solution

Exercise 3

Read the article about making urban areas more natural – a process known as urban rewilding – and then complete the notes.

Why we need to rewild our cities

Journalist Josh Mackenzie writes about introducing more nature into urban areas

People are becoming increasingly aware of environmental issues and the importance of the natural world. With so many of us now living in urban areas, there is a growing interest in urban rewilding. This involves getting more plants and wildlife into our towns and cities. I've been looking at ways in which this is happening in my city.

One of the strongest arguments for urban rewilding is that, in the long run, it will help fight the impact of climate change. In many cities, this has led to increased, often very extreme, rainfall. Rewilding in the form of tree planting can make a real difference as trees are able to capture and store rainwater. In my city, there's definitely been less flooding, which has been a problem in previous years.

It's probably true to say that the biggest impact of rewilding is felt on a personal level. One thing everyone notices is that cities are getting warmer. This occurs when heat from human activity is trapped by all the concrete structures found there. As a result, urban areas can be several degrees hotter than the surrounding countryside. This can cause sleepless nights and stress. Simply switching on the air conditioning is only a short-term solution, however. Ultimately, introducing more shade from trees is the way forward – something I've become aware of on my daily walks to work. Clearly, there are costs involved when making such changes. This is why rewilding is sometimes claimed to be anti-business. In fact, over time, in most workplaces, this can save companies money.

It has long been known that spending time in the countryside improves people's health. Even in cities, similar effects may be obtained just as a result of having more green spaces. These are all too rare in cities, but more of them have been created in my neighbourhood recently. From a commercial point of view, this can have a positive impact, in that workers become more productive. Rewilding a city can also have wider implications: it can make the place more attractive, which creates opportunities in the tourist industry.

People often have doubts about rewilding because they fear it involves reintroducing large animals. However, this only really applies to rural rewilding projects. That being said, rewilding might attract more wildlife, like birds and insects, to a city. And we should ignore any suggestions that it means the end of building in cities. In fact, it simply means doing as much as possible to encourage more carefully planned housing developments, which I'm delighted to say is now happening in my area.

In summary, the aim of rewilding is to find a compromise between the needs of humans and nature so that our urban areas are places where both can exist in harmony.

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Imagine you are going to give a talk about urban rewilding to your classmates.
Use words from the article to help you write some notes.

Make short notes under each heading.

View solution

Question 8

Effects of urban rewilding that Josh has noticed in his city:

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

View solution

Question 9

Why urban rewilding is good for business:

- .....
- ..... [2]

View solution

Question 10

Mistaken beliefs about urban rewilding:

- .....
- ..... [2]

[Total: 7]

Exercise 4

Read the article about a young vet working in Australia, and then answer the questions.

Meet the young flying vet

Kat Sanders flies around the Australian countryside to treat animals of all shapes and sizes

My name's Kat Sanders.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

16

They're not just people who are paying my salary!

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

View solution

Question 11

Kat says that flying doctors and vets

A have a more difficult job than most people imagine. ☐

B offer a practical solution to a problem. ☐

C deserve to be more well known. ☐

[1]

View solution

Question 12

What does Kat suggest about her career?

A It is something she has never considered changing. ☐

B It was what her parents always encouraged her to do. ☐

C It was an obvious choice given her childhood experiences. ☐

[1]

View solution

Question 13

What does 'it' refer to in line 16?

A driving to see patients ☐

B doing a wider variety of work ☐

C getting everything in Kat's plane ☐

[1]

View solution

Question 14

In paragraph 4, what point does Kat make about flying?

A It has become increasingly difficult to justify financially. ☐

B It helps to distract her from her work as a vet. ☐

C It is something she prefers to do for pleasure. ☐

[1]

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Question 15

View solution

Kat mentions having disagreements as an example of

A the way her relationship with her parents has changed. ☐

B the problems faced by her parents when she is away. ☐

C the love she and her parents have for their way of life. ☐

[1]

Question 16

View solution

In the final paragraph, Kat explains why her work situation

A would only really suit people from the local area. ☐

B has an attraction that is hard for most people to see. ☐

C seems to be discouraging young vets looking for work. ☐

[1]

[Total: 6]

Please turn over for Exercise 5.

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Exercise 5

View solution

Question 17



You recently attended a family celebration. Something unexpected happened during the celebration.

Write an email to a friend about the celebration.

In your email, you should:

- explain what the celebration was
- describe what happened that was unexpected
- say how you felt afterwards.

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]

Exercise 6

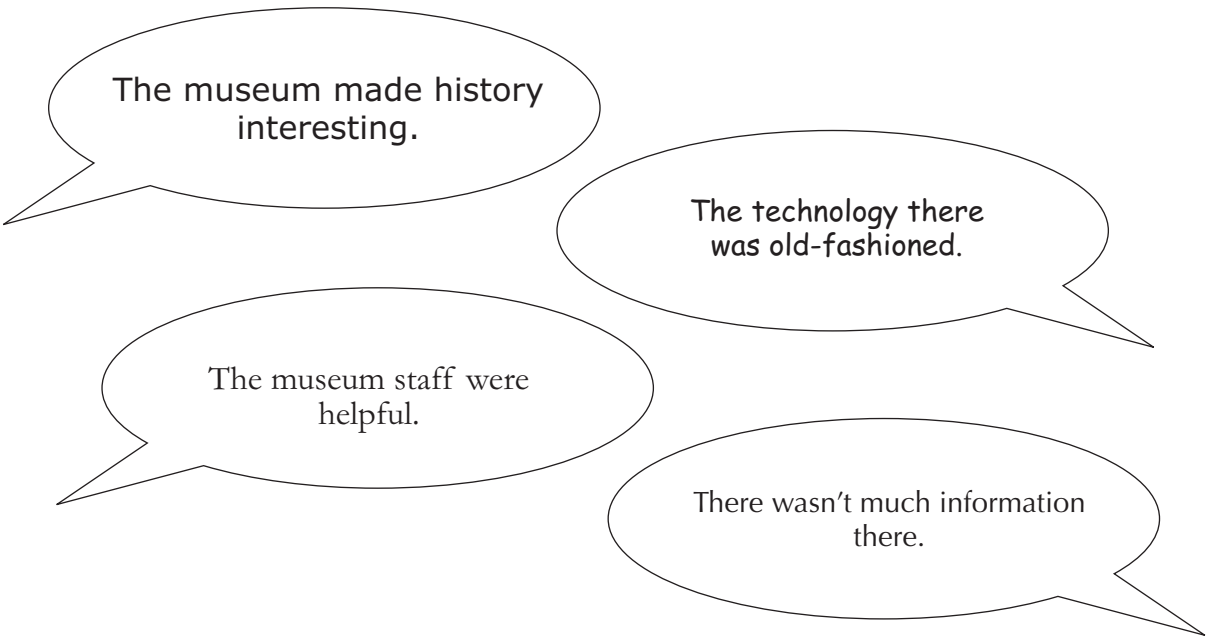
View solution

Question 18

You recently went on a school trip to a museum. Your head teacher would like opinions on the museum trip and has asked you to write a report about it.

In your report, say what was good about visiting the museum AND suggest how the experience for young visitors to the museum could be improved.

Here are some comments:



Now write a report on the museum trip for your head teacher.

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

Write about 120 to 160 words.

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

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[Total: 15]

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