



Cambridge IGCSE™ (9-1)

CANDIDATE
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FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0990/12

Paper 1 Reading

May/June 2024

2 hours

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

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.
- If additional space is needed, you should use the lined pages at the end of this booklet; the question number or numbers must be clearly shown.
- Dictionaries are not allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].
- The insert contains the reading texts.

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



Read **Text A**, *Bring your child to work day*, in the insert and then answer **Questions 1(a)–(e)** on this question paper.

Question 1

- (a) What is the aim of 'Bring your child to work day' according to paragraph 1?

.....
 [1]

- (b) **Using your own words**, explain what the text means by:

(i) 'similar schemes' (line 6)
 [2]

(ii) 'mutually convenient' (line 7)
 [2]

- (c) Re-read paragraph 2 ('The initiative ... children.').

Give **two** reasons why some companies participating in 'Bring your child to work day' choose **not** to do it on a set international date?

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[2]

(d) Re-read paragraphs 3 and 4 ('Why not ... the fields.').

- (i) Give **two** ways in which participating in 'Bring your child to work day' might influence a child's future career according to the text.

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[2]

- (ii) Identify the benefits for the company of organising a 'Bring your child to work day' for their employees.

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[3]

(e) Re-read paragraph 5 ('Of course ... show.').

Using your own words, explain why some people might think that 'Bring your child to work day' is **not** a good idea.

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[3]

(f) According to Text B, what are the positives for **and** of older learners returning to university?

Your summary should not be more than 120 words.

Up to 10 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 5 marks for the quality of your writing.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

[illegible]

[Total: 30]

Read **Text C, *Changing places***, in the insert and then answer **Questions 2(a)–(d)** on this question paper.

Question 2

(a) Identify a word or phrase from the text which suggests the same idea as the words underlined:

(i) Initially, Sonja had been keen and excited about the idea of working in Siurung.

..... [1]

(ii) Sonja knew how to indicate respectfully that she did not want any more food without causing offence.

..... [1]

(iii) Sonja was curled up beneath the bedclothes to keep warm.

..... [1]

(iv) The wedding is the last occasion of its type in Ramesh's family.

..... [1]

(b) Using your own words, explain what the writer means by each of the words underlined:

The weather's definitely getting better – less cold. Ramesh proposes another hike after school. Since arriving, I've been grateful for his kindness. He's become like a brother. When we're in a group and everyone's talking, he makes sure I'm not left out, translating for me what's going on.

Next week, there's a wedding in Ramesh's family!

(i) definitely [1]

(ii) proposes [1]

(iii) translating [1]

- (c) Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests her feelings at this family occasion.

Use your own words in your explanation.

10 February

There's a buffet: mini mountains of curried vegetables, accompanied by copious amounts of rice! The village square teems and fizzes with people eating, drinking, laughing and children of all ages running. Weddings always provide an opportunity for people who live far apart to see each other, catch up, remark on how the children have grown. Everything here's so similar and so different from the world I've left behind.

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[3]

(d) Re-read paragraphs 6 and 13.

- Paragraph 6 begins 'I want to tell them ...' and is about the writer's first impressions on arriving at the village of Siurung.
- Paragraph 13 begins 'A family trek ...' and is about the writer's feelings once the wedding festivities are over.

Explain how the writer uses language to convey meaning and to create effect in these paragraphs. Choose **three** examples of words or phrases from **each** paragraph to support your answer. Your choices should include the use of imagery.

Write about 200 to 300 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer.

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[Total: 25]

Re-read **Text C, *Changing places***, in the insert and then answer **Question 3** on this question paper.

Question 3

Later the same year, Ramesh is returning the exchange: working in Sonja's city centre school and staying with her family. One week into his visit he gives a talk to a group of teachers from Sonja's school who are also considering volunteering for a work exchange in Siurung.

Write the words of Ramesh's talk.

In the talk you should:

- outline what Sonja appeared to enjoy most about her stay **and** why
- describe what life in Siurung is like, the challenges they are likely to encounter during their visit to the area **and** anything they should prepare for in advance
- explain why exchange visits like this are important **and** what Ramesh feels he will have gained from the whole experience.

Write about 250 to 350 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 10 marks for the quality of your writing.

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