

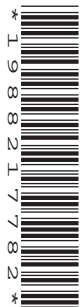


# Cambridge International AS & A Level

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE****9093/12**

Paper 1 Passages

**October/November 2020****2 hours 15 minutes**

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Answer **two** questions in total:  
Answer Question 1.  
Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

**INFORMATION**

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

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This document has **8** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

Answer Question 1 **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 The following text is taken from a newspaper article about commercial products designed to help people sleep.

(a) Comment on the language and style of the text. [15]

(b) An advertising company produces a television advertisement for one of the gadgets mentioned in the text.

Basing your writing closely on the material of the original article, and using 120 to 150 of your own words, write a section of the voiceover script for the advertisement. [10]

### Can't Sleep? There's an app for that

My forays into the sleep-industrial complex really took off after the birth of my son. Being a new parent turns you into a sleep obsessive. My harried peers and I would swap tips on getting our infants to shut their eyes and stay that way for longer than an hour. And then came the products: white noise machines, swaddling blankets, aromatherapy oils. When the dratted soft toy that is meant to recreate the noises in the womb failed me, I scoured online forums searching for the good stuff. 5

I became so fixated on sleep that by the time my son stopped waking every two hours at night, I had developed insomnia. Again, I turned to the internet to find a cure. Sleep consultants, pills, apps and meditation mantras all promised a solution – at a cost. Sleep is big business, particularly as mobile phones further distract and stimulate our minds. According to Euromonitor, the market research company, sleep aids are one of the fastest-growing categories in consumer health, worth about \$2.2 billion globally in 2016. I tried three products to see if any of them actually worked for me. 10 15

#### **Bodyclock Luxe 750D by Lumie Bodyclock**

This Lumie 'dawn simulator' is a large, massively expensive alarm clock with a light that mimics the effect of sunrise and sunset, and a radio. It had one immediate advantage for me: removing the need for a mobile device in the bedroom. The interface is a bit complicated and sparked an argument the first day when my partner complained I had set the alarm too loud: I had to leaf through the manual to figure out how to turn it down. 20

The feature I liked the best was the fake sunrise effect. This encourages you to rouse from slumber gradually rather than being assaulted by a beeping alarm, and I imagine it would be helpful during long northern hemisphere winters when you have to force yourself awake in darkness. I was more sceptical about the sunset feature, which dims the lights gradually at bedtime. As someone who reads in bed, I don't quite understand the point. 25

I loved the thunderstorm, blackbird and white noise for relaxing but was less keen on the traffic and the ping-pong. And I would rather wake to the radio than a kitten purring or crickets chirruping. I don't think it would do much for my sleeplessness but it's a brilliant alarm clock. **Rating: 4/5** 30

#### **Deep Sleep Pillow Spray by This Works**

Aromatherapy is appealing; it seems romantic and natural, and smells nice. Exhausted on a Friday evening, I sprayed this on my son's pillow. We lay down 35

together, inhaling the lavender and chamomile. After 20 seconds, my son grew restless. 'Mummy, is it working?' Clearly not.

Later, I applied it to my own pillow. Focusing on the smell and on my breathing was meditative. Later, my partner found me passed out. 'It worked then,' he said, raising an eyebrow. A few days later I tried it again in a fit of sleeplessness. An hour later, I was wide awake. **Rating: 2/5**

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### **Sleepio by Big Health**

This app/website was devised by a neuroscientist specialising in sleep research and his ex-insomniac business partner. Based on cognitive behavioural therapy, it features advice dispensed by a cartoon professor with a calming accent. You fill out a sleep diary to identify which aspects of sleep you want to improve.

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Over six weekly interactive sessions, 'the prof' delivers tailored advice on subjects such as light exposure and exercise.

Full disclosure: I didn't complete the programme due to time constraints. But I liked some bits, such as making a list of good things that had happened that day and writing a to-do list to nail down whirring worries before bed. However, accessing it through a mobile and laptop did nothing for my digital disengagement. **Rating: 3/5**

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2 The following text is an extract from a short story by the writer Zadie Smith. In the extract, the narrator is on a family holiday in Spain.

(a) Comment on the language and style of the text. [15]

(b) Imagine you are one of the sisters that the narrator refers to in the story. You write a diary entry for the day described in the text.

Basing your writing closely on the material of the original passage, and using 120 to 150 of your own words, write a section of the diary entry. [10]

What is the solution to life? How can it be lived ‘well’? Opposite our loungers are two curvaceous girls, sisters. They arrive very early each morning, and instead of the common plastic loungers used by the rest of us they manage to nab one of the rare white four-poster beds that face the ocean. These sisters are eighteen and nineteen years old. Their outdoor bed sports gauzy white curtains on all four sides, to protect whoever lies upon it from the sun. But the sisters draw the curtains back, creating a stage, and lie out, perfecting their tans. 5

The reason I bring them up is that, compared to everyone else here, they are unusually active. They spend more time on dry land than anyone else, principally taking pictures of each other on their phones. For the sisters, this business of photographs is a form of labor that fills each day to its limit. It is an accounting of life that takes as long as life itself. Personally, I am moved by their industry. No one is paying them for their labor, yet this does not deter them. Like photographers’ assistants at real photo shoots, first they prep the area, cleaning it, improving it, discussing the angle of the light, and, if necessary, they will even move the bed in order to crop from the shot anything unsightly: stray trash, old leaves, old people. Prepping the area takes some time. Because their phones have such depth of image, even a sweet wrapper many yards away must be removed. Then their props are gathered: pink flower petals, extravagant fruit cocktails with photogenic umbrellas protruding from them, ice creams (to be photographed but not eaten), and, on one occasion, a book, held only for the duration of the photograph and – though perhaps only I noticed this – upside down. As they prep, each wears a heartbreaking pair of plain black spectacles. Once each girl is ready to pose, she hands her glasses to her sister. It is easy to say they make being young look like hard work, but wasn’t it always hard work, even if the medium of its difficulty was different? At least they are making a project of their lives, a measurable project that can be liked or commented upon. What are we doing? 10 15 20 25

Later, in the evening, another pair – identical twins, Rico and Rocco, with oily black curls and skinny white jeans, twin iPhones wedged in their tight pockets – have just finished their act and are packing up their boom box. ‘We come runner-up “X Factor” Spain,’ they say, in answer to our queries. ‘We are Tunisia for birth but now we are Spain.’ We wish them well, and good night, and divert our children’s eyes from the obscene bulge of those iPhones, the existence of which we have decided not to reveal to them for many years, or at least until they are twelve. At the elevators, we separate from our friends and their children and ascend to our room, which is the same as their room and everybody’s room, and put the children to bed and sit on the balcony with our laptops and our phones, as we have every night since January. Here and there, on other balconies, we spot other men and women on other loungers with other devices, engaged in much the same routine. 30 35

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3 The following text is taken from a blog written for a travel company that specialises in trips to Italy. In it, the writer explains some of the best places to go 'truffle-hunting'.

(a) Comment on the language and style of the text. [15]

(b) Imagine you have gone 'truffle-hunting' and decide to write a review of the experience for a travel website.

Basing your writing closely on the material of the original text, and using 120 to 150 of your own words, write a section of the review. [10]

### The best places to go truffle-hunting in Italy

The rolling hills of Italy's lush landscape are famous for their bountiful produce. Fields of gnarled, silvery-leaved trees burst with olives. Vines carpet hillsides to the horizon. And luscious sweet lemons drip juicily from lemon groves. But the Mediterranean sun does not ripen Italy's most prized crop. It grows slowly, in the dark, under the ground and has to be hunted by dogs. Let's go truffle-hunting in Italy! 5

#### What are truffles?

Truffles are the fruits of a subterranean fungus that typically grows around the roots of certain trees including oak, beech, birch, hazel, pine and poplar. They look a bit like a knobbly, rough-skinned potato and normally grow a few inches underground. But as they grow under, not on, trees, truffles are difficult to find and therefore very expensive. 10

It's fortunate then that truffles have a uniquely strong smell that pigs and dogs can be trained to seek out. 15

If you've ever visited Tuscany chances are you've tasted truffle dishes or come home with truffle cream or oil as a culinary souvenir. But if you want to know more about where these black diamonds come from you need to take a trip out into the heart of truffle country.

San Miniato, halfway between Florence and Pisa, is a lovely little hilltop village that celebrates the white truffle harvest with three weekends of truffle markets every November. The aroma of truffles wafts through the streets as visitors taste, test and buy all manner of truffle goodies. 20

So if you love this wonderful delicacy, San Miniato is the perfect place to explore truffles in Tuscany. With a full day to explore, you arrive at San Miniato to meet the Savini family's *trifulau* truffle hunters, who will take you through some of the local truffle types before taking you out on your very own truffle hunt with the dogs! Lunch will obviously include this delicious delicacy and maybe even some of the truffles you've found yourselves. What a wonderful way to experience the bounty of Tuscany. 25

San Giovanni d'Asso, set in the heart of the southern Sienese landscape, is another focus for white truffle-hunters and truffle-lovers alike. The little hilltop town celebrates the fabulous fungus with its truffle festival in the second and third weeks of November each year, right at the height of the season and is tremendous fun for foodies. Stalls laden with piles of truffles and truffle-infused delights tempt visitors but you need to be quick as fresh truffles begin to lose their prized perfume within days of being harvested so get ready to tuck in! 30

Ultimately Italian truffles are some of the most prized and treasured in the world. Their scarcity, cultivation difficulties and short, localized seasons make them a culinary luxury. And their unique earthy flavor enriches dishes from pasta to cheeses to salami. It's a delicacy for which gourmets and gastronomes will pay handsomely. So scouring the misty, autumnal countryside of Tuscany to go truffle hunting in Italy is an experience that will stay with you for a lifetime. Our travel experts are on standby to help you find these buried treasures and in the meantime make sure you leave us a comment with your favorite truffle recipes to whet our appetites!

*Buon appetito!*

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