



Cambridge O Level

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/11

Paper 1 Reading

May/June 2025

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.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

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

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.



Read **Text A, Our family restaurant**, in the insert and answer **Question 1** and **Question 2**.

Question 1

- (a) From paragraph 1, give **one** reason why Hassan's grandmother decided to sell snacks from outside the train station.

.....
 [1]

- (b) Identify the **two** most successful items sold from the food stalls.

-
- [2]

- (c) **Using your own words**, explain what the text means by 'Greatly encouraged'. (line 6)

.....
 [2]

- (d) From paragraph 2, give **two** things that Grandmother did to increase the number of customers after 'the snack bicycles became a commercial success.' (lines 4–5)

-
- [2]

- (e) Explain what Hassan is feeling when he remembers that, 'The kitchen used to be the heart and soul of the old family business – always so full of life back then, filled with constant comings and goings.' (lines 17–18)

.....
 [1]

- (f) In paragraph 5, how did Hassan feel about being in the shanty town outside the family compound?

Give **two** details from the text to support your answer.

Hassan's feeling

details

.....

 [3]





- (g) (i) Hassan's father noticed a change in the types of people living in the area. What was the change?

.....
..... [1]

- (ii) What did Hassan's father decide to do in response to the change?

.....
..... [1]

- (h) Explain **using your own words** Hassan's different feelings and opinions about his mother.

Give **three** details from anywhere in the text to support your answer.

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

[Total: 16]





Question 2

- (a) Read this extract from the text:

'In went an over-size stone fountain. Over the centre of the dining room, Father hung a huge glitter-ball made of mirrors, which revolved over a tiny dance floor.' (lines 30–32)

What does the writer want to suggest to us about the changes to the restaurant?

.....
 [1]

- (b) Explain why the writer uses the word 'smothering' rather than the word 'covering' in the expression 'before smothering them with multitudes of signed photographs of film stars'. (line 33)

.....
 [1]

- (c) Read this sentence from the text:

'Fruiterers delicately built pomegranate towers, a bed of purple tissue fanning out below them in the shape of lotus flowers; baskets filled with coconuts and mangoes rose vertically, creating sweet-smelling sculptures of expensive fruit hand-polished to a waxy gloss.' (lines 44–46)

What **two** impressions does the writer want to convey to the reader in this sentence?

.....

 [2]

- (d) Read this sentence from the text:

'Bappu sat opposite them in a stiff-backed chair, like in a court of law, nervously stroking his moustache.' (lines 48–49)

What effect does the writer suggest about the situation by using the phrase 'like in a court of law'?

.....

 [2]





- (e) Identify **one example** from the text below of how the writer uses language effectively to convey his opinion of the chicken dish.

‘The offending item stood between them – a copper bowl of chicken masala. Drawn by its fiery fumes, I reached over, dipping my fingers into the rich rustic sauce and sucked them greedily. The gloopy masala trickled slowly down my throat, a heavy, oily paste of red chilli.

“Only three orders last week. We fix it now or I drop it from the menu,” Father yelled. He spooned a slop of the sauce onto a plate. “Could be better. You agree?” (lines 52–56)

Explain the impression the writer creates in the example you have identified.

example

explanation

.....

.....

.....

[3]

[Total: 9]



(a) Summarise the benefits and attractions of different kinds of swimming pools, according to Text B.

You must **use continuous writing** (not note form).

Use your own words as far as possible.

Avoid copying long sections of the text.

Your summary should be no more than 150 words.

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

This image shows a full page of a handwriting practice worksheet. It consists of multiple sets of three horizontal dashed lines, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The lines are evenly spaced across the entire page, which is otherwise blank.

[20]

Mario is surprised and wants to understand your reasons. Mario asks you a question.

Give your answer to Mario's question, using information from the text.

Mario's question: I think that sharing my swimming pool is an environmentally friendly thing to do.

What is your opinion and why?

Ted's answer:

[5]

[Total: 25]



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