



Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER

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Paper 2 Comprehension

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INSERT

1 hour 45 minutes

INFORMATION

- This insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.

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

Material for Section A

Background

Three friends – Tonja, Gok and Pia – are planning a holiday together to the country of Rican. They have the travel brochures for two holiday destinations in Rican.

Axian City

A busy and lively city located in northern Rican, near a beautiful forest and high mountains, offering the visitor a huge range of activities: walking, trekking, climbing, mountaineering and mountain biking. There are companies offering visitors courses in these activities and willing to organise day trips for the more experienced tourist.

Axian itself offers many entertainment opportunities: a world-famous art gallery and museum; the Old Quarter in the west, full of narrow streets, beautiful buildings and street markets; palace ruins; an exhibition centre on the outskirts and, finally, the central square – a popular meeting place with plenty of cafés and restaurants. Axian has a lively nightlife, with theatres and cinemas in the eastern part, along with an international-standard concert hall.

The accommodation, The Plaza, is situated in the west. A characterful old building, with all fittings and furnishings in the traditional regional style and grand public rooms. It is a famous landmark and a popular place for locals to celebrate important occasions. It has 100 rooms, 3 restaurants serving authentic Rican cuisine, 2 cafés and a ballroom.

Zixa Beach Resort

Forget the rest – you’ve found the best!

An all-inclusive hotel on the coast in southern Rican. Its buildings are sleek – a statement in international modern design. Each of the 50 rooms has its own balcony. There is a restaurant serving international cuisine, and an all-night café (if hunger strikes you at night).

Facilities include an Olympic-sized swimming pool, as well as a private beach with sun loungers and a café with waiter service. There is a spa available, offering the latest beauty treatments and massages.

Many activities are available: join in with the classes in tennis, surfing or scuba-diving; improve your golf on our practice area or play a round on our 9-hole course, or take boat excursions to the nearby island to admire the local wildlife. After an action-packed day, or a relaxing one on the beach or in the spa, guess what – there’s more! Head off to our entertainment centre to take in a show with our singers and dancers performing international hits, or perhaps enjoy a performance by our resident rock band. We also have a weekly ‘Zixa’s Got Talented Guests’ evening when guests can come up on stage to perform and have the chance to win great prizes.

So, what are you waiting for? Book your stay at Zixa Beach Resort right now and start to dream!

Additional Information

1. The public transport system in Rican is cheap but unreliable and often overcrowded.
2. Tonja is sociable, so likes to meet and converse with local people.
3. Zixa Beach Resort opened to receive its first guests two months ago. First reviews online were not very complimentary.
4. Gok is cultured, so he loves to take in an exhibition or classical concert.
5. The climate in the north is cool and fresh, whilst the south is hotter and more humid.
6. Pia is a sports fanatic, playing tennis to a high level and enthusiastically trying out every sport she comes across.
7. The road network in Rican is adequate, apart from the north where there are frequent landslides.
8. Zixa Beach Resort is much smaller than intended because part of the proposed site was not suitable to build on.
9. Gok is not interested in sport as he prefers not to break into a sweat.
10. Tonja is a film fan, especially knowledgeable about international films.
11. Pia helps out at a sanctuary caring for injured animals in her spare time.
12. The airport is 100 km away from Zixa Beach Resort and 300 km away from Axian City.
13. Tonja is a keen walker, so treats her feet to regular massages.
14. Gok enjoys sitting in a café, watching people go by.
15. Pia is a talented singer, having started lessons as a child.
16. Tourists usually hire taxis to travel around the country. The drivers are often excellent guides. They know the safest and quickest roads.
17. Tonja likes to stay in small hotels so that she gets to know the staff and they get to know her.
18. Pia does not like busy city environments, preferring to be in more open spaces.
19. Pia appreciates contemporary design and interiors, loving their clean, simple lines.
20. Gok much prefers classical architecture to modern buildings.
21. Tonja buys souvenirs from local shops or markets as she prefers their uniqueness.
22. Gok can get travel sick, so he avoids public transport.
23. Tonja prefers to eat authentic regional food.

Material for Section B

Introduction

Two articles on drones* – the first one by Chris Stokel-Walker and the second by Josh Gabbatiss

Why drones cause airport chaos

For the second time in less than a month, suspected drone sightings shut down a UK airport. On 8 January, flights out of London's Heathrow Airport were suspended for over an hour. And between 19 and 21 December, more than 140 000 people at Gatwick, to the south of the city, had their travel plans disrupted after drones were spotted above the airport.

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How can drones cause so much disruption?

Air traffic controllers cannot know what a drone will do or where it will fly so have to be cautious if one is sighted.

Airports operate on a just-in-time basis. At Heathrow, for instance, a plane typically moves onto or off its runways every 45 seconds. A drone can interrupt this flow, forcing planes to be rerouted to other airports and others to remain grounded.

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Are we even sure there were drones at Gatwick and Heathrow?

It is uncertain, but highly likely. A police officer said before Christmas that it was a 'possibility' no drone existed at Gatwick, although this was later put down to poor communication. Two people arrested in relation to the incident were released without charge.

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However, 67 sightings were reported over the course of the Gatwick shutdown. Heathrow was closed after a supposed sighting of a drone that was also spotted by a television camera operator.

Can drones be stopped from flying over airports?

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In principle, yes, however, it is tricky in practice. Drones are too small to be picked up by traditional radar. This means they often have to be spotted by eye, so any action to stop them is slow and inaccurate.

During the incidents at Gatwick and Heathrow, dozens of police officers were deployed to search for the drones.

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What are the options?

Radio jammers can disrupt drones from two kilometres away by stopping signals from remote controls. This triggers a drone's in-built return-to-home function, allowing it to land safely.

Many drones contain geofencing software, which prevents their pilots from flying them into sensitive airspace, such as over airports.

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'But if you are technologically savvy and want to cause disruption, you can get around that by building your own drone and adjusting the firmware** and software,' says Andrew Heaton, an independent drone expert.

Dutch police have even tried training eagles to snatch drones from the sky, but had to abandon the project because the birds rarely followed orders.

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How far away can a drone pilot be?

Legally, to fly a drone in the UK, a pilot is meant to keep it in sight at all times, meaning no more than around 500 m from where they are standing. However, some drones can beam back signals from two kilometres away, and there is a market for signal boosters that allow drones to be flown illegally at even greater distances.

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Some drones can also be set on preprogrammed paths, enabling them to fly autonomously.

Do airports currently have any protections?

In the aftermath of the Gatwick disruption, the airport installed a costly protection system. It comprises 360-degree radar and thermal imaging systems, as well as a radio jammer. It is one of a number of systems in place at airports around the world. For example, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Virginia has a network of radio jammers designed to stop drones flying within 55 km of it.

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However, a deliberate drone attack could circumvent such systems, says Owen McAree at Liverpool John Moores University, UK. 'The only sure-fire way to stop them without risking collateral damage is to stop people with nefarious intentions from getting hold of the drones in the first place,' he says.

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Drones released on Galápagos Islands to wipe out invasive rats

Drones are being used by conservation groups to drop poison from the sky to wipe out rats on the Galápagos Islands. The invasive rodents have caused enormous damage to the fragile and unique ecosystems where Charles Darwin began to form his theory of evolution.

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They have been the target of major eradication campaigns throughout the archipelago, and North Seymour Island was declared rat-free in 2007. However, last year local experts realised the rats had returned, and declared a state of emergency.

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Local officials and the Island Conservation charity coordinated a response to prevent the rodents feasting on the eggs and seeds of the island's sea-birds and plants. The team deployed drones to fly across the island, depositing 3000 kg of poison. They covered around half of its total area.

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Drones provided a practical way of rapidly addressing the threat on the rugged island terrain, which was far simpler than traditional operations involving helicopters and specialised pilots, the group noted.

'The use of drones is more precise; it also increases feasibility, and reduces eradication costs of invasive rodents in small and mid-sized islands worldwide,' said Karl Campbell, South American regional director of Island Conservation.

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The island is a crucial home for valuable nesting species such as frigatebirds and nocturnal yellow-tailed gulls. Rats and other invasive species pose a particular threat to island ecosystems, which are often the result of long stretches of evolution in which predators have been scarce.

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Last year South Georgia Island, off the tip of South America, was declared rat-free for the first time in centuries after a concerted campaign to protect its unique bird-life.

The conservationists hope the success of the drone operations in the Galápagos will encourage similar campaigns in other parts of the world where inaccessibility makes efforts to exterminate pests difficult.

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*a small aircraft without a pilot that is controlled by someone on the ground, used especially as a hobby

**software or set of instructions preprogrammed into the hardware of a device

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