



Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER

8021/22

Paper 2 Comprehension

October/November 2022

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

Jos, a fully qualified tax accountant, has decided that it is the right time for him to step off the career ladder he has been climbing so relentlessly since leaving university and become a freelance consultant. Seeing Mateus, his friend, manage to go freelance very successfully has only served to increase his motivation. He has already approached two companies, TeknoKratz and Pumpkin Pot, to see if they would consider giving him a contract to work for them as a self-employed tax consultant on a freelance basis; both have responded to his inquiries with offers. TeknoKratz, set up two years ago by two postgraduate students and expanding rapidly, specialises in producing technology for the food industry. Pumpkin Pot is a well-established charity offering cheap loans to companies and individuals refused money by the major banks.

Some details of the two offers

	TeknoKratz	Pumpkin Pot
Length of contract	Duration of TeknoKratz's contract with Triple C supermarkets	Permanent contract, as a self-employed tax consultant
Hours per week	40 hours a week, initially (divided across the week to suit Jos)	Three days a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays), 09.00 – 17.30
Location	Working from home; occasional visits to TeknoKratz's offices, and Triple C's offices and supermarkets	Mostly Pumpkin Pot's offices, some working from home
Rate of pay	\$1200 per week	\$30 000 a year
Terms and conditions	One month's notice of termination of contract Golden Hello: an additional payment of \$1000 after one month's work in thanks for choosing to work with TeknoKratz	Forbidden to work in the banking sector for six months after termination of contract

Extract from a conversation this morning between Jos and Marika, his wife

Marika: *(with an expression of delight on her face)* Darling, have you looked at the job adverts in today's paper, by any chance? There's an amazing job going with KQX Accountants. Perfect for you. Can't believe it wasn't written with you personally in mind. Would be such a great move for you. Amazing salary – \$100 000. Look, look *(thrusting the paper in his face)*!

Jos: *(his face clouding over)* Oh, really? Er, I see what you mean. It seems a possibility, I suppose *(sounding increasingly downbeat)*...

Marika: *(completely lost in her own excitement)* Better get started on your application this evening. Can't afford to let the grass grow under your feet as I expect there will be lots of competition.

Jos: *(looking a little guilty)* Actually, there's something I've been meaning to talk to you about. Sorry I haven't mentioned it before, but I've been mulling it over and now is probably the right time to tell you about it...

Additional Information

1. Mateus loves the fact that he has had a series of short-term contracts with gaps in between, during which he has relaxed at home – all alone and doing very little except for gardening.
2. Jos is tired of corporate expectations, such as, if you are at director level, you will work night and day for the company. He feels stressed, overworked and underappreciated.
3. Marika loves the idea of living abroad and experiencing different cultures.
4. Triple C only had one supermarket until six months ago. Now it has three, but the owners had to take out loans at a very high rate of interest to fund this expansion.
5. KQX Accountants is an international company, famous for hiring only the best candidates and, whilst rewarding them with the highest salaries in the industry, expecting them to relocate anywhere in the world at a moment's notice and to work extremely long hours.
6. TeknoKratz's offices are located very close to where Jos works at present, and Triple C's offices and supermarkets are within a 10km radius of Jos's home. Pumpkin Pot's offices are situated 30km from Jos's home.
7. Currently, Jos is Director of Finance for a regional bank, earning \$70 000 a year.
8. Triple C – the three Cs stand for 'Customer Care Counts'.
9. Jos had started to think about becoming a consultant because he liked the idea of being his own boss, thinking he would then be more in control of his work–life balance and so able to spend more time with Marika and their children.
10. Pumpkin Pot's offices are rather cramped and noisy, with limited storage space and people having to share desks and phones.
11. Jos has a friend who works for KQX Accountants.
12. Triple C offers 10 per cent discount on in-store purchases to everybody working for Triple C and its associates, such as TeknoKratz.
13. Jos's children are always wanting him to spend more time with them playing football and watching films, but he often comes home too late or too tired to be with them.
14. Marika cannot help but worry about everything: the family finances, Jos's career, the children's futures.
15. Jos loves his hometown, feeling no desire to move anywhere else.
16. Jos and Marika met through mutual friends 10 years ago.

Material for Section B

Extract from an article edited by Andrew Tuck.

Austria for Beginners

Need to pass for a local?

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Luckily, many of these small family businesses have survived.

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