



Cambridge International AS & A Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9093/11

Paper 1 Reading

October/November 2021

2 hours 15 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- 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 [].

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



Section A: Directed response

Question 1

Read the following text, which is a news report about two large fires, one in Paris and one in South America. The report was published on an Australian news website.

(a) You decide to write a letter to the French President about the issues raised in the news report. Use 150–200 words. [10]

(b) Compare your letter with the news report, analysing form, structure and language. [15]

When a fire destroyed the Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris, the world knew in three minutes. But this most recent disaster has divided the internet.

When a fire tore through Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris¹ earlier this year, donations poured in across the world at such a rapid rate, more than one billion dollars was raised in just two days.

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The world was made aware of the catastrophe within three minutes of the first flame.

In fact, the amount of money pledged by celebrities, billionaires and other generous donors far surpassed the amount needed to make the dramatic structural repairs.

The wave of goodwill, however, has generated a new wave of backlash on social media more than four months after the tragedy.

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Why? Well, another horrific fire is burning in one of the world's most crucial natural landmarks — but it's taken three weeks for the world to really take note. In fact, it's only just started to get some attention, despite more than one-and-a-half soccer fields being destroyed every minute.

For three whole weeks, the single largest tropical rainforest in the world is being destroyed.

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The Amazon is often referred to as the planet's lungs, producing 20 per cent of the oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere. As the largest rainforest on the planet, it is considered a vital instrument in slowing global warming.

With such a catastrophe taking place for weeks on end, social media users have been quick to question why the tragedy at Notre-Dame surpassed what's currently unfolding in the Amazon.

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Images of fires purportedly devouring sections of the world's largest rainforest have gone viral on Twitter, prompting the backlash and trending hashtag #PrayforAmazonas, which has now received more than 249,000 tweets.

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'I would rather see Notre-Dame totally destroyed and see the Amazon forest protected forever,' one person said.

'There's no point in preserving history if we're just gonna watch the future of our planet slip away.'

Another added that when Notre-Dame burned, the world stopped. 30

'Billionaires emptied their pockets to help rebuild,' he said. 'Meanwhile the Amazon has been burning for 3 weeks. The difference is, we don't get to build a new earth. When it's gone, it's gone.'

While it was not possible to measure the size of the area affected by fires, thick smoke in recent days has blanketed several cities, including São Paulo², and caused a commercial flight to be diverted. 35

Official figures show nearly 73,000 forest fires were recorded in Brazil in the first eight months of the year — the highest number for any year since 2013.

Most were in the Amazon.

Amazon Rainforest Fast Facts 40

- The Amazon rainforest covers over 5.5 million square kilometres. That's equivalent to Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory³ combined.
- It is known as 'the lungs of the Earth' because more than 20 per cent of the world's oxygen is produced by the Amazon.
- There are around 16,000 tree species and 390 billion individual trees in the Amazon. 45
- The Amazon is thought to have 2.5 million species of insects. More than half the species in the rainforest are thought to live in the canopy.
- 400–500 indigenous tribes call the Amazon rainforest home. It's believed about 50 of these tribes have never had contact with the outside world.
- Cattle farming accounts for roughly 70 per cent of deforestation in the Amazon. 50
- Since 1970, 800,000 square kilometres of the rainforest have been destroyed by deforestation — equivalent to an area the size of New South Wales³.

Notes:

¹ *Paris*: the capital city of France

² *São Paulo*: a major city in Brazil

³ *Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory* and *New South Wales*: regions of Australia

Section B: Text analysis

Question 2

Read the following text, which is an open letter on the subject of happiness by the famous entrepreneur, Richard Branson.

Analyse the text, focusing on form, structure and language.

[25]

Dear Stranger,

You don't know me but I hear you are going through a tough time, and I would like to help you. I want to be open and honest with you, and let you know that happiness isn't something just afforded to a special few. It can be yours, if you take the time to let it grow.

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It's OK to be stressed, scared and sad, I certainly have been throughout my 66 years. I've confronted my biggest fears time and time again. I've cheated death on many adventures, seen loved ones pass away, failed in business, minced my words in front of tough audiences, and had my heart broken.

I know I'm fortunate to live an extraordinary life, and that most people would assume my business success, and the wealth that comes with it, have brought me happiness. But they haven't; in fact it's the reverse. I am successful, wealthy and connected because I am happy.

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So many people get caught up in doing what they think will make them happy but, in my opinion, this is where they fail. Happiness is not about doing, it's about being. In order to be happy, you need to think consciously about it. Don't forget the to-do list, but remember to write a to-be list too.

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Kids are often asked: 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' The world expects grandiose aspirations: 'I want to be a writer, a doctor, the prime minister.' They're told: go to school, go to college, get a job, get married, and then you'll be happy. But that's all about doing, not being – and while doing will bring you moments of joy, it won't necessarily reward you with lasting happiness.

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Stop and breathe. Be healthy. Be around your friends and family. Be there for someone, and let someone be there for you. Be bold. Just be for a minute.

If you allow yourself to be in the moment, and appreciate the moment, happiness will follow. I speak from experience. We've built a business empire, joined conversations about the future of our planet, attended many memorable parties and met many unforgettable people. And while these things have brought me great joy, it's the moments that I stopped just to be, rather than do, that have given me true happiness. Why? Because allowing yourself just to be puts things into perspective. Try it. Be still. Be present.

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For me, it's watching the flamingos fly across Necker Island at dusk. It's holding my new grandchild's tiny hands. It's looking up at the stars and dreaming of seeing them up close one day. It's listening to my family's dinner-time debates. It's the smile on a

stranger's face, the smell of rain, the ripple of a wave, the wind across the sand. It's the first snowfall of winter, and the last storm of summer. It's sunrise and sunset. 35

There's a reason we're called human beings and not human doings. As human beings we have the ability to think, move and communicate in a heightened way. We can cooperate, understand, reconcile and love, that's what sets us apart from most other species. 40

Don't waste your human talents by stressing about nominal things, or that which you cannot change. If you take the time simply to be and appreciate the fruits of life, your stresses will begin to dissolve, and you will be happier.

But don't just seek happiness when you're down. Happiness shouldn't be a goal, it should be a habit. Take the focus off doing, and start being every day. Be loving, be grateful, be helpful, and be a spectator to your own thoughts. 45

Allow yourself to be in the moment, and appreciate the moment. Take the focus off everything you think you need to do, and start being – I promise you, happiness will follow.

Happy regards, 50

Richard Branson

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