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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™ (9–1)

CANDIDATE NAME									
CENTRE NUMBER						CANDIDATE NUMBER			

8388212365

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE **0991/12**

Paper 1 Reading and Writing (Core) **May/June 2020**

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the question paper.

No additional materials are needed.

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 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **16** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

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Exercise 1

Read the article about a woman who discovered an old message inside a bottle, and then answer the following questions.

A message from the past



The idea of throwing a message in a bottle into the sea and hoping someone far away will read it one day is exciting. Where will it land? Who will find it? When? One Australian family found the answers to these questions while on a day out on a remote beach near the city of Perth.

Tonya Illman and her family had all been swimming. While her husband was packing the car, she was picking up some rubbish when she saw an old bottle sticking out of the sand. She thought it would look nice on her bookshelf so she showed it to her son, who commented that it looked like one they had in their living room. They noticed something inside that looked like an old cigarette. Tonya shook it out and realised it was a rolled-up piece of paper, tied with string for protection. Although not much water had got in, the paper was still damp. Tonya was tempted to unroll it and let it dry in the hot sun, but decided to take it home and put it in a cool oven instead.

Later, when she opened up the paper, Tonya was astonished to see that it was a form printed in German. The bottle's thick glass meant the form had avoided exposure to the weather. She was really excited when she saw the date that had been filled in – 12 June 1886! The family looked online and found that the oldest message in a bottle dated from 1906 and was found in 2015. Tonya's message was 20 years older, which was a new world record!

The information on the form stated that the bottle had been thrown from a ship called *Paula* that was originally from Germany. It was heading from Wales to its destination in Indonesia. The form requested that anyone finding the bottle should contact the nearest German embassy with details of their discovery. Tonya's family weren't sure whether the form was genuine so they decided to take the bottle and its contents to the Western Australian Museum.

After carefully examining the form, the museum staff told the family that it was in good condition for its age. They believed it had been buried in the sand for over a century, which had kept it safe, until a huge storm had most likely uncovered it.

The museum contacted experts in Germany, who were able to check the captain's diary from the ship *Paula*. The diary described the ship's location when the bottle was thrown into the sea. Amazingly, this corresponded exactly with the location given on the form from the bottle! The diary had been handwritten by the captain, who gave his name as Captain O. Diekmann. Even more exciting was the fact that although there was no name given, the captain's handwriting in the diary was identical to the handwriting on the form. This was final proof that the message in the bottle was indeed genuine.

The museum explained that in the nineteenth century, German ships were conducting tests to study the movement of ocean currents. In order to do this, hundreds of bottles were thrown into the ocean. Each bottle contained a form with the ship's name, the date, and the place where the bottle was dropped, with the hope that someone would report where it was found. The experiment lasted 69 years, and 662 bottles have been returned so far. Tonya's bottle is the oldest – at least until the next one is discovered...

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1 What was Tonya Illman doing when she found the bottle?

..... [1]

2 Where did Tonya plan to display the bottle when she got home?

..... [1]

3 How did Tonya dry the piece of paper?

..... [1]

4 What year was written on the form?

..... [1]

5 Where was the ship travelling to?

..... [1]

6 What was the person who found the form asked to do?

..... [1]

7 Which **two** details in the ship's diary matched those on the form?

.....

..... [2]

8 What was the purpose of the German experiment?

..... [1]

[Total: 9]

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Exercise 2

Read the article about three people (**A**–**C**) who live in very different environments. Then answer Question **9 (a)**–**(h)**.

WHAT'S IT LIKE WHERE YOU LIVE?

A Suraya

Everyone in my city knows the problems that the rainy season brings, like being trapped at school by floods or falling over in heavy rain. At times like these, I wouldn't recommend driving and I tend to use trains instead. They might be late and crowded, but at least you're safer with other people around. Plus, you can usually find shelter at stations if you have to phone your family or wait for the rain to stop. Another problem that bothers me is mosquitoes, which are everywhere in the rainy season! It's definitely advisable to cover up your arms to avoid being bitten when you go outside. Hot, humid weather can also easily upset your stomach so I try to stick to light food and keep away from anything that's too oily. To be honest, I don't like the rainy season but I know other people see the positives, like the dramatic colours of storm clouds.

B Vincent

Where I live, I've noticed that the fierce desert heat does sometimes get people down. You can't do anything about it, so for a happy life it's essential to change your attitude towards it. Instead of seeing the heat as your enemy, try to appreciate the things it can offer like the beautiful wild landscapes and the strange-looking desert plants. Yes, it's true that life here can be difficult, but you soon learn ways to cope. For example, it might look a bit odd, but I now always keep a towel inside my car so I can use it to hold the steering wheel when it becomes too hot to touch. And before any long car journey, I always check that my mobile phone is fully charged as the battery runs out quickly inside a hot car. I must admit though, one thing I never do is wear long-sleeved shirts to keep the sun off my skin. They're far too hot! I'd rather stay in the shade instead.

C Harmony

Average winter temperatures here are around minus 10 degrees Celsius but it can get as cold as minus 30 some days, so I guess everyday life is a bit different to that in other countries. One difference is that teenagers in other countries seem to text or take photos outside with their friends every five minutes. We definitely don't do that here – your fingers would freeze and your phone would probably stop working! I've also noticed that people here generally worry less about the latest trends – that's certainly the case for me. People here have come up with lots of ways to cope with the cold. For example, every Saturday morning I get together with my neighbours to help clear the snow from the pavement in our street. It's quite hard work but it really warms me up.

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9 For each question, write the correct letter A, B or C on the line.

Which person ...

(a) warns against using a mobile phone outdoors? ..... [1]

(b) recommends wearing long sleeves for protection? ..... [1]

(c) mentions a way for people to benefit both themselves and their local community? ..... [1]

(d) avoids eating certain things because of the effect on their body? ..... [1]

(e) suggests that the way they use a common object could seem surprising? ..... [1]

(f) explains their reasons for using a certain type of transport? ..... [1]

(g) is unconcerned about keeping up with fashion? ..... [1]

(h) believes that it's important to think positively? ..... [1]

[Total: 8]

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Exercise 3

Read the article about an event called Free Comic Book Day, and then complete the notes.

The best things in life are free

For comic book fans everywhere, the first Saturday in May is one of the most important dates in the calendar. That's Free Comic Book Day, when comic book shops around the world give away free comic books to anyone walking into the store. Getting things for free sounds too good to be true, but for these shops, it's a way to attract new customers.

Free Comic Book Day is an annual event that was established in 2002 and since then, over 12 million comic books have been given away. Every year, increasing numbers of shops take part and the day now includes a variety of activities from free writing workshops to book signings by famous writers. One shop that has been involved since the beginning is Champion Comics. The owner, Abeke Griffith, is a big comic book fan and is convinced that these books offer more than just a fun way to relax. 'When I was a kid I thought reading was difficult and boring, but one day I picked up a comic book. I was fascinated by the pictures and finished it straightaway. That was it – I was hooked! I definitely think comics can help struggling readers learn to love reading.'

According to Abeke, being involved in Free Comic Book Day is great publicity for the range of comic books available in her shop. 'Many people think comics are only about fights between evil criminals and heroes, but there's so much more to them than that.' Not all the comic books in the store are given away, but there are usually around 50 free ones to choose from. On the day, Abeke also holds unique sales promotions, as do many other comic book shops.

Abeke believes that giving away free comic books actually makes good sense. 'Every year, it creates a new generation of young comic book fans. In return, we make sure there are plenty of interesting things for them to do on Free Comic Book Day. Last year, we even organised a careers presentation given by a successful young artist working in the comic book industry. That was really popular so we'll be doing it again.' Abeke is also involved in the national committee that organises Free Comic Book Day, and sees it as a great opportunity to pick up business ideas from other shop owners across the country.

Comic books aren't just attracting the attention of the business world, however. Teachers and psychologists are just some of the professionals that are starting to see the potential of comic books, which enable readers young and old to explore serious themes in a straightforward way. Recent research was carried out to examine what happens in the brain when people have to process pictures and text at the same time. One finding was that reading comic books actually improves people's ability to understand complex information.

So with all these fantastic things available for free, when the first Saturday in May next comes around, why not check out what's happening in your nearest comic book shop?

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You are going to give a talk about Free Comic Book Day to your class at school.

Prepare some notes to use as the basis for your talk.

Make short notes under each heading.

10 Special events that are held in comic book shops as part of Free Comic Book Day:

- *giving away free comic books*
- .....
- .....
- ..... [3]

11 What shops gain from taking part in Free Comic Book Day:

- .....
- ..... [2]

12 How people benefit from reading comic books:

- .....
- ..... [2]

[Total: 7]

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Exercise 4

13 Read the article about a girl who went on a two-day hike in the mountains with a group of classmates.

Write a summary about what she learned from her hiking adventure.

Your summary should be about 80 words long (and no more than 90 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your summary, and up to 6 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

A hiking adventure



After careful planning, the big morning finally arrived: a two-day hike in the mountains with my classmates. Our teachers had given us advice, and would meet us at the beginning and end of each day, but otherwise we were on our own.

We set off at top speed, but the six hours of hiking still to come soon made us realise that walking at a steady pace is better than racing. Luckily, our teachers had given us a great tip: to share essential equipment. We'd therefore only packed one of the things we could share among us, like a kettle and a camping stove. Even so, we found it a challenge to carry our backpacks. It became clear that the lighter your backpack, the more comfortable you are.

By the afternoon, we were heading towards the campsite but were suddenly surprised to find ourselves near a forest. We must have taken a wrong turning, and in a panic started arguing about which way to go. We realised that we hadn't been checking the map regularly and that's exactly what we should have been doing. It made us all aware, not only of the importance of keeping calm if you get lost, but also how to work in a team. Luckily we managed to get back on the right path without too much difficulty.

The next morning we cooked a huge breakfast. I don't usually eat much in the mornings, but after the previous day's hike I knew this would provide the energy I needed. It was a sunny morning and we set off in high spirits. As we walked, it became more humid. The pleasant day was quickly turning into a mountain storm and soon the rain was pouring and we were cold. I understood then how quickly the weather in the mountains can change.

Some people started complaining about being tired and wet and the end seemed a long way off. But eventually, we arrived home safe and I was really proud that I'd done it. It made me appreciate that I'm more capable than I thought.

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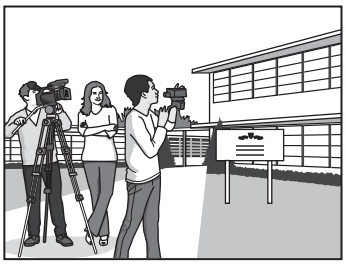
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Exercise 5





14 Your teacher is going to make a video to advertise your school. The teacher needs students to help and there will be a meeting to discuss plans for the video.

Write an email to a friend in another class about this.

In your email, you should:

- explain why you should both take part
- describe what you think should be included in the video
- give your friend some information about the meeting.

The pictures above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your email should be between 100 and 150 words long.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your email, and up to 6 marks for the language used.

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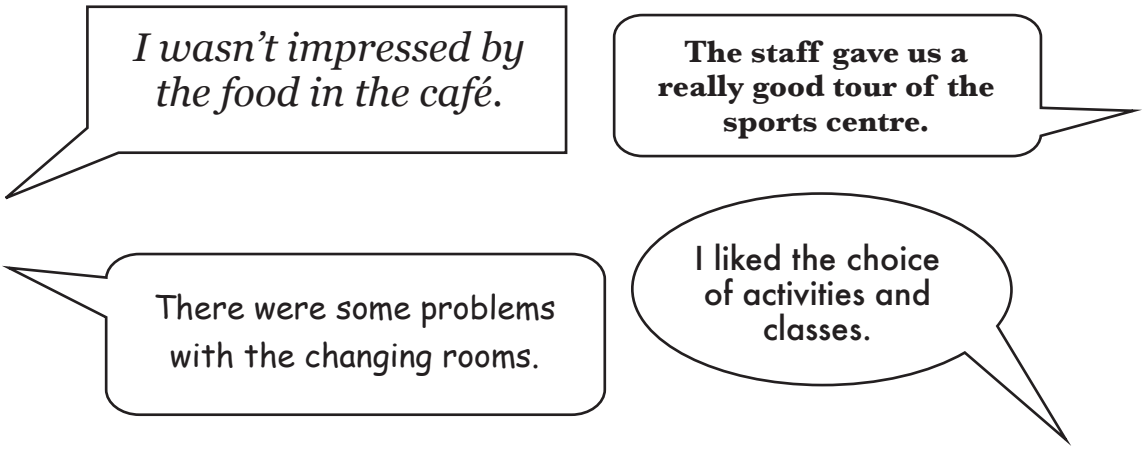
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Exercise 6

15 A new sports centre has recently opened in your town. Last week, you went there with a group of your friends. You have decided to write a review of the sports centre for your school magazine.

Here are some comments from your friends:



Write a review for your school magazine, giving your opinion.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you can also use some ideas of your own.

Your review should be between 100 and 150 words long.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your review, and up to 6 marks for the language used.

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