

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number

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Candidate number

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Surname

Forename(s)

Candidate signature

I declare this is my own work.

INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Reading Paper

Wednesday 24 May 2023 07:00 GMT Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

Materials

You will need no other materials.

Instructions

- Answer **all** questions in **English**.
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- You must **not** use a dictionary.

For Examiner's Use

Question	Mark
01–06	
07–14	
15–24	
25–35	
TOTAL	



Text 1 Email

Read the first part of this email from Isabella to her friend Bruno.

Answer questions **01** to **03**.

1 Dear Bruno

I hope you are doing well. Thanks so much for coming to my 18th birthday party last month. It was lovely to see you again. I really enjoyed seeing everyone and catching up with people from the old neighbourhood. I was pleased that we were able to have the party at my parents' house.

2 Thanks very much for the birthday card and the books you gave me. I have just finished reading the novel set in New York and thought it was excellent. What an exciting story! I would love to visit New York one day. I am looking forward to reading the other book soon as a break from revision.

Write the correct letter in the box for questions **01** to **03**.

0 1

What age is Isabella?

[1 mark]

A	17
B	18
C	19



0 2 Where did the party take place?

[1 mark]

A	At Isabella's flat
B	At her friend's house
C	At her parents' house

☐

0 3 What is the **main** point of **paragraph 2**?

[1 mark]

A	To thank Bruno for attending her birthday party
B	To thank Bruno for the birthday gifts
C	To thank Bruno's parents for hosting the birthday party

☐

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



Read the second part of the email.

Answer questions **04** to **06**.

- 3 Yesterday I completed my application to study Veterinary Science at university. It took me a long time to do the application but my tutor at college was very helpful. I decided to apply to three universities close to home as it might be cheaper to live at home while I am studying. Are you going to apply to do Veterinary Science as well or have you decided to study Chemistry?
- 4 Now I have to start revising for exams. I have begun revising Biology, Chemistry and Maths and have planned a revision schedule. I am finding the chemistry revision the hardest and the maths the most straightforward. Let me know if you find any good chemistry revision websites which might help me out. I would really appreciate your suggestions.
- Good luck.
- Speak to you soon.
- Isabella

Write the correct letter in the box for questions **04** to **06**.

0 4

Read the following statements.

Which statement is correct?

[1 mark]

A	Isabella is applying to teach at a university.
B	Isabella is applying to universities near her home.
C	Isabella is applying to universities in another country.



0 5

What subject is Isabella finding easiest to revise?

[1 mark]

A	Biology
B	Chemistry
C	Maths

☐

0 6

What is the **main** purpose of the email?

[1 mark]

A	To thank Bruno for his advice about how to apply to university and for helping with her birthday party.
B	To thank Bruno for his help with chemistry revision and ask him about how to apply for universities.
C	To thank Bruno for the birthday present and tell him about her university application.

☐

6

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



Text 2 My local cinema

Read the first part of this article about a local cinema.

Answer questions **07** to **10**.

- 1 I enjoy watching films of all kinds, particularly thrillers, romances and adventure films. I like watching films on television but I prefer seeing them in a cinema if I can. Fortunately, there is a cinema in the town where I live which is very easy to get to. It has recently re-opened following some big renovations. It used to have only one screen and now it has three. While the three screens are quite small, the sound in each screening room is excellent and the seats are comfortable. We probably go there to see a film about once a month depending on which films are showing.
- 2 I like to book the tickets for the film online ahead of time as some films are very popular and the seats sell out quite fast. I prefer to sit in the sixth or seventh row from the front as it is not too close to the screen but also not too far away. We can walk to the cinema so we don't have to worry about where to park and the cost of the tickets is relatively low. The staff working there are very friendly and helpful.
- 3 Before the show we like to get some snacks! There are many different types of snacks and drinks on sale, for example: popcorn, chocolate, sweets, soft drinks, tea and coffee. There is also a variety of ice creams available, including flavours such as vanilla, strawberry and caramel. Sometimes there is a queue to buy refreshments but it is worth the wait. I like to buy a drink and a small tub of popcorn, which keeps me going throughout the film unless it is particularly long!

0 7

Give **one** example of a genre of film which the writer likes to watch.

[1 mark]

0 8

List **two** negative aspects of visiting this cinema.

[2 marks]

1

2



0 9

When won't the snacks last throughout the film?

[1 mark]

1 0

Which of these statements best describes the **main** point of **paragraph 3**?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To describe what food and drink are available at this cinema.
B	To give advice about what to eat and drink at this cinema.
C	To tell people about flavours of ice cream at this cinema.

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



Read the second part of the article.

Answer questions **11** to **14**.

- 4 We have seen some fantastic films at this cinema, from science fiction and thrillers to adventure films. The most effective film I have seen recently is about the First World War and it is set in France. This is a really powerful film. The situations in the film seemed very authentic. The music was fantastic as it emphasised how challenging the surroundings were for the soldiers and how their lives were constantly in danger. The audience watching the film was clearly captivated and there was no sign of anyone checking their phones! When it was finished I felt exhausted as the events shown were very affecting. I am glad I saw the film on the big screen rather than on a device.
- 5 Another film I saw at this cinema, which was also excellent, was an adventure film about a sea voyage that goes wrong. The main character is the only survivor of a storm at sea and has to find his way back to civilisation. The visual effects were great and really helped to build up the suspense in the first part of the film. The feel-good ending was a total surprise. Going to the cinema can take you to different worlds and that is another reason why I like going.

1 1

In **paragraph 4** the writer says, 'The situations in the film seemed very authentic.'

Explain in your own words what this sentence means.

[2 marks]

1 2

Read **paragraph 4**.

Which **two** statements are correct?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	The film takes place in France.
B	The war scenes did not seem realistic.
C	Mobile phones were not being consulted.
D	The music did not fit with the film's content.



1 3Read **paragraph 5**.Which **two** statements are correct?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	The film features a storm and the main character is lost at sea.
B	The visual effects do not help to develop the tension.
C	The ending was predictable.
D	Cinema can stimulate your imagination.

1 4What is the **main** purpose of the text?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To describe one cinemagoer's experience.
B	To review a series of films.
C	To promote a film about France.

12
Turn over for the next question**Turn over ►**

Text 3 The importance of solar power

Read the first part of the article.

Answer questions **15** to **19**.

- 1 Solar energy – energy from the sun – has become an incredibly important part of the world that we live in. Solar energy is a renewable source of energy which means we cannot run out of it. Unlike fossil fuels, which will expire in another few decades, solar energy will never expire. We will continue to get solar energy as long as the sun is there. It is also sustainable: in other words, we can use it to meet the needs of the present without affecting the needs of the future generations. The sun is going to last for another 6.5 billion years, according to NASA, and there is no way that we could overuse it! Solar energy is produced when sunlight strikes solar panels, which then turn solar power into usable energy.
- 2 Countries all around the world are using solar energy to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels. For example, China, Germany and Japan are three of the countries which produce the most solar energy. On several occasions, Germany has met over 50% of the nation's daily energy needs from solar power. In 2011, in Qinghai province in China, a solar farm was built which has 4 million solar panels and occupies an area of 27 square kilometres. These panels produce energy which supplies power for up to 200 000 households. In Japan, after the earthquake and tsunami which led to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant meltdowns in 2011, there has been a huge increase in the use of solar power.
- 3 Solar panels can be mounted on the roofs of buildings, including people's homes, and angled to face the sun. Solar panels can be installed on any number of roofs and are economical for homeowners. Even though the installation cost of solar panels can be quite steep, they can provide a free supply of power, which means that they will eventually pay for themselves. Moreover, homeowners who have solar panels fitted can sell the surplus electricity generated to energy companies. Solar panels give off no contamination: once they are actually installed on buildings, they are doing absolutely nothing negative to the atmosphere, unlike other forms of standard energy.



1 5 Read **paragraph 1**.

Which statement is correct?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	NASA has said the sun will exist for at least another 8 billion years.
B	Fossil fuels will eventually disappear.
C	Solar power is produced by sunlight shining on any solid surface.

1 6 What is the **main** point of **paragraph 2**?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To describe a solar farm in China.
B	To explain how effective solar power can be.
C	To describe solar power use in three different countries.

1 7 From **paragraph 2**, list **three** things the reader learns about the solar farm in Qinghai province in China.

[3 marks]

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Turn over ►



1 8Read **paragraph 3**.

Which statement is correct?

[1 mark]

A	Installing solar panels is inexpensive.
B	Homeowners with solar panels may be able to sell their surplus electricity to energy companies.
C	Solar panels must be installed so that they are slanted away from the sun.

**1 9**In **paragraph 3**, the writer uses the phrase, 'Solar panels give off no contamination'.

Explain in your own words what this phrase means.

[2 marks]



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Read the second part of the article.

Answer questions **20** to **24**.

- 4 Solar farms have been planned and built around the world to generate power. Another example of this is the floating solar farm on the Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir on the outskirts of London, which opened in 2016. More than 23 000 solar panels have been constructed to float on the vast manmade lake. The £6 million project generates enough electricity to power the utility's local water treatment plants for decades. The energy produced provides clear drinking water to a population of close to 10 million people in Greater London and the south-east of England.
- 5 Understandably, given the need to find more sustainable ways of producing energy, solar power is being harnessed by more and more nations around the world. The drawbacks are few. One is that this sort of power can only be harnessed during daytime and another is that wildlife and forests may suffer as a result of setting up massive solar farms. However, it is estimated that the world's oil reserves will only last for about 50–60 years, whereas sunlight is available forever. While it can be expensive to construct and install solar panels, there is not much maintenance required; they can last for 25 years and produce power quietly, unlike wind turbines.



2 0

In **paragraph 4**, the article describes the solar farm on the Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir near London.

Which **four** things does the writer mention?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[4 marks]

A	The reservoir is enormous.
B	The plant only supplies water for the south-east of England.
C	The energy from the farm helps to supply drinking water for over 10 million people.
D	The panels are on the roofs of the treatment plant.
E	The solar farm is situated near London.
F	The reservoir was opened in 2016.
G	The farm has tens of thousands of panels.
H	There are just under 23 000 panels.

2 1

In **paragraph 5**, the writer says 'solar power is being harnessed'.

Explain in your own words what this phrase means.

[1 mark]

2 2

In **paragraph 5**, list **two** things the writer says are possible disadvantages of solar power.

[2 marks]

1

2

Turn over ►

2 3

In **paragraph 5**, the writer says, 'there is not much maintenance required'.

Explain in your own words what this sentence means.

[2 marks]

2 4

Which statement best describes the whole article?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	It describes how solar power is misemployed.
B	It gives a critique of the expansion of solar power.
C	It explains how solar energy works and describes its benefits.



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Text 4 How can my son already be one year old?

In this article, Stuart Heritage explores how he feels now that his son is one year old.

Read the first part of the article.

Answer questions **25** and **26**.

- 1 My son is growing up so fast and it's incredible but exhausting. He had his first birthday last week. The day marked the end of what has been both the longest and shortest year of my life. Fatherhood has seemed precious. However, I haven't slept properly for a year and I don't really know how time works any more. Whole years seem to have passed in some of the afternoons I've spent with him lately. It has sometimes felt like entire planets have been born and developed and died in the time it's taken him to eat a mouthful of cereal. Being a novice father has been gratifying but disorientating.
- 2 How can it be that he is already one year old? First he was born and a beautiful baby appeared. Then I blinked, and now in his place is a little boy who can walk, recognise his name, mostly understand the word 'stop' and has teeth he can chew with. He also knows how to switch off the television at precisely the most important moment of anything I ever try to watch. It's not exactly the most remarkable development in all of human history – child gradually gets older – but it's the first time I've seen it close up. It's honestly quite hard to grasp.

2	5
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In **paragraph 1**, the writer says 'Being a novice father has been gratifying but disorientating.'

Explain in your own words what this sentence means.

[3 marks]



2	6
---	---

In **paragraph 2**, what does the writer say about what his son has learned to do in the past year?

List **four** things.

[4 marks]

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



Read the second part of the article.

Answer questions **27** to **31**.

- 3 A year ago, he was a sleepy ball of wrinkled flesh, but he is now very much his own person. I can see likenesses in him – me, my wife, my parents – yet he's already separate and distinct from all of us. He's wobbly and giggles incessantly. He's a show-off, but one who's terrified of my dad for reasons we cannot understand. He loves charging up to people and then running away again. He enjoys playing games like hide and seek but doesn't quite understand the rules. He seems to take endless pleasure in constructing towers of building blocks, then knocking them down.
- 4 With every tiny development we're confronted with a slightly different child. It's all happening so fast. Photos of him taken last summer seem like news reports from a million years ago. Even photos of him taken last week seem like a different boy. He's blasting ahead as far as he can. He's leaving milestone after milestone behind him and tiny parts of me along with them.

2 7

In **paragraph 3**, the writer says 'giggles incessantly'.

Explain in your own words what this phrase means.

[2 marks]

2 8

In **paragraph 3**, the writer gives the reader some information about the things his son likes doing at one year old.

List **three** things his son likes doing.

[3 marks]

1

2

3



2 9 What is the **main** point of **paragraph 4**?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To describe how frustrating his son is.
B	To give advice about how to take good photos of your children.
C	To explain to the reader how fast his baby has changed.

3 0 In **paragraph 4**, the writer says, 'He's blasting ahead'.

Explain in your own words what this phrase means.

[1 mark]

3 1 Read **paragraphs 3 and 4**.

Which **two** statements are correct?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	The child seemed similar last summer.
B	As his son changes, the writer feels like he has lost small pieces of himself.
C	The one year old is scared around his grandfather.
D	The child knows the rules of hide and seek.

Turn over ►



Read the third part of the article.

Answer questions **32** to **35**.

- 5 My son will never again be the tiny baby who nested in the crook of my arm, sucking on my little finger in the middle of the night while his mum slept. Nor will he be the baby amazed by the taste and texture of solid food. Soon enough he'll stop being the baby who staggers over and rests his head on my shoulder whenever he gets tired, or laughs uncontrollably whenever I say the word 'teeth' for reasons I don't think I'll ever work out. Soon enough, he'll be speaking words we can recognise, perhaps even in sentences.
- 6 But I've had a year of time slipping just beyond my grasp and it's all right. My son will continue to change very quickly and I accept it. He won't realise this, of course. He's got years of unbroken progress ahead of him, where everything will always seem new and he'll pay no attention to all of the old fools who tell him how much he's grown. But one day the passage of time will creep up on him. Years of his life will pass in a moment and he won't be able to understand where they've gone. The cycle of life continues for us all.

3 2

In **paragraph 5**, the writer says, 'Soon enough, he'll be speaking words we can recognise'.

What does this phrase mean?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	Shortly he will be formulating language which is largely incomprehensible.
B	It won't be long before his chatter will be like discernible speech.
C	Within a short time, he will be talking but it will be hard to understand him.

3 3

From **paragraph 5**, list **four** things that his son will **not** be doing in future.

[4 marks]

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____



3 4 From **paragraph 6**, list **two** things that will happen to his son in future.

[2 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

3 5 Which statement best describes the whole article?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	It describes how parents act with a one-year-old child.
B	It explains the development of newborn babies.
C	It describes how the writer feels about his son changing.

24

END OF QUESTIONS



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