

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

Thursday 16 May 2024

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	



J U N 2 4 9 2 8 0 R 0 1

Text 1 Email

Read the first part of an email from Aliyah to her friend Yasmin.

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

- 1 How are you, Yasmin? I'm sorry I haven't written for so long. I have been busy with my part-time job as well as preparing my revision schedule for my final exams in May.
- 2 I'm still enjoying my work at the pharmacy on Saturdays. It's hard working from 9 am until 5 pm. It's also quite difficult remembering all the names of the medicines, but it's very useful experience for when I go to university.

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

0 1 When are Aliyah's examinations?

[1 mark]

A	April
B	May
C	June



0 2 What hours does Aliyah work?

[1 mark]

A	9 am until 5 pm
B	10 am until 6 pm
C	11 am until 6 pm

☐

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

[1 mark]

A	To ask about Yasmin's part-time job
B	To describe Aliyah's part-time job
C	To talk about Aliyah's university

☐

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



Read the second part of the email.

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

- 3 Some of my other friends and I are taking part in a charity challenge in April. It's a charity walk in aid of the victims and survivors of the recent disaster. Would you like to join us? We can ask friends and family to sponsor us. We hope to raise around £1000 in total.
- 4 We plan to walk 5 kilometres per day for one month. This will mean we will be walking for a total of 150 kilometres. If you want to do different activities, you don't have to walk. Walking is the easiest activity, but you can also do the 5 kilometres by cycling, swimming or running. You can even do the 5 kilometres by spending around an hour exercising in the gym.
- 5 I hope you can join us.
- Speak to you soon.
Aliyah.

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	The charity event lasts one hour.
B	The charity event lasts one day.
C	The charity event lasts one month.



0 5

How many kilometres do they plan to walk each day?

[1 mark]

A	5
B	10
C	15

0 6

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

[1 mark]

A	To ask Yasmin to sponsor the charity challenge
B	To ask Yasmin to do more exercise
C	To ask Yasmin to take part in the charity challenge

6

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



Text 2 Holiday Activities

Read the first part of this article which gives advice to parents about holiday activities for their children.

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

Holiday Activities

- 1 School holidays are here soon! As parents, many of you will be thinking about how to keep your children busy over the break. Why not book something a little different for them this year? There are dozens of unique activities designed to get kids moving, boost their education or tap into their creative spirit, whether it's parkour lessons or a songwriting workshop. Here's a rundown of some of the best activities for all ages this holiday.

Parkour
- 2 Kids love to jump, run and bounce. Help your child channel that energy into parkour, a sport where participants perform gymnastic style movements to get from point A to point B quickly. 'Project Z Parkour' runs classes for ages 4 to 16 in the Greater Manchester area. Kids will start inside a sports hall to build their confidence by leaping off crash mats and swinging from climbing frames. Then they will progress onto walls and streets outside. Not only does parkour build strength and agility, but it also develops quick-thinking skills and creativity. Weekly sessions cost £8 per child.

Mermaid Swimming
- 3 If your little ones can't get enough of the water, then why not sign them up to mermaid swimming lessons with 'In At The Deep End'? Children aged 6 and over will learn how to swim gracefully while wearing a mermaid costume under the watchful eye of a qualified instructor. When your child is more confident, they can try a full rainbow-coloured tail. They just need to be able to swim 25 metres comfortably as well as tread water and keep their face underwater while swimming. Classes are held in Sunderland, but there are plenty of other companies nationwide. 11 lessons cost £63.50 per child.

0	7
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In **paragraph 1**, what are parents thinking about for the school holidays?

[1 mark]

0	8
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In **paragraph 2**, in which area do parkour classes take place?

[1 mark]



0 9List **two** things from the article that parkour helps children to develop.**[2 marks]**

1 _____

2 _____

1 0What is the main point of **paragraph 3**?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To give details about mermaid swimming
B	To discuss the benefits of learning to swim
C	To inform families about classes in Sunderland

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

Read the second part of the article.

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

Extract your own DNA

- 4 At the Royal Institute in London, your child can learn how to extract their own DNA in just two hours. Aimed at ages 9 to 12, this workshop takes place using a real working science lab. The children will be able to extract their DNA from their own cheek cells. The best part? They can take this DNA home in a necklace afterwards. A morning workshop from 8 am to 12 pm on 16th August costs £35 per child.

Songwriting

- 5 Think you've got a musical genius on your hands? Song Academy is running songwriting workshops for children aged 8 to 16. Over two days, each child will compose an original song with the help of professional songwriters. They'll learn musical skills, as well as build self-confidence, working with two or three other children. Your child can either attend in person, if you live near London, or take part online from home. Four and six-hour workshops on 14th and 15th August cost from £85 per child.

1 1

Read **paragraph 4**.

Which **two** statements are correct?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	The workshop takes place at the Royal Institute.
B	The workshop is aimed at teenagers.
C	The children can take their DNA home in a bracelet.
D	The workshop lasts for half a day.



1 2In **paragraph 5**, the writer says, 'compose an original' song.

Explain in your own words what this phrase means.

[2 marks]

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

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	The workshops last three days.
B	The workshops build self-confidence.
C	Children can only attend in person.
D	Children will work in a small group setting.

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

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To persuade children to do activities during the holiday
B	To inform parents about holiday activities for their children
C	To tell families to visit different parts of the country during the holidays

12**Turn over ►**

Text 3 Apprenticeships

Read the first part of this article about apprenticeships.

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

Apprenticeships: Building Careers for the Future

- 1 Many teenagers currently in education are making their way from school to working life. This means that teenagers have to do well in the right school subjects, pay a substantial amount of money to finish a university degree and then face a lot of competition for a graduate job. Even though people worked hard at university and accumulated debt, in a survey of almost 2000 adults in England, the majority of people – 54% versus 46% – felt that apprenticeships prepared people better for the workplace compared to university.
- 2 The modern employment market is constantly evolving. This means that multiple job sectors demand new skills. Many industries such as construction, social care and engineering are facing acute skills shortages. These skills shortages are worse because there is a gap between young people starting work with academic qualifications and young people starting work with practical skills.
- 3 Today's teenagers are lucky because there has never been a greater variety of career paths available. There are also more apprenticeships in different careers like construction, digital marketing, hospitality and social care. This means that there is better access to different careers for people who want to develop their skills outside of a university education.

1 5 Read **paragraph 1**.

Which statement is correct?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	46% of adults thought apprenticeships prepared people better for work.
B	2000 adults thought apprenticeships prepared people better for work.
C	54% of adults thought apprenticeships prepared people better for work.



1 6According to **paragraph 2**, what is always changing?**[1 mark]**

1 7In **paragraph 2**, the writer says, 'facing acute skills shortages'.

Explain in your own words what 'shortages' means.

[1 mark]

1 8From **paragraph 3**, list **three** careers which involve apprenticeships.**[3 marks]**

1

2

3

1 9In **paragraph 3**, the writer says, 'there has never been a greater variety of career paths available'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'career paths' means.

[2 marks]

Turn over ►

Read the second part of the article.

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

Why an apprenticeship?

- 4 Employers drive apprenticeship standards. This means that the apprentices are studying exactly what they need to know. They will take assessments on the skills that they'll use every day, which will help them succeed in their job sector. Employers update these apprenticeship standards regularly, and they make sure apprentices get the latest information so they're ready to contribute as much as possible to their workplace. Given all this support, most apprentices subsequently do well in their careers.
- 5 Every apprentice completes a mixture of teaching hours on the programme and on-the-job training, putting them in contact with industry experts for every part of their apprenticeships. New concepts can be applied in the workplace immediately and any industry questions can be answered by teammates and colleagues, offering a refreshing alternative at a time when online learning is becoming more commonplace.
- 6 Choosing an apprenticeship doesn't mean just saving money, it means making money. The average debt on graduation for students who go to university is very large. Studying today is more expensive than it has ever been. Meanwhile, apprentices are not charged tuition or training fees and receive a salary while they study, leaving young people free from the burden of debt and giving them the chance to be earning a wage while they develop valuable skills.
- 7 There's nothing wrong with a long, winding career journey, but sometimes it is a good idea to be direct. Research found that it doesn't matter if apprentices choose to stay in their current role, try to get a promotion or join a new employer. A survey showed that 92% of apprentices who completed an apprenticeship were in employment, with 69% remaining in the same industry.



2 0

In **paragraph 4**, the writer mentions **four** benefits of apprenticeships.

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

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[4 marks]

A	Apprentices learn more than university students.
B	Apprentices learn relevant skills.
C	Apprentices can study anything they like.
D	Apprentices only study for a short period.
E	Apprentices are assessed on skills they use regularly.
F	Apprentices are likely to achieve success in their work.
G	Apprentices do not need good grades.
H	Apprentices have access to up-to-date information.

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2 1

In **paragraph 5**, the writer mentions ways in which apprentices learn.

List **two** ways which show how apprentices learn.

[2 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

2 2

In **paragraph 6**, the writer says, 'receive a salary'.

Explain in your own words what 'salary' means.

[1 mark]

Turn over ►

2 3

In **paragraph 7**, the writer says, 'if apprentices choose to stay in their current role'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'current role' means.

[2 marks]

2 4

Which statement best describes the whole article?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	It gives a balanced account of universities and apprenticeships.
B	It explains the advantages of apprenticeships.
C	It persuades students not to go to university.



Text 4 The Ghost Trees of Connemara in Ireland

Read the first part of the text about a writer's visit to a special place.

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

The Ghost Trees of Connemara in Ireland

- 1 The idea for the book starts at the top of a mountain. The mountain is Errisbeg, on the coast of Connemara in County Galway. It's an ugly lump of a thing, with prickly yellow bushes and patches of swampy bog, but the landscape it commands is magnificent. The face of the mountain overlooks the endless beaches.
- 2 To the east is the lovely village of Roundstone. It has a small creative community. Nearby, there are peninsulas, and beyond them lies the Atlantic, dotted with small islands. So far so normal. It's only when you turn away from the sea and cast your eye inland that things get a little strange.

2 5

In **paragraph 1**, the writer says, 'The face of the mountain overlooks the endless beaches.'

Explain in your own words what this sentence means.

[3 marks]

2 6

In **paragraph 2**, the writer describes the village of Roundstone and its surroundings.

List **four** things mentioned by the writer.

[4 marks]

- 1

- 2

- 3

- 4

Turn over ►



Read the second part of the text.

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

- 3 The view travels across an expanse of desolation that stretches as far as the Twelve Bens mountains in the distance. Not a thing lies between, only bog and scrub and pockets of water and the shadows of clouds travelling over the land. There's a savage beauty to the place, but there's also the feeling of something missing. This is a landscape of absence.
- 4 I'm a writer, so you'll have to take some of what I say with caution. If you go to Connemara, and take the road from Maam Cross to Clifden, you will see evergreen trees in gaps in the land, but they look to me like they don't belong. Clusters of trees huddle together, like groups of refugees. There are also lone trees bent over double by the wind.
- 5 A photographer could capture this scene, but I look at it as a writer. What the mind registers is a vast emptiness. The place feels heavy with some dark mystery. It feels like a crime scene. Every novel starts with a haunting, an idea that is vivid but unclear and won't leave you alone. In this case, it was the strangely treeless landscape of Connemara that took a hold of me.

2 7

In **paragraph 3**, the writer says, 'There's a savage beauty to the place'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'savage beauty' means.

[2 marks]

2 8

In **paragraph 4**, the writer gives the reader some information about the trees.

List **three** things the writer says about the trees.

[3 marks]

1

2

3



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

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To describe the landscape in detail
B	To describe the life of a writer
C	To give directions to Clifden

3 0In **paragraph 5**, the writer says, 'treeless'.

Explain in your own words what 'treeless' means.

[1 mark]

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

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	There are mountains on the horizon.
B	The writer is a photographer.
C	The landscape is enclosed.
D	The landscape is empty.

Turn over ►

Read the third part of the text.

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

- 6 There was no narrative connected to it, only an eerie feeling. If you're a writer you learn to follow that feeling, so I began to read up on the natural history of the area. I discovered that the place had once been inhabited by native forests. These native forests had all been chopped down by people.
- 7 The native forests of Connemara have been gone for many thousands of years, but they haunt the place still. Fascinated by this notion of a landscape that is forced to remember its dead, I began to play with titles. *Where Once There Were Trees* was an early one. *The Memory of Trees* was another. That sense of a ghost story – how something can be gone from the world but not entirely absent – carried into the story of the people I started to write about.

3 2 In **paragraph 7**, the writer says, 'they haunt the place still'.

What does the phrase 'haunt the place still' mean?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	There are ghosts in Connemara.
B	The remains of the native forests are like ghosts.
C	There are still native forests in Connemara.



3 3From **paragraphs 6** and **7**, list **four** phrases which show that something has been lost.**[4 marks]**

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

3 4From **paragraph 7**, list **two** titles the writer thinks of for her book.**[2 marks]**

1 _____

2 _____

3 5

Which statement best describes the whole text?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	The writer persuades readers to visit Connemara.
B	The writer informs readers about the people of Connemara.
C	The writer tells readers how she found ideas for her book in Connemara.

24

END OF QUESTIONS

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2 4



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