

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number

Candidate number

Surname

Forename(s)

Candidate signature

I declare this is my own work.

INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Reading Paper

Monday 19 May 2025

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 5 9 2 8 0 R 0 1

Text 1 Email

Read the first part of an email from Nina to her friend Yoyo.

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

- 1 Hi, Yoyo. I hope you are well. I've been busy with my practice exams this week and I know you have been too. My exams started on Monday and finished on Thursday. My best result was in Maths and I was happy with my Physics exam. My Chemistry exam did not go very well. How did your exams go?
- 2 Thanks for arranging the cinema trip last week. It was good to have a break from revision. I don't usually enjoy adventure films, but that one was really exciting. I really liked the comfortable seats and the big screen. I enjoyed the snacks, especially the popcorn. Thanks once again and I promise to arrange our next trip.

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

0 1

When did Nina's exams finish?

[1 mark]

A	On Monday
B	On Wednesday
C	On Thursday



0 2 Which subject did Nina do best in?

[1 mark]

A	Chemistry
B	Maths
C	Physics

☐

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

[1 mark]

A	To describe the food at the cinema
B	To talk about the film at the cinema
C	To thank Yoyo for the cinema trip

☐

Turn over for the next question



Read the second part of the email.

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

- 3 Our school environment group is planning an event to improve the area around the school. The green spaces, streets and shopping centre near the school are often spoiled by people dropping rubbish. Our group is going to pick up rubbish in our local area. I would really like you to join us and take part in the event.
- 4 We're meeting in the school playground at 10 am next Saturday. We're going to spend three hours picking up rubbish in the park next to the school before having a picnic lunch at 1 pm. We'll make sure that we don't leave any rubbish after our picnic! The group will provide all the equipment needed.
- 5 It would be great if you could take part next Saturday.

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 event will take place in a park.
B	The event will take place on the streets.
C	The event will take place in a shopping centre.



0 5 How many hours will the event last?

[1 mark]

A	1
B	3
C	10

0 6 What is the **main** purpose of the email?

[1 mark]

A	To ask Yoyo to take part in the event
B	To tell Yoyo not to drop rubbish near the school
C	To persuade Yoyo to do more for the environment

6

Turn over for the next question



Text 2 Days Out: Fun-Packed Museums to Visit

Read the first part of the article about museums to visit in the UK.

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

Days Out: Fun-Packed Museums to Visit

- 1 The Science Museum in London has long been a popular attraction for families, and for good reason. With exhibitions covering topics as varied as robots, code-breaking, astronauts and superbugs, it has something for children of all ages and is definitely worth visiting. Be sure to check out the interactive Power Up gaming experience. It lets visitors get hands-on with some of the very best video games and consoles.
- 2 The Merseyside Maritime Museum is located in the centre of Liverpool's historic waterfront. It is where you can learn all about the city's seafaring past. The Liverpool Shipping Posters exhibition explores a century of sea travel. The Titanic Collection describes the ill-fated passenger ship's connection with the port where it was designed.
- 3 The Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds has the UK's national collection of arms and armour and is perfect for any child with an interest in history. You can see exhibits including Henry VIII's armour and Ancient Tibetan swords. You can also take part in an exciting escape room game, and watch daily combat displays.
- 4 Everyone loves learning about trains. The National Railway Museum in York is a fantastic day out for families who love trains. The Flying Scotsman VR experience is designed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 'world's most famous locomotive'. It is great for the children. Wonderlab: The Bramall Gallery is a new interactive experience that will test your engineering skills.

0 7

In **paragraph 1**, what is 'Power Up'?

[1 mark]**0 8**

In **paragraph 2**, what can you learn about at the Merseyside Maritime Museum?

[1 mark]

0 9From **paragraph 3**, list **two** things you can do at the Royal Armouries Museum.**[2 marks]**

1 _____

2 _____

1 0Which of these statements best describes the **main** point of **paragraph 4**?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	It gives information about the train museum.
B	It gives information about engineering tests.
C	It gives information about a 100th anniversary celebration.

Turn over for the next question

Read the second part of the article.

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

- 5 Coventry has an impressive history of making motor cars, motorbikes and bicycles. It is the perfect city to put the largest collection of British-made road transport which is kept publicly in the Transport Museum. You can marvel at the world's two fastest cars, or one of the 300 bicycles, 120 motorbikes and 250 other motor vehicles. There are plenty of opportunities for your children to test their maths, science and engineering skills.
- 6 The Kelvingrove Art Gallery is in Glasgow's leafy West End. It is one of Scotland's most important museums, featuring everything from art and animals to Ancient Egyptian artefacts. There are music concerts daily at 1 pm and the surrounding park is well worth exploring too.
- 7 The stunning Riverside Museum was designed by an internationally renowned architect. It is on the banks of the River Clyde and has the city's transport and technology collections. You can discover the important part Glasgow has played in the world through its contributions to shipbuilding and engineering.

1	1
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In **paragraph 5**, the writer says, 'Coventry has an impressive history'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'impressive history' means.

[2 marks]



1 2Read **paragraph 5**.Which **two** statements are correct?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	There are 200 motor vehicles in the Transport Museum.
B	There are 300 bicycles in the Transport Museum.
C	There are 120 motorbikes in the Transport Museum.
D	There are 3 of the world's fastest motor cars in the Transport Museum.

1 3Read **paragraph 6**.Which **two** statements are correct?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	The art gallery is in the West End of Glasgow.
B	The art gallery has Ancient Egyptian artefacts.
C	The art gallery has a shopping centre surrounding it.
D	The art gallery has music performances every week.



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

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To give information about museums to families
B	To give travel advice about cities in the UK
C	To outline the best museums for adults to visit

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Turn over for the next question

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Text 3 Rhinoceros Numbers on the Rise Thanks to Conservation

Read the first part of this article about rising rhinoceros numbers.

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

Rhinoceros Numbers on the Rise Thanks to Conservation

- 1 The rhinoceros, also known as the rhino, is one of the largest animals on Earth. Global rhinoceros numbers have increased to about 27 000. This has happened despite populations being damaged by illegal hunting and loss of rhino habitats (the places where they live) with some species growing for the first time in a decade. There were 500 000 across Africa and Asia in the 20th century, but their populations have since been devastated. However, recent efforts by conservationists have resulted in encouraging growth in some parts of the world.
- 2 Last year, rhino numbers began showing signs of recovery in some areas, although two species – the Javan and Sumatran – remain close to disappearing. Southern white rhino numbers increased for the first time since 2012, from 16 000 at the end of 2021 to 17 000. In 2021, the world's rhino population was estimated to be about 27 000.
- 3 Black rhinos, native to east and southern Africa, had been heavily reduced by hunting. But last year, black rhinos increased by nearly 5%, rising from about 6200 at the end of 2021 to nearly 6500 at the end of 2022. This increase has happened despite a rise in black rhinos being killed by illegal hunters. Conservationists have helped rhino numbers to grow by establishing new populations that have increased in size.

1 5 Read **paragraph 1**.

Which statement is correct?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	Rhinoceros numbers are about 27 000.
B	Rhinoceros numbers are about 50 000.
C	Rhinoceros numbers are about 500 000.



1 6 From **paragraph 2**, name **one** species of rhino.

[1 mark]

1 7 In **paragraph 2**, the writer says, 'signs of recovery'.

Explain in your own words what 'recovery' means.

[1 mark]

1 8 From **paragraph 3**, list **three** things the writer mentions about black rhinos.

[3 marks]

1

2

3

1 9 In **paragraph 3**, the writer says rhinos 'had been heavily reduced by hunting'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'reduced by hunting' means.

[2 marks]

Turn over ►



Read the second part of the article.

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

- 4 Unfortunately, it is not all good news. Compared to the increases in rhino populations in other parts of the world, the Javan and Sumatran rhinos remain critically endangered. They are in steady decline and are likely to die out if things do not improve quickly and dramatically. Officially, about 80 Sumatran rhinos remain, but experts believe there may be as few as 34. They often live in small areas of forest, where it is almost impossible for them to find each other and have baby rhinos. In March last year, a female was born in a zoo in Sumatra after several mothers lost their babies. This is positive, but many more rhinos will need to be born in this area for the population to survive.
- 5 Illegal hunters are still killing rhinos in Africa. 551 rhinos were killed in Africa during 2022. These numbers remain worrying, but they represent a marked decline from the peak of the crisis when 1349 African rhinos were illegally hunted in 2015 amid a huge rise in killings during the early 2000s.
- 6 There is still some anxiety about the dangers the rhinos face, even in areas where the rhino population is larger. In India and Nepal, the rhino population is stable at 4000. But conservationists remain concerned about illegal hunting and the loss of rhino habitats. The Javan rhino population is about 76, all of them found in a national park in Indonesia, but there have been signs of illegal activity in the area. Conservationists know that they must continue in their efforts to protect and preserve rhinos around the world. This will help rhino numbers around the world to increase even further.



2 0

In **paragraph 4**, the writer mentions **four** things about rhinos in Java and Sumatra.

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

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[4 marks]

A	Javan and Sumatran rhinos are likely to die out.
B	There is good news about Javan and Sumatran rhinos.
C	Experts believe there may be as few as 34 Sumatran rhinos.
D	Javan and Sumatran rhinos find it easy to find each other and have baby rhinos.
E	Javan rhinos live on their own.
F	Sumatran rhinos remain in small areas of forest.
G	A rhino was born in a zoo in Sumatra.
H	Enough rhinos are now being born in Java and Sumatra for the population to survive.

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2 1

In **paragraph 4**, the writer says, 'improve quickly'.

Explain in your own words what 'improve' means.

[1 mark]

2 2

In **paragraphs 5 and 6**, the writer mentions factors which are negatively affecting rhinos.

List **two** factors negatively affecting rhinos.

[2 marks]

1

2



2 3

In **paragraph 6**, the writer says conservationists 'remain concerned'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'remain concerned' means.

[2 marks]

2 4

Which statement best describes the whole article?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	It explains that rhino numbers are increasing overall.
B	It explains that rhino populations are stable.
C	It discusses the rhino population of Java and Sumatra.

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Turn over for the next question

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Text 4 Istanbul: A City of Contrasts

Read the first part of the text about a writer's memories of a famous city in Türkiye.

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

Istanbul: A City of Contrasts

- 1 Istanbul is an unforgettable city of many contrasts. Amid the hustle and bustle of this great city, there are startling spaces of solitude and pleasant pockets of peace. Alongside the vibrant, modern, expanding city, there are many visible reminders of Istanbul's past. Istanbul is built upon layers and layers of history. Through more than 2000 years of existence, it has been home to many cultures. Istanbul has even had three names in its long history.
- 2 One of the most amazing places to visit in Istanbul is Hagia Sophia. It was the largest church in the world for over 1000 years before becoming a mosque, a museum and then a mosque again. Its huge interior space for prayer is topped by a splendid dome. When Hagia Sophia was a museum some years ago, I entered it shortly before closing time. As it was the end of the day, all of the visitors had departed. I had the huge building almost to myself; there were just three other people and a cat. I was amazed at the walls and dome which had seen perhaps millions of worshippers over 1500 years. I recently visited Hagia Sophia, now that it has become a mosque again. I was struck by how worshippers and tourists mingled respectfully together under the great dome.

2	5
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In **paragraph 1**, the writer says, 'startling spaces of solitude'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'startling spaces of solitude' means.

[3 marks]



2 6

In **paragraph 2**, the writer talks about the ancient building and history of Hagia Sophia.

List **four** things the writer mentions about Hagia Sophia.

[4 marks]

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

Turn over for the next question



Read the second part of the text.

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

- 3 Opposite Hagia Sophia is the spectacular Blue Mosque, one of the most famous sites in Istanbul. It has a central dome with four semi-domes built over the prayer hall, and six minarets from which to call the faithful to prayer. The tiles which decorate the mosque are mostly blue, which gives the mosque its name. Within the mosque, silence reigns.
- 4 Not far away is Topkapi Palace with its many courtyards, bathrooms, reception rooms, gardens, pavilions and balconies. Topkapi Palace has exhibitions showing ceramics and glass, silverware, costumes, manuscripts and imperial treasures. Although many tourists visit the palace daily, I have experienced moments of peaceful reflection on the palace's terraces overlooking the sea.
- 5 Peace may also be found beneath the busy city. The Basilica Cistern is a massive space. It is basically a huge water tank, built to supply water to the ancient rulers of the city. The roof of the cistern is supported by 336 columns of great size, many of them recycled from earlier structures such as temples and theatres. There is an eerie silence as you move between the colossal columns on walkways with atmospheric lighting reflecting off the shimmering water.

2 7 In **paragraph 3**, the writer says, 'Within the mosque, silence reigns'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'silence reigns' means.

[2 marks]

2 8 In **paragraph 4**, the writer mentions a range of exhibitions at the palace.

List **three** exhibitions.

[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 what type of tourist visits the palace.
B	To describe the history of the palace.
C	To describe the features of the palace.

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

Explain in your own words what 'colossal' means.

[1 mark]

3 1 Read **paragraph 5**.

Which **two** statements are correct?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	There is no longer any water in the cistern.
B	There are 336 columns in the cistern.
C	There is a lot of noise in the cistern.
D	The columns are recycled from temples and theatres.



Read the third part of the text.

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

- 6 Near the Galata Tower there is a diverse shopping district. The shops sell typical souvenirs and Turkish crafts in the narrow lanes around the tower. They also sell all the fashionable clothes and modern gadgets you could want from the grand avenues nearby. After climbing the tower, which is around 70 metres high, you are rewarded by an amazing 360-degree view of the city. At the top of the tower, you can spot the sights from all around at your leisure, detached from the crowds below.
- 7 When you visit Istanbul, you must visit its Grand Bazaar, a vast indoor labyrinth of more than 4000 shops. You can easily get lost in this maze, but that is part of the experience: to wander among the many shopping booths and to browse through the wide range of goods on offer, including jewellery, leather goods and the world-famous Turkish carpets. It is an experience which takes you back through time.

3 2

In **paragraph 6**, the writer says, 'detached from the crowds below'.

What does 'detached from the crowds' mean?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	Feeling part of the mass of people
B	Feeling better than the large groups of people
C	Feeling separated from the large groups of people



3 3From **paragraph 6** and **7**, list **four** things on sale in the city.**[4 marks]**

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

3 4From **paragraph 7**, list **two** things which show the Grand Bazaar is a large and complex space.**[2 marks]**

- 1 _____
- 2 _____

3 5

Which statement best describes the whole text?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To show the contrasts between aspects of the city
B	To tell the history of the city
C	To promote the best places to shop in the city

24**END OF QUESTIONS**

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