

INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

9280/R

Reading Paper

Mark scheme

June 2025

Version: 1.0 Final



2 5 6 Y 9 2 8 0 / R / M S

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Text 1 Email

Qu	Marking Guidance	Total Marks
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Accept		
01	C (On Thursday)	1

Accept		
02	B (Maths)	1

Accept		
03	C (To thank Yoyo for the cinema trip)	1

Accept		
04	A (The event will take place in a park)	1

Accept		
05	B (3)	1

Accept		
06	A (To ask Yoyo to take part in the event)	1

Text 2 Days Out: Fun-Packed Museums to Visit

For all open responses, accept reasonable spelling variations where the intended meaning is not lost and, if said phonetically, would be understood.

Qu	Marking Guidance	Total Marks
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Accept any one of the following

07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An exhibition/experience at the Science Museum • An interactive/gaming experience • A hands-on experience • An interactive game <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning.</p>	1
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Accept any one of the following

08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city's seafaring past • A century of sea travel • The Titanic (Collection) • The ill-fated passenger ship's connection with the port where it was designed. <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning.</p>	1
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Accept any two of the following

09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the arms/armour • See Henry VIII's armour exhibit • See (Ancient) (Tibetan) swords exhibit • Take part in an (immersive) escape room game • Watch (daily) combat displays <p>Verb form required. Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning. Award a mark for each correct response even if on the same line.</p>	2
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Accept

10	A (It gives information about the train museum)	1
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Accept

11	<p>2 marks – Candidate explains both the ideas of 'impressive' – excellent/amazing/magnificent/great (other synonyms/explanations accepted) and 'history' – past/heritage/tradition (other synonyms/explanations accepted)</p> <p>1 mark – Candidate explains one of these ideas or partially both</p> <p>0 marks – Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written</p>	2
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Award a maximum of two marks		
12	B (There are 300 bicycles in the Transport Museum) and C (There are 120 motorbikes in the Transport Museum) The letters can be accepted in any order.	2

Award a maximum of two marks		
13	A (The art gallery is in the West End of Glasgow) and B (The art gallery has Ancient Egyptian artefacts) The letters can be accepted in any order.	2

Accept		
14	A (To give information about museums to families)	1

Text 3 Rhinoceros Numbers on the Rise Thanks to Conservation

For all open responses, accept reasonable spelling variations where the intended meaning is not lost and, if said phonetically, would be understood.

Qu	Marking Guidance	Total Marks
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Accept		
15	A (Rhinoceros numbers are about 27 000)	1

Accept any one of the following		
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Javan • Sumatran • Southern white (rhino) <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning.</p>	1

Award a maximum of one mark		
17	<p>1 mark – Candidate explains the idea of ‘recovery’ – getting back to normal/improving/getting better/comeback (other synonyms/explanations of ‘recovery’ accepted)</p> <p>0 marks – Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written</p>	1

Accept any three of the following		
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native to east/southern Africa • Heavily reduced (by hunting) • (Numbers) increased by (nearly) 5% • (The number of black rhinos) rose from 6200 to 6500 • (A rise in) black rhinos killed by (illegal) hunters • Growth in numbers aided by conservationists (establishing new populations) <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning. Award a mark for each correct response even if on the same line.</p>	3

Award a maximum of two marks		
19	<p>2 marks – Candidate explains both ideas of ‘reduced’ – depleted/became less/decreased (other synonyms/explanations accepted) and ‘by hunting’ – poaching/killing/catching (other synonyms/explanations accepted)</p> <p>1 mark – Candidate explains one of these ideas or partially both</p> <p>0 marks – Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written</p> <p>Past tense required.</p>	2

Accept		
20	<p>A (Javan and Sumatran rhinos are likely to die out), C (Experts believe there may be as few as 34 Sumatran rhinos), F (Sumatran rhinos remain in small areas of forest) and G (A rhino was born in a zoo in Sumatra)</p> <p>The letters can be accepted in any order.</p>	4

Award a maximum of one mark		
21	<p>1 mark – Candidate explains the idea of ‘improve’ – get better/become better/(make)progress/enhance (other synonyms/explanations for ‘improve’ accepted)</p> <p>0 marks – Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written</p>	1

Accept any two of the following		
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal hunting/hunters • Loss of rhino habitats • Illegal activity (in the area) <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning. Award a mark for each correct response even if on the same line.</p>	2

Award a maximum of two marks		
23	<p>2 marks – Candidate explains both the ideas of ‘remain’ – stay/still/continue(to be) (other synonyms/explanations of ‘remain’ accepted) and ‘concerned’ – anxious/worried/uneasy(about) (other synonyms/explanations of ‘concerned’ accepted)</p> <p>1 mark – Candidate explains one of these ideas or partially both</p> <p>0 marks – Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written</p>	2

Accept		
24	A (It explains that rhino numbers are increasing overall)	1

Text 4 Istanbul: A City of Contrasts

For all open responses, accept reasonable spelling variations where the intended meaning is not lost and, if said phonetically, would be understood.

Qu	Marking Guidance	Total Marks
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Award a maximum of three marks

25	<p>3 marks – Candidate explains all ideas of ‘startling’ – surprising/unexpected/astonishing (other synonyms/explanations for ‘startling’ accepted), ‘spaces’ – places/areas/locations (other synonyms/explanations for ‘spaces’ accepted) and ‘solitude’ – being alone/on your own/loneliness/isolation (other synonyms/explanations for ‘solitude’ accepted)</p> <p>2 marks – Candidate explains two ideas or partially three</p> <p>1 mark – Candidate explains one of these ideas or partially two</p> <p>0 marks – Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written</p>	3
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Accept any four of the following

26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It’s/It is amazing • (It was) the largest church in the world (for over 1000 years) (needs either/or past tense or ‘for over 1000 years’ to indicate time) • (Has) been a church/museum • (It) was/is a mosque • (Has) a vast (interior) space (for prayer) • (Has) a (splendid) dome • (It is) a huge building • (Has had/seen) millions of worshippers over 1500 years • The walls and dome are amazing <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning. Award a mark for each correct response even if on the same line.</p>	4
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Award a maximum of two marks

27	<p>2 marks – Candidate explains both the ideas of ‘silence’ – peace/quiet/lack of noise (other synonyms/explanations for ‘silence’ accepted) and ‘reigns’ – dominates/rules/is omnipresent (other synonyms/explanations for ‘reigns’ accepted)</p> <p>1 mark – Candidate explains one of these ideas or partially both</p> <p>0 marks – Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written</p>	2
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Accept any three of the following		
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceramics/glass • Silverware • Costumes • Manuscripts • (Imperial) treasures <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning. Award a mark for each correct response even if on the same line.</p>	3

Accept		
29	C (To describe the features of the palace)	1

Award a maximum of one mark		
30	<p>1 mark – Candidate explains the idea of ‘colossal’ – huge/enormous/gigantic/very big (other synonyms/explanations for ‘colossal’ accepted)</p> <p>0 marks – Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written</p>	1

Accept		
31	<p>B (There are 336 columns in the cistern) and D (The columns are recycled from temples and theatres)</p> <p>The letters can be accepted in any order.</p>	2

Accept		
32	C (Feeling separated from the large groups of people)	1

Accept any four of the following		
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Typical) souvenirs • Turkish crafts • (Fashionable) clothes • Modern gadgets • Jewellery • Leather goods • (world-famous) Turkish carpets <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning. Award a mark for each correct response even if on the same line.</p>	4

Accept any two of the following		
34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast (indoor) labyrinth • (More than) 4000 shops • You can easily get lost (in this maze) • Many shopping booths <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning. Award a mark for each correct response even if on the same line.</p>	2

Accept		
35	A (To show the contrasts between aspects of the city)	1