

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

Tuesday 28 October 2025

07:00 UK Time

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	



N 0 V 2 5 9 2 8 0 R 0 1

Text 1 Email

Read the first part of an email from Yagmur to her friend Elif.

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

- 1 I hope you are feeling better now, Elif. It is a shame that you couldn't come with us on the college trip to the theme park last Saturday. It was a really great trip.
- 2 We set off at 9 am and the journey took two hours. I went on 15 rides altogether. Some of them were scary and some were exciting. I went on water rides, spinning rides and rollercoasters. I enjoyed the rollercoasters the most. We returned at 7 pm after a tiring but fun day.

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

01 How long was the journey to the theme park?

[1 mark]

A	2 hours
B	7 hours
C	9 hours



0 2 Which ride did Yagmur enjoy the most?

[1 mark]

A	Water rides
B	Spinning rides
C	Rollercoasters

☐

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

[1 mark]

A	To ask Elif to go to the theme park
B	To describe the trip to the theme park
C	To give details of Yagmur's favourite ride

☐

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



Read the second part of the email.

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

- 3 I hope you can come with me to the university fair at our college next Wednesday. There will be representatives from 20 universities at the fair. We can talk to the representatives from the universities we are interested in. I have made a list of 10 universities that I want to find out more about. I am interested in either learning about Business Management or International Relations at the fair. I know that you, Elif, are interested in finding out about Medicine.
- 4 The university fair starts at 1 pm and finishes at 4 pm. There will be refreshments in the main hall. Some of the university representatives will be giving special talks on how to prepare our university applications. They will also talk about what life at university is like.
- 5 It would be wonderful if you could attend the university fair with me.

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	There will be representatives from 4 universities at the fair.
B	There will be representatives from 10 universities at the fair.
C	There will be representatives from 20 universities at the fair.



0 5 Which subject is Elif interested in?

[1 mark]

A	Business Management
B	International Relations
C	Medicine

☐

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

[1 mark]

A	To ask Elif to go to the university fair
B	To talk about life at university
C	To set up an event in the main hall

☐

6

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



Text 2 Promoting Good Health

Read the first part of this article which gives information to parents about the health of their children.

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

- 1 **Helping your child stay healthy at the start of term**
Classrooms can be airless and are quickly filled with coughs and colds, sore throats and runny noses when children return after the school holidays, so children often pick up illnesses when they go back to school. There are ways to help keep your children healthy at this time of year, such as proper handwashing and good sleep routines.
- 2 **Keeping your child active**
Staying active not only benefits a child's fitness, it also reduces their chances of becoming ill. Exercise can be anything that gets them breathing a little quicker and feeling warmer.
- 3 **Hand hygiene**
It is important for children to wash their hands properly, using soap and water and for 20 seconds. Teach them to use nail brushes and how to avoid touching their faces. Backpacks should be cleaned regularly and items like pens and crayons should not be shared if possible.
- 4 **Eating a balanced diet**
Children should eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables every day as they contain essential vitamins and minerals. Other foods such as fish, cheese and nuts are also important for a balanced diet. Fruit juices and smoothies can be a cause of tooth decay, so should be limited to 150 millilitres at mealtimes to reduce this risk. Takeaway foods can be high in salt and fat so should be avoided as much as possible for a healthy diet.

0 7

In **paragraph 1**, what happens to children when they return to school after the holidays?

[1 mark]

0 8

From **paragraph 2**, name one benefit of exercise.

[1 mark]



0 9

In **paragraph 3**, the writer gives advice about good hand hygiene.

List **two** pieces of advice the writer gives.

[2 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

1 0

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

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	It tells parents that children can only eat fresh fruit.
B	It advises children to eat takeaways if they want.
C	It explains what a balanced diet contains.

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



Read the second part of the article.

Answer questions 11 to 14.

- 5 **Having a healthy sleep routine**
If your child has poor sleep quality and length, it can affect their ability to fight off illnesses. This can also affect their behaviour and emotions. Keeping a regular bedtime and sleep routine will help children fall asleep quickly and improve their quality of sleep. Waking your child gently using daylight or music before they have to get up for school can also help.
- 6 **Staying hydrated**
Drinking plenty of water helps the body stay hydrated and helps maintain your body's temperature. If your child is not drinking enough water, it can affect their mood and concentration. Choose a water bottle they like to encourage them to drink water regularly.
- 7 **Being outdoors**
Being outdoors in green spaces encourages children to play, which is a fun way to encourage exercise in their daily routine. Being outside playing with friends also helps children get some fresh air.
- 8 **Helping when ill**
Sadly, there is no way to avoid your child being ill from time to time. When your child is poorly, try to avoid them coming into contact with friends until they have been symptom free for a minimum of 48 hours. Encourage them to rest and don't send them back to school too early.

1 1

In **paragraph 5**, the writer says, 'fight off illnesses'.

Explain in your own words what this phrase means.

[2 marks]



1 2Read **paragraph 6**.Which **two** statements are correct?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	Drinking water keeps the body hydrated.
B	Drinking water makes it hard to concentrate.
C	Drinking water maintains the body's temperature.
D	Drinking water makes children moody.

1 3Read **paragraphs 7 and 8**.Which **two** statements are correct?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	Children cannot exercise for 48 hours if they are ill.
B	It is not possible to prevent illnesses totally.
C	Send children back to school as soon as possible.
D	Green spaces can help with exercise.

Turn over ►

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

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To advise parents what to do with their children if they get ill.
B	To advise parents how to keep their children healthy.
C	To advise parents how their children can eat well at school.

12

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Text 3 One Country's Success at the Paralympics

Read the first part of this article about the Paralympics in Paris.

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

- 1 China dominates the Paralympics but that's not just down to its almost limitless funds. When it comes to the Paralympics, China leaves the United States (and everyone else) behind. At each of the past five Summer Paralympics, China's gold medal total has been, at a minimum, the same as the second and third-placed countries combined. As of this morning, in Paris, China has 73 with the United Kingdom and US trailing at 37 and 27, respectively. Many of the reasons for this success mirror China's success at the Olympic Games, starting with vast funding from the state.
- 2 The Chinese government's annual budget for sport is more than ¥23.3 bn (£2.4 bn), much of which gets put into the sports systems of the Olympic and Paralympic programmes. But for China, it's about more than just money. The country's sporting excellence has been built on a concept known as *juguo tizhi*, or 'whole-nation system', which was designed to use whatever resources are necessary to achieve success. And while the term was originally applied just to the country's sporting framework, it worked so well over the decades that President Xi Jinping now uses it to support China's quest for global tech dominance too.
- 3 Yes, the money provides superior training facilities and financial encouragement for athletes. But the system comes into its own in areas such as sports which China leads the world in, for example in diving, table tennis, weightlifting and, more recently, shooting. Then, there's a patriotic buy-in at all levels in the desire to bring pride and glory to the country.

1 5 Read **paragraph 1**.

Which statement is correct?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	The UK is the third-best performing country in the Paris Paralympics.
B	The US has 37 medals at this moment in the Paris Paralympics.
C	China is performing best in the Paris Paralympics.



1 6

From **paragraph 2**, name **one** programme which receives money from the Chinese government.

[1 mark]

1 7

In **paragraph 2**, the writer says, 'The country's sporting excellence'.

Explain in your own words what 'excellence' means.

[1 mark]

1 8

From **paragraph 3**, list **three** sports in which China dominates.

[3 marks]

1

2

3

1 9

In **paragraph 3**, the writer says, 'to bring pride and glory to the country'.

Explain in your own words what 'pride and glory' means.

[2 marks]

Turn over ►

Read the second part of the article.

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

- 4 Of course, any country that chooses to focus more money and national attention on the Olympics can achieve this as well, but there are other reasons more specific to China itself that explain its Paralympic success.
- 5 In the US in particular, many Paralympics athletes are injured army veterans. This is not the case in China, where many Paralympic athletes come from poorer, rural areas and may have disabilities from birth. This allows China to maximise its talent identification and development advantages. Many athletes enter Paralympic programmes early in life, often through state-run schools and sports academies designed for people with disabilities. That extra lead-in time makes a significant difference. Take the para athletics events in Tokyo, for example, where China dominated the US in track and field gold medals by 27 to 10.
- 6 China has another competitive advantage because of the size of its population. The International Paralympic Committee launched its 'WeThe15' movement before Tokyo to draw attention to the estimated 15% of people globally who live with disabilities. In China, that 15% amounts to 210 million people, which is the same as the population of Brazil. And at the Paralympics, sports are further subdivided into classifications for different disabilities. For example, there are 16 gold medals for the men's 100 m and another 13 for the women's 100 m. China does not have entrants in every single race, but its population means it can field many talented athletes, and that only the most competitive Chinese athletes get selected. If there's a Chinese athlete in your race, there's a good chance they will finish with a medal.



2 0

In **paragraph 5**, the writer discusses Chinese Paralympic athletes.

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

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[4 marks]

A	Many are injured army veterans.
B	Many come from poor, rural places.
C	Many are disabled from birth.
D	They do not benefit from development programmes.
E	Many enter athletic programmes when they are young.
F	They train in specialist state schools and colleges.
G	The extra lead-in time has no impact.
H	They are not successful in track and field events.

2 1

In **paragraph 5**, the writer says, 'maximise'.

Explain in your own words what 'maximise' means.

[1 mark]

2 2

In **paragraph 6**, the writer mentions some facts about people with disabilities.

List **two** facts the writer mentions.

[2 marks]

1

2

Turn over ►

2 3In **paragraph 6**, the writer says, 'competitive advantage'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'competitive advantage' 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 dominant the US is at the Paralympics.
B	It gives the reasons for China's Paralympic success.
C	It explains the popularity of the Paris Paralympics.



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Text 4 Festivals of Light and Colour

Read the first part of the text about a writer's memories of two festivals.

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

- 1 As a young teacher in London, I taught in three schools demonstrating the diversity of the capital. My schools served the Islamic and Hindu communities, giving me a deep sense of different cultural customs and traditions. While I have great memories from all three schools, I recall two festivals from the Hindu school in particular which have imprinted themselves on my mind.
- 2 The students in the Hindu school were born in London, but the majority had family roots in the Indian region of Gujarat. Just over the road, a new temple had been built to serve the Gujarati Hindu community. It was a magnificent building, beautifully carved in white marble and luxuriously decorated inside. It was the largest Hindu temple in Europe. Many famous people such as politicians and members of the British royal family came to pay their respects at the temple, which was a cause of great excitement for the students. The school and the temple hosted two festivals, one in the autumn and one in the spring, which were remarkable for their light and colour. People from outside the community, such as myself, were also made to feel very welcome at the festivals.

2	5
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In **paragraph 1**, the writer says, 'demonstrating the diversity of the capital'.

Explain in your own words what this phrase means.

[3 marks]



2 6

In **paragraph 2**, the writer describes the temple.

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

[4 marks]

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

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



Read the second part of the text.

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

- 3 Diwali is a festival rooted in religious significance, highlighting different origin stories and traditions. It usually takes place in October or November and is also known as 'the festival of lights'. Diwali is a celebration of the triumph of good over evil and of light over darkness. As the days get shorter and the nights get longer in the autumn months, it is fitting that light is cherished and celebrated. Hindus light their homes with lanterns, candles and oil lamps, as well as decorating them with special patterns called rangoli.
- 4 In the same way, the school and temple were illuminated by lamps, lanterns and candles during Diwali. The students decorated their classrooms and corridors. The school and temple held large events to celebrate the festival, which lasted around five days and which many students, parents and temple-goers attended. As Diwali is associated with the harvest, the sharing of delicious and plentiful food was also a prominent feature of the festival in school and temple. Diwali is also connected to the idea of homecoming, so friends and family visited each other at home, with everyone dressed in their finest clothes and bringing gifts. In the Gujarati tradition, Diwali is the start of a new year and there was certainly a sense of rebirth.

2 7

In **paragraph 3**, the writer says, 'light is cherished and celebrated'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'cherished and celebrated' means.

[2 marks]

2 8

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

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To discuss the victory of evil over good.
B	To explain how to make Diwali decorations.
C	To describe how people celebrate Diwali.

☐


2 9In **paragraph 4**, the writer describes what the school does on Diwali.List **three** things mentioned by the writer.**[3 marks]**

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3 0In **paragraph 4**, the writer says, 'there was certainly a sense of rebirth'.

Explain in your own words what 'rebirth' means.

[1 mark]

3 1Read **paragraph 4**.Which **two** statements are correct?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	Diwali marks the end of the year.
B	Diwali is connected to the harvest.
C	Diwali lasts about five days.
D	Diwali takes place in December.

Turn over ►

Read the third part of the text.

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

- 5 In the spring, which is also a time for renewal, there is another festival called Holi, or 'the festival of colours'. It comes at the end of winter and marks the beginning of spring. Like Diwali, Holi also celebrates the victory of good over evil. Just as the earth springs into life with vibrant colours at this time of year, so Holi is full of vivid colours.
- 6 On the night before Holi, the people lit bonfires in the school and temple grounds. I remember how the school and temple community gathered on the following day to throw coloured powder and coloured water at each other. Sometimes people used their hands to throw the coloured water and powder, but they also used balloons and water guns to spread orange, green, red, purple, blue and yellow colours at everyone. At least, those were the colours I remember, as I think probably every colour was represented. The singing, dancing and drumming were also memorable. It was a chaotic but carefree occasion.

3 2

In **paragraph 5**, the writer says, 'with vibrant colours'.

What does the word 'vibrant' mean?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	Lively and bright
B	Pale and calming
C	Dark and gloomy



3 3From **paragraph 5**, list **four** things the writer mentions about Holi.**[4 marks]**

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

3 4From **paragraph 6**, list **two** things the writer says about how people spread the colours around.**[2 marks]**

- 1 _____
- 2 _____

3 5

Which statement best describes the whole text?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	It describes a particular religion.
B	It describes two different festivals.
C	It describes the schools the writer taught at.

24**END OF QUESTIONS**

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