

INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

9280/R

Reading Paper

Mark scheme

November 2025

Version: 1.0 Final



2 5 B 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	A (2 hours)	1

Accept		
02	C (Rollercoasters)	1

Accept		
03	B (To describe the trip to the theme park)	1

Accept		
04	C (There will be representatives from 20 universities at the fair)	1

Accept		
05	C (Medicine)	1

Accept		
06	A (To ask Elif to go to the university fair)	1

Text 2 Promoting Good Health

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		
07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (They/children) pick up illnesses <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning.</p>	1

Accept any one of the following		
08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits a child's fitness Reduces the chance of becoming ill <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning.</p>	1

Accept any two of the following		
09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash (their) hands Use soap and water Wash for 20 seconds Use nail brushes Avoid touching (their) face Clean (their) backpacks Encourage (them) not to share pens or crayons <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning.</p>	2

Accept		
10	C (It explains what a balanced diet contains)	1

Accept		
11	<p>2 marks – Candidate explains both the ideas of 'fight off' – combat/struggle against /defend against (other synonyms/explanations accepted) and 'illnesses' – sicknesses/diseases/sickness (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

Award a maximum of two marks		
12	A (Drinking water keeps the body hydrated) and C (Drinking water maintains the body's temperature) The letters can be accepted in any order.	2

Award a maximum of two marks		
13	B (It is not possible to prevent illnesses totally) and D (Green spaces can help with exercise) The letters can be accepted in any order.	2

Accept		
14	B (To advise parents how to keep their children healthy)	1

Text 3 One Country's Success at the Paralympics

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	C (China is performing best in the Paris Paralympics)	1

Accept any one of the following		
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympics • Paralympics • Global tech/technology <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 'excellence' – being outstanding/extremely good/brilliance (other synonyms/explanations of 'excellence' 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"> • Diving • Table tennis • Weightlifting • Shooting <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 'pride' – self-respect/satisfaction/fulfilment (other synonyms/explanations accepted) and 'glory' – fame/prestige/honour (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

Accept		
20	<p>B (Many come from poor, rural places), C (Many are disabled from birth.), E (Many enter athletic programmes when they are young) and F (They train in specialist state schools and colleges)</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 ‘maximise’ – boost/expand/increase (other synonyms/explanations 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"> • 15% of people (globally) have disabilities • 210 million people in China have disabilities • The number of people in China with disabilities is the same as the population of Brazil <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning. Award a mark for each correct response even if on the same line. Award a maximum of two marks.</p>	2

Award a maximum of two marks		
23	<p>2 marks – Candidate explains both the ideas of ‘competitive’ – wanting to be more successful than others/being in a position to compare well to others/combatative (other synonyms/explanations accepted) and ‘advantage’ – benefit/superiority/edge (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

Accept		
24	B (It gives the reasons for China’s Paralympic success)	1

Text 4 Festivals of Light and Colour

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 ‘demonstrating’ – showing/exhibiting/displaying (other synonyms/explanations accepted), ‘diversity’ – differences/wide-ranging nature/variety (other synonyms/explanations accepted) and ‘capital’ – great/large city/main city (other synonyms/explanations 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 is new • It's over the road (from the school) • It serves the Gujarati/Hindu community • It is magnificent • It is (beautifully) carved/in white marble • It is the largest in Europe • It is luxuriously decorated • Many famous people (politicians/members of the British royal family) visited it • It hosts two festivals <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 ‘cherished’ – loved/held dear/precious (other synonyms/explanations accepted) and ‘celebrated’ – greatly admired/renowned/commemorated (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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Accept		
28	C (To describe how people celebrate Diwali)	1

Accept any three of the following		
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school was illuminated (by lamps, lanterns and candles) • The students decorated their classrooms/corridors • The school held large events (to celebrate the festival) • People in school shared food <p>Accept any reasonable variation that does not affect overall meaning. Award a mark for each correct response even if on the same line. Present tense accepted</p>	3

Award a maximum of one mark		
30	<p>1 mark – Candidate explains the idea of ‘rebirth’ – being born again/renewal/a fresh start (other synonyms/explanations accepted)</p> <p>0 marks – Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written</p>	1

Accept		
31	<p>B (Diwali is connected to the harvest) and C (Diwali lasts about five days)</p> <p>The letters can be accepted in any order.</p>	2

Accept		
32	A (Lively and bright)	1

Accept any four of the following		
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is known as the festival of colours • It is at the end of winter • It is the beginning of spring • It celebrates the victory of good over evil • Holi is full of vivid/vibrant colours • Time for renewal <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"> • They throw the colours/coloured water and powder (with their hands) • They use balloons • They use water guns <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	B (It describes two different festivals)	1