

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

Wednesday 29 April 2026

08:00 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	



J U N 2 6 9 2 8 0 R 0 1

IB/M/Jun26/G4006/V3

Text 1 Email

Read the first part of an email from Kris to his uncle, Marius.

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

Hi Uncle Marius

- 1 I've got some exciting news to tell you. Last month, I joined a band, and last week, we played our very first show. As you know, I've always been interested in playing music. You might remember that I took piano and drum lessons when I was younger, but now, my favourite instrument is the guitar.
- 2 The band has a practice session every Monday night. There is a large room at my school that my music teacher, Mr Wozniak, lets us use for the practice session. My dad brings my equipment to the school in his car. Our practice starts straight after school and finishes around 6 pm. I really enjoy it.

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

0 1

When did Kris join a band?

[1 mark]

A	Last week
B	Last month
C	Last year



0 2 What is Kris' favourite instrument?

[1 mark]

A	Drums
B	Guitar
C	Piano

☐

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

[1 mark]

A	To tell the reader about band practices
B	To tell the reader about Mr Wozniak
C	To tell the reader how Kris enjoys himself

☐

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



Read the second part of the email.

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

- 3 When we played our first show, there were lots of people from school there. My cousin made some online adverts, and I put up posters in school. I was a little nervous before we played, but once we started, it went well. The show lasted one hour. Some of my teachers came along. They said they liked it and were impressed by our playing.
- 4 I have decided that I would like a career in music. My parents say that I must work hard at my studies for now, then once I finish school, I can apply to study music at Krakow University. My friend goes to a music college in Warsaw. He likes it very much. After that, I would like to be a full-time musician. It seems like a great job.

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	People from school put posters up.
B	Kris made the online adverts.
C	Some teachers went to the show.



0 5 Where does Kris want to study music?

[1 mark]

A	College
B	School
C	University

☐

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

[1 mark]

A	To describe his musical activities
B	To persuade people to go to Warsaw
C	To ask his uncle for more help

☐

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Text 2 Walking in the countryside

Read the first part of this article written for students. It is about walking in the countryside.

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

1 Walking in the countryside

Walking outdoors, especially in the countryside, offers many benefits. Looking at beautiful scenery is very pleasant and breathing fresh air is joyful. Yet the biggest benefit of walking in the countryside is the positive effect on your health. You don't have to walk very long distances to benefit. Even short outdoor walks can be highly rewarding.

2 Before you walk

It's very important to prepare before you walk outdoors. First of all, check the weather forecast. Remember that weather can change quite quickly. You should also plan your route. When you do this, consider the difficulty of your route. Think about how accessible the paths are. You should also consider your own fitness levels and experience.

3 Pack essential items such as water and snacks. It is important to stay hydrated, and to have enough snacks to keep your energy levels up. Remember to apply sunscreen regularly and take a fully-charged mobile phone with you. Tell someone where you plan to walk and what time you expect to return. This is particularly important if you are walking on your own.

0 7

What does the article suggest is the biggest benefit of walking in the countryside?

[1 mark]

0 8

What should you do first when you prepare to go walking?

[1 mark]



0 9

List **two** things to consider when you plan your route.

[2 marks]

1 _____

2 _____

1 0

Which of these statements best describes the **main** point of **paragraph 3**?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To explain what to take with you when you go walking
B	To describe types of snacks you can buy
C	To explain why you should tell someone your plans

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►



Read the second part of the article.

Answer questions 11 to 14.

4

During your walk

Walking outdoors can lift your spirits. Take the time to enjoy the experience, but make sure you take care. Try to walk during the daytime rather than at night. Follow routes and paths and be aware of any hazards, such as uneven ground, holes or traffic. If you do need to walk along roads at times, walk on the side facing the oncoming traffic. Make sure you drink plenty of water and don't push yourself too hard. Keep walking at a steady pace. It is often best to walk with friends as the company can be rewarding, and it also helps with safety.

5

After your walk

Even after you've finished your walk, it's important that you remain hydrated, so continue to drink water. Help yourself to cool down by doing some stretching. Some people feel stiff after walking – stretching will help to prevent this. It's essential to clean items you've used while walking. Wash your footwear and clean your walking clothes too. Many people enjoy sitting and chatting with friends after a long walk. Walkers find that they often sleep very well after a long walk.

6

Walking has tremendous health benefits, not just on physical health, but on mental health, too. It's great fun, so remember to enjoy it. Take plenty of photos of the scenery and make sure you pause to enjoy the views. Once you begin walking regularly, you'll discover its amazing benefits.

1	1
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In **paragraph 4**, the writer says, 'Walking outdoors can lift your spirits'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'lift your spirits' means.

[2 marks]



1 2Read **paragraph 4**.Which **two** statements are correct?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	Walking at night-time is best.
B	Walk facing away from oncoming cars.
C	Stay on pathways.
D	Walking with others is often best.

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

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	Avoid drinking fluids after you finish walking.
B	Keeping walking equipment clean is vital.
C	Walking can lead to a good night's rest.
D	You always feel stiff after walking.



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

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	To give advice on walking outdoors
B	To describe the beautiful scenery
C	To explain walking hazards

12

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1 1

Text 3 Training to be a teacher

Read the first part of this article about training to be a teacher.

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

- 1 In the UK, there are various ways you can train to be a teacher. Most trainee teachers take a university course, but there are some trainees who work directly with schools. Both of these routes lead to a teaching qualification. When I trained, I went to university.
- 2 My training course lasted a year. There were 23 other trainee teachers, mostly younger people. Unlike my degree course, the teaching course was very practical. We did lots of activities to help us learn how to explain difficult concepts, and how to manage student behaviour. We also had lectures about educational theories.
- 3 In the fortnight before I started the course, I had to visit my old primary school. This was a requirement of the teaching course. The purpose of my visit was to get a sense of what life in a school was like now – to grasp the way in which education had changed over the years. During lessons, I took notes, read to some children and worked with small groups. I also asked students what they liked about school and helped them with spellings.
- 4 I found the year's training to be exhilarating yet intense. The whole year was a whirlwind of emotions. Sometimes I felt joy, sometimes I felt anxiety. Mainly, I felt like I was developing as a person. I was putting myself into situations I'd never been in, and as a result, I learned a lot about myself.

1 5 Read **paragraph 1**.

Which statement is correct?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	The most common way to train is by taking a university course.
B	The majority of trainees work directly with schools.
C	Only some training routes result in a qualification.



1 6Which of these statements best describes the **main** point of **paragraph 2**?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	The number of trainees that attended the course.
B	What the training course consisted of.
C	Which theories were addressed in lectures.

1 7In **paragraph 3**, the writer uses the phrase, 'grasp the way in which education had changed'.

Explain in your own words what the word 'grasp' means in this phrase.

[1 mark]

1 8From **paragraph 3**, list **three** things the writer did in lessons.**[3 marks]**

1

2

3

1 9In **paragraph 4**, the writer says, 'The whole year was a whirlwind of emotions'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'whirlwind of emotions' means.

[2 marks]

Turn over ►



Read the second part of the article.

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

- 5 As part of my training, I spent four weeks at Hexton Academy, a high school. During those four weeks, I had my own form class and took charge of a school football team. I must admit I didn't know much about football – I prefer cricket – but it was a good experience. During those weeks, I also taught my first lesson. I recorded it but never watched it back until years later. Before I left Hexton Academy, I also had a mock interview with the deputy headteacher.
- 6 After that, I returned to university, and I considered my experience so far. I had learned a lot about teaching in a short space of time but knew that I needed more practice. All of the trainees felt the same way: they wanted to teach more classes.
- 7 There were many things I enjoyed about learning to teach. For a start, I became more confident as a person. I also liked the company of my colleagues and found the lecturers helpful. It was tough at times, but most of it was fun. The best bit was working with young people. I found most of them thoughtful and keen to learn.
- 8 At the end of my course, I got a job in a lovely school. I've been there for three years now. I'm keen to climb up the ladder, so last week, I applied for a promotion in a nearby school.



2 0

In **paragraph 5**, the writer mentions **four** things he did during his time at Hexton Academy.

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

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[4 marks]

A	He had a form class.
B	He played football.
C	He ran the cricket team.
D	He delivered a lesson.
E	He recorded himself teaching.
F	He watched the recording.
G	He had a mock interview.
H	He met the headteacher.

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2 1

In **paragraph 6**, the writer says he 'considered my experience so far'.

Explain in your own words what 'considered' means.

[1 mark]

2 2

In **paragraph 7**, the writer mentions things he enjoyed about learning to teach.

List **two** of these things.

[2 marks]

1

2



2 3

In **paragraph 8**, the writer says he is 'keen to climb up the ladder'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'climb up the ladder' means.

[2 marks]

2 4

Which statement best describes the whole article?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	It gives advice about university life.
B	It describes training to be a teacher.
C	It explains educational theories.

18


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1 7

Text 4 Beyond the Village

Read the first part of the text about life in a village in Pakistan.

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

- 1 “There’s life beyond this place,” my mother once said. Looking back now, I can see she was right, and I’m glad I heeded her sage advice. But when I was younger, the thought of leaving home worried me. It seemed such a big thing. Yet I also knew that I should explore the world beyond the confines of our village.
- 2 We lived in a beautiful village in Pakistan. By the time I was a teenager, life became a bit repetitive. On a typical weekday, I’d rise at 6 am, have breakfast, shower, and then help my father with the animals. I’d catch the bus to school and spend the day in lessons. I’d usually walk home after school and then complete my homework. I spent the rest of the day playing games with my friends.

2	5
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In **paragraph 1**, the writer says, ‘I heeded her sage advice’.

Explain in your own words what this phrase means.

[3 marks]



2 6

In **paragraph 2**, the writer explains things he would do on a typical weekday.

List **four** things he mentions.

[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 I have many happy memories of my village. It existed in a state of permanent contentment. The summers were sweltering but the people friendly. In the winter months, it was cooler, but it didn't dampen the spirits of the villagers. They were also kind. Most people had lived in the village all of their lives and they took great pride in it.
- 4 My grandparents lived at the other end of the village. They were important figures in my life. I spent a lot of time with them, especially at weekends when me and my sister would visit them. Their house was large and made from local stone. It was brightly decorated and had ornate woodcarvings in the hall. My grandmother's kitchen was important to her. It was quite small but always smelt pungent. She cooked beautiful food.
- 5 My grandfather often rode through the village on an ancient bike. I would watch him wobbling down the street, waving at the neighbours on his way to the next village where he would meet with friends. My grandmother used to laugh at his bike, telling him how silly he would look when it finally collapsed under him.

2 7

In **paragraph 3**, the writer says the village 'existed in a state of permanent contentment'.

Explain in your own words what the phrase 'permanent contentment' means.

[2 marks]

2 8

In **paragraph 4**, the writer gives details about his grandparents' house.

List **three** things he mentions about the house.

[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 a place that was important to the writer
B	To describe the tastiness of his grandmother's cooking
C	To describe different types of building material used

3 0In **paragraph 5**, the writer says, 'it finally collapsed under him'.

Explain in your own words what 'collapsed' means.

[1 mark]

3 1Read **paragraphs 4 and 5**.Which **two** statements are correct?

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

[2 marks]

A	The writer's grandparents lived in the next village.
B	The writer barely visited his grandparents.
C	The grandfather had a very old bike.
D	The grandfather was friendly towards his neighbours.



Read the third part of the text.

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

- 6 As an older teenager, things changed. Despite how I felt about my home, I recognised a need in me to push the boundaries. Leaving home would be tough but I knew I had to go away to university. But as the time for me to leave grew closer, I had some sleepless nights. I had odd dreams and wondered if I was making a mistake. I would aimlessly wander the village, lost in my thoughts.
- 7 My conflicting feelings about leaving home became stronger. I asked the advice of my teacher, who said that I was making the right decision. On the night before I left, all of my friends visited. It was a lovely night, but after they left, I had tears in my eyes.
- 8 Knowing what I know now, going away to university was the best decision I made. I went to the University of Toronto. It was like a miniature version of the world. There were people from all walks of life there, and by the time I'd spent a week there, I'd heard ten different languages being spoken.
- 9 My village will always have a special place in my heart, though. It's the place I call home.

3 2

In **paragraph 6**, the writer says, 'Despite how I felt about my home, I recognised a need in me to push the boundaries'.

What does this sentence mean?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	The writer had lost his feelings for his home and wanted to escape.
B	The writer knew it was time to explore, even though he loved his home.
C	The writer was unaware of how his feelings had developed over time.



3 3

From **paragraphs 6 and 7**, list **four** phrases that show the writer was worried about leaving home.

[4 marks]

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

3 4

From **paragraph 8**, list **two** things that show the University of Toronto was a diverse place to be.

[2 marks]

- 1 _____
- 2 _____

3 5

Which statement best describes the whole text?

Write the correct letter in the box.

[1 mark]

A	It's about the experience of leaving a well-loved place.
B	It's about the exciting attractions of university life.
C	It's about interactions between people who live in a village.

24**END OF QUESTIONS**

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