



Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER

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Paper 2 Comprehension

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INSERT

1 hour 45 minutes

INFORMATION

- This insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.

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This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A

Background

Diamond D-ZINE is a market-leading graphic design* company, specialising in producing promotional materials for the international film and music industries. There is a vacancy for an experienced designer to lead a team of 25 people, based at the company's headquarters in the city of Yaramanta. Following a series of initial online interviews, Diamond D-ZINE's recruitment team has narrowed the choice to two well-qualified candidates.

Richard Bradfield

- worked initially for a small advertising firm for two years, on various short-term projects, but felt the low budgets and rigid tasks limited his creative potential
- has spent the last three years working enthusiastically on the government's high-profile and big-budget healthy-eating and anti-smoking awareness campaigns
- currently deputy manager of a team of 22 people; he adores his private office
- fluent in two other languages, with a conversational working knowledge of a further two
- a huge fan of horror films, he keeps up with all the latest trends in this genre
- recently introduced a work-experience scheme for underprivileged students; he spoke about it in a promotional podcast posted on the government's website
- hates wearing suits and feels that a smart appearance and dress sense are unimportant; 'the quality of my work should speak for itself', he claims
- his current team goes out for a meal and dancing together three times a year, but he finds these evenings rather awkward
- lives in Yaramanta, where he is involved with a drama group and volunteers at the local homeless shelter.

Sandrine Jonas

- has worked for the past 12 years in the advertising department of a well-known global perfume and cosmetics company
- currently works within a 10-strong design team, who are expected to share desks in an open-plan office
- fluent in one other language, spoken only in her local area
- loves painting pictures of wildlife and landscapes
- recently introduced a well-received scheme to showcase works by emerging local artists in her company's offices
- keen on fashion, she is always immaculately dressed; 'a professional first impression' is her aim
- her father worked in television, so she is accustomed to meeting famous people
- would be moving to Yaramanta from her home town, some 900 kilometres away.

Both candidates have been invited to attend a whole-day selection process, to include directing a practical group task, an hour-long presentation (subject: 'Innovation through collaboration', the company's mission statement) and a final interview. The company has a reputation for posing challenging and unexpected questions at interview, to test how candidates respond under pressure.

Responses to an 'unexpected' initial interview question

Question: 'How many people fly in and out of our international airport every day?'

Richard Bradfield: 'Great question! I love flying! My apartment's on the flight path too, so I know the planes take off every three minutes between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. I make that 20 planes an hour for 16 hours, so... 320 planes a day. Mixed international and internal flights, so I'd say, on average, 300 passengers and crew per plane ... Oh, and the same number landing. You did say "in and out", didn't you? 192 000. Final answer!'

Sandrine Jonas: 'Um ... er ... gosh, that's a tricky one. I live so far from Yaramanta, I'm unfamiliar with its airport, I'm afraid. Never been on a plane either, for that matter. And I'm not sure how knowing that would help me in the job, anyway. Oh, I don't know. I would think it must be quite a *lot* of people, wouldn't it? Maybe ... um ... around 200 000?'

Quotes from two current Diamond D-ZINE employees during the office tour

Helena: 'We work extremely hard and constantly need fresh ideas, especially when deadlines are approaching or some temperamental client demands we start again from scratch! No chance of a social life then; you'd be lucky to eat a meal away from your desk, much less go home to sleep! But look what we get in return – our free on-site gym and swimming pool, free childcare facilities, plus the superb restaurant with loads of healthy meal choices and generous staff discounts. This place has a real buzz – I pretty much live here, to be honest!'

Anton: 'Before this job, I was at a big advertising agency and it was 24/7. I mean that literally; you were expected to answer emails arriving in the middle of the night, or at weekends, and be in the office at stupid hours. Totally different culture here. We're encouraged to have a life outside work. If I make plans with friends, there's a good chance I won't have to cancel at the last minute. Sounds simple, right? But I don't take it for granted, believe me!'

Additional Information

1. Diamond D-ZINE takes corporate social responsibility seriously, demonstrated by its carbon-neutral** offices, support of local charities and its generous sponsored internship scheme.
2. Employees have a casual dress code, except when meeting clients, when very high standards of personal presentation are expected.
3. Design team leaders are often invited, as VIP guests, to glamorous events associated with their projects, including film premieres, rock concerts and music festivals.
4. If required, relocation expenses can be paid for new employees moving to Yaramanta.
5. Diamond D-ZINE's designers sometimes have to travel to meetings, including abroad, at short notice.
6. Creativity and collaboration are encouraged by the informal working environment. There are more sofas than desks, and whole-wall 'graffiti' boards for scribbling ideas. Each team works in one large space, with no separate offices for managers.
7. There is an unwritten expectation that design teams will socialise together often, encouraging fruitful working partnerships.

* the art or skill of combining text and pictures in advertisements, magazines, or books

** when carbon-dioxide releasing activities equal others that absorb carbon-dioxide from the atmosphere

Section B

'It's over for us': how extreme weather is emptying Bangladesh's villages

The house Faruk Hossain grew up in has, for the last six months, resisted being claimed by the river, as the rest of the village already has been. But slowly, as the waters have failed to seep away, he has come to accept that the family house has become uninhabitable. Like other villages nearby, Chakla in Bangladesh's Satkhira district has not re-emerged from the flooding caused by Super-cyclone Amphan, which battered the south of the country in late May. 5

Hossain, 56, has begun preparing to leave, abandoning his livelihood as a farmer to rent a small place in Khulna, the closest big city. 'I'm leaving my father's address forever,' he says. 'All my relatives, including my four brothers, have lived here for several decades. The other brothers left long ago. I was the last one. I lived at my father's address for about six months with great difficulty but the last traces of the house are gradually being swallowed up by the river.' 10

Last month, Bangladesh marked 50 years since Cyclone Bhola, which killed at least 300 000 people. Although the death tolls have decreased in recent times, the frequency of natural disasters makes it increasingly difficult for villages to recover. The coastal areas of Satkhira and Khulna districts are full of people made homeless and stranded since the embankments* of local rivers burst, having been worn away by repeated storms. In Khulna's Pratapnagar area, all 18 villages remain under water. 15

Bangladesh's disaster management department has said 300 000 people have been affected by the flooding. About 50 000 people are still displaced**, according to a survey of families by Bangladeshi NGO Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society. They have spent the months since Amphan living on government land, camped out by the riverside or near roads or in cyclone shelters. Exasperated, some have gone to nearby villages or to cities. Others have moved to patches of dry land, building new huts on stilts, but in a year when the Covid-19 pandemic cost migrant workers jobs in cities and abroad, Amphan has further damaged economic life for people on the margins. Two rice planting seasons and harvests have already passed. 20 25

Communal ponds that provide villages with sustainable access to fish have also been destroyed, as have the shrimp farms that were promoted as a source of employment, washed away in the floodwater. Drivers transporting crops to market have sold their vehicles and turned to trying to make a living in boats. 'I used to work in agriculture. I used to plant paddy and had a very good rice yield,' says Shahjahan Moral, 45, from Kurikahunia village. 'My paddy land is now under water. I now sail my boat through the paddy fields. I take passengers from one side to the other and get US\$1.20 to US\$1.80. The family can't survive on this little income.' 30 35

Alexandra Bilak, director of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, says interaction between the pandemic and the cyclone has created a complex crisis. 'It will be easier to find a sustainable solution if the displacement information is made available properly. Along with this, initiatives have to be taken to create stable housing. We have to build sustainable urbanisation. The risk of displacement can be significantly reduced through ecosystem management,' she says. 40

While Bangladesh has improved its flood warning systems, and the UN-praised new pre-flooding mechanisms to limit damage, many feel not enough is done to help survivors recover. Humayun Kabir, head of the local council in the Koira Sadar area, says flood

embankments built in the 1960s have been worn away after repeated storms but the government has not responded to requests for repairs. 45

'I have been facing natural disasters since 1986. Everything is over for us. A natural disaster comes and we become poverty-stricken,' says Abdus Sattar Gazi from Kurikahunia village. The house he and his wife live in is now directly next to the river, which merged with a canal during Amphan and has not receded. 50

The flood defences have been swallowed up in the new bigger river and they look out at it with concern, watching the water level whenever it rains. 'Each time it takes a few years of work to return to my normal life and then comes another natural disaster. This is how life goes. We would not have had this problem if there was a strong embankment.'

In the villages that lay in Amphan's path, people complain about embankments that went unrepaired after similar cyclones. According to Abul Khair, a senior engineer at Satkhira's Water Development Board, applications for funding have never been approved, forcing them to make repairs only from limited annual budgets. 55

The long-term effects of flooding are pushing Bangladesh's rural populations into already-crowded cities, expanding their slums. 60

Saleemul Huq, director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, says Bangladesh's success in saving lives by managing the natural disasters themselves needs to be matched with better support afterwards. 'We are able to successfully evacuate millions of people and it can prevent loss of life but people are still losing their homes, land and livelihoods. There is a lack of support after the cyclone,' he says. 65

'Unfortunately, with climate change and rising sea levels, people in the lower coastal districts of Bangladesh will gradually lose their livelihoods as fishermen and farmers. They will be forcibly displaced. This needs to be actively addressed by both the national government and the international community.'

*raised structures of earth or gravel used to hold back floodwater

**forced to leave the area where they live

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