



Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER

8021/21

Paper 2 Comprehension

May/June 2023

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.

Material for Section A

Background

Last week, Mr Daan, the owner of Daan's Garden Centre, advertised in a local newspaper a summer job opportunity for a school leaver. The advertisement indicated that the job would be a temporary one for two months; however, the successful applicant could be made a permanent member of staff if they performed well in the job. Initially, they would work in every department for a couple of days, getting to know the staff and the workings of each department so that, for the rest of the summer, they would be able to help out in a busy department or fill in for a member of staff on holiday or off sick. Daan's Garden Centre consists of eight departments: garden centre shop, garden centre café, plant nursery, administration (sales and purchasing), logistics, human resources (HR), marketing and publicity, and on-site maintenance. Mr Daan has received two online applications.

The online applications

Name	Davido Linge	Pierre Mirceaux
Age	17	19
Education	Awaiting A-Level results in Maths, Geography and Computer Studies	A Levels in Business Studies (C) and Food Technology (A)
Experience	I help in my parents' garden, weeding, pruning trees, planting shrubs and propagating new plants, etc.	I work in my mother's shop regularly, helping her restock shelves.
Reason for applying	I love working with plants outdoors in the fresh air, so this job would be perfect for me.	I would appreciate the opportunity to put the business theory I have learnt into practice. I would like to have my own business soon.
Referee	Ms Juul, Headteacher, Bixi Academy	Mr Poole, Headteacher, Gian School

Mr Daan has called them both in for interview. HR Manager Sonja has created a checklist for him to use during the interviews.

Checklist (Rating 1–10)	Davido	Pierre
Appearance		
Willingness to learn		
Attitude to work		
Communication skills		
People skills		
Punctuality		
Overall suitability for the job		

Extracts from the two interviews

Davido

Mr Daan: (*sounding annoyed*) Hello, Davido. You finally made it. Well, I have an important meeting in 20 minutes, so let's not lose any more time. Why should I consider you for the job?

Davido: (*wearing a suit and tie, and looking very nervous*) Really, really sorry, Mr Daan. Dad couldn't start his car this morning. I had to get a taxi here. Bit flustered now.

Mr Daan: (*looking more sympathetic now*) Oh well, don't worry. These things happen. We'll do the interview now – then you'll have a tour of the place with Sonja, my HR manager. So, let's get started. Tell me, why should I consider you for the job, Davido?

Davido: (*hesitantly*) Er ... my happiest times are when I'm gardening, and ... I'm quite knowledgeable about plants already, so ... I think I'd be useful from the get-go ... wouldn't get in anyone's way. I'm not afraid of hard work ... (*his voice trailing off*)

Pierre

Mr Daan: (*smiling*) Hello, Pierre. Right on time. Good lad. Now, the interview will last 30 minutes, then Sonja, my HR manager, will give you a tour of the place. How does that sound?

Pierre: (*wearing ripped jeans and a casual shirt*) Great, but I hope the tour won't take too long as I have another interview lined up for today. OK, mate? (*looking very pleased with himself*)

Mr Daan: (*in a colder tone*) Popular, aren't we? Well, I'd better get on with the interview. So, why should I consider you for the job, Mr Mirceaux?

Pierre: (*in a very confident tone*) I'm a motivated self-starter, always ready to shoulder responsibility, take the initiative and problem-solve, as I'm great at seeing the bigger picture and identifying issues. I'm sure I would be an asset to your organisation. (*the words tumbling fluently off his tongue*)

Additional Information

1. The salary will be the national minimum of \$10 an hour.
2. In his reference, Mr Poole explained that he had had no contact with Pierre for the year since he had left school. While at school, teachers had found his behaviour challenging occasionally, but he had been a popular, charismatic student, and voted the most likely to succeed in life by his classmates.
3. A driving licence would be advantageous as the garden centre has a fleet of vans making deliveries to customers.
4. Pierre's father is a motivational speaker by profession. Pierre has listened to many of his speeches.
5. Davido has applied to a horticultural college to study landscape and garden design.
6. Pierre has worked in his mother's shop on two occasions.
7. In her reference, Ms Juul wrote that Davido had been a hardworking student. He had been shy in class, but had blossomed when outside school – such as on geography field trips, during which he had shown leadership skills in a quietly determined way.
8. Sonja has not mentioned to Mr Daan that she and Pierre's mother are friends.

9. Pierre has not got another interview lined up for today.
10. The legal minimum age to obtain a driving licence is 18.
11. Pierre wants to start earning good money as soon as possible as he is fed up living at home and wants to rent a flat.
12. Davido's mother is looking forward to retiring soon.
13. This will be the third year Mr Daan has run the summer job scheme, but no one has yet been employed permanently.
14. The horticultural college is located in the next town, which pleases Davido as he loves living at home.

Material for Section B

A travel magazine article by Sahar Aman

Seven modern female explorers who inspire us

Our editorial team are globetrotters by nature, but what inspires us to take life-changing trips? Women who embark on journeys that defy gravity. Literally. Two women on this list were shortlisted to travel into space on a commercial space liner. What we love about these incredible women are their courage and how they take challenging the status quo in their stride.

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If the recent collaboration between the *National Geographic* magazine and a toy company to create a travel-themed range of dolls is any indication, telling stories about female adventurers is a way for us to journey further, while nurturing equality. The range now includes an astrophysicist and a polar marine biologist. This encourages young girls not to accept limits on outdated stereotypes or antiquated ideas of what women can achieve; instead, they discover roles and stories about exploration, science, conservation and research.

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Speaking to the *Travel + Leisure* website, Susan Goldberg, editor-in-chief of the *National Geographic* magazine, explains, 'Through this collaboration, we are excited to reach kids in a new way, using the power of play to inspire our next generation of explorers, scientists and photographers.'

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1 Namira Salim

In 2007, Namira Salim became the first Pakistani to reach the North Pole and, in 2008, the first Pakistani to reach the South Pole. During the First Everest Skydives 2008, she was the first Asian to do a tandem skydive over Mount Everest and, as an early founder of a commercial space liner, the first Pakistani to travel to space. When not exploring, Salim is advocating for international harmony as an honorary diplomat and the founder of Space Trust, a non-profit initiative that promotes space as a new frontier for global peace.

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2 Emma Svensson

What happens when an ordinary person tries to climb mountains? After watching the movie *Everest*, Svensson knew she had to start climbing. Although she grew up in Switzerland and was encouraged to be outdoors, she wasn't a serious adventurer. But the movie made Svensson wonder if ordinary people could climb mountains and this became the catalyst for her extraordinary journey. In 2017, she decided to climb the highest peak in every European country, a feat encompassing 49 mountains. In an article for *The Guardian* newspaper, Svensson says, 'I wanted to be a role model for girls and to tell a story that had never been told. All the stories you hear are of people lost on Everest or K2.'

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3 Jada Yuan

In 2018, Jada Yuan became the inaugural *New York Times* 52 Places Traveller. For one year, Yuan travelled somewhere different every seven days, covering 120 540 kilometres approximately. Before landing the 'dream job', Yuan had been working at *New York Magazine*. She gave it up to embark on the ultimate assignment for the *New York Times*. After weeks of non-stop travel, she wrote a moving and inspiring recap of her epic journey. The lessons she imparts will make an impact on anyone.

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4 Alyssa Azar

After traversing the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea aged 8, and summiting Mount Kilimanjar aged 14, then at the age of 16 Azar set her sights on Mount Everest. This mountain can challenge even skilled mountaineers, but, after two life-threatening attempts and three

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consecutive seasons, Azar reached the top aged 19. For most people once would be enough, but, after summiting from the south side, she summited Everest from the north side, aged 21! Making her the youngest woman to have climbed both routes. After these adventures, Azar started a podcast called *Girls Can Do Scary Things Too*. The idea came about on her return from Everest to Australia when she shared the experience of climbing Everest with her younger sister's classmates. The students felt that her story had shown them that girls could do scary things too. While Azar thought that was cool, she was also concerned that, aged eight and nine, they already felt they couldn't do something. The podcast is all about exposing young girls to the idea of 'can'.

5 Pasang Lhamu Sherpa Akita

Mountaineer Pasang Lhamu Sherpa Akita grew up in Lukla, Nepal, with Mount Everest in the distance. She became the first woman in Nepal to become a mountaineering instructor and the first Nepali woman to reach the summit of K2, and has worked actively to provide relief in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal. In 2016, she was voted *National Geographic's* People's Choice Adventurer of the Year. Alongside exploring, she has developed a foundation that assists with women's education in Nepal. She explains, 'I am not educating girls so they can be mountaineers. Once a woman has an education, she can be whatever she wants. I want to support what women want to become.'

6 Kira Salak

Kira Salak was the first woman to traverse Papua New Guinea and the first person to kayak 966 kilometres to Timbuktu solo. She has acquired numerous prestigious writing accolades by writing about her solo exploration of the world. Each of her journeys has challenged gender stereotypes, and Salak continues to push back against resistance to the idea of women travelling alone in remote areas through her groundbreaking trips. Although she does feel afraid at times, tapping into her fear and overcoming it empowers her. She opts to travel low-tech, which is both inspiring and reminiscent of the early days of exploration. She respects old explorers for what they were able to accomplish despite their limited means.

7 Cassie de Pecol

In 2018, Cassie de Pecol released her memoir, *Expedition 196: The First Woman on Record to Travel Every Country in the World*. She is considered to be the first documented woman to visit every sovereign nation on the planet, setting two Guinness World Records. Having conquered Earth, de Pecol set her sights on outer space; in 2018, her application to travel to space was accepted.

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