



Cambridge International AS & A Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9093/11

Paper 1 Reading

May/June 2021

2 hours 15 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

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

Section A: Directed response

Question 1

Read the following text, which is an extract from the autobiography of Usain Bolt, the famous sprinter. In the extract he describes the 100 metres race in which he won his first Olympic gold medal.

(a) You are a journalist at the Olympic 100 metres final which Usain Bolt describes in the extract. Write your report of the race for the sports section of your newspaper. Use 150–200 words. [10]

(b) Compare your newspaper report with the autobiographical extract, analysing form, structure and language. [15]

Bang!

The gun went.

Man, a lot can go through a sprinter's mind over 100 metres, and I've talked garbage to myself in every race I've ever run in. That might sound crazy to a lot of people because the metres flash by in just over nine and a half seconds, ten on a really bad day for me, but in that time I can think about a hell of a lot of stuff: like my start as I burst out of the line, especially if I've left the blocks too late. I think about who's doing what ahead of me in the lanes, or whether someone behind is doing something stupid, like trying to beat me. Seriously, I talk a lot of trash in my head when I'm tearing down the track at top speed.

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Pow!

I burst from the blocks, but Richard Thompson, the Trinidad and Tobago sprinter, was in the lane next to me and he got a start like nobody else in the history of the Olympics.

Wow! How did he do that?! Now I can't see where I am in the race, because he's blocking my view of Asafa¹ on the other side.

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I kept my eye on him all the way, extending my legs out of the drive phase. I made one, two, three steps and then I stumbled – I made a bad step and rocked to my right – but I recovered quickly and maintained my cool. I'd been through races before where I'd suffered a bad start, or a shaky first 20 metres, so I didn't freak.

Like Stockholm, yo. Remember Stockholm. Do not panic. Get through your drive phase and chill. Chill, chill, chill. Thompson hasn't pulled away. He's right there in front of you ...

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I glanced across the line.

He's the only dude leading the pack.

And then there was me.

Keep chilling.

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I could feel my momentum building, my longer stride taking me past Thompson, and once I'd cleared him, I could see the rest of the line. I did a quick check – I was ahead, but there was no Asafa.

Where the hell is Asafa?

Everybody else was there, bunched in. Thompson, Walter Dix (USA), Churandy Martina (Netherlands Antilles), Michael Frater (Jamaica), Marc Burns (Trinidad and Tobago) and the other American runner, Darvis Patton, but still no Asafa. That seemed stupid to me, he was supposed to be there. 30

This is kinda weird. He should be around ...

At 75, 80 metres I peeped again. I say peeped, but I actually looked back over my shoulder. I needed to know where he was. 35

Where are you, bredder²? You're the man that's supposed to be doing well here now Tyson's not playing. What are you doing? Do I need to run harder? Can I chill?

Then it dawned on me.

Oh man, oh man ... I'm gonna win this race! 40

Talk about losing it. I went totally wild even though I was still ten metres from the line. I threw my hands up in the air and acted all mad. I pounded my chest because I knew that nobody was going to catch me. It was done, I was the Olympic champ and all the work I'd suffered with Coach had paid off – all those laps of the track had taken me to the tape in first place. 45

Notes:

¹*Asafa*: Asafa Powell, Bolt's Jamaican team mate and former 100 metres world record holder

²*bredder*: a Jamaican dialect word meaning brother

Section B: Text analysis

Question 2

Read the following text, which is an article from the science section of a magazine, about whether trees can communicate.

Analyse the text, focusing on form, structure and language.

[25]

Do Trees Talk to Each Other?

I'm walking in the Eifel Mountains in western Germany, through cathedral-like groves of oak and beech, and there's a strange unmoored feeling of entering a fairy tale. The trees have become vibrantly alive and charged with wonder. They're communicating with one another, for starters. They're involved in tremendous struggles and death-defying dramas. To reach enormity, they depend on a complicated web of relationships, alliances and kinship networks.

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Wise old mother trees feed their saplings with liquid sugar and warn the neighbors when danger approaches. Reckless youngsters take foolhardy risks with leaf-shedding, light-chasing and excessive drinking, and usually pay with their lives. Crown princes wait for the old monarchs to fall, so they can take their place in the full glory of sunlight. It's all happening in the ultra-slow motion that is tree time, so that what we see is a freeze-frame of the action.

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My guide here is a kind of tree whisperer. Peter Wohlleben, a German forester and author, has a rare understanding of the inner life of trees, and is able to describe it in accessible, evocative language. He stands very tall and straight, like the trees he most admires, and on this cold, clear morning, the blue of his eyes precisely matches the blue of the sky. Wohlleben has devoted his life to the study and care of trees. He manages this forest as a nature reserve, and lives with his wife, Miriam, in a rustic cabin near the remote village of Hümmel.

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Now, at the age of 53, he has become an unlikely publishing sensation. His book *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate*, written at his wife's insistence, sold more than 800,000 copies in Germany, and has now hit the best-seller lists in 11 other countries, including the United States and Canada.

Wohlleben sees a forest as a superorganism of unique individuals. A single beech tree can live for 400 years and produce 1.8 million beechnuts.

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A revolution has been taking place in the scientific understanding of trees, and Wohlleben is the first writer to convey its amazements to a general audience. The latest scientific studies, conducted at well-respected universities in Germany and around the world, confirm what he has long suspected from close observation in this forest: trees are far more alert, social, sophisticated – and even intelligent – than we thought.

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With his big green boots crunching through fresh snow, and a dewdrop catching sunlight on the tip of his long nose, Wohlleben takes me to two massive beech trees growing next to each other. He points up at their skeletal winter crowns, which appear careful not to encroach into each other's space. 'These two are old friends,' he says. 'They are very considerate in sharing the sunlight, and their root systems are closely connected.'

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In cases like this, when one dies, the other usually dies soon afterward, because they are dependent on each other.'

Since Darwin, we have generally thought of trees as striving, disconnected loners, competing for water, nutrients and sunlight, with the winners shading out the losers and sucking them dry. The timber industry in particular sees forests as wood-producing systems and battlegrounds for survival of the fittest.

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There is now a substantial body of scientific evidence that refutes that idea. It shows instead that trees of the same species are communal, and will often form alliances with trees of other species. Forest trees have evolved to live in cooperative, interdependent relationships, maintained by communication and a collective intelligence similar to an insect colony.

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