

**Cambridge IGCSE™ (9–1)**CANDIDATE
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FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH**0990/12**

Paper 1 Reading

October/November 2025**2 hours**

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- If additional space is needed, you should use the lined pages at the end of this booklet; the question number or numbers must be clearly shown.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].
- The insert contains the reading texts.

This document has **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Read **Text A**, *Time travel*, in the insert and then answer **Questions 1(a)–(e)** on this question paper.

Question 1

- (a) How fast are we travelling through time, according to paragraph 1?

.....
 [1]

- (b) **Using your own words**, explain what the text means by:

- (i) 'entirely feasible' (line 1)

.....
 [2]

- (ii) 'recent acquaintance' (lines 4–5).

.....
 [2]

- (c) Reread paragraph 2 ('But this isn't ... such knowledge.').

Give **two** things that fictional time travellers do, according to paragraph 2.

-
- [2]

- (d) Reread paragraphs 3 and 4 ('To date ... distant childhood memory.').

- (i) Identify **two** reasons why the possibility of time travel seems unlikely.

-
- [2]

- (ii) Explain the different opinions that people have about the causes of déjà vu.

.....

 [3]



(e) Reread paragraph 5 ('Certainly ... our dreams.').

Using your own words, explain how being able to mentally time travel might be beneficial to humans.

.....

.....

..... [3]





Read **Text B, *Working from home***, in the insert and then answer **Question 1(f)** on this question paper.

- (f) According to Text B, how should a person working from home manage challenges to their time?

You must **use continuous writing** (not note form) and **use your own words** as far as possible.

Your summary should not be more than 120 words.

Up to 10 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 5 marks for the quality of your writing.

[illegible]



[15]

[Total: 30]



Read **Text C, *The time traveller***, in the insert and then answer **Questions 2(a)–(d)** on this question paper.

Question 2

(a) **Identify a word or phrase from the text** which suggests the same idea as the words underlined:

(i) The Commander felt that Q was the only person able to endure the experience of time travelling.

..... [1]

(ii) At the end of her mission, Q would be suddenly and very quickly moved back to 3030.

..... [1]

(iii) Q knew that hiding her travelling clothing in bushes was potentially dangerous.

..... [1]

(iv) The Commander tells Q that people will now look after future trees.

..... [1]

(b) **Using your own words**, explain what the writer means by each of the words underlined:

'Marvel's tree seeds and compost' a golden sign read. Q walked towards it, looking neither left nor right at the inquisitive humans that were now appearing singly and in groups around her. No, she wouldn't be distracted by their strange voices and their incredibly small stature.

(i) inquisitive [1]

(ii) singly [1]

(iii) distracted [1]



- (c) Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests Q's thoughts and feelings about the money she is carrying.

A sudden gush of panic flooded her mind, making her check her pocket. Relief radiated warmly as her eager hands folded round the small wads of paper. This was what people in this century called 'money', and she would need it.

Use your own words in your explanation.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [3]





(d) Reread paragraphs 1 and 8.

- Paragraph 1 begins ‘The blue and red streaks ...’ and describes Q’s arrival.
- Paragraph 8 begins “‘I want 100 each ...’ and is about Q’s experience in the store.

Explain how the writer uses language to convey meaning and to create effect in these paragraphs. Choose **three** examples of words or phrases from **each** paragraph to support your answer. Your choices should include the use of imagery.

Write about 200 to 300 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer.

[illegible]



[15]

[Total: 25]





Reread **Text C**, *The time traveller*, in the insert and then answer **Question 3** on this question paper.

Question 3

You are Q. After your mission you are asked to give a speech about it to people from your century who are interested in time travel.

In your speech you should:

- explain what the mission involved **and** how you felt about it
- describe what worked well **and** what was a challenge
- suggest how further missions could be improved.

Write the words of the speech.

Base your speech on what you have read in **Text C**, but be careful to use your own words. Address each of the three bullets.

Write about 250 to 350 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 10 marks for the quality of your writing.

[illegible]



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN

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[illegible]



Additional page

If you use the following page to complete the answer to any question, the question number must be clearly shown.

[illegible]







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