



Cambridge IGCSE™ (9-1)

CANDIDATE
NAME

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FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0990/12

Paper 1 Reading

May/June 2021

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, *Antarctica***, in the insert and then answer **Questions 1(a)–1(e)** on this question paper.

Question 1

(a) Give **two** continents that are smaller than Antarctica.

-
- [1]

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

(i) 'dominates the region' (line 3):

-
- [2]

(ii) 'integral part' (lines 5 and 6):

-
- [2]

(c) Re-read paragraph 3 ('Ice is ... warming.').

Give **two** reasons why loss of ice in Antarctica is significant.

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- [2]

(d) Re-read paragraphs 4 and 5 ('While Antarctica ... colonies.').

(i) Identify **two** reasons why the region is a popular destination for scientists from lots of different countries.

-
- [2]

(ii) Explain why growing numbers of tourists want to visit Antarctica.

-
- [3]

(e) Re-read paragraphs 6 and 7 ('Although nearly ... wherever possible').

Using your own words, explain why the impact of scientists visiting Antarctica may be worse than the impact of tourists visiting.

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[3]

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

(f) According to Text B, what challenges does Searle face to achieve her goal?

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.

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Read **Text C, Base station, Antarctica**, in the insert and then answer **Questions 2(a)–2(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) There were lots of containers of supplies stored in hangars on the base.

..... [1]

(ii) Some scientists regularly went underwater to study animals living beneath the ice.

..... [1]

(iii) The scientists’ observations that the climate of the Earth is changing are impossible to prove wrong.

..... [1]

(iv) There were lots of practice drills to ensure safety.

..... [1]

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

That evening we encountered more Base people – young, fit figures without that fume of the outside that still clung to us. They sported the same padded boiler suits and fleece jackets, and were keen to talk. ‘I don’t call the real world often, it’s best to just live in the bubble,’ confided marine biologist Ben. I said I planned to stay until the very last boat out. ‘Winter here’s long,’ he added.

(i) encountered [1]

(ii) sported [1]

(iii) confided [1]

- (c) Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests the contrast between the narrator and the Base people living permanently on the base.

Use your own words in your explanation.

That evening we encountered more Base people – young, fit figures without that fume of the outside that still clung to us. They sported the same padded boiler suits and fleece jackets, and were keen to talk. ‘I don’t call the real world often, it’s best to just live in the bubble,’ confided marine biologist Ben. I said I planned to stay until the very last boat out. ‘Winter here’s long,’ he added.

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[3]

(d) Re-read paragraphs 1 and 13.

- Paragraph 1 begins ‘Base emitted ...’ and is about the narrator’s first impressions of the base station in Antarctica.
- Paragraph 13 begins ‘Around us ...’ and is about the arrival of winter in Antarctica.

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.

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Re-read **Text C, Base station, Antarctica**, in the insert and then answer **Question 3** on this question paper.

Question 3

You are Simon, the Base commander. You are giving a **speech** for a group of young people to explain to them the opportunities and challenges of living and working on the base station.

In your speech you should:

- explain the different kinds of jobs available at Base station and what activities each job might involve
- outline what they can expect day-to-day life to be like when they first arrive and once they have settled in
- suggest the challenges and rewards of living and working at the Antarctic base station.

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 points.

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.

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A series of horizontal dotted lines provided for writing answers.

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