



Cambridge O Level

CANDIDATE
NAME

CENTRE
NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--

CANDIDATE
NUMBER

--	--	--	--



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/21

Paper 2 Reading

May/June 2023

1 hour 45 minutes

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.
- 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 [].
- The insert contains the reading passages.

This document has **8** pages.

Section 1: Reading for Ideas

Read **Passage 1**, *Working from home*, in the insert and answer **all** the questions below.

1 (a) Notes

Identify and write down the advantages of working from home and the disadvantages of working from home, as outlined in the passage.

USE MATERIAL FROM PARAGRAPHS 2 TO 7 INCLUSIVE.

At this stage, you do **not** need to use your own words. Use note form. To help you get started, the first point in each section of notes is done for you. You may find it helpful to use bullet points when listing the content points.

You will be awarded up to **12** marks for **content** points.

Content Points

Advantages of working from home

- *no time is spent travelling to and from work*

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Disadvantages of working from home

- *technology might let you down*

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

[12]

2 Re-read paragraphs 1, 3 and 6, and write down **one** piece of advice given by the writer from each of these paragraphs.

Paragraph 1
..... [1]

Paragraph 3
..... [1]

Paragraph 6
..... [1]

[Total: 25]

Section 2: Reading for Meaning

Read **Passage 2**, *The new fountain pen*, in the insert and answer **all** the questions below.

From paragraph 1

3 (a) Why was Farris ‘becoming increasingly unhappy in his job’?

.....
..... [1]

(b) What did the advert claim?

.....
..... [1]

From paragraph 2

4 (a) Why do you think Mr Arsalan and his colleagues stared at Farris ‘in amazement’ when he spoke?

.....
..... [1]

(b) One of Farris’s colleagues ‘ventured’ to speak out. Which **one** word used earlier in the paragraph conveys this idea of ‘ventured’?

..... [1]

(c) “‘Well done, Farris,” announced Mr Arsalan coldly.’ Why did Mr Arsalan speak coldly?

.....
..... [1]

From paragraph 3

- 5 (a) Farris got through the meeting without ‘any of the anxiety that had plagued him’ since early childhood. Explain **in your own words** how he had felt since early childhood.

.....
.....
..... [2]

- (b) In the past, what **two** physical changes would Farris have experienced after a confrontation with Mr Arsalan?

(i)
.....
(ii)
..... [2]

From paragraph 4

- 6 (a) Mr Benjamin said to Farris: ‘I was very struck by your analysis’ of the company’s objectives. Explain **in your own words** Mr Benjamin’s reaction to what Farris had said at the meeting.

.....
.....
..... [2]

- (b) What was the ‘opportunity’ that would totally alter the course of Farris’s life?

..... [1]

From paragraph 5

- 7 Give **two** reasons why the restaurant was ‘the best restaurant in town’.

(i)
.....
(ii)
..... [2]

From paragraph 6

- 8 (a) 'Time stood still for Farris.' What emotion do you think Farris was feeling?

..... [1]

- (b) Why did Farris give up his search for the fountain pen?

.....
 [1]

- 9 From paragraphs 2–6

For each of the words below, circle the letter (A, B, C or D) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage.

- (a) **misgivings** (line 16)

A decisions B ambitions C worries D strengths [1]

- (b) **repeatedly** (line 21)

A constantly B calmly C certainly D clearly [1]

- (c) **shielded** (line 28)

A helped B disguised C hidden D protected [1]

- (d) **generous** (line 37)

A kind B wide C large D bold [1]

- (e) **yelled** (line 41)

A asked B shouted C pronounced D muttered [1]

10 Re-read paragraphs 2 and 6, which contain phrases about (a) Mr Arsalan and (b) the taxi driver.

Give:

- the **meaning** of each phrase as it is used in the passage
- the **effect** of each phrase as it is used in the passage.

(a) 'as usual, Mr Arsalan had plenty to say' (line 9)

Meaning:

.....

Effect:

.....

[2]

(b) 'the taxi driver accelerated back' (line 42)

Meaning:

.....

Effect:

.....

[2]

[Total: 25]

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of Cambridge Assessment. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is a department of the University of Cambridge.