CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge O Level

CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

7265118264

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **1123/11**

Paper 1 Reading **May/June 2026**

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. Do **not** use correction fluid or tape.
- 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. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Read **Text A**, **Moving to Canada**, in the insert and answer **Question 1** and **Question 2**.

Question 1

(a) In paragraph 1, how did the writer know when it was time to get up?

.....

..... [1]

(b) **Using your own words**, explain what the text means by 'furious shrieks'. (line 4)

.....

..... [2]

(c) Suggest a reason why Father says, 'We'll sail like great explorers'. (line 10)

.....

..... [1]

(d) **(i)** In paragraph 4, how did the family pay for their move to Canada?

.....

..... [1]

(ii) How did the lengthy pre-departure preparations help the writer and his brother?

.....

..... [1]

(e) In paragraph 5, how does Mother feel about leaving India? Give **two** details from the text to support your answer.

Mother's feeling .....

details .....

.....

.....

.....

[3]

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(f) From paragraph 7, give **two** details which show that the ship was 'no luxury liner'. (line 32)

- .....
- .....

[2]

(g) **(i)** In paragraph 7, what did the writer hope to see on the main deck?

.....

..... [1]

(ii) How did the writer think that Ravi would react on hearing what the writer had done?

.....

..... [1]

(h) Explain **using your own words** the writer's different feelings about the move to Canada before 'the ship left port'. (line 27)

Give **three** details from anywhere in the text up to line 27 to support your answer.

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..... [3]

[Total: 16]

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Question 2

(a) Read this sentence from the text:

'What I had before me was a spectacle of wind and water, that even the movies couldn't match.' (lines 43–44)

What effects does the writer create about the storm in this sentence? Give **two** effects.

.....

.....

..... [2]

(b) Read this sentence from the text:

'A shiver of cold went through me.' (line 46)

What does the writer suggest to the reader about the situation at this point in the story?

.....

..... [1]

(c) Read this sentence from the text:

'A torrent of water, blocking my way downwards, surged from below like a riotous crowd, raging and frothing.' (lines 48–49)

What **two** impressions does the writer convey about the water in this sentence?

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.....

..... [2]

(d) Explain why the writer uses the word 'monstrous' rather than 'loud' in the phrase 'a monstrous explosion'. (line 52)

.....

..... [1]

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(e) Identify **one example** from the text below of how the writer uses language effectively to describe the ship sinking:

'The ship was sinking. It shuddered like an earthquake beneath my feet. There were deep structural groans from down below. The screeching sound of grinding metal penetrated the air. The ship lurched sideways, hurtling wooden crates across the deck. The crates launched themselves overboard, plunging desperately into watery darkness.' (lines 52–56)

Explain the impression the writer creates in the example you have identified.

example .....

explanation .....

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[3]

[Total: 9]

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Read **Text B**, **Living in a smart home**, in the insert and answer **Question 3**.

Question 3

(a) Summarise the benefits of living in a smart home, according to Text B.

You must **use continuous writing** (not note form).

Use your own words as far as possible.

Avoid copying long sections of the text.

Your summary should be no more than 150 words.

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

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..... [20]

(b) Imagine you are Alex Lee, Sam Gurung's friend.

You want to buy a new house. Sam is encouraging you to buy a smart home.

Give your answer to Sam's question, using information from the text.

Sam's question: I think a smart home would be the perfect home for you.
What is your opinion and why?

Alex Lee's answer:

I don't think a smart home would be my perfect home .....

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..... [5]

[Total: 25]

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