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CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge O Level

CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

1050984697

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **1123/12**

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**, **The kite fighting tournament**, in the insert and answer **Question 1** and **Question 2**.

Question 1

(a) From paragraph 1, identify **one** detail about the house that shows that Baba is a successful businessman.

.....

..... [1]

(b) Suggest a reason why the writer 'never stepped inside' Hassan's home. (lines 5–6)

.....

..... [1]

(c) From paragraph 3, identify **two** things the writer enjoyed about snow.

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

[2]

(d) From paragraph 4, give **two** reasons why Baba bought the writer and Hassan kites from Saifo.

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

[2]

(e) **Using your own words**, explain what the text means by 'planted a seed' in the writer's head. (line 28)

.....

..... [2]

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(f) In paragraph 5, how did the writer feel the night before the tournament?

Give **two** details from the text to support your answer.

writer's feeling .....

details .....

.....

.....

..... [3]

(g) **(i)** Why did the writer want to 'withdraw' from the tournament? (line 37)

.....

..... [1]

(ii) Why did the writer **not** withdraw?

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..... [1]

(h) Explain **using your own words** the writer's different feelings and opinions about his father, Baba.

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

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..... [3]

[Total: 16]

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Question 2

(a) Explain why the writer uses the word ‘manipulate’ rather than ‘hold’ in the sentence ‘I handed him the spool so I could manipulate the string’. (lines 40–41)

.....

..... [1]

(b) What **two** impressions does the writer convey to the reader in the sentence:

‘Soon the sky was a sea of gliding kites like paper sharks looking for prey.’? (lines 41–42)

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..... [2]

(c) Read this sentence from the text:

‘They fell from the sky like shooting stars with brilliant, rippling tails – but I was still flying!’ (lines 43–44)

What effects does the writer suggest about the falling kites by using the phrase ‘like shooting stars’? Give **two** effects.

.....

.....

..... [2]

(d) Read this sentence from the text:

‘Only five kites remained… then four… then three… and then… two – and I was still flying!’ (lines 46–47)

What does the writer want the reader to feel in this sentence?

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..... [1]

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(e) Identify **one** example from the text below of how the writer uses language effectively to describe the events at the kite fighting tournament:

'Sensing the end was near, the crowd were cheering, clapping, chanting. Then the moment came. The crowd erupted when the blue kite spun wildly like a tyre come loose from a speeding car, tumbling and plummeting down. My own kite sailed triumphantly in the empty sky.' (lines 50–53)

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**, **Life without my smartphone**, in the insert and answer **Question 3**.

Question 3

(a) Summarise the benefits for the writer of living without a smartphone, 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 Jo, the writer's friend.

You are discussing smartphones with the writer.

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

The writer's question: You should give up your smartphone like me.

What is your opinion and why?

Jo's answer:

I have no intention of giving up my smartphone .....

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..... [5]

[Total: 25]

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