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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge O Level

CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

0485229215

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **1123/11**

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.
- 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 circus train***, in the insert and answer **Question 1** and **Question 2**.

Question 1

(a) From paragraph 1, identify **one** sound that suggests that a train is coming before the engine comes into sight.

.....

..... [1]

(b) **Using your own words**, explain what the text means by 'scanning desperately'. (lines 8–9)

.....

..... [2]

(c) **(i)** In paragraph 3, Jacob is asked a question that confuses him. What is the question?

.....

..... [1]

(ii) Why is Jacob confused by the question?

.....

..... [1]

(d) Explain why Jacob says 'I feel like a mouse being bounced between two cats.' (line 40)

.....

..... [1]

(e) In paragraph 4, what is Uncle Al's impression of Jacob before he finds out that Jacob studied veterinary sciences?

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

Uncle Al's impression of Jacob .....

details .....

.....

.....

.....

[3]

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(f) Explain what Camel and Uncle Al are thinking when they 'exchange glances.' (line 50)

.....

..... [2]

(g) From paragraph 5, give **two** physical signs that indicate that the giraffe is ill.

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

[2]

(h) Explain **using your own words** Jacob's different feelings about the circus train and everything and everyone it carries.

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

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..... [3]

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Question 2

(a) Read this extract from the text:

'It's late but this southern sun is still burning in a flame red sky. The terrain is flatter here too with dry, brown, trampled grass.' (lines 61– 62)

What **two** impressions does the writer want to convey to the reader in this extract?

.....

.....

..... [2]

(b) Read this sentence from the text:

'At the edges, near the track, canvas tents have popped up like mushrooms.' (lines 62–63)

What effect does the writer suggest about the tents by using the phrase 'popped up like mushrooms' to describe them?

.....

.....

..... [2]

(c) Explain why the writer uses the word 'peer' rather than 'look' in the sentence 'I peer inside through a small hole in the canvas'. (line 65)

.....

..... [1]

(d) Read this extract from the text:

'"Listen," says Camel softly. "If you got a life to go back to, I reckon that's what you should do."' (line 76)

What does the writer want to suggest to the reader about Camel's feelings towards Jacob at this point in the story?

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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 convey the reactions of the audience in the big top.

'Brilliantly painted red and gold cages, their sides propped open to reveal lions and tigers, hypnotise the captive audience. Llamas and zebras bring wild whoops of delight. The big top is packed solid, glowing and pulsing with the sound of the audience laughing, clapping and whistling. Sometimes there's a collective intake of breath or ripple of nervous squeals as a trapeze flies by. The elephant looms against the far sidewall, an enormous beast the colour of storm clouds. She's gargantuan. Her skin is mottled and cracked like a scorched riverbed. She trots forwards and the crowd erupts with glee.' (lines 69–75)

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

example .....

explanation .....

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[3]

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Read **Text B**, ***Climbing Mount Everest***, in the insert and answer **Question 3**.

Question 3

(a) Summarise the arguments against climbing Mount Everest nowadays, 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 a local business person living near Mount Everest.

You are asked a question by a journalist who is writing an article on adventure tourism.

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

The journalist's question: Some people want to ban foreign tourists from climbing Everest due to the negative impact they have on the area.

What is your opinion and why?

Local business person's answer:

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..... [5]

[Total: 25]

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