Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge O Level

CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

6390945690

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **1123/12**

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 Raven***, in the insert and answer **Question 1** and **Question 2**.

Question 1

(a) In paragraph 1, what does Rex find amusing about the young bird's appearance when Rex first sees him?

.....

..... [1]

(b) **Using your own words**, explain what Rex means by the bird's 'squawks of protest'. (line 4)

.....

..... [2]

(c) **(i)** Identify **one** thing the bird does which is 'mischievous'. (line 8)

.....

..... [1]

(ii) How does the bird's mischievous behaviour cause problems for the boys' parents?

.....

..... [1]

(d) From paragraph 3, give **two** features of the bird's upbringing that will make it difficult to return this bird to the wild.

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

[2]

(e) Explain why Odin gives a 'petrified croak'. (line 22)

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..... [1]

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(f) In paragraph 6, how do children visiting the centre feel about Odin?

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

children's feeling .....

details .....

.....

.....

.....

[3]

(g) From paragraph 7, give **two** reasons why Julie is annoyed with Odin.

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

[2]

(h) Explain **using your own words** how Rex's feelings about the bird change over time.

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 sentence from the text:

'Later that month, I was nearly proved wrong.' (line 41)

What does the writer want to suggest to us about what is going to happen next?

.....

..... [1]

(b) Read this sentence from the text:

'We'd expected the worst, but the scene at dawn was a picture of carnage, like an army of giants had wreaked havoc outside: most of the trees in the area had been blown over, the whole world seemed torn apart, unfriendly and unfamiliar.' (lines 44–46)

What **two** impressions does the writer want to convey to the reader about the storm in this sentence?

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.....

..... [2]

(c) Explain why the writer uses the word 'lifted' rather than 'moved' in the expression 'it had been lifted from its concrete blocks and tossed onto its side'. (line 47)

.....

..... [1]

(d) Read this sentence from the text:

'Julie and I had already made a brave start on rebuilding the sheds, mournfully avoiding the remains of the cage.' (lines 50–51)

What effect does the writer suggest by using the word 'brave' to describe Julie and Rex's start on rebuilding the sheds?

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..... [2]

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(e) Identify **one** example from the text below of how the writer uses language effectively to describe Odin.

'Weak cheeping revealed the smallest shadow of a bedraggled Odin perched precariously at the top of the tallest tree and shivering violently. Seriously shaken by his experience, he wasn't in a trusting mood. At the risk of appearing a complete idiot, I called up in a hopefully endearing voice, "Odin, come to Daddy." The bird's response was immediate. With a croak of relief he dropped from the tree like a bundle of black rags, landing at my feet. Normally he hated being picked up, but on this occasion our indestructible raven was more than willing to be scooped into my arms and taken home.' (lines 58–64)

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**, ***Sneakers***, in the insert and answer **Question 3**.

Question 3

(a) Summarise the reasons why so many people buy sneakers made by the big brands, 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 Matthew Chang, director of the footwear brand Vida.

You are interviewed by a fashion journalist who is writing an article about sneakers.

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

The journalist's question: Many people think that Vida sneakers are boring.

What is your opinion and why?

Matthew Chang's answer:

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..... [5]

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