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English ab initio – Standard level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension
Anglais ab initio – Niveau moyen – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite
Inglés ab initio – Nivel Medio – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura

8 May 2025 / 8 mai 2025 / 8 de mayo de 2025

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

1 h

Text booklet – Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet accompanies paper 2 reading comprehension.

Livret de textes – Instructions destinées aux candidats

- N'ouvrez pas ce livret avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Ce livret accompagne la partie de l'épreuve 2 portant sur la compréhension écrite.

Cuadernillo de textos – Instrucciones para los alumnos

- No abra este cuadernillo hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Este cuadernillo acompaña a la parte de comprensión de lectura de la prueba 2.

Text A

Antarctica: The King of Cold



What do the North Pole and South Pole have in common?

Yes! They are both cold! But did you know that one is colder than the other?

The South Pole is much colder than the North Pole. Summer at the South Pole is actually colder than winter at the North Pole! Brrr!

5 Do you know why it is so much colder at the South Pole?

The first reason has to do with what is around the poles. The North Pole is over an ice-covered ocean. While that sounds chilly, the water and ice actually keep the temperature from dropping too low.

10 The South Pole is over land – the continent of Antarctica. Land does not stay as warm as water does. The land is also very high, which means that the air is very cold. Think of very tall mountains. They are always covered in snow, because the air around their peaks is cold. It's the same thing in Antarctica.

15 The weather also makes Antarctica colder. Antarctica is far away from other continents, so the cold ocean water and air currents circle the land, keeping the warm air out. The North Pole is much closer to land, so the warmer air can float over the North Pole and warm it up.

20 Did you know that Antarctica is a desert? The air there is cold and dry, so it does not snow very often or very much. When it does snow, it never melts. That's why there is so much ice there – the old snow gets slowly squeezed together and it then forms very thick ice. All the ice also helps make the South Pole colder. Because ice is white, it reflects a lot of the sun's light. Around the North Pole, the water and land absorb some of the light, making it warmer.

So while both the North and South Poles are cold, Antarctica is the king of cold!

Text B

Auckland’s gaming convention – an email

Dear Taz,

- 1** Sorry I haven’t emailed you for ages! I hope your new school in Australia is still going well. Remember when you visited me last year in New Zealand and my dad said that he was interested in buying an old car to fix up? Well, two months ago he did! So, as well as being very busy with schoolwork I have been working with my dad on the car on Sundays. When it is finished, I will send you the before and after photos and next time you visit, my dad will take us for a ride in it.
- 2** The reason I am emailing is because I wanted to tell you about the gaming convention I went to in Auckland over the school holiday. My friends and I had talked about going to it for ages and when the ticket sales opened online, we immediately bought tickets for Saturday and Sunday for \$20. We had to travel there by train, which was more expensive than the convention tickets! But we had a great time, so we didn’t mind.
- 3** It was a very entertaining weekend! Many people dressed up as their favourite characters from video or board games. There was a fashion show and competition on the main stage in the big hall and the winning prize was \$100! My friends and I did not dress up, but if we go again next year we will. There were also four very cool jacket shops, and I bought a jacket with original artwork on it.
- 4** We also went to the video gaming hall, where we played all our favourite games as well as some new ones that have just been created. The best game was a multiplayer car racing game, where my friends and I could race each other, and we made friends because the game lets 20 people race at the same time. We also went to an art workshop, and I drew an angry dragon. Do you remember my friend Umar? His picture was of an amazing cartoon bird. Unfortunately, we didn’t have the chance to visit the board games arena before we had to leave.
- 5** We want to go again next year. The convention is in Wellington, and we would really like you to come too. You could combine it with a visit to us in New Zealand? You would love it! Email me back if you would like to come with us.

Leo

Text C

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