

© International Baccalaureate Organization 2026

All rights reserved. No part of this product may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without the prior written permission from the IB. Additionally, the license tied with this product prohibits use of any selected files or extracts from this product. Use by third parties, including but not limited to publishers, private teachers, tutoring or study services, preparatory schools, vendors operating curriculum mapping services or teacher resource digital platforms and app developers, whether fee-covered or not, is prohibited and is a criminal offense.

More information on how to request written permission in the form of a license can be obtained from <https://ibo.org/become-an-ib-school/ib-publishing/licensing/applying-for-a-license/>.

© Organisation du Baccalauréat International 2026

Tous droits réservés. Aucune partie de ce produit ne peut être reproduite sous quelque forme ni par quelque moyen que ce soit, électronique ou mécanique, y compris des systèmes de stockage et de récupération d'informations, sans l'autorisation écrite préalable de l'IB. De plus, la licence associée à ce produit interdit toute utilisation de tout fichier ou extrait sélectionné dans ce produit. L'utilisation par des tiers, y compris, sans toutefois s'y limiter, des éditeurs, des professeurs particuliers, des services de tutorat ou d'aide aux études, des établissements de préparation à l'enseignement supérieur, des fournisseurs de services de planification des programmes d'études, des gestionnaires de plateformes pédagogiques en ligne, et des développeurs d'applications, moyennant paiement ou non, est interdite et constitue une infraction pénale.

Pour plus d'informations sur la procédure à suivre pour obtenir une autorisation écrite sous la forme d'une licence, rendez-vous à l'adresse <https://ibo.org/become-an-ib-school/ib-publishing/licensing/applying-for-a-license/>.

© Organización del Bachillerato Internacional, 2026

Todos los derechos reservados. No se podrá reproducir ninguna parte de este producto de ninguna forma ni por ningún medio electrónico o mecánico, incluidos los sistemas de almacenamiento y recuperación de información, sin la previa autorización por escrito del IB. Además, la licencia vinculada a este producto prohíbe el uso de todo archivo o fragmento seleccionado de este producto. El uso por parte de terceros —lo que incluye, a título enunciativo, editoriales, profesores particulares, servicios de apoyo académico o ayuda para el estudio, colegios preparatorios, desarrolladores de aplicaciones y entidades que presten servicios de planificación curricular u ofrezcan recursos para docentes mediante plataformas digitales—, ya sea incluido en tasas o no, está prohibido y constituye un delito.

En este enlace encontrará más información sobre cómo solicitar una autorización por escrito en forma de licencia: <https://ibo.org/become-an-ib-school/ib-publishing/licensing/applying-for-a-license/>.

English A: language and literature – Higher level – Paper 1
Anglais A : langue et littérature – Niveau supérieur – Épreuve 1
Inglés A: Lengua y Literatura – Nivel Superior – Prueba 1

7 May 2026 / 7 mai 2026 / 7 de mayo de 2026

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

2 h 15 m

Instructions to students

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Write a guided analysis of text 1.
- Write a guided analysis of text 2.
- Use the guiding question or propose an alternative technical or formal aspect of the text to focus your analysis.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[40 marks]**.

Instructions destinées aux élèves

- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve d'examen avant d'avoir reçu l'autorisation de le faire.
- Rédigez une analyse dirigée du texte 1.
- Rédigez une analyse dirigée du texte 2.
- Utilisez la question d'orientation ou proposez une autre manière d'aborder le texte en choisissant un aspect technique ou formel sur lequel concentrer votre analyse.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est de **[40 points]**.

Instrucciones para el alumnado

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Escriba un análisis guiado del texto 1.
- Escriba un análisis guiado del texto 2.
- Utilice la pregunta de orientación o proponga otro aspecto técnico o formal del texto en el que centrar su análisis.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es **[40 puntos]**.

Write a guided analysis of the following text.

1. This article is from *The Walrus*, a Canadian media organization invested in informing its citizens, promoting debate on relevant issues, and supporting local writers and artists.

Can you trust your dictionary?

The *Canadian Oxford* can be a writer's best friend—if they understand its limitations

BY SARAH SWEET

Word nerd

I WOULD NOT BE able to do my job without my trusty *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*. For years, I made do with a softcover version, but I had to give it up after my cat chewed and then swallowed the entries for *transgress* and *transgression*¹. Now the magnificent 1,815-page hardcover version sits in the corner of my desk (I just used it to confirm that *softcover* and *hardcover* don't need hyphens). But dictionaries, even when they are thorough, helpful, and 1,815 pages in length, should be approached with caution and used with care. They can do many things, but not everything—and they're most useful when you understand their limitations.

For a long time, I thought dictionaries were like stern and infallible schoolmasters in book form: demanding and judgmental, but fair. If someone else used a stupid and obviously made-up word, I had full confidence that I could turn to a dictionary and find incontrovertible² proof that the word was stupid and made up. If someone used a word to mean something I was pretty sure it did not mean, I knew a dictionary would tell me what the word meant, what it had always meant, and what it would continue to mean for all time.

I had, of course, gotten dictionaries entirely wrong. They are not prescriptive resources—full of rules and unbreakable dictates—but descriptive ones: they respond (if belatedly) to the ways in which people are actually using language. And people have a tendency to use language “incorrectly”. Eventually, so many people use the same word incorrectly that its new meaning is added to the dictionary.

Both *Canadian Oxford* and *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* indicate—without any accompanying usage note—that it's fine to use *stunk* as the past form of *stink*. Those of us who studied grammar and memorized things very carefully and hoped very much that nothing would ever change were taught that while *stunk* is the past participle, *stank* is the past form: I stink right now; I stank for much of last year; I have stunk for much of my life. But “I stunk for much of last year” is now sanctioned³ by at least some authorities. I have no interest in fighting a rearguard action⁴ in defense of *stank*, but it's worth noting that dictionaries do include entries that grammarians would take issue with. “But it's in the dictionary!” will not save you from the sticklers⁵.

A good dictionary is invaluable. Irreplaceable. The kind of thing you should keep close by and refer to frequently and protect from cats. But if your plan is to write thoughtfully and well, it shouldn't be the only book on your desk: you should invest in style guides and grammar manuals, too—and spend at least some time finding the angriest commenters on the internet.

¹ transgression: an act that goes beyond the limits of what is socially, morally or legally acceptable

² incontrovertible: not able to be argued against

³ sanctioned: given official permission or approval

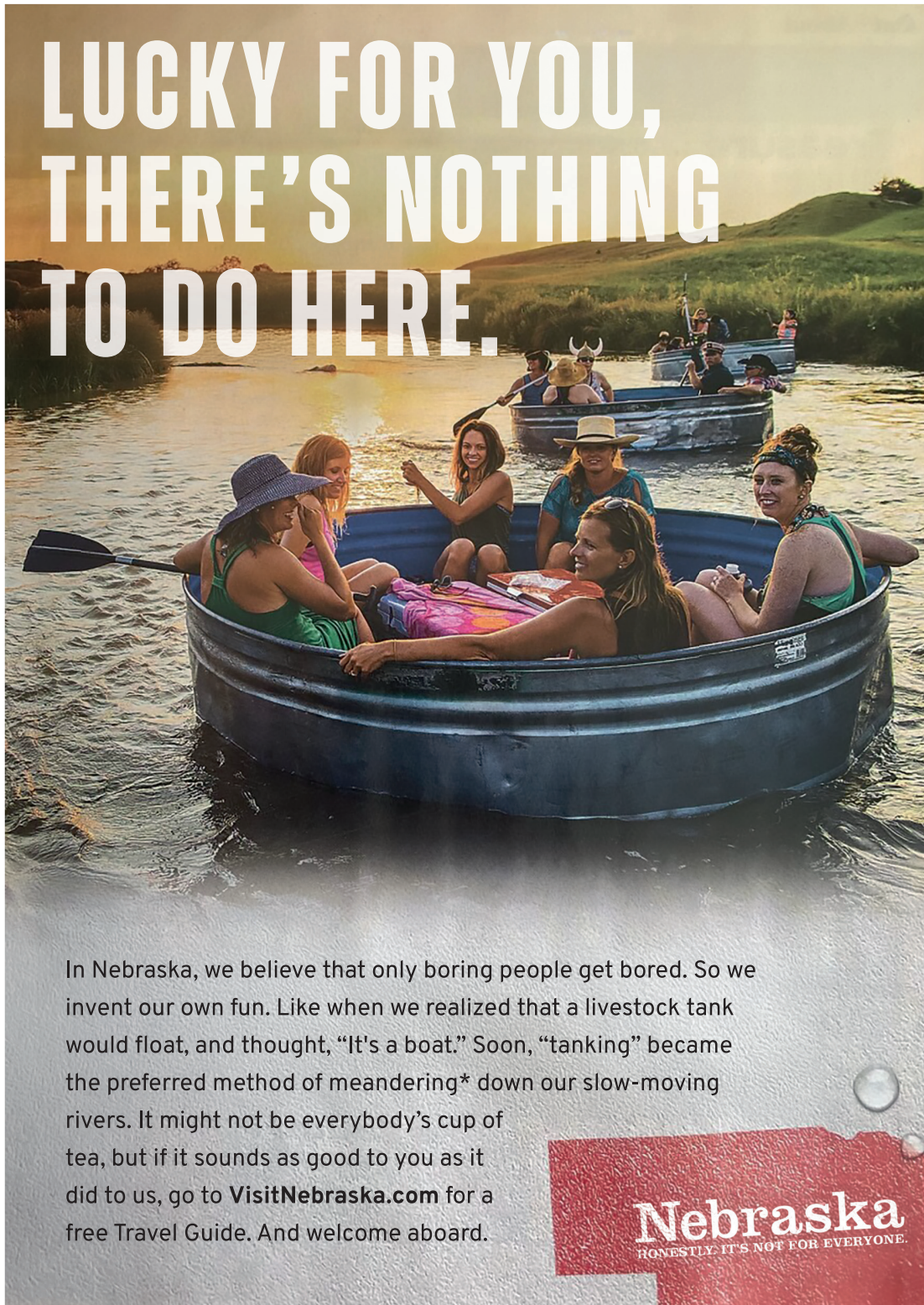
⁴ rearguard action: defensive action carried out by a retreating army

⁵ sticklers: people who insist on something being done in a certain way

– How and to what effect does the writer use voice in this text?

Write a guided analysis of the following text.

2. The following advertisement is from the Nebraska Tourism Commission, USA.



LUCKY FOR YOU, THERE'S NOTHING TO DO HERE.

In Nebraska, we believe that only boring people get bored. So we invent our own fun. Like when we realized that a livestock tank would float, and thought, “It’s a boat.” Soon, “tanking” became the preferred method of meandering* down our slow-moving rivers. It might not be everybody’s cup of tea, but if it sounds as good to you as it did to us, go to **VisitNebraska.com** for a free Travel Guide. And welcome aboard.

Nebraska
HONESTLY, IT'S NOT FOR EVERYONE.

* meandering: moving in a winding, indirect path

- How do text and image work together to create a sense of interest or intrigue?
-

Disclaimer/Avertissement/Advertencia:

Content used in IB assessments is often taken from authentic, third-party sources. The views expressed within them belong to their individual authors and/or publishers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the IB. Sometimes fictitious companies, products or individuals are included in assessments; any similarities with actual entities are purely coincidental. Any trademarks™ or registered® trademarks included are used for illustrative purposes only, and use does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement by the International Baccalaureate.

Le contenu utilisé dans les évaluations de l'IB est souvent extrait de sources authentiques issues de tierces parties. Les avis qui y sont exprimés appartiennent aux personnes à l'origine de leur création et/ou de leur publication, et ne reflètent pas nécessairement ceux de l'IB. Parfois, des entreprises, produits ou individus fictionnels sont inclus dans les évaluations. Toute ressemblance avec des entités réelles serait purement fortuite. Toutes les marques commerciales™ ou déposées® incluses sont utilisées à des fins d'illustration uniquement, et leur utilisation n'implique aucune affiliation avec le Baccalauréat International ni aucune promotion de sa part.

Los contenidos usados en las evaluaciones del IB a menudo provienen de fuentes externas auténticas. Las opiniones expresadas en ellos pertenecen a sus autores y/o editores, y no reflejan necesariamente las del IB. En ocasiones, se incluyen empresas, productos o personas ficticios. Cualquier parecido con entidades reales es pura coincidencia. Todas las marcas o marcas registradas (™ o ®) incluidas se utilizan únicamente con fines ilustrativos, y su uso no implica ninguna afiliación con el IB ni aprobación por parte del IB.

References/Références/Referencias:

1. Sweet, S., 2017. Can you trust your dictionary? *The Walrus*, [online] 21 August. Available at: <https://thewalrus.ca/can-you-trust-your-dictionary/> [Accessed 5 August 2025]. Source adapted.
2. AAA Explorer, 2022. Lucky for you, there's nothing to do here. *Kansas City Public Radio*, [online] Available at: <https://www.kcur.org/2022-08-31/midwest-states-kansas-nebraska-iowa-tourism-vacation-getaway-unpretentious> [Accessed 4 August 2025]. Source adapted.