



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

CANDIDATE  
NAME

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NUMBER

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**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

**0511/13**

Paper 1 Reading and Writing (Core)

**October/November 2011**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No Additional Materials are required.

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

**DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.**

Answer **all** questions.

Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **13** printed pages and **3** blank pages.



### Exercise 1

Read the following article about wedding customs, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.



## Wedding Customs Around the World

In the past most people only knew about one way to get married. They were familiar only with the customs and traditions that they saw around them. Today, however, thanks to television and the internet, we live in what seems to be a very small world.

### Colombia

There is a very old custom in Colombia in which the bridegroom lights a candle on his left and the bride lights a candle on her right. Both candles are then brought together and the two candles are used to light a new candle. The first two candles are then blown out and only the new candle remains burning. This is a sign that the couple are leaving their old life behind them and entering a new life together as one body forever.

### Germany

A few days before the wedding friends and relatives bring old cups, plates and dishes and they smash them all on the ground in front of the bride and groom. This is a very old tradition and the idea is that these broken items bring you good luck. This action nowadays often develops into a party, but the main idea is to wish the couple a happy and lucky life.

### Iran

On the night before the wedding ceremony three or four unmarried girls, who have been chosen because they are of good character, hold a white cloth over the heads of the bride and groom as they sit on a sofa or on the ground. Two big lumps of sugar are brought in and one of the girls starts to rub the lumps together. As she does this, the other girls ask for the couple to be given happiness in their new life together. It is also believed that whoever grinds the sugar lumps together for the couple will end up getting married herself in the near future.

### Belarus

In Belarus, towels play a very important part in the wedding traditions. Brightly coloured towels symbolising joy, health and wealth are held by lots of the guests as they represent the two families coming together. When the bride walks to the place where she is going to be married, she has to drag a towel behind her, making a clear path. It is believed that her unmarried friends will then walk on this path in the near future on their way to getting married as well.



(a) How do we now know about different wedding practices around the world?

..... [1]

(b) Why are three candles lit in Colombia but only one left burning?

..... [1]

(c) What happens in Germany to the plates that people bring before the wedding?

..... [1]

(d) What is the reason for the tradition involving plates in Germany?

..... [1]

(e) What sort of girls are chosen to take part in the sugar ceremony in Iran? Give **two** details.

.....  
..... [1]

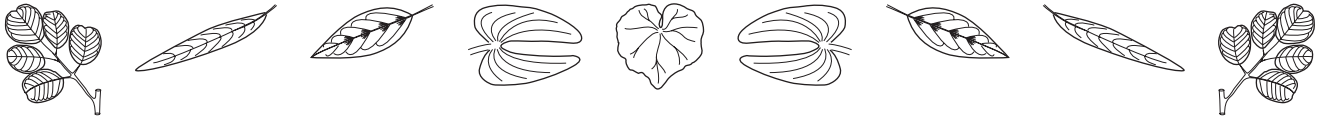
(f) What does a bride in Belarus have to do as she walks to her wedding?

..... [1]

[Total: 6]

## Exercise 2

Read the following article about rainforests, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.



# PRECIOUS RAINFORESTS

There are rainforests in over 80 countries throughout the world. The chart below shows the percentage of tropical rainforest in various parts of the world.



Rainforests once covered 14% of the earth's land surface, now they cover only 6%. It is calculated that we are losing one and a half acres of rainforest every second.

An estimated 1.6 billion of the world's poorest people (those

surviving on less than 2 US dollars a day) rely to some extent on forests for their welfare and livelihood. These could be poor farmers whose lives depend on what they can grow in the forests or the many poor people who take something out of the forest to sell elsewhere. These include rubber tappers, small-scale loggers, hunters, and harvesters of nuts, berries and fruits. It is not only the poor who rely on the rainforests for their income. Rich people such as cattle ranchers, soya bean farmers and timber plantation owners are also amongst those who depend on rainforests. In addition, there are governments who look to the rainforests as a source of wealth and power.

However, those people whose families have lived in the rainforests for generations have a particularly close relationship with them and could play a vital role in protecting them. The tragedy is that not only are the rainforests being destroyed but so are its peoples. Five centuries ago there were approximately ten million Indians living in the Amazonian rainforest but today there are fewer than 200,000. The Indians could not survive deforestation, the illnesses brought into the forest by outside people and the violence of those invading the land. Some tribes were only discovered in the early 1950s, such as the Yanomani tribe, which had lived peacefully until 1975 when outside people discovered gold and uranium. Roads were built so that the precious metals could be reached and mines were opened. The Yanomani tried to stop this invasion of their homeland but they were up against very powerful interests who were intent on making money. In the 1970s the Surui tribe was discovered. It now has a university-educated chief, who is working with global companies to map his region using modern technology. This will help to safeguard the region against all who wish to destroy it for profit.

Tropical rainforests provide important services to local communities and to the world. Medical research has benefited from the rainforest. Over 120 medicines sold worldwide come from rainforest plants, and 25% of cancer-fighting drugs come from plants only found there. But on the other hand, with deforestation, it is projected that we will lose more than 20% of the world's oxygen. In addition, rainfall would cease to be regulated around the world. We will lose 137 plant, animal and insect species every single day due to deforestation. Many of these disappearing plants could hold new cures for diseases. The knowledge of healers in the rainforests is extremely helpful in understanding the healing properties of plants. However, most medicine men of the forests are now at least 70 years old and when they die what they know will go with them. Although small in number, the people of the rainforests possess great wisdom. If we lose this wisdom then the whole world will suffer.



(a) According to the chart, which part of the world has the highest percentage of rainforest cover?

..... [1]

(b) What evidence is there for the reduction of rainforests? Give **two** details.

.....  
..... [1]

(c) How are the world's poorest people defined in the article?

..... [1]

(d) Apart from the poor, which other groups of people depend on the rainforest for income? Give **two** details.

.....  
..... [1]

(e) Apart from deforestation, what has caused the decline in numbers of the rainforest Indians? Give **two** details.

.....  
..... [2]

(f) What happened to disturb the Yanomani's traditional way of life?

..... [1]

(g) Why does the Surui tribe leader want to map his region?

..... [1]

(h) Give **two** examples of the ways in which people around the world have benefited from plants found in the rainforests.

.....  
..... [2]

[Total: 10]

**Exercise 3**

Mr Jacques Benoit has spent many hours planning and booking a very special holiday in the city of Edinburgh in Scotland. Mr Benoit and his wife Angelique have two children, Marie, 14, and Jean-Christophe, 16, and they live at 24, Rue Victor Cousin, Bagnolet, Paris 93171. Mr Benoit's job requires them to move every four years and so the family is used to foreign travel, although they have not visited Scotland before.

On 14th May 2011 the family flew to Edinburgh on the country's new airline, flight number ATC 792. The flight was punctual, and the cabin crew were attentive and polite. Marie is a vegetarian and so a special meal had been ordered at the time of booking. However, when Marie asked for her meal nothing but bread was available. This was not a good start but as she wasn't very hungry she did not complain.

A minibus took the family to the Castlevue Hotel and they were very impressed with the sight of it as they arrived. They found their rooms comfortable and enjoyed the food. Each member of the family was given a pass which would allow him/her to access all of the hotel's facilities, including the swimming pool and the gym. Jean-Christophe wanted to go to the pool immediately and rushed off to have a swim. Within 5 minutes he was back telling his parents that the pool was closed for maintenance and would be for the next week. Mr and Mrs Benoit were sorry to hear this but encouraged their son to go to the gym instead. This was open and it did have very good equipment.

One of the main things that the family had been looking forward to was the entertainment that was described in the brochure. The first night there were acrobats, which were fantastic, but after that there was only some dancing which was rather dull and the children were bored.

The family agreed that the brochure had not been honest in its description of the holiday and they said that they would never use this travel company again. They were also looking forward to completing the feedback form so that they could let the company know how they felt.

**Imagine you are Mr Benoit. Fill in the form on the opposite page, using the information above.**

## Holiday Feedback Form

### Section A      Personal details

Name of person who booked the holiday: .....

Address: .....

Number of people in holiday group: .....

Please give ages of any holiday-makers under 18 years old: .....

### Section B      Holiday details

Date of departure: .....

Flight number **and** destination: .....

Did the flight leave on time? (please delete) YES/NO

Name of hotel visited: .....

Have you visited this hotel before? (please delete) YES/NO

First impressions of the hotel (please circle)

Excellent      Satisfactory      Poor

Were any of the following unsatisfactory? (please underline)

Rooms      Food      Swimming pool      Gym

What was your favourite evening entertainment? .....

### Section C

In the space below, write **one** sentence detailing your experience of the flight, and **one** sentence giving your overall opinion of the holiday.

[Total: 10]

## Exercise 4

Read the following article about a wildlife park in the Middle East, and then complete the notes on the opposite page.

# The Middle Eastern Wildlife Park



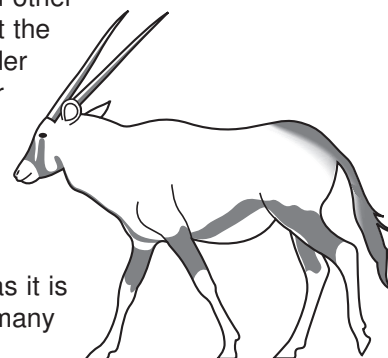
The Middle Eastern Wildlife Park was created for the conservation of wild animals. It has been very successful in this and is now home to 30 species of animals. The park looks after about 400 Arabian oryx (which are now extinct in the wild) and hundreds of endangered sand gazelles and Arabian hares. It offers visitors many exciting experiences such as the chance to go on an amazing safari within the 4,100 hectares of the desert island setting.

As well as conservation, there have been successful environmental projects too, such as the creation of an alternative energy plant in the wildlife park. It is hoped that eventually the energy plant will provide all the energy for the island using a mixture of solar and wind power. There is already a wind turbine in the wildlife park that generates 1% of the island's needs. Efforts to reduce the island's water consumption have cut usage from 55 million to 40 million litres a day. However, it is the activities that you can do that really sets the island apart from other places in the region. Many tourists go to the Middle East simply to sunbathe and shop, but the park hopes to attract more adventurous travellers who might not have considered the region before.

These tourists are still offered every comfort as their base is a luxury hotel. However, there are also tented camps across the wildlife park, which offer a more affordable option. This option may also be more attractive to visitors who are concerned about the hotel's cold air-conditioning, which is not very eco-friendly.

Snorkelling around the island can be exciting – colourful angelfish and kingfish can often be seen. The turtles, small sharks, dolphins and rays are not always so easy to spot. Rubbish on the beach can also be a problem and it's sad to see bits of plastic and metal mixed in with the thousands of seashells at the water's edge.

Going on a bike ride around the flamingo-filled lagoon and along sandy lanes can be more rewarding. The island is on the migratory path for flamingos and other birds, but many of them stay there all year. As tourists cycle past the lagoon, they can see beautiful flamingos standing on their slender legs. It is a sight that few will forget. The more energetic visitor can ride on a mountain bike across what is said to be the world's largest salt mountains which were created millions of years ago. However, the extreme heat at certain times of the year makes this activity very difficult.



The Middle Eastern Wildlife Park is a step in the right direction as it is working hard to be environmentally friendly, and it is enjoyed by many people who want to see nature being conserved.



Your School Travel Club has asked you to write a report about the park as a possible place to visit. Prepare some notes to use as the basis of your report.

Make **two** notes under each heading.

Achievements of the wildlife park

- alternative energy plant
- .....
- .....

Activities available for visitors to the wildlife park

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

Negative points about the wildlife park

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

[Total: 6]

**Exercise 5**

Imagine that your School Travel Club has asked you to follow up these notes with a short written report.

Look at your notes in Exercise 4 above. Using the ideas in your notes, write a summary about the wildlife park.

**Your summary should be no more than 70 words. You should use your own words as far as possible.**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

[Total: 4]

**Exercise 6**

**You have received a sum of money from your aunt and uncle as a reward for passing your exams.**

**Write a letter of thanks to your aunt and uncle.**

In your letter you should:

- express your gratitude for their kindness;
- say what you intend to do with the money;
- tell them about your plans for the future.

The pictures above may give you some ideas, but you are free to use any ideas of your own.

**Your letter should be between 100 and 150 words long. Do not write an address.**

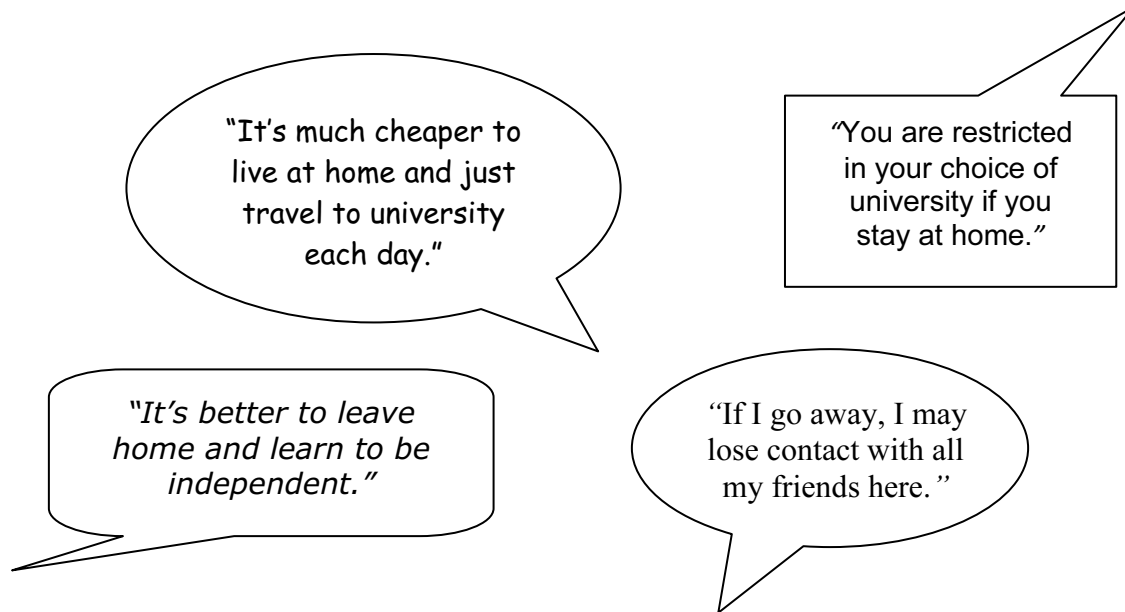
You will receive up to 5 marks for the content of your letter, and up to 5 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.



**Exercise 7**

Your school magazine is inviting young people to write an article about whether it is better to continue living at home or to leave home when starting university.

Here are some comments from your friends about this subject:



**Write an article for your school magazine giving your views.**

The comments above may give you some ideas, but you are free to use any ideas of your own.

**Your article should be between 100 and 150 words long.**

You will receive up to 5 marks for the content of your article, and up to 5 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.







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