
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9093/12

Paper 1 Passages

May/June 2016

2 hours 15 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **two** questions: Question 1 **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

You should spend about 15 minutes reading the passages and questions before you start writing your answers. You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

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

This document consists of **7** printed pages, **1** blank page and **1** insert.

Answer Question 1 **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 1 The article below is a newspaper opinion column that discusses contact with work during holiday periods.
- (a) Comment on the language and style of the extract. [15]
- (b) The same writer publishes a second article complaining about another problem in modern life.

Write the opening of this article (between 120–150 words). Base your article closely on the style and language of the original extract. [10]

Out of office, out of mind – free yourself from inbox tyranny on holiday

We should all follow car maker Daimler’s lead and release ourselves from the evils of the out-of-office reply while away

Preparing to go on holiday has always required a checklist – passport, swimming costume, that first volume of Karl Ove Knausgård you’ve been meaning to read because everyone says it’s amazing (spoiler: it is). But in the modern era there is another decision that could make or break your holiday: how will you set your email out-of-office reply? 5

Will you simply say, for example, that you are on “holiday” or will you announce grandly that you are on “annual leave”? More importantly, will you stick to what your out-of-office says? Do you plan to check your email while away or blithely ignore it all? Best, surely, just to commit it to the digital inferno. 10

The German car maker Daimler is offering its employees a blissful solution. With the company’s “mail on holiday” inbox feature, correspondents will be told to contact someone else because all email sent to this person while they are on holiday will just be deleted. That’s right: destroyed. Gone. Imagine the calm of getting home. No horrifically bulging inbox. Nothing to “catch up” on. 15

A sneaky brutality is concealed within this notion of having to catch up on stuff after your holiday, as though office life were an engrossing television drama filled with excitement and dragons. If you are obliged to catch up on what you’ve “missed” while on holiday, that implies you shouldn’t really have been on holiday. It is a reminder that time off is a gift in return for your servitude during the rest of the year. 20

The fear that catching up on a fortnight’s email will be epically disgusting labour convinces people to check their email while away. Some say they need to “keep in touch” with the office, as if it were a friend. (Such fake friendship usually operates in only one direction, like “loyalty” to a supermarket.) 25

Unfortunately, science seems to confirm what we already knew: that worrying about the office will ruin your holiday. The neuroscientist David Levitin recently declared the importance, in addition to naps and daydreaming, of taking “true vacations without work” for optimum mental functioning. 30

Our European cousins are at the forefront of more humane approaches to work communication. Earlier this year some French workers benefited from a new agreement obliging them to disconnect from work communication after office hours. But for something like Daimler's brutal total-email-zapping holiday system to gain widespread acceptance is a problem a little like that of world communism: it has to happen all at once and everywhere. While there are still people who assiduously work on their supposed holiday, they'll be making the refuseniks¹ look bad, even if they're not plotting to steal their jobs. 35

For everyone's psychic comfort, it is crucial we avoid sending out mixed messages. I recently received an out-of-office reply from someone who said they were on holiday and not reading emails, but that if I were to email them and add the word "Urgent" in the subject line they would in fact read it and do something. Naturally, I instantly re-sent the same email, with "Urgent" bolted on, thus doubling the volume of email this poor person had received from me while on a supposedly relaxing trip. Of course, I felt sorry for the recipient. At the same time, the out-of-office message had literally asked for it. 40 45

What is needed is a go-slow solidarity movement. Let us all set our out-of-office wording to manage expectations violently downwards. A little poetic licence should be acceptable too. For instance: "I'm on holiday, on the moon. As you may be aware, there is no Wi-Fi or phone signal on the moon. See you when I get back!" 50

Workers of the world unite: you have nothing to lose but your two-week backlog of reply-all email chains.

Notes:

¹ *refusenik*: someone who refuses to do a task.

2 The following text is from Langston Hughes's autobiography *The Big Sea* (1940). In this extract he recalls journeying back to the United States from Africa with a pet monkey.

(a) Comment on the language and style of the passage. [15]

(b) Later, Langston Hughes recalls arriving at the docks in America, where the monkey escapes once again.

Write the opening of this new account (between 120–150 words). Base your answer closely on the style and language of the original. [10]

It made him furious to have to get back in his cage, when it was time for me to go to work.

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But finally he leaped chattering into my arms and
devoured a prune.

3 The following passage is by the travel writer Eric Newby. In it he recalls a childhood trip to the exclusive department store Harrods, in London.

(a) Comment on the language and style of the extract. [15]

(b) Imagine that the same writer visits a place that you know well and records his impressions.

Write the opening (between 120–150 words) of this new piece. Base your answer closely on the style and language of the original passage. [10]

‘Hold my hand tight, or you’ll get lost,’ my mother used to say, as she moved through the store, browsing here and there like some elegant ruminant¹, a gazelle perhaps, or else walking more purposefully if she was on her way to some specific destination, as she often was. My mother was not the sort of person who only entered Harrods in order to shelter from the rain. Once she was in it, she was there as a potential buyer. 5

This world, which I was forced to regard from what was practically floor level, was made up of the equivalents of jungles, savannas², mountains, arctic wastes and even deserts. All that was lacking were seas and lakes and rivers, although at one time I distinctly remember there being some kind of fountain. The jungles were the lavish displays of silk and chiffon printed with exotic fruits and lush vegetation in which I was swallowed up as soon as I entered Piece Goods, on the ground floor, which made the real Flower Department seem slightly meagre by contrast. The biggest mountains were in the Food Halls, also on the ground floor, where towering ranges and isolated stacks of the stuff rose high above me, composed of farmhouse Cheddars, Stiltons, *foie gras*³ in earthenware pots, tins of biscuits, something like thirty varieties of tea and at Christmas boxes of crackers with wonderful fillings (musical instruments that really worked, for instance), ten-pound puddings made with ale and rum and done up in white cloths. Some of these apparently stable *massifs*⁴ were more stable than others and I once saw and heard with indescribable delight a whole display of tins of Scotch shortbread avalanche to the ground, making a most satisfactory noise. 10 15 20

In the great vaulted hall, decorated with medieval hunting scenes, and with metal racks for hanging the trophies of it, where Harrods’s Fishmongers and Purveyors of Game and the assembled Butchers confronted one another across the central aisle. There were mountainous displays of crabs, scallops, Aberdeen smokes, turbot and halibut, Surrey fowls and game in season on one side; and on the other, regimental lines of Angus Beef, South Down Lamb and Mutton. 25

The savannas were on the second floor, in Model Gowns, Model Coats and Model Costumes, endless expanses of carpet with here and there a solitary creation on a stand rising above it, like lone trees in a wilderness. 30

To me unutterably tedious were the unending, snowy-white wastes of the Linen Hall, coloured bed linen, coloured blankets, even coloured bath towels, except for the ends (headings) which were sometimes decorated with blue or red stripes, being – if not unknown – unthinkable at that time (coloured blankets, usually red, were for ambulances and hospitals). In it articles were on sale that not even my mother was tempted to buy: tablecloths eight yards long to fit tables that could seat two dozen guests, sheets and blankets ten feet wide, specially made to fit the big, old four-poster beds still apparently being slept in by some customers. 35

Higher still, on the third floor, were what I regarded as the deserts of the Furniture Departments. It took something like ten minutes to get around these vast, and to me as uninteresting as the Linen Hall, expanses, in which the distances between the individual pieces were measured in yards rather than feet. 40

Notes:

- ¹ *ruminant*: a grazing animal.
- ² *savannas*: grassy plains with few trees.
- ³ *foie gras*: an expensive meat delicacy.
- ⁴ *massifs*: mountain ranges.

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