



Learning Resource Network

**International GCSE in
English Language
[2031]**

Reading and Writing

EXAM PAPER – 01

DURATION:

**READING AND
WRITING**

2 HOURS

CANDIDATE'S INFORMATION

FULL NAME:

CANDIDATE NUMBER:

CENTRE NUMBER:

DATE:

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Do not open this paper until you are told to do so.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- You must ask any questions now as you cannot speak during the Test.
- Answer **ALL** questions.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets
- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Exercise 1

Read the article about ghosts, and then answer the following questions.

Why do we see ghosts?

Do you believe in ghosts? It is a tricky question to answer without upsetting people. Answer in the negative, and the response will often be that you therefore think people are making it all up. Answer that you believe people who say that they have seen ghosts, and you are assumed to believe things too easily.

Belief in ghosts is widespread. A few years ago, a survey of 2,000 people in the UK by a respected national newspaper found that three in five people (that's about 60 per cent) say that they have seen a ghost in their lifetime. 40 per cent thought their pet had witnessed one too, and one in three had either lived or stayed in a house they felt was haunted. When journalist Danny Robbins asked people to share their experiences for a radio programme, he heard from numerous witnesses, most of whom had no religious belief and no belief in a life after death.

Can so many people really be lying or be mentally ill, a charge that is often made against those who say they have witnessed ghosts? Let us assume that they are telling the truth and are sane. We need to find a way of acknowledging the reality of the experience without necessarily accepting the explanation of visitors from beyond the grave. The real reasons may be natural, but no less fascinating.

One of the possible explanations for a ghost encounter is pareidolia, the human tendency to assign meaning to patterns, and in particular seeing faces in other objects. Scientists have been trying to understand how and why our brains imagine faces that aren't there, but the likely explanation is that we are a social species, other humans are important for our survival, so we look for them.

One study claims to have reproduced a sense of "ghost" presence in a laboratory. People with covered eyes and ear plugs, were attached to a robot on their backs that reproduced their hand movements (e.g., touching the air in front of them). When the robot arm corresponded in real time to their movements, they recognised it as produced by them. But, with a delay of a fraction of a second, the people reported feeling a frightening presence in the room. They no longer recognised the input signals as belonging to their own body. Some participants were so upset they chose not to finish the experiment.

And then there is the unfortunately named unconscious fraud. Entertainer Derren Brown produced a good example of this in a TV show. Responding to suggestions planted by Brown, a young woman behind a curtain threw things into the audience when she was meant to be sitting still in a chair and not awake. Watching the video, the woman refused to believe that it was her doing those things. Can we do this to ourselves? Oh yes.

These are just a few possible explanations. And we need to keep an open mind that maybe there really are ghosts. It just shouldn't be the first conclusion we go to.

- 1 What is the main idea of the passage? **Write one full sentence.**
..... [1]
- 2 Who carried out the study as to the extent of the belief in ghosts?
.....[1]
- 3 What proportion of people thought their animals had seen a ghost?
.....[1]
- 4 What was significant about the people who contacted Danny Robbins? **Write one full sentence.**
.....[1]
- 5 (a) What is the name for (for example) seeing faces in clouds?
.....[1]
- (b) Why does the article suggest we need other humans to live? **Write one full sentence.**
.....[1]
- 6 In what environment was the research in the fifth paragraph carried out?
.....[1]
- 7 What delay between moving their arms and feeling the robot touch them produced the sense of someone else being there?
.....[1]
- 8 The woman did not know that she was producing the scary effects in the sixth paragraph. What does the article call this?
.....[1]
- 9 What does the final paragraph suggest we must do when investigating ghosts? **Write one full sentence.**
.....[1]

[Total: 10]

Exercise 2

The text below about *The War of the Worlds* has six (6) paragraphs numbered A-F. Read the text, then answer questions (i) to (x) that follow.

A

An open-source work is one that people can freely modify and share. The term originated with computer software, but it is now applied to other media, including books. Sometimes a writer will deliberately create an open-source work, as Michael Moorcock did with his secret agent Jerry Cornelius in the 1970s. *The War of the Worlds* by H G Wells (1898) is another open-source work, not so much because Wells intended that (he didn't), because he has been dead for so long, but his works are in the public domain, no longer protected by law.

B.

Wells' story of invaders from Mars with their giant three-legged machines has been adapted many times for radio, television, and the cinema, as well as giving rise to comic books, video games and a musical! And those adaptations have often made changes to the story, perhaps placing it in a modern setting or omitting characters. Sometimes the results bear no more than a passing resemblance to the original, such as Spielberg's 2005 movie or the appalling 2019 BBC TV version.

C.

However, there are also new stories inspired by Wells' novel. For example, in a 1996 short story collection edited by Kevin Anderson, a number of different writers present stories imagining the reactions of scientist Albert Einstein, artist Pablo Picasso and Zaitian, the Guangxu Emperor of China (among others) to the Martian invasion around the world. Many of these stories have won awards.

D.

In 2016, a leading medical scientist, Dame Professor Sue Black, carried out an examination of a dead Martian before a live audience. Of course, the creature was the creation of art students faithfully following the description in Wells' book. Wells, who trained as a science teacher and used his book to discuss aspects of science, would have undoubtedly approved.

E.

He might also have liked Mike Brunton's 2015 book on the "Anglo-Martian War of 1895", published as a part of the Osprey series. This publisher is best known for their thin books exploring genuine historical wars and battles in great detail. Brunton's work follows the same format, treating the events of the original book as history. Brunton dates the war as occurring in 1895, while Wells states very clearly in chapter one that the fictional conflict happened "early in the twentieth Century". Like Black, Brunton approaches the matter with tongue firmly in cheek. He also manages to connect Wells' novel with Nigel Kneale's *Quatermass and the Pit* (1958).

F.

The author C A Powell has published a series of novels examining the invasion from the perspective of other people, not least the crew of the ship HMS *Thunder Child*. In the original novel, Wells clearly saw this ship, which bravely destroys some fighting machines before being sunk itself, as an example of advanced technology (Wells, it must be remembered, was writing about the future). Brunton, knowing the real history of the design, tells us it was

not successful. In Powell's novel, far from being cutting edge, *Thunder Child* is out-of-date and about to be scrapped.

Questions (i) to (x)

Which paragraph, **A-F**, tells us or includes the following?

Write **ONE LETTER ONLY, A, B, C, D or F** next to questions (i) to (x).

- (i) Professor Black's work was meant to be a little funny. [1]
- (ii) Where a description in use today comes from [1]
- (iii) A reference to a historical leader [1]
- (iv) Biographical information about Wells (but not his books)[1]
- (v) A very negative opinion of a work based on Wells' book[1]
- (vi) A fictional act of courage [1]
- (vii) The profession of a fictional character [1]
- (viii) That an author (not Wells) has written more than one book [1]
- (ix) An apparent disagreement about dates [1]
- (x) A quotation from *The War of the Worlds* [1]

[Total: 10]

Exercise 3

Read the article about watching aircraft. Then, write a summary of the writer's advice. Your summary should be about 80 words long (and no more than 90 words long), not including a short title. You should use your own words. You may use *brief* quotations. You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your summary and up to 6 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

So, together with a very large number of other aircraft from across the country, and a few from overseas, I have just finished watching a military exercise at a local airport. And it has been an exciting three weeks with different types of aircraft from five nations taking part. However, as the exercise winds down, the question has to be asked how fans of aircraft should behave at events like this?

We needed not only the co-operation of the Ministry of Defence, but of other people who owned the land we were using, in particular a local farmer. It was a shame, then, to witness people walking all over a farmer's crops, damaging fences and parking without any consideration for any other persons. Respect for the property and needs of other people should be given at all times. This includes, perhaps especially includes, making sure that all rubbish is taken home. Litter attracts birds and itself can fly into the air. Both pose a serious hazard to planes.

Being aware of the large number of expected visitors, the authorities put in traffic restrictions preventing overtaking and slowing the speed of vehicles on the roads around the airport. However, it will only take one serious accident, especially one resulting in a death or serious injury, to simply be banned altogether. So why were people crossing the roads so carelessly or standing in the roads to take their photos? Greater road sense must be displayed in future.

Almost all of us at the event were taking photographs. For some of us, it is another hobby, an art we are trying to perfect. For other individuals, photos are simply a record of what we have seen, not that different from taking a phone camera shot of your lunch. And we rush home to get our images on social media. The problem here is the response, with some plane-loving colleagues being very rude about the quality of pictures by other people. That should really be saved for photography groups, and even then criticism should be constructive and polite.

Staying with photography, privacy is also an issue. Most of the air forces were happy with people photographing their machines (a crime in many countries). However, they were less happy about very clear images being published of service personnel (potentially making them terrorist targets). The same applies to photos being taken of watching crowds. Too many complaints could lead to photography being banned, which would spoil the activity for most of us.

So, just a few simple points there for people to take note of. If we fail to respond, the problems could range from just an unpleasant atmosphere to the withdrawal of co-operation and increased regulation. Does anybody really desire such an outcome for our popular hobby?

Exercise 4

Write an article for a college magazine

Background

In class, you have been discussing whether school uniforms should be worn by people at school.

Here are some comments from your classmates:

- Buying uniforms can be very expensive for parents.
- Without uniforms, pupils may be in more competition with peers.
- Uniform rules prepare pupils for the real working world.
- Uniforms can be embarrassing and attract unwanted attention.

Write an article for your college magazine.

You should describe the range of views indicated above, but you should also express your own opinion.

Your article should be between 150 and 200 words long.

Exercise 5

Write an email to a friend.

Background

You have recently been taking part in a quiz or competition as a member of a team. Yesterday, you and your team made it to the finals of the quiz or competition. **Write an email to a friend telling them about this.**

In your email, you should

- explain what kind of a quiz or competition it is.
- describe what you do in the team.
- say how you felt about being in the finals.

Your email should be between 150 and 200 words long.