



Learning Resource Network

International GCSE in English Language [2031]

Reading and Writing

EXAM PAPER – December 23

PAPER 1: READING AND WRITING

DURATION

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 dreams, and then answer the following questions.

Coleridge and a common experience

In 1797, Samuel Coleridge experienced a drug-influenced dream after reading a work describing Shangdu, the summer capital of Kublai Khan (Emperor Shizu of Yuan). Upon waking, he set about recording the lines that came to him from the dream until he was disturbed. The interruption caused him to forget the lines, and the poem could not be completed. Coleridge left it unpublished, only reading it privately to his friends for almost twenty years until fellow poet Lord Byron encouraged him to publish it. The product, *Kubla Khan*, is one of Coleridge's more famous works (although not as well known as *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*).

This story tells us a lot about an experience that we all enjoy (or sometimes endure): dreams. It reminds us how fragile our memories of these night experiences are, often lost within seconds of waking. Some people claim not to have dreams, but research suggests that it is more likely they simply don't remember them.

We are not dreaming continuously while asleep. Dreams occur about three to six times a night, the final dream happening shortly before we wake. Quality of sleep seems to depend more on whether dreams are allowed to go through their natural cycle than how long we sleep.

Coleridge's story illustrates how dreams are influenced. We all know that what we have recently experienced can affect our dreams, and that being too hot or cold or needing the toilet influence them too. The present author found that a change in drug medication caused dreams that were in vivid colour. External noises such as radiators clicking or music on the radio are incorporated into dreams, interestingly, often in real time, while the dream 'narrative' often lasts for a very short period of brain activity. Consciousness seems somehow to reconcile these contradictions (as in fact it does in real life).

Some people dismiss dreams as nonsense, simply the brain sifting through the day's events. At the opposite extreme are those who see dreams as supernaturally significant. There are many dictionaries claiming to tell you how to interpret your dreams, but most of these are a waste of money. The truth is probably somewhere in between. As with Coleridge, we may indeed reflect in our dreams on our concerns of the day. However, dreams can be deceitful. Although there are stories of dreams being used to solve problems (such as the discovery of the benzene molecule), there are also dreams which simply allow the dreamer to experience what it would be like to solve a problem, without any solution being given.

And we can worry too much about our dreams. One person went to a therapist because he had had a dream where he was dating identical twins that he worked with. "But I've never had feelings for them in real life" he said. The therapist was able to reassure him that this was just his brain choosing the faces of some twins he knew so it could play the game of what it would be like to date twins. It did not mean he had secret feelings for anyone.

- 1 Compose a sub-heading for this article. Write **one full sentence**.
..... [1]
- 2 Why did Coleridge eventually publish *Kubla Khan* (according to the text)? Write **one full sentence**.
.....[1]
- 3 According to the article, why might some people say they don't dream? Write **one full sentence**.
.....[1]
- 4 How often do we dream each night?
.....[1]
- 5 What two factors are said to influence how well we sleep?
.....[1]
.....[1]
- 6 Why did the author stop dreaming in black and white? **Write one full sentence**.
.....[1]
- 7 What does the author find notable about how noises from outside enter our dreams? **Write one full sentence**.
.....[1]
- 8 Dreams are suggested to have assisted in what scientific advance?
.....[1]
- 9 Why was the dream in the last paragraph so disturbing for the dreamer? **Write one full sentence**.
.....[1]

[Total: 10]

Exercise 2

The text below about current soccer players has *five (5)* paragraphs numbered A-E. Read the text, then answer questions (i) to (x) that follow.

The Radio Times Top Soccer Player List

A British magazine called the Radio Times recently published their list of the top ten as of October 2023. Here, we quickly review their top five selections.

A.

At number five is Manchester City player Erling Haaland, who the magazine says has “normalised the abnormal”. Between the start of the 2022 season and the end of that year, the Norwegian found the net 22 times in just 15 games. He cooled off slightly as 2023 began, but still played at an extraordinary level. At 23, his build and fitness are unrivalled, and he boasts a turn of pace that few in England’s Premier League could match. It seems likely that the blond giant has not yet reached his absolute peak. It has been suggested that in a few years, the player (who also plays for his national team) could very well reach number one on a future list.

B.

The next player left English football to play for the league in Germany. Harry Kane, formerly of Tottenham Hotspur and now of Bayern Munich, has consistently scored around thirty goals and assisted or contributed to many others each season. At age 30, his record sets him above almost every other striker in the world. What the Briton lacks in raw speed he makes up for by putting himself in the right place on the pitch. His unique characteristic is his curious ability to organise attacks on the opposition and play in different roles simultaneously and effectively. It has been suggested that his standard was way beyond that of his former team and his move was very sensible.

C.

Kevin De Bruyne of Manchester City appeared to have a relatively lukewarm season in 2022/23. Nonetheless, the Belgian player created 22 goals and scored nine in 42 matches. Because of injuries, KDB has not been as prominent this year as often as in the past, but like his younger Norwegian team mate, he has made extraordinary achievements seem ordinary. As he recovers, his performance will improve and KDB could be the best player at crossing the ball (kicking the ball across the pitch to another player, not forward or backward) in English football history, while his vision and love of passing the ball in a way that split the defence have combined with frightening effectiveness on a number of occasions.

D.

French player Kylian Mbappé of Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) is described by the magazine as “a megastar forged by the crucible of the World Cup ... His World Cup final three goals will go down as the stuff of legends – a big time performance from a big-time player.” The 24-year-old’s international achievements have proven his ability and mentality beyond all reasonable doubt and more than justified the 72 million EUR PSG pay him each year. He is said to be one of the fastest footballers in the game, and the range from which he can score goals is like no other. He can strike the ball on the run or with immense power from a dead standing start, and he can put his shots into very precise areas of the goal net. As soon as Mbappé has the ball in their half, he is a threat to the opposing team.

E.

For the moment, the magazine's choice of top player is Lionel (or Leo) Messi who joined Inter Miami in June 2023. Messi has dominated the game for almost twenty years and is described as "not only the best right now, but the best of all time." However, as he approaches the age of forty, a decline has been noted. He has lost a fraction of his amazing pace, but his intelligence and manipulation of the football mean his control over the result of games remains as strong as ever. His performances directly inspired his home nation to supreme international success, and he has transformed his present club into cup finalists in the space of a month. Messi's time at the top will come to an end, conceivably very soon, but for the moment there is no justification not to put a player with such talent, such influence and impact at the top of any list.

Questions (i) to (x)

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

Which paragraph, **A-E**,

- (i) does **NOT** identify the nationality of the player?[1]
- (ii) suggests a player has yet to realise their full potential? [1]
- (iii) says a player has achieved a great deal with his new club in a short time? [1]
- (iv) identifies the youngest player on the list?[1]
- (v) describes a player who can perform different functions at the same time?[1]
- (vi) says a player can score goals from a long way away? [1]
- (vii) describes some soccer jargon? [1]
- (viii) suggests a player may never be as good as they once were? [1]
- (ix) refers to a player using his initials? [1]
- (x) suggests a team is getting value for money? [1]

[Total: 10]

Exercise 3

Read the article about a recent discovery. Then, write a summary about the discovery. Your summary should be about 80 words long (and no more than 90 words long). 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.

The Orion Nebula, which also has the less exciting official name M42, is the nearest, large star-forming region to our home planet. About 1,400 light years from Earth, it is an area of space visible to the naked eye as a faint mark on the sky. It is to be found low down in a group of stars called Orion, which is named after a hero from Greek traditional stories. The nebula forms part of his "sword", hanging from his "belt". To give a sense of scale, it would take a spaceship travelling at light speed a little over four years to travel over the entire area. There are thousands of young stars in this region, having masses from 40 down to less than 0.1 times the mass of our Sun. Many of these stars are surrounded by dense discs of gas and dust which may be forming planets.

The James Webb Space Telescope, or JWST, has been examining M42 and has made an exciting, fascinating discovery. It has spotted planets the size of Jupiter floating freely in space and not connected to any star. They have been called Jupiter Mass Binary Objects, or "JuMBOs" for short, and they appear to be moving in pairs (about 40 in total). Scientists are currently having difficulties finding a way to explain them.

One possibility is that these objects grew out of regions in the nebula where the density of material was insufficient to make fully formed stars. Another possibility is that they were made around stars and were then forced out into the space between stars through various interactions. This latter idea is called "the ejection hypothesis", and it is the one most favoured at the moment.

Professor Mark McCaughrean led the team that produced the new Orion survey. He says "Gas physics suggests you shouldn't be able to make objects with the mass of Jupiter on their own, and we know single planets can get kicked out from star systems. But how do you kick out pairs of these things together? Right now, we don't have an answer."

Another scientist, although not a part of the team, is Dr Heidi Hammel, who is reported to have said "My reactions ranged from: 'Whaaaat?!?' to 'Are you sure?' to 'That's just so weird!' to 'How could binaries be forced away together?'" She said there were no models that predicted this effect on pairs of planets but wondered whether all star formation regions host such double-giants, and there just has not been a telescope powerful enough to see them before.

The new JWST image survey is 21,000 by 14,500 pixels and is in fact a combination of 700 views acquired over a week of observations. It has added substantially to the information already obtained by older telescopes, including the Hubble Space Telescope. However, it is the JuMBOs that have caught the immediate attention of experts.

Exercise 4

Write an article for a college magazine

Background

In class, you have been discussing whether vaping (using electronic or e-cigarettes) is a good or bad thing.

Here are some comments from your classmates:

- Vaping helps people stop smoking more harmful ordinary cigarettes.
- Vaping flavours seem to be aimed at young people.
- Vaping produces no second-hand smoke.
- Vaping could lead people to start smoking.

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 recently bought a new bicycle which was delivered yesterday. **Write an email to a friend telling them about this.**

In your email, you should

- explain why you bought the bicycle
- describe the features of the bicycle that made it attractive
- say how you felt after your first ride on the bicycle

Your email should be between 150 and 200 words long.