



# Cambridge O Level

CANDIDATE NAME



CENTRE NUMBER

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**1123/11**

Paper 1 Reading

**May/June 2025**

**2 hours**

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].
- The insert contains the reading passages.

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.



Read Text A, **Our family restaurant**, in the insert and answer **Question 1** and **Question 2**.

**Question 1**

(a) From paragraph 1, give **one** reason why Hassan's grandmother decided to sell snacks from outside the train station.

It was busy.

(b) Identify the **two** most successful items sold from the food stalls.

Milky tea

Bhel puri

2 - synonyms

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(c) Using your own words, explain what the text means by 'Greatly encouraged'. (line 6)

The tent means highly motivated. Strongly

(d) From paragraph 2, give **two** things that Grandmother did to increase the number of customers after 'the snack bicycles became a commercial success.' (lines 4-5)

They erected a new restaurant

They hired Bappu

etc. etc. etc. etc.

(e) Explain what Hassan is feeling when he remembers that, 'The kitchen used to be the heart and soul of the old family business - always so full of life back then, filled with constant comings and goings.' (lines 17-18)

Hassan felt nostalgia & happy since missy that time.

(f) In paragraph 5, how did Hassan feel about being in the shanty town outside the family compound?

Reminiscing: Think about the past uncomfortable

Give **two** details from the text to support your answer.

Hassan's feeling

details

- The town was notorious - 'outside the immediate safety of the family compound.'



famous & bad reputation is not obvious

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(g) (i) Hassan's father noticed a change in the types of people living in the area. What was the change?

Affluent people had started moving here.

[1]

(ii) What did Hassan's father decide to do in response to the change?

Hassan's father transformed the restaurant.

[1]

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(h) Explain using your own words Hassan's different feelings and opinions about his mother.

Give three details from anywhere in the text to support your answer.

At first, Hassan felt proud which is shown by "she had a remarkable talent."

Secondly, Hassan thought she was hardworking which is shown by "she had the capacity of a professional chef."

lastly, she was the sensible one which is shown by "she was always ready to calm father down." [3]

→ Grateful

→ Hardworking

→ adored / loved

[Total: 16]



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# Use of Language

## Question 2

(a) Read this extract from the text:

'In went an over-size stone fountain. Over the centre of the dining room, Father hung a huge glitter-ball made of mirrors, which revolved over a tiny dance floor.' (lines 30–32)

What does the writer want to suggest to us about the changes to the restaurant?

They were too fancy.

= Adjective

[1]

(b) Explain why the writer uses the word 'smothering' rather than the word 'covering' in the expression 'before smothering them with multitudes of signed photographs of film stars'. (line 33)

- ① diff: Smothering tells us that it was fully filled, which
- ② result: means there were too many photographs. [1]

(c) Read this sentence from the text:

'Fruiterers delicately built pomegranate towers, a bed of purple tissue fanning out below them in the shape of lotus flowers; baskets filled with coconuts and mangoes rose vertically, creating sweet-smelling sculptures of expensive fruit hand-polished to a waxy gloss.' (lines 44–46)

What two impressions does the writer want to convey to the reader in this sentence?

The fruiterers carefully made different shapes with fruits; they were detailed. They had a pleasant fragrance / perfume / aroma — the shapes were shiny. [2]

(d) Read this sentence from the text:

'Bappu sat opposite them in a stiff-backed chair, like in a court of law, nervously stroking his moustache.' (lines 48–49)

What effect does the writer suggest about the situation by using the phrase 'like in a court of law'?

Bappu was being accused of a crime. He felt worried. It was a serious situation. [2]

adj





(e) Identify **one example** from the text below of how the writer uses language effectively to convey his opinion of the chicken dish.

The offending item stood between them – a copper bowl of chicken masala. Drawn by its fiery fumes, I reached over, dipping my fingers into the rich rustic sauce and sucked them greedily. The gloopy masala trickled slowly down my throat, a heavy, oily paste of red chilli.

“Only three orders last week. We fix it now or I drop it from the menu,” Father yelled. He spooned a slop of the sauce onto a plate. “Could be better. You agree?” (lines 52–56)

Explain the impression the writer creates in the example you have identified.

example ..... Sucked them greedily

explanation literal meaning: Hassan ate it instantly; he wanted it all to himself. feeling: he enjoyed it.

Adjective: The dish was tasty.

[3]

[Total: 9]

2

The offending item (1)

Squirming morsels

literal meaning: It was the dish (1) that people ordered the least. The people disliked it (2)



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