



Cambridge O Level

CANDIDATE NAME



CENTRE NUMBER

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CANDIDATE NUMBER

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/12

Paper 1 Reading

October/November 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, *The Raven***, in the insert and answer **Question 1** and **Question 2**.

Question 1

(a) In paragraph 1, what does Rex find amusing about the young bird's appearance when Rex first sees him?

His large head

2 words. [1]

(b) Using your own words, explain what Rex means by the bird's 'squawks of protest'. (line 4)

The birds' cries of complaining.

[2]

(c) (i) Identify **one** thing the bird does which is 'mischievous'. (line 8)

→ The bird was stealing shiny items

[1]

(ii) How does the bird's mischievous behaviour cause problems for the boys' parents?

The parents were embarrassed because the neighbours were calling them.

[1]

(d) From paragraph 3, give **two** features of the bird's upbringing that will make it difficult to return this bird to the wild.

- It cannot find his own food
- It cannot spot predators

[2]

(e) Explain why Odin gives a 'petrified croak'. (line 22)

He is scared

[1]





(f) In paragraph 6, how do children visiting the centre feel about Odin?

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

children's feeling *Anxious*

details *'children savealed'*

..... *'causes chaos'*

.....

.....

.....

[3]

(g) From paragraph 7, give **two** reasons why Julie is annoyed with Odin.

• *Copies Rex's voice*

• *She is tricked*

[2]

(h) Explain **using your own words** how Rex's feelings about the bird change over time.

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

..... *Rex was amused, "A comically large head."*

.....

..... *Rex was surprised, "Most striking of all*

..... *were his intelligent black eyes."*

..... *Rex was worried, "we'll never get rid*

..... *of him."*

[3]

[Total: 16]



Sample summaries /
w/s
- vocab
Casper

Question 2

(a) Read this sentence from the text:

'Later that month, I was nearly proved wrong.' (line 41)

What does the writer want to suggest to us about what is going to happen next?

odin will leave then.

[1]

(b) Read this sentence from the text:

huge disaster / catastrophe

'We'd expected the worst, but the scene at dawn was a picture of carnage like an army of giants had wreaked havoc outside. Most of the trees in the area had been blown over, the whole world seemed torn apart, unfriendly and unfamiliar' (lines 44-46)

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

The place was a total disaster; it was chaotic.

It was like a battlefield with huge creatures;

it was fictional. It was a completely strange and hostile scene.

[2]

(c) Explain why the writer uses the word 'lifted' rather than 'moved' in the expression 'it had been lifted from its concrete blocks and tossed onto its side'. (line 47)

Difference: lifted tells us that it was carried up.

[1]

(d) Read this sentence from the text:

mourn

'Julie and I had already made a brave start on rebuilding the sheds, mournfully avoiding the remains of the cage.' (lines 50-51)

What effect does the writer suggest by using the word 'brave' to describe Julie and Rex's start on rebuilding the sheds?

The writer means courageous. They were

confident. This tells us that it is a

difficult task.

[2]





(e) Identify one example from the text below of how the writer uses language effectively to describe Odin.

Odin

dishvelled/messy

= unglor

'Weak cheeping revealed the smallest shadow of a bedraggled Odin perched precariously at the top of the tallest tree and shivering violently. Seriously shaken by his experience, he wasn't in a trusting mood. At the risk of appearing a complete idiot, I called up in a hopefully endearing voice, "Odin, come to Daddy." The bird's response was immediate. With a groak of relief he dropped from the tree like a bundle of black rags, landing at my feet. Normally he hated being picked up, but on this occasion our indestructible raven was more than willing to be scooped into my arms and taken home.' (lines 58-64)

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

①

example Seriously shaken by his experience:

explanation Meaning: Odin was extremely stressed.

Feeling: He was scared / frightened.

Result: It was a terrible situation.

②

[3]

Shivering violently:

[Total: 9]

Odin was trembling excessively. He was scared. It was a traumatising situation.



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Positive
benefits

Negative
du

Read Text B, *Sneakers*, in the insert and answer Question 3.

Question 3

- (a) Summarise the reasons why so many people buy sneakers made by the big brands, according to Text B.

You must use **continuous writing** (not note form).

Use your own words as far as possible.

Avoid copying long sections of the text.

Your summary should be no more than 150 words.

Up to 10 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 10 marks for the quality of your writing.

positive

y/n

✓

trve

= salesman

↓

small

specifically

Nine
Adidas

Sneakers manufactured the big brands
 have an authentic story. Renowned celebrities
 advertise these products; furthermore,
 consumers utilize them as a means to
 show off. Not only can people from all
 professions adorn them, but they also
 provide unparalleled relaxation.
 Dedicated enthusiasts actively hunt down
 different designs — bringing people
 with shared passions together as a group.
 These sneakers possess modern technology
 in tandem with boosting your sporting
 abilities which increases sales. Moreover,
 some of these are only produced in exclusive
 versions. Ultimately, they can also be
 exchanged — which is a source of
 monetary benefits.

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