

English Language Paper 1



Ms Duckworth's Classroom
Tips, Tools and Resources for English Teachers



Ms Duckworth's
Exam Bites

CIE IGCSE 0500/0990

Student Guide

Included:

- ☐ Overview
- ☐ Skills required
- ☐ How to answer
- ☐ Success criteria

Paper Overview

Total marks for reading = 65
Total marks for writing = 15

- ☐ 2 hours
- ☐ 80 marks
- ☐ 3 short texts to read
 - ☐ 1a-e: comprehension (reading = 15 marks) } Text A
 - ☐ 1f: summary (writing = 5 marks, reading = 10 marks) } Text B
 - ☐ 2a-c: short answer question (reading = 10 marks)
 - ☐ 2d: language question (reading = 15 marks)
 - ☐ 3: extended response to reading (reading = 15 marks, writing = 10 marks) } Text C

Top tip



You will use Text C for several questions. On your 1st reading, make notes. These notes will become useful when you tackle the different questions.

Make a note of what it is about, who is involved, what the main event is, what the conflict is, details about the setting, what the tone is.

Questions 1a-e

What you are tested on?

- ☐ Your understanding of both explicit and implicit meaning
- ☐ Your ability to select relevant information
- ☐ Your understanding of the text
- ☐ Your ability to explain the meaning of vocabulary

How to answer

- ☐ Read the text – ensure you understand it.
- ☐ Read the question carefully and take note of the marks given.
- ☐ Ensure you look at the directions: which paragraph or line are you looking at?
- ☐ Do not write too much: only what is required for the number of marks given.
- ☐ Ensure you understand the instructions in the question: identify, explain, give examples, use your own words.
- ☐ When explaining the meaning of a phrase, consider the context of the text.



Read **Text A, Project Mammoth**, in the insert and then answer **Questions 1(a)–(e)** on this question paper.

Question 1

- (a) Give **two** examples of extinct species (other than the mammoth) according to the text.

• [1]
•

- (b) Using **your own words**, explain what the text means by:

(i) 'candidates for "de-extinction"' (line 2): [2]
.....

(ii) 'not just distant dreams.' (line 5): [2]
.....

- (c) Re-read paragraph 3, ('Scientists working on such projects ... climate change.').

Give **two** reasons why scientists might be excited by the possible birth of a woolly mammoth.

• [2]
•

- (d) Re-read paragraphs 4 and 5, ('The basic idea ... Siberia's permafrost.').

- (i) Identify **two** main tasks that scientists will need to complete in order to breed the hybrid.

• [2]
•

- (ii) Explain why Asian elephants were chosen for Project Mammoth.

..... [3]
.....
.....

- (e) Re-read paragraphs 6 and 7, ('The project is not without ... chance of survival.').

Using **your own words**, explain why some people disagree with Project Mammoth.

..... [3]
.....
.....

Question 1f

What you are tested on?

- ☐ Your understanding of both explicit and implicit meaning
- ☐ Your ability to select relevant information
- ☐ Your understanding of the text
- ☐ Your writing skills



How to answer

1. Read the question and underline your focus. You may have more than one. You are only summarising certain aspects of the text, not the whole thing.
2. Write these at the top of your paper.
3. Read through the text and highlight anything that is relevant - you may need to infer. You should aim for 10 that address the question. Use different coloured highlighters if there are two foci.
4. Make a brief 10 point plan.
5. Go back and number the ones that you can group together.
6. Write up your summary.
7. Check your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Success criteria

- ☐ Formal style
- ☐ 3rd person
- ☐ Factual - it must be objective
- ☐ Connectives
- ☐ Relevant points that are ordered logically if possible
- ☐ Concise and clear expression
- ☐ Avoid repetition
- ☐ Correct use of punctuation
- ☐ Use your own words
- ☐ Continuous writing

Top tips

- ✓ You are looking for facts
- ✓ You must show your understanding by using your own words and in a shorter form than the original
- ✓ The actual writing will not take very long so ensure you spend enough time reading and planning
- ✓ Paraphrase and use synonyms
- ✓ Some points are implied so won't be as obvious
- ✓ Do not include extra or unnecessary information
- ✓ No opinions
- ✓ No quotations
- ✓ Check the question to ensure your points are relevant
- ✓ Paraphrase unless it's a technical term
- ✓ Avoid beginning each sentence the same way or with the same structure
- ✓ Combine points into complex sentences rather than using a lot of simple sentences
- ✓ Don't repeat points
- ✓ Use your own words but do not change the meaning

Read **Text B, *Waking the Baby Mammoth***, in the insert and then answer **Question 1(f)** on this question paper.

Question 1

- (f) According to Text B, what made Lyuba such a remarkable and precious scientific specimen and what did scientists hope to discover by studying her?

You must **use continuous writing** (not note form) and **use your own words** as far as possible.

Your summary should not be more than 120 words.

Up to 10 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 5 marks for the quality of your writing.

Questions 2a-c

What you are tested on?

- ☐ Your understanding of both explicit and implicit meaning
- ☐ Your ability to select relevant information
- ☐ Your understanding of the text
- ☐ Your understanding of how writer's achieve effects
- ☐ Your understanding of language



How to answer

- ☐ Read the text and make brief notes as you will use this text for the rest of the paper.
- ☐ Read the question carefully and take note of the marks given.
- ☐ Do not write too much: only what is required for the number of marks given.
- ☐ Ensure you understand the instructions in the question: identify, explain, give examples, use your own words.
- ☐ When explaining the meaning of a word or phrase, consider the context of the text.
- ☐ When answering 2c, you must select an example and comment on it with reference to the keywords in the question. Infer meaning and think about what is suggested. Consider the writer's choices.

Read Text C, *The Gift*, in the insert and then answer Questions 2(a)–(d) on this question paper.

Question 2

(a) Identify a word or phrase from the text which suggests the same idea as the words underlined:

- (i) Natalia was expecting the quietness of their walk to be broken suddenly.
..... [1]
- (ii) Natalia slowed herself down and made herself as tall as possible before refusing to go any further.
..... [1]
- (iii) Her grandfather spoke to her in a low, angry voice.
..... [1]
- (iv) The homeless person was fast asleep.
..... [1]

(b) Using your own words, explain what the writer means by each of the words underlined:

I peered out into the street. On the other side, there was a street lamp with a dying bulb. I was opening my mouth to say 'What?' and then I saw it. Half a block from us, an enormous shadow was moving along the street.

- (i) peered [1]
- (ii) dying [1]
- (iii) enormous [1]

(c) Use one example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests Natalia's experiences and feelings that night.

Use your own words in your explanation.

I peered out into the street. On the other side, there was a street lamp with a dying bulb. I was opening my mouth to say 'What?' and then I saw it. Half a block from us, an enormous shadow was moving along the street.

Questions 2d

What you are tested on?

- ☐ Your understanding of both explicit and implicit meaning
- ☐ Your understanding of the text and the language used
- ☐ Your understanding of how writer's achieve effects
- ☐ Your ability to make a comment about the effects of language
- ☐ Your ability to select and comment on imagery

How to answer

1. Read the question – what is your focus?
2. Circle the paragraphs you need. Remind yourself of what is happening in each paragraph. What is it about? What is the tone? Which feelings are conveyed? Who is involved? What happens?
3. Write an overview statement
 - o What is happening in your paragraph? What is the focus?
 - o What is the tone or atmosphere?
 - o What is the effect on the reader? What effect is the writer trying to achieve?
4. Underline anything interesting that creates imagery.
5. Go back and tick the best 3 in each paragraph
6. What can you say about each? Make notes around your choices
 - o **Explain** what is shown
 - o What are the **connotations** of the words? What is **suggested** / **implied**?
 - o What **image** is created? Why? Effect?

Link back to the notes you made for step 3.

Success criteria

- ✓ Make good choices – select powerful words and phrases
- ✓ Discuss the connotations of words
- ✓ Comment on how imagery is created
- ✓ Comment on the intended effect of language choices
- ✓ Consider how the example you chose helps to convey tone/mood/ atmosphere / feelings etc
- ✓ Link everything back to what is being described in the paragraph and the text as a whole

The structure of your answer

Overview for 1st paragraph you will focus on

- Quotation
- Explanation of the word/phrase. What is shown? What is suggested?
- Effect/analysis of the image created.
- Link to the whole paragraph

x3

Overview for 2nd paragraph you will focus on

- Quotation
- Explanation of the word/phrase. What is shown? What is suggested?
- Effect/analysis of the image created.
- Link to the whole paragraph

x3

(d) Re-read paragraphs 9 and 12.

- Paragraph 9 begins 'At first I thought it was a tram ...' and is about the elephant and how it was moving when Natalia first saw it.
- Paragraph 12 begins 'Its ears were folded back ...' and gives Natalia's impression of the elephant as she watches it come towards her.

Explain how the writer uses language to convey meaning and to create effect in these paragraphs. Choose **three** examples of words or phrases from **each** paragraph to support your answer. Your choices should include the use of imagery.

Write about 200 to 300 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer.



Questions 3

What you are tested on?

- ☐ Your ability to understand, infer and predict.
- ☐ Your understanding of the text.
- ☐ Your ability to create a realistic voice.
- ☐ Your ability to write from the correct perspective. Whose point of view will you adopt? Think about if this has to be adapted. If so, what must you consider?
- ☐ Your ability to write in the correct form.
- ☐ Your ability to write for an audience.
- ☐ Your ability to write for the correct purpose.
- ☐ Your ability to use relevant details from text C.
- ☐ Your ability to develop the ideas presented in the text with reference to the question.
- ☐ Your ability to use your own ideas and be creative – but these must be based on the text.
- ☐ Writing that is organised, clear, fluent and accurate.

How to answer

1. Read question 3
2. FAPP
(Form/Audience/Purpose/Perspective)
3. What are the keywords in the question. Do you understand what the bullet points are asking?
4. Re-read and highlight A1/A2/A3
(you may need to infer)
5. Plan
6. Write
7. Check

Re-read **Text C, The Gift**, in the insert and then answer **Question 3** on this question paper.

Question 3

You are the grandfather. Some years later you are interviewed about your memories of that night for a radio programme about local history. The interviewer asks you the following three questions only:

- What did you see **and** feel during your journeys through the city that night?
- What do you remember of your granddaughter's behaviour **and** reactions that night?
- What were your reasons for taking your granddaughter out that night **and** what do you think she gained from the experience?

Write the words of the interview.

Base your interview on what you have read in **Text C**, but be careful to use your own words. Address each of the three bullet points.

Begin your interview with the first question.

Write about 250 to 350 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 10 marks for the quality of your writing.

Success criteria

- ✓ Write in the correct form
- ✓ Write for the correct audience and purpose
- ✓ Appropriate style
- ✓ Is what you are saying relevant to the passage and the question?
- ✓ Write from the correct point of view – think about if this has to be adapted. If so, what must you consider?
- ✓ Characterisation – are you believable as this person?
- ✓ Do not copy sections – re-word to show understanding. Develop the content of the passage in response to the question.
- ✓ Use detail from the original and DEVELOP with WHY. Thoughts and feelings.
- ✓ Address all bullet points equally
- ✓ Ideas are expressed clearly and fluently
- ✓ Use paragraphs – structure ideas clearly and with purpose
- ✓ Use connectives to link and develop ideas
- ✓ Use punctuation correctly and effectively
- ✓ Use a variety of different sentence types
- ✓ Check spelling
- ✓ Interesting vocabulary



My notes...



Question 1



Question 2



Question 3


