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CENTRE
NUMBER

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CANDIDATE
NUMBER

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1123/21

Paper 2 Reading

October/November 2011

1 hour 45 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

Additional Materials: Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **all** questions in **both** Section 1 and Section 2.

The insert contains the two reading passages.

Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the Paper.

Dictionaries are **not** permitted in this examination.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the beginning or end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use

This document consists of **7** printed pages, **1** blank page and **1** insert.

Section 1: Reading for Ideas



For
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Use

Read **Passage 1** in the insert and answer **all** the questions below in the order set.

1 (a) Notes [15 marks]

Identify and write down the advantages and disadvantages of mobile phones, as described in the passage.

USE ONLY THE MATERIAL FROM PARAGRAPH 2 TO PARAGRAPH 5 INCLUSIVE.

At this stage, you need NOT use your own words. To help you get started, the first point in each section of notes is done for you. You will be awarded up to 15 marks for **content** points.

MAIN POINTS
<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Young people can keep in touch with their parents</i>
<p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>People don't plan ahead</i>

Now use your notes to write a summary of the advantages and disadvantages of mobile phones, as described in the passage.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must be no longer than **160** words, including the 10 words given below. Begin your summary as follows:

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

1

- 2 From paragraph 4, select and write down **two** opinions.

One opinion is

..... [1]

Another opinion is

..... [1]

- 3 From the whole passage, which of the following statements is correct? Tick the box you have chosen.

The writer is totally against mobile phones.

The writer thinks mobile phones can be useful.

The writer is in favour of mobile phones.

[1]

- 4 From your **own** knowledge or experience, suggest **two** advantages of mobile phones **OR two** disadvantages, **OR one** advantage and **one** disadvantage. Do **not** refer to specific examples from the passage in your answer.

One advantage/disadvantage is.....

..... [1]

One advantage/disadvantage is.....

..... [1]

Total for Section 1 [25]



Section 2: Reading for Meaning



For
Examiner's
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Read **Passage 2** in the insert and answer **all** the questions below in the order set.

From paragraph 1

- 5 (a) Why did the writer rush through the airport?

..... [1]

- (b) Why do you think the writer was trying 'to hold down the lid of the box'?

..... [1]

From paragraph 2

- 6 (a) Give **two** reasons why, according to the writer, Mij would not be considered an attractive travelling companion.

(i)

(ii) [2]

- (b) What, according to the writer, would be the woman's attitude to Mij? Answer **in your own words**.

.....

.....

..... [2]

From paragraph 3

- 7 (a) The writer 'spoke to the stewardess'. Explain what he told her and what he asked her to do.

.....

.....

..... [2]

- (b) **Without using the words of the passage**, explain fully what was unusual about the way the stewardess reacted to the writer's request.

.....

.....

..... [2]

From paragraph 4

- 8 (a) 'Otters are extremely bad at doing nothing'. Pick out and write down the single word used later in the paragraph which continues the idea of 'doing nothing'.

..... [1]

- (b) 'One of these moods descended on Mij'. What kind of 'mood' was this?

..... [1]

- (c) Why did Mij climb into the box?

..... [1]

From paragraph 5

- 9 (a) There was a 'wave of disturbance' down the passageway. Explain fully what was happening here.

.....

 [2]

- (b) Why does the writer describe the stewardess as a 'goddess'?

.....
 [1]



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From paragraph 6

- 10** Give **two** reasons why the writer 'could deduce no meaning' from the gentleman who stared at him.

(i)

(ii)

[2]

From paragraph 7

- 11 (a)** How was the writer eventually re-united with Mij?

..... [1]

- (b)** How did his re-union with Mij affect the writer's relationship with him in the future?

.....

..... [1]

From the whole passage

- 12** Choose **five** of the following words. For each of them give **one** word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage.

(a) inquisitively (line 5)

(e) order (line 19)

(b) scant (line 12)

(f) hoist (line 26)

(c) coherent (line 14)

(g) paraphernalia (line 28)

(d) provoking (line 19)

(h) craning (line 42)

Word chosen	Answer	
()	[1]
()	[1]
()	[1]
()	[1]
()	[1]

[5]

Total for Section 2 [25]





UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/21

Paper 2 Reading

October/November 2011

INSERT

1 hour 45 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains the two reading passages.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



Passage 1 – Mobile Phones

- 1 One of the most obvious results of our exciting technological age has been the invention of the mobile phone. Many people – even children as young as seven or eight – have one. But are mobile phones necessarily beneficial to society?
- 2 Mobiles can be seen as a way for young people to keep in touch with their parents if they are out with friends and, as newspapers make increasing reports of violence, particularly in inner city areas, this must be an advantage. If students are on a school outing and have to be met by parents on their return to school, they can phone at short notice from, say, the bus to give details of exact timings. Mobiles encourage friendships and some students speak to their friends several times a day. Parents may be happy that their children are not using the house telephone and incurring charges which they, as parents, have to meet – an issue which, in the past, was often a source of family conflict. Most young people have ‘pay as you go’ mobiles, and this encourages budgeting, surely a useful skill to have in later life. 5 10
- 3 Because a mobile is the personal property of its owner, direct contact can be made, and there is less risk of disturbing an entire household engaged in some family activity, such as having dinner. Another obvious advantage is that people can be contacted wherever they are, clearly a benefit if a friend or spouse wishes to communicate that he is stuck in traffic, or that the train is running late. In situations where it is impossible for either the caller or the recipient to speak, mobiles can be used to send short text messages, which are both convenient and relatively cheap. Many mobiles are also able to take photographs; this multi-tasking means that there is no need to purchase a camera, and thus a saving is made. Sophisticated mobiles even allow their owners to send and receive e-mails, thus providing an alternative means of communication. Small businesses flourish because of mobile phones. A plumber, for example, can receive bookings for future work while he is working on another job; there is no need to sit at home waiting for phone calls or to employ a secretary in an office. 15 20
- 4 However, there are downsides to mobile phones. People are discouraged from planning ahead. It is a rather pathetic sight to see a wife phoning from the supermarket to ask her husband what he would like for dinner. People might also stop making simple decisions for themselves with, say, a teenager phoning his mother to ask if he may take a drink out of the fridge. Then there is the general disturbance which can be caused: there is nothing worse than people on public transport conducting loud and animated conversations on their mobiles with scant regard for their fellow passengers. Some countries, for example France, have tackled this problem by insisting that mobiles are switched off on trains; all countries should follow this example. Unfortunately, owning a mobile phone prevents some people from concentrating on the present moment. Picture the scene: a young couple are dining in a fine restaurant but, instead of being absorbed in each other’s company, each of them is speaking to someone else via a mobile phone. 25 30 35
- 5 In schools, there can be regrettable competition among students to have the most up-to-date mobile. Some students are distracted into texting friends in class, which clearly hinders their education. In cases where mobiles are confiscated because of such misuse, there are security issues for teachers – who is responsible for this expensive equipment once it has been confiscated? And, of course, teachers complain vociferously about text message spelling and grammar which, they say, encourage sloppy use of language: ‘CU’ is enough to raise the blood pressure of an English teacher to dangerous levels. Furthermore, they complain that mobile phones, along with e-mails, have destroyed the art of letter writing. Parents complain that their children contact their friends – with whom they have been all day in school – several times during the evening via text or call instead of doing their homework. ‘What do they have to talk about?’ is the perceived mystery. 40 45
- 6 Is the mobile phone a blessing or a curse? Perhaps there is no clear cut answer to this and, as with many issues, moderation is essential.

Passage 2 – An Otter in the Air

(The writer describes his experience of taking an animal with him on a plane in the days when this was permitted.)

- 1 The plane was waiting to take off; as I rushed through the airport, carrying the box which was Mij's temporary home, my mind boggled at the thought of the next few hours. I was trying to hold down the lid of the box with one hand and, with the other, to force back the screw into the splintered wood.

- 2 The other passengers stared at me inquisitively as I struggled onto the plane with my 5
 horrifyingly vocal box. I was anxious to see who would be my immediate neighbour and was dismayed to find an elegantly dressed middle-aged woman. Such a person, I thought, would have little tolerance and certainly no sympathy for the scruffy otter cub that would so soon be her travelling companion. For the moment the lid held, and there was a brief silence from 10
 within the box.

- 3 Worried about how I would keep Mij under control throughout the flight, I had brought a bottle of water and a parcel of fish, and with these scant resources I prepared to withstand a siege. Aware of the fact that I could not keep Mij's presence a secret for long, and of the need to keep the fish in a cool place, I spoke to the stewardess; I daresay I was not too coherent but she took it all in her graceful stride and received the mundane parcel of fish as though I were travelling 15
 royalty depositing a jewel case into her safe keeping. When the stewardess suggested I remove my pet from its box and have it on my knee, my neighbour, surprisingly, had no objection.

- 4 For the first hour or so Mij slept in my lap. However, otters are extremely bad at doing nothing. There is, I am convinced, something positively provoking to an otter about order in any form and, the greater the state of confusion they can create, the more contented they feel. A room 20
 is not properly habitable until they have turned everything in it upside down. One of these moods descended on Mij. It began comparatively innocuously when he jumped down from my lap – inertia was not for him. Then he turned his attention to the box, which was on the floor, filled with wood shavings for him to sleep on. He put his head into the box and began to throw the wood shavings out backwards at enormous speed; then he got in bodily and lay 25
 on his back, using all four feet in a pedalling motion to hoist out the remainder. With his teeth, he yanked back the zip on my neighbour's bag and was in head first, throwing out all the personal paraphernalia of air travel. But there was worse to come.

- 5 With a rebellious and eel-like wriggle, Mij disappeared at high speed. I could follow his progress by the wave of disturbance down the passageway. There were squawks and shrieks; then a 30
 woman halfway down the plane stood up on her seat screaming, 'A rat! A rat!' The stewardess reached her and, within a matter of seconds, the woman was seated again, smiling benignly. That goddess, I believe, could have controlled a panic-stricken crowd single-handedly.

- 6 By now I was in the passageway myself and, catching sight of Mij's tail disappearing beneath the legs of a portly gentleman, I tried a flying tackle, landing flat on my face. I missed Mij's tail, but 35
 found myself grasping the foot of the gentleman's female companion. The gentleman gave me a long silent stare. I staggered up, babbling my apology; the man was so utterly expressionless that even in my hypersensitive mood I could deduce no meaning from him whatsoever.

- 7 The stewardess came to my assistance once again. 'Perhaps,' she said with her charming smile, 'you should return to your seat and I will bring the animal to you.' I heard the ripple 40
 of flight and pursuit passing up and down the body of the plane, but I could see little. I was craning my neck trying to follow the hunt when suddenly I heard from my feet a distressed chitter of recognition and welcome. In all the strange world of the aircraft I was the only familiar thing to be found, and in that spontaneous return was sown the seed of the absolute trust that Mij accorded me for the rest of his life. 45