



Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER

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Paper 2 Comprehension

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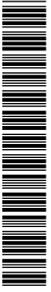
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1 hour 45 minutes

INFORMATION

- This insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.

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

Material for Section A

Stenning is a small town with a mixed population of 30 000. It has a large proportion of young families who have recently moved out of the nearby capital city looking for a safer environment to raise their children and for larger housing and gardens. Many residents commute daily into the capital by rail, but a large number use their cars to work in nearby towns. Other families have lived in the town for several years and now have teenage children. There is also quite a significant elderly population, many of whom have lived in the town all their lives

Stenning has a council meeting planned to decide the future of an old, empty building in the middle of the town; the building, a former library, was closed five years ago and has laid empty ever since. It has started to become dilapidated in places. Recent government funding, targeted for restoration of old buildings, has given the council the opportunity to redevelop the building and give it a new lease of life.

The council has narrowed down its decision about the building to three options.

Option A

Re-open the building during the day for dual use: one half a community library to include a high-tech classroom equipped with many computers which could be used to deliver training in technology; the other half of the building would be used to expand a local special school for children who find attending regular school challenging.

Option B

Convert the building into a community day centre for the elderly with a cafeteria serving subsidised lunches and access to hairdressing and beauty services; in the evenings and at weekends, a youth club is planned to make use of the centre.

Option C

Convert the space inside the building into offices and lease them to local businesses; special rates will be available to start-up companies and those in the creative industries especially those who can employ local people. The offices will have state-of-the-art technology.

Additional Information

1. There have been some recent incidents of teenagers spraying graffiti on a children's playground and behaving anti-socially in the park at night.
2. The train journey commute to the capital city is 55 minutes, each way.
3. A recent residents' survey found that many commuters work in technology and creative industries in the nearby towns and the capital city.
4. Unemployment in Stenning is higher than the national average, especially amongst 18 to 25-year-olds and the over 50s.
5. The number of books borrowed from the old library had been decreasing before it closed.
6. Commuters have lobbied the rail company serving the town to decrease the length of time of the daily commute.
7. Stenning's shopping centre consists of a range of shops and services, including eight coffee shops and restaurants and a large number of hair and beauty salons.

8. Traffic in the area, especially on main roads leading to and from nearby towns, is very heavy and slow during rush hour.
9. A recent national survey of households indicated that 90% of the country's population have a computer or digital device allowing access to the internet. However, internet use is lowest amongst the elderly and the unemployed.
10. 35% of Stenning's population is over 60; just over one third of whom live on their own.
11. The special school is currently housed in a small one-storey building in the middle of the town, with limited space and an unreliable internet connection.
12. The old library building is surrounded by large gardens.
13. Stenning has missed out on the boom in creative and technology industries that has happened in the surrounding areas.
14. Demand for places in special education is very high and there is a waiting list for them.
15. In the past, local youth services have successfully organised courses and events for teenagers to engage them in their community.
16. Nationally, the use of libraries is declining as people are turning more and more to electronic books.
17. The local council is looking for ways to increase its revenue in the long term as central government funding has been decreasing in recent years.
18. Stenning is surrounded by beautiful countryside.
19. Parents of the children in the special school have recently expressed concern about the lack of outdoor space.
20. Many people protested at the closure of the old library and submitted a petition to the local council to stop the closure.

Material for Section B

A diet to save humankind

The boss of a large Italian food production company outlines his view of food production in the future.

When I was a child my family would always sit down together for meals. My favourite was amongst the simplest: spaghetti pomodoro, pasta in tomato sauce. We ate fresh vegetables and fruit; we ate together. I indulged with a few slices of ham and practised a wide range of sports. This centuries-old Mediterranean diet kept me fit and trim, and turned out to be good not just for my personal well-being, but for the planet's health too.

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In 2020, we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of UNESCO's designation of this Mediterranean diet as a 'Cultural Heritage of Humanity'. But Italians have, unfortunately, been rejecting their traditional healthy diet. We have started to eat more fatty food and have increased our portions. Fewer Italians enjoy social meals with family and friends. Italian children were among the most overweight in Europe in a recent study of 20 countries by the World Health Organisation.

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Poor nutrition is a global problem, not just an Italian one. The fact that it's hitting Italy, the land where the Mediterranean diet originated, represents a dangerous contradiction – one of the many afflicting the world of food. After years of decline, hunger is back on the rise. Globally some 821 million people still do not have enough to eat, while the poor south starves, the rich north gorges and some two billion people are obese. We waste one third of global food production. Livestock occupy an estimated two thirds of all the land dedicated to agriculture and contribute about half of farming-related greenhouse-gas emissions.

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Without a change in our diets, this disastrous cycle will worsen. The world's population is expected to increase by 2.3 billion people by 2050, fuelling demand for meat. Since the end of the Second World War, the global food system has focused on producing more food for more people – but then wastes huge amounts of it. A paradigm shift is needed. Production must concentrate on delivering better, more nutritious food. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals can show us the way. They aim to 'end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture'.

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These goals are ambitious but achievable. Governments must provide incentives to support sustainable agriculture, slash food waste and meet nutritional challenges. This does not just mean taxing unhealthy food. A more effective policy is to make healthy food, including fruit and vegetables, accessible and affordable for consumers and profitable for farmers.

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Companies must not be short-sighted, either. They should support legislation requiring them to embrace sustainability. At my company, we have teamed up with farmers on our most relevant raw material: the durum wheat needed to make pasta. Together we combine the wisdom of our ancestors' crop rotation with modern tools, such as weather forecasting. Farmers use fertilisers more efficiently, reducing their costs, and we get a better raw material.

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Our Centre for Food and Nutrition is also working with the Italian education ministry to promote sustainable diets. Too often the message of food sustainability is presented in the form of punitive, prison-like fare. Food must remain colourful and appetising and we should retain the joy of eating good food together.

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