

Location Entry Codes

As part of CIE's continual commitment to maintaining best practice in assessment, CIE uses different variants of some question papers for our most popular assessments with large and widespread candidature. The question papers are closely related and the relationships between them have been thoroughly established using our assessment expertise. All versions of the paper give assessment of equal standard.

The content assessed by the examination papers and the type of questions is unchanged.

This change means that for this component there are now two variant Question Papers, Mark Schemes and Principal Examiner's Reports where previously there was only one. For any individual country, it is intended that only one variant is used. This document contains both variants which will give all Centres access to even more past examination material than is usually the case.

The diagram shows the relationship between the Question Papers, Mark Schemes and Principal Examiners' Reports that are available.

Question Paper	Mark Scheme	Principal Examiner's Report
Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
First variant Question Paper	First variant Mark Scheme	First variant Principal Examiner's Report
Second variant Question Paper	Second variant Mark Scheme	Second variant Principal Examiner's Report

Who can I contact for further information on these changes?

Please direct any questions about this to CIE's Customer Services team at:

international@cie.org.uk

The titles for the variant items should correspond with the table above, so that at the top of the first page of the relevant part of the document and on the header, it has the words:

- First variant Question Paper / Mark Scheme / Principal Examiner's Report

or

- Second variant Question Paper / Mark Scheme / Principal Examiner's Report

as appropriate.



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

CANDIDATE
NAME

CENTRE
NUMBER

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CANDIDATE
NUMBER

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ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

0510/21

Paper 2 Reading and Writing (Extended)

October/November 2008

2 hours

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No Additional Materials are required.

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.

Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

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

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

For Examiner's Use	
Exercise 1	
Exercise 2	
Exercise 3	
Exercise 4	
Exercise 5	
Exercise 6	
Exercise 7	
Total	

This document consists of **15** printed pages and **1** blank page.



Exercise 1

Read the following article about The Thousand Islands in Indonesia, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.



INDONESIA – THE THOUSAND ISLANDS



They are called The Thousand Islands, but the actual number of islands is only around 110. They are all situated in the area of North Jakarta – the closest is just 25 minutes from the mainland. With a total area of 108,000 hectares, The Thousand Islands are a part of a national sea garden. In order to ensure preservation, only 45 islands can be used for recreation and tourism.

Things to do

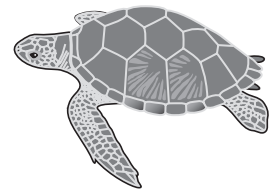
There are so many things to do – from diving and snorkelling to going on a banana boat and fishing. You can also learn about mangrove trees and sea turtle conservation, watch wildlife and visit archaeological sites.

Islands to see

Rambut Island is a bird-watchers' paradise. It is best known as a shelter for migrating birds as they fly from north to south, from cold to warm, in September and October. During the opposite season, around April and May, they make the return journey.

Untung Jawa Island is the most visited by tourists. As you arrive, you are greeted by traditional music played by boys using tambourines, and during your stay you can enjoy the fantastic seafood. Don't forget to try the mouth-watering coconuts!

Pramuka Island is the best place for learning about the conservation of sea turtles. To help more of them survive, their eggs are buried 50 centimetres deep in the sand. Within 40-60 days, the eggs hatch and two days later baby turtles start showing up on the surface of the sand.



Tourist Information

Boats to all these islands leave from Jakarta Marina every hour between 8.00am and 4.00pm. It is not necessary to book the boat trip but if you wish to spend the night on one of the resort islands, then reserving a room in advance is advisable. This can be done by visiting the website www.javatourism.ac.id or at the information office at Jakarta Marina.



(a) How long does it take to go from the mainland to the nearest island?
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(b) Why are many of the islands closed to tourists?
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(c) Which particular species of animal is being preserved on the islands?
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(d) In which months are you most likely to see birds as they fly from south to north?
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(e) How is the visitor welcomed to Untung Jawa Island?
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(f) What happens two days before the baby turtles appear on the surface of the sand?
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(g) At what time does the last boat leave the marina to visit the islands?
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(h) For what reason might you need to make a reservation in advance?
..... [1]

[Total: 8]

Exercise 2

Read the following article about bee-keeping, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

BEE-KEEPING IN THE CITY

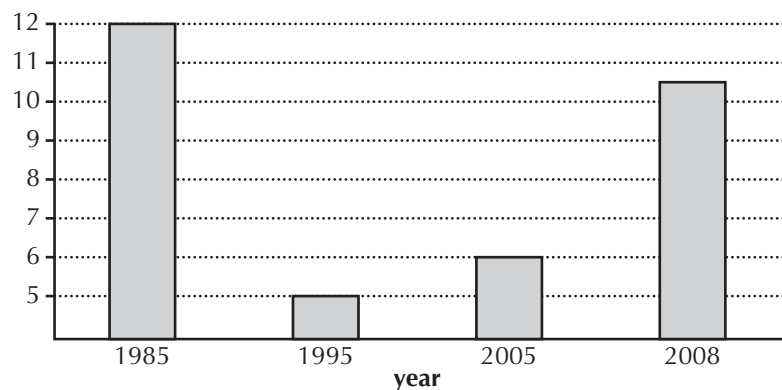
There is a new buzz in towns and cities in Great Britain. Bee-keeping, normally practised by people living in the country, has become the fashionable hobby for those who live and work in the cities. It is now estimated that there are more worker bees in London than there are working people.

Bee-keepers living in the towns have begun to outnumber those in the country because plants growing in towns can offer more exciting nectar (the bee's basic food) than fields in the countryside. These fields have often been treated with pesticides which are harmful to bees.

Membership of the British Bee-keepers' Association has almost doubled to 10,500 over the past three years in the biggest increase since the peak in the 1980s. This was just before a parasitic mite killed off millions of bees. One spokesman for the Association said, "Home-made honey from the towns is an entirely different product. Depending on the time of year, you get the different flavours of whatever the bees have been feeding on. You don't get such variety with honey from the country."

Young people are now queuing to join bee-keeping courses which are often over-subscribed. There are waiting lists to buy expensive beehives, costing around £100 each. Some people keep their beehives on terraces on their roofs, others in small gardens at the back of their houses.

number (in thousands) of members in the Bee-keepers' Association



Aysha Singh, who teaches classes on bee-keeping, said, "Most of those who join the bee-keeping course are young people. It's a rebellion against the lifestyle of the office worker. These young people want to get outside as well as do more physical and manual activities. One man says that he can't eat the honey as he is diabetic but he keeps bees because he needs some variety in his life."

Bee-keeping is not a strenuous activity. Most experts say that hives need to be checked only once every seven to ten days, when the bees are at their most active, between April and July.

There are disadvantages, however. Jane West, who has just started keeping 60,000 bees in a hive near to a city centre, has already been stung a few times. "It didn't hurt as much as I expected," she said. "Bees are not threatening in the same way as wasps are. They are nice little creatures with complex social-structures. They are also good for the garden when they take the nectar from the flowers." Jane restricts the number of bees she keeps because she thinks their humming sound "might frighten the neighbours".

Warmer temperatures in towns and cities mean that the bees keep active longer. In addition, a beehive in the town produces about 20 kilos of honey a year, twice as much as in country areas.

What do the urban bee-keepers do with all that honey? People say that they give much of it away, especially to the neighbours... probably to keep them sweet!

(a) How does the number of bee-keepers living in the country compare with the number in towns?

..... [1]

(b) Why did the number of bees decrease dramatically at the end of the 1980s?

..... [1]

(c) What can influence the taste of home-made honey?

..... [1]

(d) What suggests that bee-keeping courses are very popular?

..... [1]

(e) According to the graph, how many members were in the Bee-keepers' Association in 2005?

..... [1]

(f) Why might bee-keeping be attractive to office workers? Give **two** details.

(i)..... [1]

(ii)..... [1]

(g) What are **two** possible disadvantages of keeping bees?

(i)..... [1]

(ii)..... [1]

(h) How much honey is produced per year from a hive in the country compared to a hive in the town?

..... [1]

(i) Give **four** advantages of bee-keeping in towns and cities rather than in country areas.

.....
.....
.....
..... [4]

[Total: 14]

Exercise 3

17-year-old Elisabeth Gomez has been fascinated by animals all her life. She is currently studying Animal Science and Behaviour at the Mato Ponto College in Sapezal, Brazil, SW 45. She has been there for two years and has to do another year before qualifying for a university place in Porto Velho. The college has an interactive website located at www.matoponto.ac.br for students and anyone who wants to more know about the courses there. Elisabeth also has her own site at www.likemindslisa.org.br where she exchanges information with other like-minded students. This is very useful to all the students because their subjects, such as Mammalian Biology and Nutrition, are quite complicated and it helps to discuss things with each other.

Elisabeth lives at home with her parents, on their ranch at 125 Red Mule Lane, Sapezal, where they grow soya beans and keep horses and cattle. Elisabeth looks after the horses and the young calves. She feeds them every day, even in the holidays. Her parents contact her by mobile phone during the day on 0978 442654.

Elisabeth is hoping to be accepted on a summer scheme, 'Learn and Earn', where she can get even more 'hands-on' experience with large animals. This will help tremendously when she starts her next and final year at college. It will also help her to decide whether she wants to continue to work with large animals or not. She is looking forward to meeting other young people who have the same interest. Elisabeth has to work on her parents' ranch for a few weeks in the summer so that her father can give all his time to his soya harvest, but she can have time off during the first three weeks in September. She might be able to get some time off at the end of August, too, if the weather is good.

Imagine you are Elisabeth Gomez. Fill in the form on the opposite page, using the information above.

Learn and Earn Application Form

SECTION A – Personal details

Name:

Home address:

Other contact details (please provide **two**):

.....

SECTION B – Current course of study

Place of study:

Address of school/college:

Course of study:

Length of course: (please circle) 1 year 2-3 years 4-5 years

SECTION C – Learn and Earn scheme

Preferred dates (please number preferences 1 to 3. 1 = most desired, 3 = least desired)

July 28 to Aug 8 Aug 18 to Aug 29 Sept 1 to Sept 12

Experience with large animals:

.....

What do you expect to gain from the scheme? (give **two** details)

-
-

SECTION D

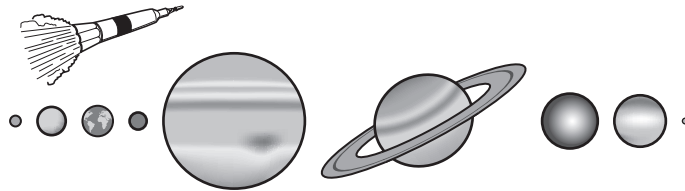
In the space below, write **one** sentence of between 12 and 20 words giving **two** examples of your ability to work as a member of a group or team.

[Total: 8]

Exercise 4

Read the following speech from a scientist who predicts what the world will be like in the year 2058, and then complete the notes on the opposite page.

Will life really be like this in 2058?



Think of all the changes that have taken place over the past ten years. Some scientists like myself firmly believe that the next fifty years or so will be fascinating to people of all ages. We will all see and experience things we could never have dreamed about even ten years ago.

Firstly, one prediction is that we will have a limitless supply of spare body parts and organs. There will be farms to produce human organs and the medicine of today will seem primitive and crude. There will be no need to transplant organs because they will be 'available to order' from the farm as long as the patient's medical profile is on record. For example, if someone needs a new kidney, the surgeon will simply contact a commercial organ producer and ask for one. One organ that won't be available, however, is the brain! This is far too complex and we understand so little about it that we don't think it will be as easy to mass-produce as other organs.

Another way forward is to use drugs to re-grow lost limbs like fingers and toes or to regenerate failing organs. Already heart regeneration is a real probability: after all, it is only a muscle. Maybe a whole body replacement will become routine in fifty years' time. It is almost certain that we will all live much longer.

Secondly, although we have not yet found any life beyond Earth, the universe is certainly not lifeless. Some experts believe that we will find neighbours in other galaxies out in space. We may not see 'little green men' but once evidence of life in outer space is found, other discoveries will follow. Some scientists think that tiny extraterrestrial life is already here.

We should also be able to find out exactly how the Earth was formed. We can explain with confidence what happened in the universe after the 'big bang' 14 billion years ago, but what we don't know is whether the big bang which produced the Earth was one of many. Maybe, in the next fifty years, we will find out. As science reveals the mysteries of the universe humans will take their first steps to set up colonies away from Earth. It seems likely that there will be new colonies on other planets like Mars, just in case anything terrible happens to the Earth and the population has to relocate.

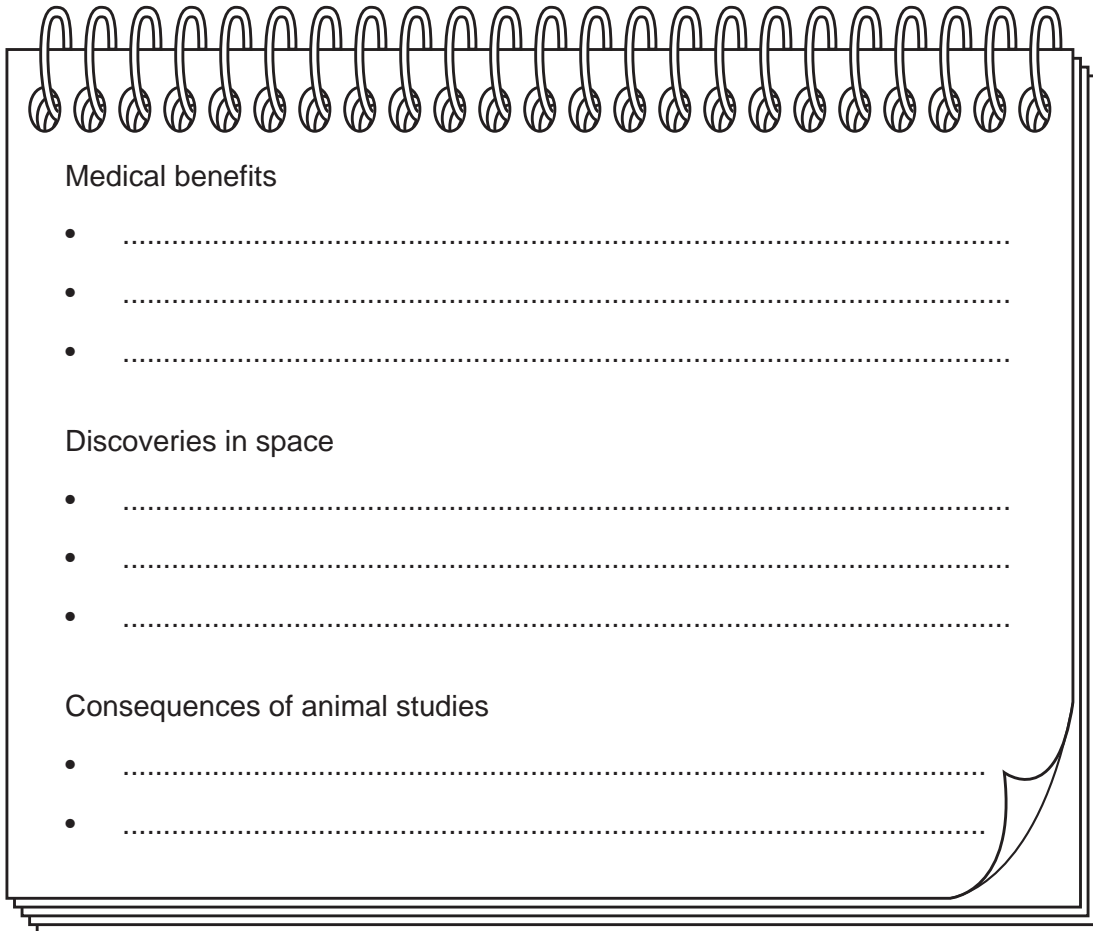
Finally, one famous fishery expert has made the wild prediction that a device will be developed which allows us to 'experience the momentary and inarticulate thoughts of animals'. Such a device might help to save the oceans from exploitation by humans. We might even see humans giving up eating meat to become vegetarians if we find out how animals think and feel.

So, as you can see, we have a fascinating period ahead of us. Only time will tell whether all these predictions about the future do come true.

You have been asked by your science teacher to listen to the scientist's speech and make brief notes about what life might be like in the year 2058.

For
Examiner's
Use

Make your notes under each heading.



Medical benefits

-
-
-

Discoveries in space

-
-
-

Consequences of animal studies

-
-


[Total: 8]

Exercise 5


Read the following article about climbing Mount Everest. **Write a summary about the problems mountaineers face whilst climbing Mount Everest and reasons why so many people attempt to climb it.**

Your summary should be about 100 words (and no more than 120 words). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your summary, and up to 4 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.



REACHING FOR THE TOP



During his latest Everest climb, Rob Gauntlett had to cling to the side of a mountain above a drop of several thousand metres. He endured temperatures low enough to give him frostbite. In the end, however, he was a happy man because he and his friend, James Hooper, both 19, became the youngest pair to reach the summit of Everest.

It was that time of year when the extreme bad weather that usually rages over the world's highest mountain clears for just a few weeks. As a result, mountaineers flock from all over the world to climb Everest. The month of May is about the only safe time to climb the mountain. Many climbers consider it to be the greatest challenge to climb the mountain during other months of the year. There have been many abandoned attempts as a result of the unpredictable weather and, sadly, some deaths.

The two mountaineers were recuperating at base camp after their climb. Their voices were full of excitement when they spoke. "We have always had a passion for climbing. I suppose the thought of being able to set foot on the roof of the world where so many great climbers have stood is what inspires all mountaineers."



The expedition, however, did not go entirely to plan. For three years they plotted their route and dreamed of their ascent of Everest from the south side in Nepal. Their arrangements seemed to be going well, until the young men realised that they did not have enough money to attempt the climb from the south side. They would have to go round from the north, from Tibet. The two friends were disappointed that all their preparations had been for nothing but, nevertheless, they were determined to make the climb.

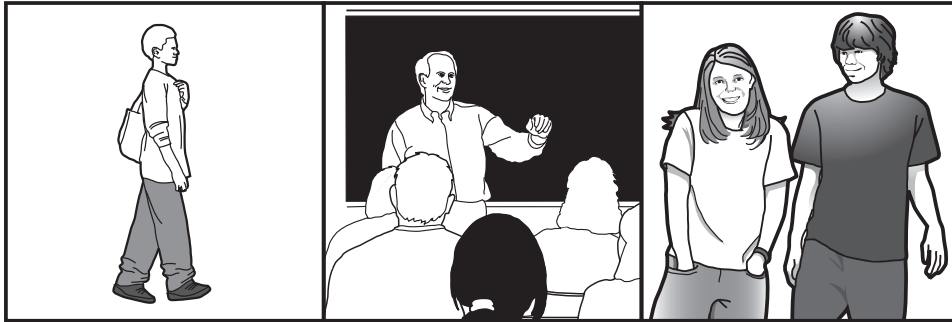
"We didn't get the last sponsor until the day before we set off on the trip," they said. "We didn't have very good knowledge of the north side. In addition, it was such a rush at the end. It's an expensive business to climb Everest and there is not even a guarantee that you'll reach the summit. The weather can be very unpredictable. We were constantly out of breath even when we were sitting still and we each lost almost 20 kilos in weight."

After the climb, they stayed for two weeks in the beautiful country of Nepal in order to recuperate and regain the strength and body weight they had lost. They celebrated their success with the many friends who had also gathered there to try to climb the highest mountain of them all.

So what is the attraction of Everest? The mountain has become so overcrowded with climbers that there must be compelling reasons for them to undertake such a venture. Those who succeed claim that they have the most incredible views, that they can actually see the curvature of the Earth. They love the challenges and the sheer exhilaration that this extreme activity brings.

Finally, there is the friendship that endures long after a successful climb has finished. In the mountaineers' restaurant, the climbers reflect on their experiences. They share details about the time that they almost lost several fingers to frostbite in the extreme cold. What they also share is the passion for adventure that pushes them to attempt the greatest climb of all.

Exercise 6

You recently moved to a different town and have just finished your first week at a new school.

Write a letter to a friend about your new situation.

Don't forget to include:

- how you feel about your new town
- how your new school differs from the old school
- details about a person that you have made friends with.

Your letter should be between 150 and 200 words long. Do not write an address.

You will receive up to 9 marks for the content of your letter, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Exercise 7

A local newspaper is inviting young people to write an article about the use of mobile/cell phones and their advantages and disadvantages.

Here are some comments your friends made when you were researching the topic:



Write an article for your local newspaper giving your views about the issue.

Your article should be between 150 and 200 words long.

The comments above may give you some ideas but you are free to use any ideas of your own.

You will receive up to 9 marks for the content of your article, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

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Copyright Acknowledgements:

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Exercise 4 © James Randerson, Ian Sample; *The Guardian*, 16 November 2006.

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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

CANDIDATE
NAME

CENTRE
NUMBER

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* 1 5 7 1 1 0 3 1 6 3 *

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

0510/22

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2 hours

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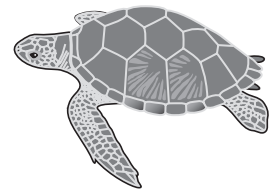
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Exercise 2

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BEE-KEEPING IN THE CITY

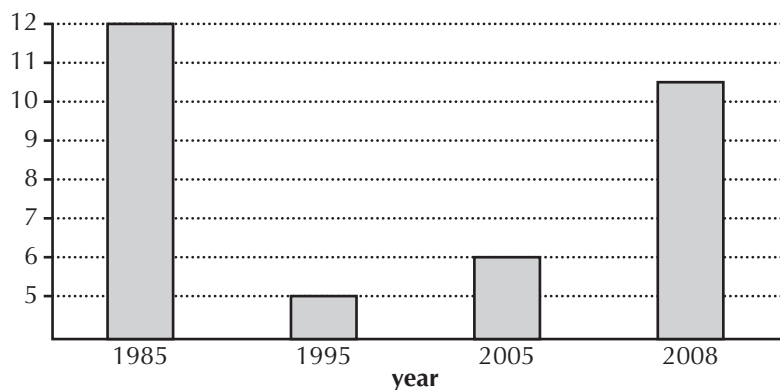
There is a new buzz in towns and cities in Great Britain. Bee-keeping, normally practised by people living in the country, has become the fashionable hobby for those who live and work in the cities. It is now estimated that there are more worker bees in London than there are working people.

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Membership of the British Bee-keepers' Association has almost doubled to 10,500 over the past three years in the biggest increase since the peak in the 1980s. This was just before a parasitic mite killed off millions of bees. One spokesman for the Association said, "Home-made honey from the towns is an entirely different product. Depending on the time of year, you get the different flavours of whatever the bees have been feeding on. You don't get such variety with honey from the country."

Young people are now queuing to join bee-keeping courses which are often over-subscribed. There are waiting lists to buy expensive beehives, costing around £100 each. Some people keep their beehives on terraces on their roofs, others in small gardens at the back of their houses.

number (in thousands) of members in the Bee-keepers' Association



Aysha Singh, who teaches classes on bee-keeping, said, "Most of those who join the bee-keeping course are young people. It's a rebellion against the lifestyle of the office worker. These young people want to get outside as well as do more physical and manual activities. One man says that he can't eat the honey as he is diabetic but he keeps bees because he needs some variety in his life."

Bee-keeping is not a strenuous activity. Most experts say that hives need to be checked only once every seven to ten days, when the bees are at their most active, between April and July.

There are disadvantages, however. Jane West, who has just started keeping 60,000 bees in a hive near to a city centre, has already been stung a few times. "It didn't hurt as much as I expected," she said. "Bees are not threatening in the same way as wasps are. They are nice little creatures with complex social-structures. They are also good for the garden when they take the nectar from the flowers." Jane restricts the number of bees she keeps because she thinks their humming sound "might frighten the neighbours".

Warmer temperatures in towns and cities mean that the bees keep active longer. In addition, a beehive in the town produces about 20 kilos of honey a year, twice as much as in country areas.

What do the urban bee-keepers do with all that honey? People say that they give much of it away, especially to the neighbours... probably to keep them sweet!

(a) How does the number of bee-keepers living in the country compare with the number in towns?

..... [1]

(b) Why did the number of bees decrease dramatically at the end of the 1980s?

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(c) What can influence the taste of home-made honey?

..... [1]

(d) What suggests that bee-keeping courses are very popular?

..... [1]

(e) According to the graph, how many members were in the Bee-keepers' Association in 2005?

..... [1]

(f) Why might bee-keeping be attractive to office workers? Give **two** details.

(i)..... [1]

(ii)..... [1]

(g) What are **two** possible disadvantages of keeping bees?

(i)..... [1]

(ii)..... [1]

(h) How much honey is produced per year from a hive in the country compared to a hive in the town?

..... [1]

(i) Give **four** advantages of bee-keeping in towns and cities rather than in country areas.

.....
.....
.....
..... [4]

[Total: 14]

Exercise 3

17-year-old Elisabeth Gomez has been fascinated by animals all her life. She is currently studying Animal Science and Behaviour at the Mato Ponto College in Sapezal, Brazil, SW 45. She has been there for two years and has to do another year before qualifying for a university place in Porto Velho. The college has an interactive website located at www.matoponto.ac.br for students and anyone who wants to more know about the courses there. Elisabeth also has her own site at www.likemindslisa.org.br where she exchanges information with other like-minded students. This is very useful to all the students because their subjects, such as Mammalian Biology and Nutrition, are quite complicated and it helps to discuss things with each other.

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Elisabeth is hoping to be accepted on a summer scheme, 'Learn and Earn', where she can get even more 'hands-on' experience with large animals. This will help tremendously when she starts her next and final year at college. It will also help her to decide whether she wants to continue to work with large animals or not. She is looking forward to meeting other young people who have the same interest. Elisabeth has to work on her parents' ranch for a few weeks in the summer so that her father can give all his time to his soya harvest, but she can have time off during the first three weeks in September. She might be able to get some time off at the end of August, too, if the weather is good.

Imagine you are Elisabeth Gomez. Fill in the form on the opposite page, using the information above.

Learn and Earn Application Form

SECTION A – Personal details

Name:

Home address:

Other contact details (please provide **two**):

.....

SECTION B – Current course of study

Place of study:

Address of school/college:

Course of study:

Length of course: (please circle) 1 year 2-3 years 4-5 years

SECTION C – Learn and Earn scheme

Preferred dates (please number preferences 1 to 3. 1 = most desired, 3 = least desired)

July 28 to Aug 8 Aug 18 to Aug 29 Sept 1 to Sept 12

Experience with large animals:

.....

What do you expect to gain from the scheme? (give **two** details)

•

•

SECTION D

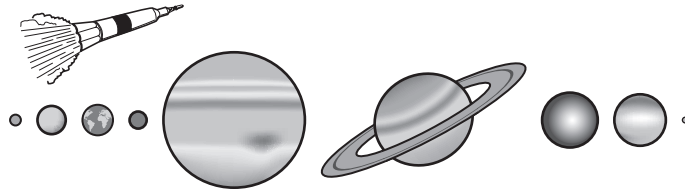
In the space below, write **one** sentence of between 12 and 20 words giving **two** examples of your ability to work as a member of a group or team.

[Total: 8]

Exercise 4

Read the following speech from a scientist who predicts what the world will be like in the year 2058, and then complete the notes on the opposite page.

Will life really be like this in 2058?



Think of all the changes that have taken place over the past ten years. Some scientists like myself firmly believe that the next fifty years or so will be fascinating to people of all ages. We will all see and experience things we could never have dreamed about even ten years ago.

Firstly, one prediction is that we will have a limitless supply of spare body parts and organs. There will be farms to produce human organs and the medicine of today will seem primitive and crude. There will be no need to transplant organs because they will be 'available to order' from the farm as long as the patient's medical profile is on record. For example, if someone needs a new kidney, the surgeon will simply contact a commercial organ producer and ask for one. One organ that won't be available, however, is the brain! This is far too complex and we understand so little about it that we don't think it will be as easy to mass-produce as other organs.

Another way forward is to use drugs to re-grow lost limbs like fingers and toes or to regenerate failing organs. Already heart regeneration is a real probability: after all, it is only a muscle. Maybe a whole body replacement will become routine in fifty years' time. It is almost certain that we will all live much longer.

Secondly, although we have not yet found any life beyond Earth, the universe is certainly not lifeless. Some experts believe that we will find neighbours in other galaxies out in space. We may not see 'little green men' but once evidence of life in outer space is found, other discoveries will follow. Some scientists think that tiny extraterrestrial life is already here.

We should also be able to find out exactly how the Earth was formed. We can explain with confidence what happened in the universe after the 'big bang' 14 billion years ago, but what we don't know is whether the big bang which produced the Earth was one of many. Maybe, in the next fifty years, we will find out. As science reveals the mysteries of the universe humans will take their first steps to set up colonies away from Earth. It seems likely that there will be new colonies on other planets like Mars, just in case anything terrible happens to the Earth and the population has to relocate.

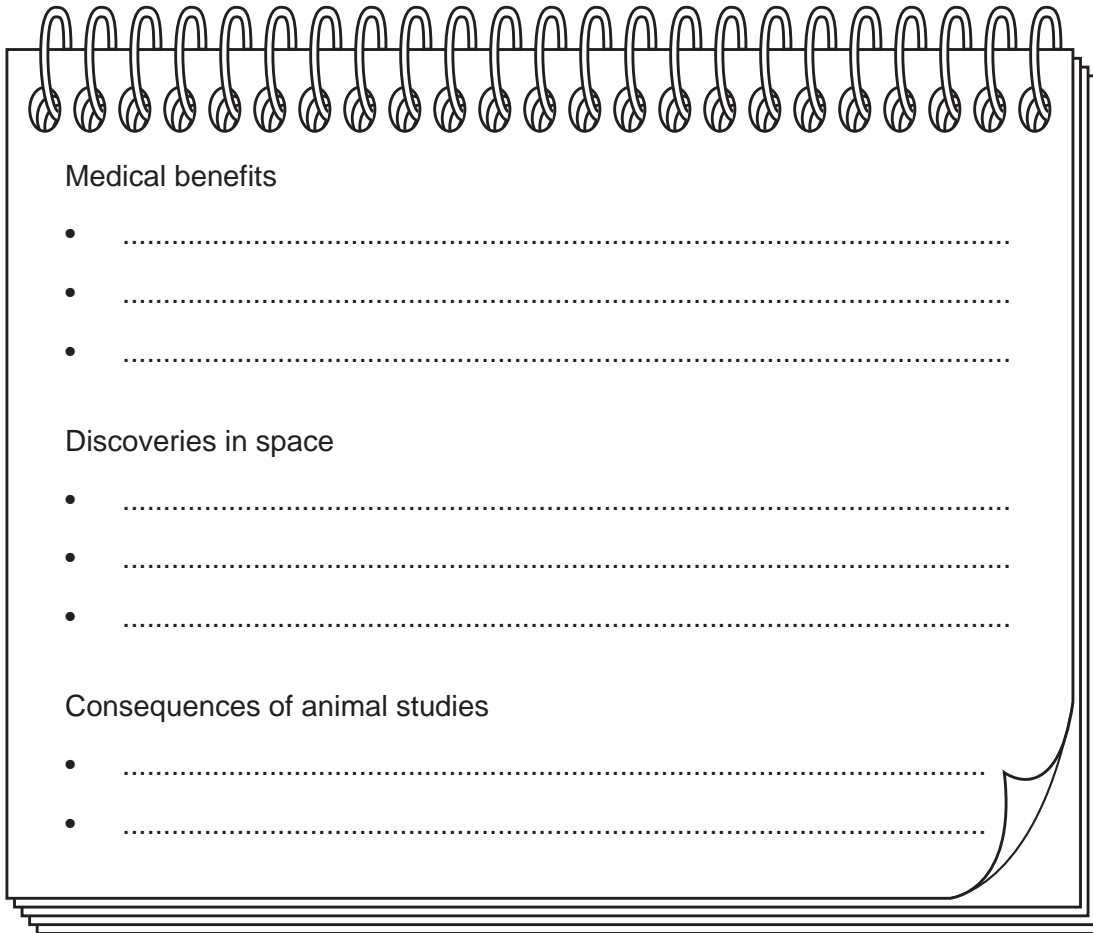
Finally, one famous fishery expert has made the wild prediction that a device will be developed which allows us to 'experience the momentary and inarticulate thoughts of animals'. Such a device might help to save the oceans from exploitation by humans. We might even see humans giving up eating meat to become vegetarians if we find out how animals think and feel.

So, as you can see, we have a fascinating period ahead of us. Only time will tell whether all these predictions about the future do come true.

You have been asked by your science teacher to listen to the scientist's speech and make brief notes about what life might be like in the year 2058.

*For
Examiner's
Use*

Make your notes under each heading.



Medical benefits

-
-
-

Discoveries in space

-
-
-

Consequences of animal studies

-
-


[Total: 8]

Exercise 5


Read the following article about climbing Mount Everest. **Write a summary about the problems mountaineers face whilst climbing Mount Everest and reasons why so many people attempt to climb it.**

Your summary should be about 100 words (and no more than 120 words). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your summary, and up to 4 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.



REACHING FOR THE TOP



During his latest Everest climb, Rob Gauntlett had to cling to the side of a mountain above a drop of several thousand metres. He endured temperatures low enough to give him frostbite. In the end, however, he was a happy man because he and his friend, James Hooper, both 19, became the youngest pair to reach the summit of Everest.

It was that time of year when the extreme bad weather that usually rages over the world's highest mountain clears for just a few weeks. As a result, mountaineers flock from all over the world to climb Everest. The month of May is about the only safe time to climb the mountain. Many climbers consider it to be the greatest challenge to climb the mountain during other months of the year. There have been many abandoned attempts as a result of the unpredictable weather and, sadly, some deaths.

The two mountaineers were recuperating at base camp after their climb. Their voices were full of excitement when they spoke. "We have always had a passion for climbing. I suppose the thought of being able to set foot on the roof of the world where so many great climbers have stood is what inspires all mountaineers."



The expedition, however, did not go entirely to plan. For three years they plotted their route and dreamed of their ascent of Everest from the south side in Nepal. Their arrangements seemed to be going well, until the young men realised that they did not have enough money to attempt the climb from the south side. They would have to go round from the north, from Tibet. The two friends were disappointed that all their preparations had been for nothing but, nevertheless, they were determined to make the climb.

"We didn't get the last sponsor until the day before we set off on the trip," they said. "We didn't have very good knowledge of the north side. In addition, it was such a rush at the end. It's an expensive business to climb Everest and there is not even a guarantee that you'll reach the summit. The weather can be very unpredictable. We were constantly out of breath even when we were sitting still and we each lost almost 20 kilos in weight."

After the climb, they stayed for two weeks in the beautiful country of Nepal in order to recuperate and regain the strength and body weight they had lost. They celebrated their success with the many friends who had also gathered there to try to climb the highest mountain of them all.

So what is the attraction of Everest? The mountain has become so overcrowded with climbers that there must be compelling reasons for them to undertake such a venture. Those who succeed claim that they have the most incredible views, that they can actually see the curvature of the Earth. They love the challenges and the sheer exhilaration that this extreme activity brings.

Finally, there is the friendship that endures long after a successful climb has finished. In the mountaineers' restaurant, the climbers reflect on their experiences. They share details about the time that they almost lost several fingers to frostbite in the extreme cold. What they also share is the passion for adventure that pushes them to attempt the greatest climb of all.

Exercise 6

Your school has the opportunity to send ten students to do a one-term exchange in another school in a different country.

Write a letter to your class teacher, explaining:

- why you believe you should be selected for the school exchange
- what you would like to do during the visit to the other school
- what you might learn or gain from the experience.

You may choose in which country the exchange visit is to take place.

Your letter should be between 150 and 200 words long. Do not write an address.

You will receive up to 9 marks for the content of your letter, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Exercise 7

People nowadays are always looking for new challenges. Your local newspaper has been doing research into dangerous or risky sports and activities.

Here are some comments received about the subject:

"Sailing alone on the sea gives me such a feeling of peace and tranquillity."

"People should think about their friends and relatives who are left behind worrying when they do these crazy things."

"Dangerous sports and activities can cause serious physical injury to people."

"When I jump out of the aeroplane I get such a buzz of excitement and I know the parachute is safe."

Write an article for your local newspaper giving your views about the issue.

Your article should be between 150 and 200 words long.

The comments above may give you some ideas but you are free to use any ideas of your own.

You will receive up to 9 marks for the content of your article, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

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