



Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER

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Paper 2 Comprehension

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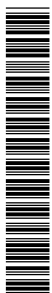
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1 hour 45 minutes

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. Blank pages are indicated.

Material for Section A

Background

Exlun Industries (EI), a very successful technology company (designing and selling mobile phones, tablets, headphones, etc.), is keen to start exporting as soon as possible as its home market is now saturated. Brit Mahabee, the Sales Director, has been tasked with visiting the foreign country that he thinks will be the most lucrative one to go to in terms of drumming up new trade for EI. He has been given the following three options by the managing director:

(i) Banu

Banu is a newly independent and rapidly developing country situated on the other side of the world from EI's headquarters. Currently there is a lack of infrastructure, but the government believe they will be able to improve upon this with the help of money from international aid agencies. 60 per cent of the 15 million inhabitants are under the age of 25. It is a Spanish-speaking country. There is little knowledge of English as the country has only just opened up its borders to the world at large.

(ii) Dafoo

Dafoo is a stable country close to EI's headquarters. It has a developed economy, though there have been signs this year that the money earned per head of population is increasing only very slowly. Its population of 30 million is ageing so there are attempts being made to encourage younger people to come from abroad to work in Dafoo. Portuguese is the language that is most widely spoken, but many people have a basic knowledge of English.

(iii) Gania

Gania is a large island nation situated 5000 km away from EI's headquarters. Its economy has been very buoyant for a few years now, but there might be clouds on the horizon for its economy as the natural resources that it exports are beginning to run out. Every age group is well represented in the population of 45 million at present, but young people are starting to leave in numbers to find work elsewhere as they are worried about their career prospects. Italian is the national language, but English is widely spoken by the younger generation.

Extract from the managing director's column in the in-house newsletter

Brit has been working for us for three years now and has become a highly valued member of the team. Drawing on knowledge attained while on the best MBA (Master of Business Administration) course in the world and on previous experience gained in a range of top companies, Brit has quickly turned what was a very good sales team into a world-beating one. He has a clear vision for the future direction of EI and the strategies in place to achieve it. We are proud to have him on board.

Additional information

- 1 Zexon Tech is EI's biggest commercial rival.
- 2 Brit studied Portuguese for a couple of years at school.
- 3 Dafoo is notorious for the amount of bureaucracy in the country.
- 4 Brit's wife already feels that he is spending too much time away from his family on business.
- 5 Zexon Tech's headquarters are situated 750 km from Gania.
- 6 Brit's wife is Italian.
- 7 Simin, the Financial Director at EI, has links to Banu.
- 8 Both officials and executives in Dafoo prefer to conduct all negotiations in Portuguese.
- 9 As a student, Robina, the Marketing Director at EI, spent a few months in Spain, teaching English in a college.
- 10 Simin, having worked at EI for 20 years, is very jealous of what Brit has achieved so quickly.
- 11 The managing director can speak German fluently.
- 12 Since the worldwide financial crisis, international organisations have placed more restrictions on the money they give out or donate.
- 13 The managing director will not hear a word said against Brit.
- 14 Recently Brit has been feeling a little under the weather, tiring more easily than he used to in the past.
- 15 Simin has made it clear that there is only a limited budget available for Brit regarding all the expenses he incurs in pursuit of new export markets.
- 16 Brit met his wife on the MBA course.

Material for Section B

Extract from an article by Catherine Bennett:

Actually, I'd prefer it if the wolf was kept from my door.

For anyone raised on the Grimms' fairytales – or wary of cows and hostile-looking geese – there have always been certain obvious difficulties with ambitious rewilding* campaigns. Reintroducing beavers is one thing. Boars: maybe. But among the more appealing aspects of life in Britain, for the nervous, is the relative certainty of never encountering a wolf pack.

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Recent celebrations over the return of these predators to the outskirts of Rome attest, however, to the huge success of rewilders, within a couple of decades, in dispelling this sort of unsubstantiated, if ancient, anti-wolf sentiment. Far from representing a threat to humans, wolf supporters now insist the creatures are shy, peaceable types, much less aggressive towards us than dogs – no great surprise, really, given the numerical difference, but you get the point.

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If there is any substance to French farmers' complaints that wolves keep killing their sheep, this would probably, to many sheep-hating conservationists, seem an excellent way of getting rid of them. As for killing UK deer, which have only human predators, this culling would be doing us, if not the deer, a favour by doing our job for us. European wolf fans, such as the Dutch ecologist Leo Linnartz, sound amused by our timidity. 'We have wolves coming into the Netherlands again and we are much, much smaller than Britain. If the Dutch can do it, everybody can do it.'

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Expanding on the benefits of wolves, which he hopes shortly to reintroduce in the UK, Peter Smith of Britain's Wildwood Trust said recently: 'There are wolves all over Europe and they don't cause problems. When was the last time you heard of someone being killed by a wolf?'

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It seems improbable, however, that the scheme will be abandoned even if a Greek coroner is confirmed in his theory that an attack by wolves caused the death of the British academic Celia Hollingworth. If rewilding is designed, as its exponents believe, to be more natural than what it replaces, that can hardly be achieved by desiring animals to suppress their instincts. And if something is guaranteed 100 per cent safe, it can't really be called rewilding, can it? To the extreme rewilder, some loss of human life could be a price worth paying.

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Excitement about reintroducing risk to tame landscapes seems integral to grander strategies for rewilding. To the annoyance of its more glamorous exponents, the term now embraces the restoration of anything from vegetation to mammoths.

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Before long, in fact, some new words may be needed to distinguish humbler conservation-minded projects, featuring, say, reed beds, from bolder proposals, such as those advanced by George Monbiot, author of the widely admired *Feral*. He dreams, he writes, of us 'standing back' from the land, after removing man-made interventions, 'reintroducing missing animals' and culling, along the way, 'a few particularly invasive introduced species. It's about abandoning the doctrine of dominion** which has governed our relationship with the natural world.'

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The consequences of this updated form of dominion are not easy to predict as some biologists have warned. The authors of *Rewilding is the new Pandora's box in conservation* advocate, as a corrective to the 'drumbeat' now advancing all kinds of rewilding approaches, 'caution and an increased understanding and awareness of what is unknown about rewilding and what its potential outputs, especially ecological consequences, might be'. 40
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As with the craze for fangsheng, the mercy release of animals, which recently led to hundreds of crabs and lobsters being dropped into the sea off Brighton, UK, the best attempts by humans to reverse previous dominion can translate into disaster and, in that case, \$20 000 in fines for two well-meaning Buddhists.

But from what Monbiot has written, and the response to it, some vagueness around restoring nature only adds to its attraction. 'The wonderful thing about rewilding,' he wrote, 'is that you don't know where it's going to go ... the way ecosystems evolve once missing species are introduced and we stop trying to control them is delightfully unpredictable.' 50

'We arose in a thrilling, terrible world,' Monbiot writes, in a tone that suggests mere wolf reintroduction won't do much for him. Not when the naturalist and broadcaster David Attenborough once described wolves as 'gentle and very loyal creatures, whose sole purpose is to survive and look after each other'. 55

As a recreational walker, I can barely express how grateful I am to inhabit, instead, a landscape dominated by the labradoodle dog. Still, the soaring interest in importing wolves and bears suggests that Monbiot's 'smouldering longing for a richer and rawer life than the one I lead' is widely shared. 60

*Returning land to a wilder and more natural state through the reintroduction of native species.

**The idea of human supremacy over nature.

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