



Cambridge IGCSE™ (9-1)

CANDIDATE
NAME

CENTRE
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FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0990/12

Paper 1 Reading

October/November 2023

2 hours

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- If additional space is needed, you should use the lined pages at the end of this booklet; the question number or numbers must be clearly shown.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].
- The insert contains the reading texts.

This document has **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.



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

Question 1

- (a) Re-read paragraph 1 ('Vietnam is home ... 200 metres.'). Give **two** examples of spectacular landscapes (apart from the Mountain River Cave) in Vietnam.

.....
 [1]

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

(i) 'located in the heart' (line 3):
 [2]

(ii) 'formed between' (line 4):
 [2]

- (c) Re-read paragraph 2 ('Mountain River Cave ... he'd found the cave entrance.'). Give **two** reasons why Ho Khanh might have felt wary about investigating Mountain River Cave further.

•
 • [2]

- (d) (i) Re-read paragraphs 3 and 4 ('The cave was ... millions of years.'). Identify **two** reasons why a member of the public might be unable to visit the cave.

•
 • [2]

- (ii) Re-read paragraphs 3 and 4 ('The cave was ... millions of years.'). Give the evidence that Mountain River Cave has existed for a very long time.

.....

 [3]

- (e) Re-read paragraph 5 ('To reach Mountain River Cave ... Mountain River Cave entrance.'). **Using your own words**, explain why the journey to Mountain River Cave might be seen as difficult.

.....

.....

.....

[3]

Read **Text C, *The lost cave***, 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) The ivy completely covered the rock face.

.....
..... [1]

(ii) Shaima thought about a time in the future when she might be able to attend a live excavation.

.....
..... [1]

(iii) Shaima did not know what was happening in the garden.

.....
..... [1]

(iv) Rohaan looked closely into the cave mouth.

.....
..... [1]

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

Rohaan lifted himself to his elbows. He hadn't broken, twisted or pulled anything important, and he freed himself from the remaining foliage.

(i) lifted [1]

(ii) freed [1]

(iii) remaining [1]

- (c) Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests Rohaan’s feelings when he first sees the cave entrance.

Use your own words in your explanation.

He looked at what was left of the rock face. A gaping hole stared defiantly back at him, as if inviting a stand-off. Rohaan dropped his eyes to break the gaze and received an immense surprise. Half a metre from the base was the floor of a cave entrance. It was surely inviting him to look inside.

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[3]

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