



Cambridge IGCSE™ (9-1)

CANDIDATE
NAME

CENTRE
NUMBER

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FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0990/12

Paper 1 Reading

May/June 2020

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. Blank pages are indicated.



Read **Text A**, *Paper is back: why 'real' books are on the rebound*, in the insert and then answer **Questions 1(a)–(e)** on this question paper.

Question 1

(a) Give **two** examples of enemies of real books according to the text.

-
- [1]

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

(i) 'real books are fighting back.' (lines 2–3):

-
- [2]

(ii) 'more like co-existence than conquest.' (line 4):

-
- [2]

(c) Re-read paragraph 3 ('Publishers ... plateau.').

Give **two** reasons why the rise in the number of paper books sold was significant.

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- [2]

(d) Re-read paragraphs 4 and 5 ('Apparently, print books ... media.').

(i) Identify **two** reasons why sellers of e-books might be worried about those categories where print book sales have increased since 2012.

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- [2]

(ii) Explain why reading e-books may be less efficient than reading real books, according to the text.

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..... [3]

(e) Re-read paragraphs 6 and 7 ('Some people ... feel.').

Using your own words, explain why people are unlikely to give up real books altogether in favour of e-books.

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..... [3]

Read **Text C, *Mr Penumbra's 24-hour bookstore***, 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) A lot of the books in the store seem to be from the ancient past.

..... [1]

(ii) The narrator was looking at the outside edges of the books to check what they were called.

..... [1]

(iii) The narrator used to work in the main office of a software company.

..... [1]

(iv) The narrator lost his job when the economy plunged dramatically downwards.

..... [1]

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

I was unemployed, a result of the great food-chain contraction sweeping through the country, leaving bankrupt burger chains and shuttered sushi empires in its wake.

(i) contraction [1]

(ii) sweeping..... [1]

(iii) shuttered [1]

- (c) Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests what the narrator thinks about the burger bun.

Use your own words in your explanation.

The job I'd lost was at the corporate headquarters of a very new company. It wrote software to design and bake the perfect burger bun: smooth toasted skin, soft interior. It was my first job out of art school. I started as a designer, making marketing materials to explain and promote this tasty treat: menus, diagrams and posters for store windows.

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[3]

Re-read **Text C**, *Mr Penumbra's 24-hour bookstore*, in the insert and then answer **Question 3** on this question paper.

Question 3

Imagine you are Mr Penumbra. Clay has been working in your store now for over a year and has suggested ways to improve the bookshop and increase trade. You reflect on your thoughts and Clay's suggestions in your journal.

In your journal, you should:

- remember what exactly happened the day you first met Clay and your impressions of him
- reflect on the shop as it is now – what you like about it
- outline the suggestions Clay has made for how he could help improve the bookstore.

Write your journal entry.

Base your journal entry on what you have read in **Text C**, but be careful to use your own words. Address each of the three bullet points.

Write about 250 to 350 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 10 marks for the quality of your writing.

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