



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

8693/12

Paper 1 Passages for Comment

October/November 2013

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper



READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
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 **two** questions.
You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

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.

This document consists of **7** printed pages and **1** blank page.



Answer **two** questions.

- 1 The following passage, taken from a website, advertises the qualities and facilities of the One and Only hotel-resort in the Bahamas.
- (a) Comment on the style and language of the passage. [15]
- (b) A visitor to the One and Only Ocean Club is not satisfied with his stay at the hotel. He writes a review of the hotel-resort on a travel website for tourists planning a holiday in the Bahamas. Write a section of the review (between 120–150 words). Base your answer closely on the material of the original extract. [10]

One and Only Ocean Club is legendary in its reputation for entertaining the world's elite for more than 45 years. Here, service is elevated to a fine art form by gracious staff welcoming you into their colonial plantation home. Warm and inviting accommodation, and residential-style villas ideal for families. Dining that is renowned and unforgettable, featuring the imaginative cuisine of chef Jean-George Vongerichten. 5

A playground of world-class golf, tennis, spa indulgences, and of course, water. The elixir of Bahamian life, the spectacular blue waters of the Caribbean, are explored with a rich roster of activities – diving, snorkeling, sailing, skiing, windsurfing. And always, just relaxing along the shoreline of a pristine beach. 10

The Versailles inspired hotel enjoys an entire mile of private beach. The club is highly private and exclusive, and guests are pampered by butler service. The grounds at One and Only Ocean Club invite guests to stroll through the gardens or lounge in a hammock. Enjoy complimentary Aquacat and Hobiecat sailing, snorkeling, aqua bikes, paddleboats, kayaking and bicycling. Scuba lessons and diving excursions can be arranged through the Concierge. At the heart of One and Only Ocean Club is the allure of water. Miles of pristine white sand beach are described as some of the most beautiful in the world. Take a swim in the languid Versailles Pool, for adults ages 14 and older. Poolside concierge services include Evian misting, CD players and music selections, newspapers and magazines, sunglass cleaning and complimentary 5-minute foot massages. The new separate Family Pool is designed for younger guests, complete with waterfall and aqua toys. 15
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Awards

Conde Nast Award Winner, Travel & Leisure Award Winner.

Recommended Rooms 25

Beachfront suites with parlors and doors that open to the water are recommended. Nestled into the resort's intimate setting are two wings – the Hartford Wing and the Crescent Wing. With its classic Colonial architecture, the two-storey Hartford Wing offers guestrooms and suites with lovely views of the ocean or garden grounds. This wing features 50 rooms (340sq. ft.), four suites (830sq. ft.) and a cluster of two-bedroom garden cottages located in the gardens, just beyond the pool. All Hartford Wing accommodation was completely refurbished in late 2001. The five new two-storey buildings of the Crescent Wing offer luxury guestrooms and suites, all with commanding views of endless beach and ocean from a private balcony or terrace. This wing features 40 beachfront rooms (550 sq. ft.) and 10 beachfront suites (1100sq. ft.). All accommodation features a private balcony or terrace, central 30
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air conditioning, indoor and outdoor ceiling fans, DVD and CD players, satellite television, Internet access, service bars, marble appointed bathrooms with double sinks, and safes. In-room guest amenities include bathrobes, signature soaps and toiletries, and other features expected in European luxury hotels.

Meeting Space

One and Only Ocean Club now offers facilities for small scale executive meetings and receptions. A new executive boardroom with seating for 20 is situated in a colonial-style building with a patio offering views of the Versailles pool and gardens. The comfortable covered patio makes an ideal setting for a banquet or pre or post meeting reception. The 850-square-foot Hartford Room is a secondary meeting option with flexible setup.

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Fine Dining on Site

The Bahamanian lobster chilli is recommended at Jean-Georges Vongerichten's Dune. Tempting flavors and enchanting aromas meld into delectable cuisine. At One and Only Ocean Club, your choices for stellar dining are exceptional. Whether you prefer a casual breakfast served on your terrace, a light lunch poolside, or an intimate dinner for two beneath a canopy of stars or overlooking the sea, there is something to satisfy every appetite. A gourmet in-room dining menu is also available 24 hours a day.

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Spa Facility

The Mandara Spa is in the Balinese style, with private treatment villas, baths, and gardens. The extraordinary One and Only Spa at Ocean Club is undeniably one of the finest, most luxurious spas in The Bahamas and Caribbean. Featuring eight Balinese-style private treatment villas with open-air gardens, the Spa offers a sensual and rejuvenating experience. La Palestra, the top fitness operators in New York City, bring their talents to the One and Only Ocean Club Fitness Center through innovative design, individually-tailored exercise programs and group classes. Complimentary one-hour yoga classes are offered daily on the beach deck, and private sessions for physical and spiritual well-being are offered for a fee.

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Golfing

This 18-hole, par 72 championship course is designed by Tom Weiskopf and operated by Troon Golf. Weiskopf's PGA course features meticulous seaside green and tee settings, alternating fairways and breathtaking signature holes stretched over 7,100 yards. An on-site Pro Shop, pro and Clubhouse complement this remarkable golfing experience. Tee times can be reserved 60 days in advance of the requested day of play and will be held with the authorization of a major credit card.

70

- 2 The following newspaper article describes the writer's new home in Ireland, where it was an old police station known as the 'Barracks'.
- (a) Comment on the style and language of the passage.
- (b) The same writer moves to the country where you live and finds another home there. He writes another article about his new life. Write the opening of the article (between 120–150 words). Base your answer closely on the style and language of the original extract. [10]

The house smelled of old sergeants. It was thirty years since it had been used as a police station, but there were still bars on the windows of the rooms out back. The echo of our footsteps across the stone floors broke the long silence that filled the house. As we pushed through the creaking doors, each room was a pocket of trapped time, as if the silence was just a pause in some hard conversation with a ghost of the local felony¹. There was rising damp, peeling paint and homicidal electrics.

5

"It does need a little work," the estate agent said.

My girlfriend and I exchanged a worried look – we knew at once that this old mess was home. There is a German word, *weltschmerz*, that describes a feeling of homesickness for a place you've never been, and I knew that the Barracks, as it was still known, might ease such a feeling in me. There was a leaking chimney, a half-acre of weeds and a general air of drizzle.

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It had a vantage view over a smoke-grey lake and was surrounded by reed fields, and their summer gold was fading, and I worried at once that this was a place to inspire overly limpid prose. But it was time I put down a root.

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I was thirty-six. This would be the first house I could call my own. Over the previous decade and a half I had lived at seventeen addresses across nine cities of Ireland, Britain, the United States and Spain. The psyche fractures from so much itinerant wandering. You're never sure where you are when you wake up in the morning. You turn into a street in the city you're living in and you expect a different city, a different street. You find that you're living in the amalgam place of a dream.

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Also, there was the situation with the books – there were by this time more than 50 large boxes of them. Recent moves had required the hiring of lorries for the books alone. We needed a place to keep the books.

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We moved in. We painted the walls. We sanded floorboards. We kept the bars on the windows, in memory of those old sergeants. We got all the old chimneys patched up and cleared and we lit fires. A child of suburbia, I was at first freaked out by the sheer quiet at night and by the utter darkness that descended on the lake and the hills. The willows caught eerily in the wind. There were mystery rustlings from the hedgerows. But there was a calm about the barracks itself – an odd comfort seeped from its old bricks.

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I took the upstairs landing for my workspace and faced the desk away from the view. But every few minutes I would creep up on the window. Just water, and cattle, and wooded hills rising into mist, but a storied past can project a rush of images to a suggestible mind. The lake makes the most of what light there is and refracts it; and the light has a peculiar intensity, a luminescence. Quickly, as we settled, I began to feel an unaccustomed creep of contentment.

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Happiness, for me, has tended to be retrospective. I'm generally moaning and grizzling at the time, but as soon as I leave a place I become nostalgic for it. And in the Barracks, as I cooled my heels, I grew almost pathologically wistful for the cities and flats and houses I had lived in. If they were full of grey ennui² at the time, their colours came through in memory.

Memories are stirred each day as I cycle the countryside. After a sullen morning at the desk, and then the slapstick of my attempts at DIY, I pedal through the drizzle and the quiet. The effort required for the steep gradients of the hills releases endorphins³ and these cause a giddiness. As I ratchet up the gears, I make up nonsense songs and sing them aloud. There are farmers in the vicinity who may believe me not to be the full shilling⁴.

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If I cycle a little faster, the past gives way to the moment, and the moment has its own romances. It would take a heart of stone not to imagine a music for the place names I pass by: Templehouse Lake, the Plain of Moytura, Ballindoon Abbey, the Caves of Keash. The names have melody and are themselves a song.

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Nowadays I make frequent jailbreaks from the Barracks. Bleak February groans to life and I'm history – I bolt for Spain. But when I'm away now I think about the chair by the stove in the Barracks, the squishy red armchair in which I plan to grow old, placid and handsomely fat.

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¹*felony*: criminal inhabitants

²*ennui*: boredom

³*endorphins*: stimulating chemicals in the brain

⁴*not to be the full shilling*: slightly deranged

- 3 The following passage describes the writer's experience of climbing.
- (a) Comment on the style and language of the passage.
- (b) The same writer decides to tackle another physically challenging activity. He writes another account of the experience. Write a section of the account (between 120–150 words). Base your answer closely on the style and language of the original extract. [10]

My legs burn, but it's nothing compared with my lungs.

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Knowing that doesn't make me any less cold.

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- Question 2 © Kevin Barry; *Once Upon A Life*; The Observer; <http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2011/apr/10/1>; Guardian News & Media Ltd; 10 April 2011.
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