



# Cambridge IGCSE™ (9-1)

CANDIDATE  
NAME

CENTRE  
NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--

CANDIDATE  
NUMBER

--	--	--	--

---

## FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0990/12

Paper 1 Reading

October/November 2021

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, *The whirlwind engineering history of the bicycle***, in the insert and then answer **Questions 1(a)–1(e)** on this question paper.

**Question 1**

(a) Give **two** examples of early types of bicycle, according to the text.

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

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

(i) 'curious transformations' (lines 1 and 2):

- .....
- ..... [2]

(ii) 'carefully straddled' (line 5):

- .....
- ..... [2]

(c) Re-read paragraph 3 ('Pedals were introduced ... nickname, "Boneshaker".').

Give **two** reasons why people may not have wanted to ride on the Velocipede.

- .....
- ..... [2]

(d) Re-read paragraphs 4 and 5 ('Fast-forward ... a design classic.').

(i) Identify **two** main features of the Penny-farthing that made it look different from previous bicycles.

- .....
- ..... [2]

(ii) Explain why the Safety Bicycle was very popular in the 1890s.

- .....
- .....
- ..... [3]

(e) Re-read paragraphs 6 and 7 ('So who needs ... two-wheeled favourite.').

**Using your own words**, explain why you think the bicycle was voted the most significant innovation in technology.

.....  
.....  
.....

[3]

Read **Text B, *Finding my feet again***, in the insert and answer **Question 1(f)** on this question paper.

**Question 1**

**(f)** According to Text B, what particular challenges has Denise faced as an elite-level cyclist?

You must **use continuous writing** (not note form) and **use your own words** as far as possible.

Your summary should not be more than 120 words.

**Up to 10 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 5 marks for the quality of your writing.**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



Read **Text C, *Moving on upwards***, in the insert and then answer **Questions 2(a)–2(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) Sonny's phone is sparkling in the sunshine.

..... [1]

(ii) The narrator expected his bike ride to be a new, exciting experience.

..... [1]

(iii) The narrator considers his fiftieth birthday to be a significant stage in his life.

..... [1]

(iv) Sonny plans to record the entire bicycle ride on his mobile phone.

..... [1]

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

Though I am keeping to the outside of the bend, I feel the tension in my thighs increasing in a matter of metres. Ahead lies the notorious forest where many a dismayed cyclist is forced to dismount after kilometres of hard labour.

(i) increasing ..... [1]

(ii) notorious ..... [1]

(iii) dismayed ..... [1]

- (c) Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests the father's experiences and feelings as he starts the sharp incline on the hill.

**Use your own words in your explanation.**

I can see my own contorted expression, looking out, gargoyle-like, over the bike handlebars, forming part of that 'family entertainment'.

'Dad, this is the forest, right?'

I nod and pant.

'It'll soon be ten per cent gradient, Dad.'

I change my gear, and my legs heave a sigh of relief.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

[3]

(d) Re-read paragraphs 2 and 12.

- Paragraph 2 begins ‘Time for another ...’ and is about the father trying to drink some water.
- Paragraph 12 begins ‘The steep road ...’ and is about the father’s feelings about the road ahead.

Explain how the writer uses language to convey meaning and to create effect in these paragraphs. Choose **three** examples of words or phrases from **each** paragraph to support your answer. Your choices should include the use of imagery.

Write about 200 to 300 words.

**Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer.**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....





Re-read **Text C**, *Moving on upwards*, in the insert and then answer **Question 3** on this question paper.

**Question 3**

You are Sonny. Your father and the rest of the family have watched the video you made to record his fiftieth birthday bicycle ride. After the family have watched the video, you write your **journal entry** in which you:

- describe your father’s plans and preparations for his birthday **and** how you felt about them
- explain the hardships and challenges your father faced on the journey up the hill **and** your thoughts as you watched him cycling
- describe your father’s reactions as he watched the finished birthday video of the whole ride.

**Write the words of the 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 bullets.

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.**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....











**BLANK PAGE**

---

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at [www.cambridgeinternational.org](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org) after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which itself is a department of the University of Cambridge.