



# Cambridge O Level

CANDIDATE NAME



CENTRE NUMBER

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**1123/11**

Paper 1 Reading

**October/November 2024**

**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.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].
- The insert contains the reading passages.

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.





Section A

Read **Text A**, *The World's Oldest Swim*, in the insert and answer **Question 1** and **Question 2**.

**Question 1**

(a) In what way does the geography of the Strait of the Dardanelles make it 'one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world'? (line 2)

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

(b) Explain what Calum is feeling when he says 'Whoa!' (line 6)

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

(c) From paragraph 2, give **two** ways in which the waters of the strait are different from the waters Calum and Matt are used to swimming in.

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

(d) Identify **two** details that show why 'people call this the "World's Oldest Swim".' (line 13)

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

(e) Explain what Matt is thinking when he says, 'They weren't really talking to me.' (line 24)

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

(f) In paragraph 6, how does Matt feel on the morning of the swim?

Give **two** details from the text to support your answer.

Matt's feeling .....

details .....

.....

.....

..... [3]

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(g) (i) In paragraph 8, Matt and Calum discover a problem that they will face during the swim.

What is the problem?

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

(ii) What does the guide suggest Matt and Calum should do to solve the problem?

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

(h) Explain **using your own words** Ed's different feelings about the swim.

Give **three** details from anywhere in the text to support your answer.

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

[Total: 16]

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Question 2

(a) Read this sentence from the text:

'Unexpectedly, the weather suddenly calmed, and the morning sun lit up the water as we waded in with the heat on our bare backs.' (lines 47–48)

What does the writer want to suggest to the reader about the swim at this point?

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

(b) Explain why the writer uses the word 'paused' rather than 'stopped' in the phrase 'We paused in the middle of the rush of bodies'. (line 48)

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

(c) What **two** impressions does the writer want to convey to the reader in this sentence?:

'Splashes of water erupted in all directions and then we slumped forward, went under and pulled ourselves through the swirling green, quiet, veil of bubbles.' (lines 50–52)

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

(d) Read this sentence from the text:

"'We're only here once,'" Ed called, disappearing recklessly into the squirming mass of swimmers.' (lines 53–54)

What effect does the writer suggest about the swimmers by using the phrase 'squirming mass' to describe them?

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

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(e) Identify **one example** of how the writer uses language effectively to convey Matt's feelings in this extract from the text:

'For the next half hour, slow waves rocked us as we rose and we sank, a contented pod of swimmers. The seabed disappeared quickly, but the sun still stretched its arrows down deep underwater, catching umbrellas of clear jellyfish rising from the murk, glowing hypnotically under faint shoals of shimmering fish. Calum and I timed our strokes evenly as we cut a path through the criss-crossing wakes of other swimmers. Finally, I let my feet trail, basking in the warmth washing over me, until we floated onto the glassy waters shielded by the harbour wall around the exit ramp.' (lines 57–63)

Explain the impression the writer creates in the example you have identified.

example .....

explanation .....

.....

.....

.....

[3]

[Total: 9]

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