



# Cambridge International AS Level

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**ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER**

**8021/22**

Paper 2 Comprehension

**February/March 2024**

**INSERT**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

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**INFORMATION**

- This insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



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

## Material for Section A

### **Background**

Antony and Maria Ackwood will be celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in four months' time, meaning they will have been married for 50 years. Although both are retired and in their 70s, Antony and Maria are in good health, walking and cycling most days. They have three grown-up children, and consider their five grandchildren, ranging in age from 2 to 16, to be the most important part of their lives. Francesca, their eldest daughter, wants to organise a celebration and is currently considering three ideas.

### **A surprise party**

With around 120 guests, including extended family, friends and neighbours, the party would be held in a marquee\* in the garden of Francesca's house. She runs a successful catering and events business, so intends to prepare all the food and organise the entertainment (including booking a classical pianist) herself. She would also coordinate the invitations, hire a professional photographer and ask one or two guests to make speeches.

\* a large tent used for social or commercial functions

### **A day out at a world-famous zoo**

Antony and Maria's immediate family – the three children, their partners and the five grandchildren – would meet at the zoo and spend the whole day viewing the various animals. In one of the most popular exhibits, visitors can be taken by minibus round an enclosure to view lions, zebras, rhinos and giraffes roaming in open spaces. Francesca would prepare a delicious picnic lunch for everyone to share.

### **A luxury weekend at a five-star hotel**

The three children would pay for their parents to spend two nights at The Old Palace, a former royal residence converted into a glamorous hotel. The hotel boasts spacious, tastefully decorated rooms, gourmet dining experiences and well-tended gardens. There is an impressive range of leisure activities, including a heated outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, woodland trails and a spa.

Francesca has emailed her younger brother James and sister Katarina, seeking their opinions. Here are extracts from their responses:

James: Great idea, shouldn't let the occasion go unnoticed. 50 years of marriage is a big deal ... Even so, I might be tempted just to put my hand in my wallet for the hotel weekend. Easier to organise too, not trying to get people together. And you know what Katarina's like; she'll claim to have no time and no money, but will be only too happy to tell everyone else what to do! She'll have you and me running round in circles, doing all the work and paying for it, but she'll want all the glory. Sorry if that sounds grumpy, but 40 years of bitter experience say I'm right! Seriously though, if it's the party, count me in to help beforehand. Elena, my darling wife, says she can take the children home afterwards, so I can stay and clean up with you. Watch out for arguments between Dad's cousins, though. Who could forget the scene they created at that dinner last year – wow!

Katarina: Got your message three weeks ago. So sorry for not replying sooner – busy busy busy here! No contest – the surprise party, something *really* memorable. I'll be flying home from a conference abroad that Friday evening, though, so can't help with the organisation. But you're just so *brilliant* at all that, clever big sister! Kristoff and I are paying for decorating work on our house just now, so funds are a bit limited, I'm afraid. Still, we'll all be there, dressed up in our finest ... Mum and Dad will *adore* seeing the children in smart clothes, of course. Ooh, I just love a party! An excuse to get my hair done, new dress, new shoes – can't wait! And with all your contacts, you can organise a really special cake and beautiful floral table decorations. Get James to find out what flowers they had at their wedding. I'd have no idea, sorry!

## Additional Information

1. Antony and Maria are quite well off but generally do not spend a lot of money on themselves, preferring to treat their grandchildren whenever they can.
2. Francesca has no children and finds Katarina's three very loud and poorly behaved.
3. Antony likes classical music and is fascinated by big cats.
4. Antony and Maria have never had a very active social life, generally favouring quiet evenings at home and occasional theatre trips. However, they have one set of very close friends, Jerzy and Susana. Both couples have known each other since childhood and sometimes go on holiday together.
5. Katarina's two youngest children are in touch with their grandparents almost daily, telling them everything that is going on.
6. Antony used to be a train driver – a job he loved – while Maria worked in a supermarket, once her children had reached school age.
7. Maria enjoys swimming but hates cold water.
8. The zoo has won international awards for its contribution to captive breeding programmes and high standards of animal welfare. It is especially well known for its tigers and snow leopards.
9. A favourite with celebrities, The Old Palace is frequently booked up a year in advance.
10. The whole Ackwood family is due to attend a big wedding only three weeks after Antony and Maria's anniversary.
11. James's six-year-old is very shy, partly due to his hearing impairment.
12. Katarina's eldest daughter, aged 16, is a keen animal rights activist.
13. Antony cooks simple, healthy meals at home, but both he and his wife like more adventurous food when dining out.
14. As a pleasant surprise, Jerzy and Susana would also be invited to the hotel for a special dinner on the Saturday night.

## Material for Section B

### **'A way to deal with emotion': how teaching art can help prisoners**

The Prison Arts Collective brings art, and renowned artists, to incarcerated people as a form of therapy and escape.

The American prison has a long cultural history, depicted in movies from *The Shawshank Redemption* to *The Green Mile*\*. They are generally portrayed as harsh, dehumanising places populated by hardened criminals and vicious guards. Who better, then, to demystify prisons and those who live in them than artists themselves? 'We've had this glorified TV version of what a prison is like in America and sure, it's not an easy option; they are also humans in there – our fellow humans,' says Brian Roettinger, a graphic designer based in Los Angeles.

The 44-year-old and his art studio business partner at P-R Studio, Willo Perron, 47, will next month feature as guest artists running classes for prisoners in California in what Roettinger calls 'an opportunity to humanise them and maybe lend a hand to make the thing less scary and intimidating'. The project is a collaboration between the Prison Arts Collective (PAC), a university-based programme that offers an arts curriculum in 12 California state prisons, and the global talent agency Huxley.

Guest artists include photographer Tyler Mitchell, American artist Sterling Ruby, British-trained fine artist Issy Wood and cartoonist David Ostow. Their subjects will include scriptwriting and creative storytelling, cartooning and illustration, collage making and creative mindfulness.

For their part, Perron and Roettinger will teach logo design and typography\*\*. Roettinger says: 'We're planning on everybody working together to rebrand the Prison Arts Collective: thinking about how that logo and colour palette could communicate, creating it as a traditional branding project and going through the process and step by step on how we approach that.'

The guest artist programme is made up of 15 individual lessons over 15 weeks. The PAC will initially teach the new programme in one prison and eventually bring it to a dozen men's and women's California state prisons. Such work is a statement of faith in the transformative power of art and the redemptive\*\*\* potential of self-expression. Perron reflects: 'The arts are a way to channel and deal with emotion and I think a lot of people who end up in these difficult situations have just reacted or didn't have the outlets. We all need multiple different types of outlets, from therapy to being able to talk to people. The arts are a great way to channel anything, from sadness to anger to joy. This is to give people one of the tools to go to instead of something that could turn violent.'

America has the highest incarceration rate in the world. When Huxley approached the design duo about taking part, they did not take long to say yes, having previously worked with a prison reform foundation led by the rapper Jay-Z. Perron says: 'The things that need the most attention in this country are probably health care and the prison system. We're designers at work and we're not in government or anything, but it gives us the opportunity to do something that hopefully can help and push things forward a little bit from what our skills are. It's people who get involved and have a contact and a sense of responsibility to what's happening versus "This is where we throw our rubbish and we don't know where it goes." This is how we deal with our society's woes: we just put people in boxes and throw away the keys. And obviously it's not worked and we have to start looking at it in a real way.' He adds: 'Society makes our problems, society makes our criminals. We're all linked to everybody's decisions. For us to think that the simple solution is to lock people away and not deal with that is at best medieval.'

The non-profit PAC began in 2013 and reaches nearly 450 incarcerated participants each semester. Its founding director, Annie Buckley, a professor at San Diego State University where it has its headquarters, says the response of incarcerated participants has been overwhelmingly positive. ‘People feel that it’s like an oasis for them within the prison, where they can relax for a bit and just feel safe and relaxed in their space and creativity,’ she explains in a phone interview. ‘We might take it for granted on the outside, but for them it’s quite profound. The sense of connection is really powerful: for them to connect with a university student who’s coming in to teach, who they might not otherwise have met. To have that interaction about the arts through the class is something that is quite meaningful. There’s also the ability for them to shape an identity that’s positive around being an artist or being a writer or being a student.’

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Buckley recalled that one participant told her that his daughter now refers to him as ‘an artist’ with her friends at school ‘which I thought was so powerful, to be able to refer to that instead of whatever she used to say concerning her father being in prison’.

The programme includes inmates ranging from those convicted of minor offences to those serving life sentences. ‘We don’t ask them why they’re there or what they’ve done because, really, the focus of our programme is about shifting identities and not having people only be known by the worst thing they’ve ever done. It’s to experience being in a collaborative, inclusive community and experience themselves as artists and students and collaborators and peers.’

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\* two films based on works by novelist Stephen King; the main characters in both are in prison but innocent

\*\* the style and appearance of printed matter

\*\*\* acting to save someone from error or evil

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