



Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER

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Paper 2 Comprehension

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INSERT

1 hour 45 minutes



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.

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

Material for Section A

Background

The head of state of Karimba recently passed away at the age of 99. King Viktor had been the nation's head of state for 67 years. The new ruler, Viktor's eldest daughter Karolina, wants to create a lasting memorial to her father's reign. In consultation with Simone Gilovski, the Prime Minister, Queen Karolina has produced two proposals. Details of both will be outlined to the population in a television programme to be screened on the evening of what would have been King Viktor's 100th birthday. Six weeks later, an online referendum will be held across the nation with all adults over the age of 30 invited to indicate their preferred option.

Proposal A: A commemorative statue

Exciting modern sculptor Berti Andersen from Karimba would be commissioned to design and build the statue. The brief: an enormous, dynamic and bold creation to be made from recycled materials. At its centre, it will feature a likeness of the late King Viktor and surrounding this, a range of artistic references to his varied interests (including music, film, animals and cricket) and the key historical events of his long reign.

Location: Mosman, Karimba's capital city. The sculpture would become the focal point of the large square in front of Karimba's national art gallery, popular with residents and tourists alike.

Cost: \$6 million; materials chosen to require minimal ongoing maintenance.

Proposal B: A new road bridge

Karimba has long needed a new crossing point of its major river, the Dokkla. The 'King Viktor Bridge' would connect Nelia, Karimba's third-largest city, to Froyan, Karimba's poorest region, saving drivers significant travel time and money. Plans for a two-kilometre-long suspension bridge have already been approved. However, construction has been delayed because funding was not available, and concerns were raised by campaigners about its impact on the river estuary's wildlife.

Location: Nelia is located 400 kilometres from Mosman, in the south-east of the country.

Cost: \$9 million, with a \$3 million allowance for additional unexpected costs. Long-term maintenance will be funded by central government, supplemented by tolls for users.

The views of two citizens of Karimba interviewed for the forthcoming television programme

Justina (a restaurant owner in Froyan): People here feel that our region is too often neglected. The decision-makers in Mosman have done absolutely nothing to help us here since our coal and steel industries finished. The new bridge would have a real impact on ordinary people's lives, opening up opportunities for businesses to relocate here. More tourists will be able to come and see our beautiful landscapes and try our tasty foods too. Any investment in the area's economy and reputation would be very welcome indeed – yes, please!

Bernardo (a politician from Mosman): The new statue sounds amazing. I adore Andersen's works – and what a national hero, overcoming his life-long hearing impairment to become a world-famous artist. A true inspiration. That square in front of the art gallery is rather dull now, since the old fountain was demolished. A new central feature and meeting point there will be fantastic for visitors, and a brilliant memorial to King Viktor, who served our country for so many years. Bridge or no bridge, I've certainly no desire to go to Froyan, wherever that might be – no one really cares!

Additional Information

- 1 The population of Karimba is 25 million, of whom 5 million live in and around Mosman.
- 2 A contribution of \$5 million would be made to the chosen project by the royal family from its private wealth, with the remaining costs funded by taxpayers.
- 3 Karimba currently has few environmentally friendly policies, but Simone Gilovski is keen to improve this record.
- 4 King Viktor was the first of Karimba's monarchs to allow the royal residences to be opened to visitors and tourists, generating revenue to support the buildings' upkeep and reducing costs to taxpayers.
- 5 Berti Andersen trained at an art college in Mosman.
- 6 Karimba's only international airport serves the city of Mosman. Five other cities, including Nelia, are served by much smaller airports, offering connecting flights to Mosman.
- 7 Recognising Karimba's growing inequality, Simone Gilovski's new government has designated Froyan as a 'Priority Development Target Zone' for her five-year term in office.
- 8 The television programme will illustrate both of the proposals in exactly the same way: using sketches and 3D models.
- 9 King Viktor donated all the revenue raised by a recent property sale and the profits made by his family-owned solar energy farm to the state.
- 10 Several of Berti Andersen's works have attracted international attention and one, in particular, won a prestigious award.
- 11 There is a small but growing anti-monarchy movement in Karimba. Queen Karolina has recently been embroiled in a bitter dispute with her sister. Also, her youngest son is being questioned by police investigating a high-profile fraud case.
- 12 The television company making the programme about the projects recently relocated to Mosman from its original base in Nelia.
- 13 King Viktor was admired for his patronage of the local arts scene and actively supported the work of several disability charities.
- 14 The Froyan region is home to around 500 000 inhabitants.
- 15 King Viktor held a large private collection of traditional paintings. Many of these have been displayed over the years in the national art gallery in Mosman, which the late king himself formally opened some 50 years ago.
- 16 Mosman is situated in the extreme north-west of the country.
- 17 Nelia is an ugly, industrial city of some 2 million people.

Material for Section B

Operation Mincemeat: The incredible plot that tricked Hitler

It's a story so fantastic that it feels like the product of a writer's imagination. In 1943, at the height of the Second World War, British Intelligence agents created an elaborate scheme to convince the Germans that the Allied forces were planning to invade Greece rather than Sicily. The plan, code-named Operation Mincemeat, involved planting forged documents upon a dead body before setting him adrift in neutral Spanish waters, with the aim of the papers ending up in German hands.

The false intelligence found its way onto Hitler's desk and was evidently believed. When Allied troops invaded Sicily on 10 July 1943, the Nazis were caught unawares.

The deception succeeded, in part, because the naval intelligence officers behind it, Ewen Montagu and Charles Cholmondeley, were so invested in the fiction. They created a convincing backstory for the corpse, a whole new identity: a homeless person, named Glyndwr Michael, was transformed into William Martin, an officer of the Royal Marines. They gave him not just a name and rank, but an entire life, including a fiancée waiting for him at home.

Author and historian Ben Macintyre's gripping 2010 account of the story is now the basis of a film, also called *Operation Mincemeat*. It stars Matthew Macfadyen as Cholmondeley, the aspiring airman stymied both by his height and his poor eyesight and seconded to the British security service, MI5, who first suggested the plan, and Colin Firth as Montagu, the shrewd lawyer who helped develop it.

Working alongside formidable administrator Hester Leggett and the ambitious young secretary Jean Leslie, they sourced an identity card, a uniform, the underwear befitting an officer, and provided Major Martin with all manner of 'wallet litter'. This included a note from his bank manager, saying he was overdrawn; receipts and ticket stubs from various theatres and clubs, to demonstrate his appetite for nightlife; and, most poignantly, love letters from his beloved 'Pam' with whom he'd had a whirlwind wartime romance. They even gave him an engagement ring.

There's a real sense that these people lived vicariously* through their creation. 'These were people who were unable to take part in the actual war on the battlefield and they imagined themselves into a parallel underground war,' says Macintyre. 'There's something touching and remarkable about the idea of a hidden hero.'

In building a life for Martin, the Operation's team were forced to draw on their creative resources, and needed to think like writers. And writers abound in the Mincemeat story, something the film plays up. The list of potential ways to deceive the enemy, which inspired Cholmondeley and Montagu, was likely written by James Bond author Ian Fleming. 'I think it's no accident that some of the greatest novelists of the twentieth century were also spies,' says Macintyre. 'So much of what spies do is to create a false world and convince someone else that it's true.'

This was part of the appeal for writer Michelle Ashford, who adapted Macintyre's book for the screen. 'How ironic that the creator of James Bond was one of the architects of the story. I love the notion that the whole course of the war was changed by this small group, huddled in a smoky, windowless basement room,' says Ashford.

Now, the film's arrival in UK cinemas coincides with the return to UK stages of a hit musical about the very same story. 'We really loved how much they loved creating the fiction,' says theatre company SpitLip's Natasha Hodgson, who plays Montagu.

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Like the film, the musical conveys a sense of people living out their fantasies and getting slightly carried away. At the same time, the company was ‘telling a story in which the vast majority of the characters were white men,’ says Natasha Hodgson. They attempted to work round that by casting her as Montagu and having Leggett, a middle-aged woman, played by a man. He delivers the show’s most moving song, ‘Dear Bill’, based on the love letters written by Leggett in the role of Pam.

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However, while it’s easy to get swept up in the romantic aspects of the story, a gripping tale of wartime espionage, what they did was clearly morally doubtful. To create Martin, they had to find someone who would not be missed, a body they could treat as if he had never lived.

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Glyndwr Michael’s identity was not revealed until 1996, when amateur historian Roger Morgan found a recently declassified document. Even now, very little is known about his life. He was a vulnerable young man from Wales, with no living family, found in a disused warehouse in King’s Cross.

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Ashford was keenly aware of the less ethical aspects of the story. She was keen to address the tension felt by Montagu that ‘what we’re doing is really questionable. But what else are we going to do? Because we’re in the middle of war and war quite often means [making] terrible choices.’

The film includes a scene in which Michael’s [fictional] sister scolds them. It also shows his gravestone in Huelva, Spain, which now bears both the names Glyndwr Michael and Major William Martin, affirming that he served his country.

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Because, for all the ethical complexity and getting swept up in their own deception, they pulled it off. The Allies invaded Sicily as planned, but the Germans remained convinced it was a diversionary tactic. ‘It’s a really important moment in history,’ stressed Macintyre, ‘because, unlike most espionage stories, this one really did make a difference and strategically altered the course of the war.’

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*experienced life through someone else’s actions

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