



Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER

8021/21

Paper 2 Comprehension

October/November 2025

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

Two days ago, Caradoc Schmidt (Managing Director of Schmidt + Daughters Tableware) tasked Ereeka (his daughter, the Director of Publicity for the company) with organising the press launch for their new product range, designed by the celebrity chef Orlando Teeme and called 'Orlando's Luxury Range'. As Ereeka had only started this job three weeks earlier, Caradoc followed up their discussion with an email.

Caradoc's email

Subject: Press launch

Dear Ereeka

Further to our meeting this morning (1 February), I wanted to confirm in writing the important details about the press launch as far as I am concerned. The rest I leave up to your judgement.

- The budget is \$30 000.
- You will need to liaise with Klaus Corper (Director of Manufacturing) and Mr Orlando Teeme regarding the date for the press launch. I would prefer as soon as possible – the week beginning 14 February, preferably.
- You will need to find a suitable venue within 5 km of our offices.
- You will need to liaise with Mr Orlando Teeme about his role during the press launch.
- You must ensure that the buffet lunch for attendees is of an excellent standard.

I trust you to organise a memorable press launch.

Regards

Caradoc

Since receiving this email, Ereeka has chosen a venue: the five-star Tuila Hotel and Conference Centre.

Extract from The Tuila Hotel and Conference Centre website

Sometimes you just need to escape the office, and The Tuila Hotel and Conference Centre provides the perfect location for your next corporate meeting, conference, training event or product launch. A stylish venue in beautiful surroundings, it offers excellent facilities, including the latest in audio-visual equipment to ensure that your speeches and presentations will be of the highest quality. There is a choice of conference rooms suitable for all types of meetings, from small informal discussions to large corporate events with up to 150 delegates. We can offer delegates residential and non-residential packages, and we have the flexibility to tailor a meeting or event to your specific requirements.

In addition, Ereeka has had a meeting with Klaus Corper, Director of Manufacturing.

Extract from Ereeka and Klaus' meeting

EREELKA: Hi Klaus, so good of you to see me at such short notice.

KLAUS: (*looking tired*) You're welcome, Ereeka, but I need to get back to work quickly.

EREELKA: I understand, Klaus.

KLAUS: Manufacturing a new product range is the most stressful time for our department, you see.

EREELKA: Oh, OK, but I really need to know when you'll be ready for the press launch.

KLAUS: Well, we've had issues at every stage of production.

EREELKA: Gosh, how far behind are you?

KLAUS: About two months, at a guess.

EREELKA: Dad ... I mean, Mr Schmidt won't be too happy. What's the soonest you could do? (*Looking at him pleadingly*)

KLAUS: If we were allowed overtime, we could be ready in a month's time. Say, 1 March.

Ereeka has also had a telephone conversation with Orlando Teeme.

Extract from Ereeka and Orlando's telephone conversation

EREELKA: So pleased to have finally got hold of you, Orlando. You're a very busy man indeed!

ORLANDO: (*coldly*) I prefer to be addressed as Mr Teeme. Yes, the life of a celebrity TV chef isn't one long holiday as some people imagine.

EREELKA: A thousand apologies, Mr Teeme. I didn't mean to be ...

ORLANDO: (*interrupting her*) Apology accepted. Now, let's talk business. Haven't got all day!

EREELKA: Sorry, Mr Teeme. I need to check your availability for the press launch for 'Orlando's Luxury Range'.

ORLANDO: Talk to my personal assistant about dates. Don't bother me with such petty details. I want to talk about my personal expenses.

EREELKA: Personal expenses?

ORLANDO: (*indignantly*) Of course! I need to be chauffeured to and from the venue. Limousine, naturally. Always stay in the best suite of a hotel, too.

EREELKA: All noted, Mr Teeme.

ORLANDO: And *you* must be available 24/7 in case I need anything, such as a phone charger at midnight. Understand!

EREELKA: Yes, Mr Teeme.

ORLANDO: You do realise you're dealing with someone famous?

EREELKA: Indeed, Mr Teeme. And about your speech. I would like an advance copy, please.

ORLANDO: (*offended*) What!

Additional Information

- 1 Ereeka was given a list of 150 journalists to invite. So far, 120 have indicated that they will attend: 20 local journalists, 60 from the national press and 40 international journalists.
- 2 The Tuila Hotel and Conference Centre has been open since 15 January.
- 3 Schmidt + Daughters Tableware is situated in the small town of Basix.
- 4 The Tuila Hotel and Conference Centre's non-residential package costs \$50 per delegate per day; its residential package (standard room), \$250 per delegate per day.
- 5 Orlando Teeme's first design idea for the new range was simple and floral. Later, he changed it to a detailed geometric print with gold edging.
- 6 The Tuila Hotel and Conference Centre is located in the pretty town of Tuila, eight kilometres from Basix.
- 7 Nuala and Edita, Ereeka's sisters, joined Schmidt + Daughters Tableware straight after finishing high school.
- 8 The only venue located within five kilometres of Basix large enough to hold the press launch is The Beeches.
- 9 The presidential suite, occupying an entire level of The Tuila Hotel and Conference Centre, costs \$3 000 per person per night.
- 10 Orlando Teeme's 'best friend' has just sold a story to a national newspaper about Orlando stealing recipe ideas from the junior chefs in his kitchen.
- 11 The Tuila Hotel and Conference Centre's audio-visual equipment is unreliable. The engineer cannot come to the venue to try and repair it before 9 March.
- 12 A limousine for Mr Teeme will cost \$500.
- 13 One month ago, Ereeka graduated from university with a degree in archaeology.
- 14 Ereeka was quoted \$1 200 for The Tuila Hotel and Conference Centre's standard buffet lunch and \$2 400 for their gourmet version.
- 15 Orlando Teeme's personal assistant informed Ereeka that the first available date in his diary would be 10 March.
- 16 The Tuila Hotel and Conference Centre's head chef has just broken both wrists in a fall.
- 17 The Beeches is a two-star hotel.

Material for Section B

An article about Iulia Bochis, the Romanian artist and illustrator, by Kamilla Nagy (published in 2022)

The uplifting and colourful world of Iulia Bochis

When did you find your love for illustration?

Ever since I can remember I've loved art. My parents introduced me to many different kinds of art forms and I remember being fascinated by colour from a very young age. Monet's vibrant paintings of flowers and Van Gogh's *Starry Night* were among my favourites. As far as illustrations are concerned, I started becoming interested in them when I started using social media. I came across the works of different artists and poets who were producing meaningful and thought-provoking content and I became very attracted to this form of art.

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Your art was initially inspired by a great journey. Can you tell me more about it?

After I finished university, I worked in an office for a while. It was during this time that something changed in me, and I felt a strong desire to travel and experience as much of this wonderful world that surrounds us as possible. This trip was something that I had wanted to do for a long time, but there were always obstacles that got in the way. After much deliberation, I decided that there wasn't a better moment than 'now', so I booked a flight to Bangkok for myself and my backpack. I ended up teaching English in Thailand for six months, followed by six months of travelling. This experience was transformative, and completely changed my approach to life. During my travels, I had a lot of time for self-reflection and I kept an illustrated journal of my thoughts and emotions with me throughout. This diary was the first step towards my current work – painting my feelings on canvas.

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How did you choose a quote for an illustration? What are your sources of inspiration, and why?

Most of my illustrations are inspired by my own perspective and experiences, so I rarely need to look for quotes and illustrate them specifically. Either images appear in my mind's eye and I just have to draw them or, suddenly, I come across quotes that touch me and an image inspired by the words appears in front of me. It's an effortless process that I really enjoy. In terms of inspiration, I find everything to be inspirational – nature, music, books and people around me. I feel that, in every step of creation, there is an opportunity to learn something.

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Over the past two years, we were forced to be flexible and resilient – both in our communities and as individuals. What kind of reactions do you usually get from your followers? Does your site aim to be a community platform?

It's true that we have all been going through a difficult time lately and, for many, this period isn't over yet. Although it wasn't a conscious plan, I do feel that my art is a potential antidote. A lot of my work is about seeking the light and finding solace, even in the midst of challenging times. It teaches me a great deal of humility when I receive messages from around the world and people let me know that my work brings them a sense of lightness and comfort. I consider my platform as a corner of the internet that's like a sunny garden for people to sit and relax in at any time.

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In our superficial online world, building relationships and communities is getting harder by the day. Is it possible to put social media to good use?

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I think it's a question of attitude. It's true that, on the one hand, it's become more difficult to build real and lasting relationships in a virtual world where everything changes so quickly. However, this easily accessible virtual realm has also allowed many individuals and communities to have a far-reaching voice – and this is something they haven't had the opportunity to do before. So, in short, yes, I think there is a chance to put social media to good use.

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Your book '*The Sun, The Sea & The Stars*' was published in September (2022). What's the book about and who would you recommend it to?

I've written *The Sun, The Sea & The Stars* to give readers the opportunity to reflect on their unlimited human nature and that they are worthy of self-love. The structure of the book is built around the four seasons and tells the story of the different stages of our lives and how they are similar to the changing seasons. Autumn invites us to reflect on the nature of change, while winter is the time for turning inwards, to focus on ourselves, as the days grow darker and darker. Spring is the time of rebirth, when we can reflect on our journey so far and begin to turn towards the sun. While summer is a time of liberation, when we learn to glide on the waves and surrender to the flow of life. The message of the book is for everyone who is open to receiving it. It's a gift of love and hope.

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Do you have a favourite quote that touches you deeply?

That's a difficult question, as there are many quotes I turn to often. There is a beautiful Zen saying I included in my book: 'All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today'. I find these words very uplifting and so I always try to sow beautiful seeds.

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