

INTERNATIONAL AS ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Unit 1 Language and context

Tuesday 6 May 2025

07:00 GMT

Time allowed: 2 hours

Material

For this paper you must have:

- an OxfordAQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book.
- There are **two** sections:
 - Section A: Understanding texts
 - Section B: Directed writing.
- Answer Question 1 from Section A **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 from Section B.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 25 marks for Question 1 and 25 marks for either Question 2 or Question 3.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Section A: Understanding texts

Answer Question 1.

0	1
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Text A and **Text B** are printed on pages **3** and **4**.

Text A is an extract from a novel *My Family and Other Animals*. It describes the family's arrival by boat at the island of Corfu.

Text B is an extract from a travel book for children called *My Holiday in Greece*.

Examine how the writers of **Text A** and **Text B** use language to create meanings.

In your answer you should consider different:

- audiences
- purposes
- genres
- modes of communication.

[25 marks]

Text A

The sky was pale and stained with yellow on the eastern horizon. Ahead lay a chocolate-brown smudge of land huddled in mist, with a frill of foam at its base. This was Corfu, and we strained our eyes to make out the exact shapes of the mountains, to discover valleys, peaks, ravines, and beaches, but it remained a silhouette. Then suddenly the sun shifted over the horizon, and the sky turned the smooth enamelled blue of a jay's eye. The endless, meticulous curves of the sea flamed for an instant and then changed to a deep royal purple flecked with green. The mist lifted in quick, lithe ribbons, and before us lay the island, the mountains as though sleeping beneath a crumpled blanket of brown, the folds stained with the green of olive-groves. Along the shore curved beaches as white as tusks among tottering cities of brilliant gold, red, and white rocks. We rounded the northern cape, a smooth shoulder of rust-red cliff carved into a series of giant caves. The dark waves lifted our wake and carried it gently towards them, and then, at their very mouths, it crumpled and hissed thirstily among the rocks. Rounding the cape, we left the mountains, and the island sloped gently down, blurred with the silver and green iridescence of olives, with here and there an admonishing finger of black cypress against the sky. The shallow sea in the bays was butterfly blue, and even above the sound of the ship's engines we could hear, faintly ringing from the shore like a chorus of tiny voices, the shrill, triumphant cries of the *cicadas.

*cicadas: large insects found in warm countries which make a loud buzzing noise

Question 1 continues on the next page

Text B

Greek feasts



You'll find all your favourite food in Greece, but don't be afraid to try new things! Greek food is colourful and tasty.

Greeks eat a healthy diet of salad with olive oil, bread and lots of fish and seafood.

20 I got sticky eating souvlaki - you wrap up meat and salad in a yummy pocket of pitta bread.



For breakfast you might have Greek yoghurt with honey from local bees. Crispy cheese pies or pitta bread with dips make good snacks.

Most beaches have a **taverna** where you can eat outside.



On the menu

horiátiki (o-ree-a-tee-kee) -
Greek salad - with feta
cheese, tomatoes, olives
moussaka (moo-sah-ka) -
creamy aubergine and
meat pie
baklava (ba-klah-va) -
sticky honey and nut pastry

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Section B: Directed writing

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either

0	2
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A magazine publishes a regular feature article titled 'A Special Place'.

Write an article for the magazine describing a place that is important to you. Give your reasons why.

You may use the information and ideas in the material in **Section A**.

Write the article using about 400 words.

[25 marks]

or

0	3
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Your school or college is being visited by a school from another country.

Your school or college wants to produce a short video. The aim is to inform the visiting students about your town or city and to explain why it is a special place to visit.

Write the text for the speech to accompany the video.

You may use the information and ideas in the material in **Section A**.

Write the text for the speech using about 400 words.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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