



# Cambridge O Level

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/11

Paper 1 Reading

May/June 2025

INSERT

2 hours

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## INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading passages.
- 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 4 pages.

Read **Text A** and answer **Question 1** and **Question 2** on the question paper.

**Text A: Our family restaurant**

*In this extract Hassan looks back at the beginnings of his career as a chef.*

- 1 It was my grandmother's idea to sell snacks to the rush-hour crush outside the busy train station from a string of food stalls on bicycles.

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The chicken dish became one of our best-sellers, renamed, by Mother, Hassan's Dry Chicken.

Read **Text B** and answer **Question 3** on the question paper.

### Text B: Swimming pools

- 1 I learnt to swim as a young child in the late 1980s – a skill that would save my life years later. Back then, I took for granted weekend mornings with friends at the public swimming pools, summers spent splashing around in the lake on my grandparents' farm as well as my lessons in the school pool.
- 2 Forty-five years on, my relationship with water is changing. My work takes me to a lot of countries and, if I'm lucky, near where I'm staying there might be a public pool, often reasonably priced compared to other forms of exercise, or more rarely, equally clean open water such as a river or lake for that all-body workout. Like many tourists, I would always choose holiday accommodation with a pool to relax in and am tempted by the health benefits for the family of having one at home. However, the prediction that by 2030 almost 50 per cent of the global population could be facing water scarcity makes it hard not to see private swimming pools as anything besides a luxury indulgence.
- 3 Furthermore, the high levels of chlorine in some pools cause swimmers' skins to become dry and turn swimmers' hair green. Though the option of being able to swim all year round in an indoor pool will still attract many, other swimmers no longer want to use chlorine or chemically-cleaned pools.
- 4 Some argue that 'sustainable', more eco-friendly swimming pools are the answer. Others disagree that any kind of man-made pool can ever be truly good for the environment. In the meantime, sales of eco-pools are booming. Certainly, they offer a chemical-free and relatively low-tech alternative to conventional swimming pools. To build eco-pools, gravel and clay are used in place of concrete and fiberglass. Chlorine and mechanical filtering systems can be expensive to run – another benefit of natural purification used in eco-pools. These pools use aquatic plants that enrich the pool with oxygen, support beneficial bacteria, and provide a natural habitat for aquatic life – good for wildlife as well as for humans.
- 5 Meanwhile, those with conventional pools are also looking to find alternatives to the use of chemicals for pool cleaning. Natural forms of cleaning agents are being researched; these reduce water consumption as there is less frequent need to clean the pool by emptying and re-filling it. And there's nothing new about using solar heating in swimming pools.
- 6 Covering a pool when it's not in use can significantly reduce evaporation and help to retain heat, making a notable difference to the energy it uses and saving on costs. And finally to sharing. While owning a private pool may be a status symbol for many, there's a growing movement of sharing that sees neighbours lend everything from cars to books; this could easily embrace the shared swimming pool too. 'I love having our own private swimming pool in our garden,' explains model, Mario Angeles, 'but it's a real nuisance having to monitor the chlorine level each day to ensure safe and clean water. That said, I'm also aware that water is a precious resource and not everyone can afford to heat so much water. Since it was installed last month, I've offered free swims to local families and two have already accepted. Our nearest neighbour, Ted, flatly refused, though, muttering something about "caring too much about the environment" to use our swimming pool.'

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