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General Certificate of Education Normal (Academic) Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SYLLABUS A) 1190/02

Paper 2 Comprehension **For examination from 2023**

SPECIMEN INSERT

1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains Text 1, Text 2, Text 3 and Text 4.

This document consists of **4** printed pages and **2** blank pages.

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Section A

Study the advertisement (**Text 1**) and the extract from a blog (**Text 2**) and answer Questions 1–4 in the Question Paper.

Text 1 is taken from an advertisement published in a local newspaper.

Calling all Super-collectors!

We buy old comic collections at good prices, even if individual copies are missing. We are particularly interested in collections based on superhero stories from the 1960s or 1970s, but we'll make you a fair offer on whatever you have.

Text 2 is taken from a blog which comments on lifestyle trends.

What drives people to collect things? There are almost as many answers to this question as there are individual collectors. Every assortment of objects has its own unique story, just as each individual has a particular personal reason for their choice of hobby. What is more, for any type of item one can think of, there is likely to be a collection held dear by a proud owner. Humans have developed a need to gather resources. Whereas our ancestors focused on food or tools for survival, today it is seen in collecting familiar things like movie posters, playing cards or celebrity autographs.

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Section B

Text 3

The text below is about a man who rescued two dogs from a frozen lake.

Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5–14 in the Question Paper.

1 One Saturday in March, I was walking my dog, Kira, beside a lake when the peace was broken by a woman's voice, screaming two names over and over. I spotted her immediately, a hundred metres away across the lake.

2 Spring was taking hold although there was still snow on the ground, and the thick ice that was covering the water had begun thawing. Seemingly out of nowhere, two big red dogs emerged, tiptoeing cautiously across the ice as if realising it was no longer supporting their weight. The ice was on the point of giving way beneath them. We arrived at the scene to witness the dogs plunging into the water.

3 The dogs started to show the effects of the cold as they struggled desperately to escape. I realised calling the emergency services would be useless – the dog further out was in particularly deep water and I feared neither of them would stay afloat long enough. Besides, I was probably uniquely qualified to carry out the rescue myself.

4 My mother had always been keen on cold-water exposure, which she practised by standing in the snow and pouring cold water over herself. But my first experience of this was with my grandfather when at the age of seven, he took me from a warm pool to a hole in the ice in the lake nearby, lowered me into it and climbed in after me. 'Just breathe,' he said. 'Deeper and deeper, continue until you feel good.'

5 So, when the dogs went in the lake, I knew what to do. As I was stripping to my shorts, the dogs' owner tried to dissuade me from going in. Though I knew that the shock of water that cold can be hazardous, I reassured her that I could do it. I braced myself as I waded in. I wasn't alone – Kira, who had often joined me on training dips, swam alongside me as I broke through the ice and made my way towards the first dog. Kira understood intuitively, and reached the stricken dog before I did. She shepherded it back to shore, nudging it with her nose as if to say, 'Everything's going to be alright.'

6 At that point I would have welcomed a dry towel, but went straight back in for the second dog instead. And that's when one of my grandfather's techniques came into play. He'd taught me about a pressure point on the wrist that sends out an electrical signal, a jolt of energy which helped keep me warm as I steeled myself to begin the second rescue. All my movements were designed to avoid wasting energy. I maintained eye contact with the dog and could see that it knew it was in trouble. With Kira's encouragement, it found the stamina to follow us back. Back on shore, the owner was emotional and showered me with praise. 'You are my hero!' she said.

7 Dressing quickly, I rubbed snow on my hands and feet to restore circulation. Once home, I had a hot shower and then, as is my habit, rinsed off in cold water. My mother often said that cold water dips boosted immunity, but I was a reluctant participant in these tests of endurance. Why would anyone choose to put themselves through this? Now I expect the grumpy boy that I was then might have a different take on it if he'd witnessed the events at the lake.

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Section C

Text 4

In the article below, the process of bringing extinct animals back to life is discussed.

Read the article carefully and answer Questions 15–19 in the Question Paper.

1 The dodo, the woolly mammoth and the sabre-toothed tiger are part of a long list of animals which have been driven to extinction, largely by deliberate human activity. Many were wiped out due to habitat destruction or the introduction of other hostile species. Others, like a species of rats native to Australia's Christmas Island, fell victim to deadly disease.

2 Today we can see some of those extinct animals as stuffed creatures in museums. As many other species are endangered, scientists are exploring how they can be saved from becoming exhibits. They have tried various approaches to bringing those species back to life – a process called de-extinction – by taking advantage of developments in DNA research. DNA is found in all living cells and contains genetic information living organisms need to function. Using DNA, scientists can create a 'clone' – an identical copy of a specific animal. Where only fragments of DNA are available, they might use genetic engineering to grow a genetically similar animal to a living cousin.

3 These de-extinction attempts have produced mixed results – depending on what you consider true de-extinction. Is manipulating the DNA of an Asian elephant to have small ears and extra fur, swapping in mammoth DNA, really bringing mammoths back to life? For most non-specialists, if an animal looks and behaves similarly, then de-extinction has been achieved. Some specialists argue, however, that de-extinction relies on a high percentage of identical genetic information in the de-extinct animal. There are also limitations on how far back we can go. DNA, the crucial ingredient, is sometimes preserved in fossils but breaks down over time, so it's not usually found in anything older than a million years. Dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years ago, so dinosaur de-extinction still belongs to the world of science fiction rather than the science lab.

4 Having pushed species into extinction, we have an environmental debt to pay and we owe it to them to try to bring them back. Conservationists would support this, but there are voices warning that such efforts can bring harm to those animals. In 2003, scientists briefly 'de-extincted' a type of goat, called the bucardo, which died shortly after birth, so the bucardo became the first animal to be 'de-extincted', but also the first to become extinct twice. And what would be the impact for living species if those brought back to life carried viruses and bacteria that had died with them? However, advocates claim that de-extinction could play a vital role in restoring ecosystems. For example, the woolly mammoth could return to maintaining the Arctic grasslands. This could slow climate change.

5 Just as seeing dinosaurs in films attracts cinema goers, live sabre-toothed tigers would draw visitors to zoos and nature reserves. The main benefit of de-extinction, however, would be the insights into evolution scientists would gain. Also, technical developments in genetic engineering could help patients suffering from genetic diseases. Yet, critics remind us of the downsides: both in terms of financial investments required to fund de-extinction projects and in terms of changing priorities for scientists who could usefully pursue more worthy projects in human medicine.

6 Between 200 and 2000 species disappear every year. A risk is that the rise of de-extinction will cause people to become too relaxed in their attitudes towards environmental protection. If species can be brought back to life easily, why should we try to protect them?

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Text 2 © Adapted; *The impulse of collecting why do people collect things*; Daniel 23/11/2018 https://www.ligo.co.uk/blog/the-impulse-of-collecting-why-do-people-collect-things/ accessed 30/05/20

Text 3 ©: Adapted; *I rescued two dogs from a frozen lake*; Timofey Yuriev; 26 April 2019; The Guardian News & Media Ltd; https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/apr/26/experience-i-rescued-two-dogs-from-a-frozen-lake

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