



Cambridge O Level

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/01

Paper 1 Reading

For examination from 2024

SPECIMEN PAPER

2 hours

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].
- The insert contains the reading passages.

This document has **8** pages.

Section A

Read **Text A, Nameless**, in the insert and answer **Question 1** and **Question 2**.

Question 1

(a) In what way is the structure of redwood trees ‘the opposite of most trees’ (line 2)?

.....
..... [1]

(b) **Using your own words**, explain what the text means by ‘ancient giant of the forest’ (line 3).

.....
..... [2]

(c) Give **two** features of the enormous trunk of Nameless that would make it difficult to begin to climb this particular tree (lines 5–9).

-
- [2]

(d) Give **two** details that show the ‘relentless speed’ (line 18) with which a redwood tree can grow, according to the text.

-
- [2]

(e) Explain what Mo is thinking when he ‘looked again at the lowest branch of a smaller tree standing next to Nameless’ (line 22).

..... [1]

(f) (i) How does Mo feel about trying to climb Nameless (lines 22–34)? (ii) Give **two** details from the text to support your answer.

(i)

(ii)

.....

[3]

(g) (i) During his climb, Mo discovered a problem which he had not seen when he was on the ground.

What was the problem?

..... [1]

(ii) What did Mo decide to do to solve the problem?

.....
..... [1]

(h) Explain **using your own words** Marwood’s different feelings about Mo climbing Nameless.

Give **three** details from anywhere in the text to support your answer.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [3]

[Total: 16]

Question 2

- (a) Read this extract from the text:

'He felt gravity go to zero. The world stopped. Mo watched the branch of the large redwood approach in slow motion and saw his fingers extend towards it.' (lines 45–46)

What does the writer want to suggest to us about the situation at this point in the story?

.....
 [1]

- (b) Explain why the writer uses the word 'stronger' rather than 'strong' in the expression 'a stronger branch' (line 49).

.....

 [1]

- (c) What **two** impressions does the writer want to convey to the reader in the sentence:

'There was foliage everywhere – above, below, and on all sides – layer upon layer of leaves, like tents within tents.' (lines 51–52)?

.....

 [2]

- (d) Read this sentence from the text:

'Climbing upwards slowly and steadily through the labyrinth, Mo lost sight of the ground.' (lines 53–54)

What effect does the writer suggest about the tree by using the word 'labyrinth' to describe it?

.....
 [2]

- (e) Identify **one example** from the text below of how the writer uses language effectively to convey Mo's feelings after Mo has lost sight of the ground:

'It felt as if he was passing through a membrane and entering another world. His senses were overwhelmed by an impression of life all around. Flaky, grey-green, and brownish plants, in all manner of shapes, hung from branches – drippy, frizzy, stringy, and hairy. He began picking pieces off, tucking them into his pocket. As he neared the upper surface of the redwood canopy, the lacework of branches glowed with varied shades of green and he broke out into the sunlight.' (lines 54–59)

Explain the impression the writer creates in the example you have identified.

example

explanation

.....

.....

..... [3]

[Total: 9]

