

Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER**8021/02**

Component 2 Comprehension

For examination from 2028

SPECIMEN 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 **6** pages.

Material for Section A

Background

At Tonalia College, every class elects a class representative at the start of the academic year. For that year, these class representatives attend monthly council meetings to share their classmates' suggestions or concerns about any aspect of college life. The morning after the council meeting, they report back to their classmates on the details of what was discussed and the resulting decisions made by the council.

Election process

During the first week of term, up to three students in each class can declare their interest in becoming the class representative. They each produce a leaflet explaining why they should be elected. Each candidate must also face a 15-minute question-and-answer session with their classmates.

During the second week of term, a ballot box for each class is placed in the college reception so students can cast their votes.

The following Monday, each class teacher counts the votes and announces to their class the name of the student elected.

Mr Jansen's Year 13 class (final-year students)

Only two students in Mr Jansen's class have put themselves forward: Erika and Alfonso. Mr Jansen tried to encourage Maria to put herself forward too, but she refused emphatically.

Extracts from the leaflets

Erika

Hi everyone!

Well, I've made it to the final year at Tonalia. Yay!

And a million thanks to Rhiannon for being a brilliant class representative last year. What a girl, that Rhiannon! So you're probably thinking, why should I vote for Erika? Three great reasons!

- You've known me for years. I've never let any of you down when it comes to getting things done.
- I'm not afraid to speak up if something's unfair.
- You all know that you can come to me anytime, anywhere, and I'll take the time to listen to you.

Alfonso

A message to my classmates:

I would regard it as an honour and a privilege to represent you. I feel I have the necessary credentials for you to be confident enough to vote for me.

- Firstly, I have been a member of the debating society for three years, so I am exceptional at winning arguments.
- Secondly, as a contributor to the college newspaper, I am used to working fast to provide articles to tight publishing deadlines.
- Thirdly, I have an excellent attendance record, so you have my guarantee that I shall be at all the meetings to represent you.

Extracts from the question-and-answer sessions

Erika's session

Classmate 1: What do you think about the behaviour policy here? I don't think it's fair.

Erika: (*confidently*) Yeah, totally agree. We need to change it, don't we?

(*a minute's silence, during which Erika looks uncomfortable*)

Classmate 1: (*prompting*) So ... what would you say at the council meeting?

Erika: (*looking unsure*) Um ... Well, I haven't thought about that ... but ... (*suddenly excited*) thinking about it now, let's scrap all punishments!

Classmate 2: (*looking surprised*) You believe students should be allowed to do anything?

Erika: (*uncomfortable again*) Er ... well ...

Alfonso's session

Classmate 1: Can I ask you about the college's behaviour policy? It's unfair, I think.

Alfonso: (*seriously*) I see what you mean, as we do have a long list of sanctions for poor behaviour. I understand some are necessary for the smooth running of our college, but the trivial ones could easily be abolished. For example, I think it's silly we're punished for being a minute late to lessons when corridors are crowded and your next lesson might be on the other side of the building.

Classmate 2: (*looking pleased*) Agreed – that rule needs abolishing immediately.

Extract from a discussion between class teacher Mr Jansen and Principal Mrs Daniels

Mrs Daniels: (*smiling*) Anything for me to worry about with your candidates for Year 13 class representative this year?

Mr Jansen: (*looking concerned*) Only two are interested. Erika and ...

Mrs Daniels: (*in a sharp tone*) Erika? Really? I am not sure she is a safe pair of hands. You know, I only met her for the first time last week. Rather unfortunate – she'd just passed her driving test but collided with my car in the college car park the very next morning!

Mr Jansen: Oh dear! She didn't exactly impress during the Q&A session, either, I'm sorry to say.

Mrs Daniels: (*reassuringly*) Well, remember I'll be in all the council meetings, overseeing students' discussions and their voting on any proposals. Who else?

Mr Jansen: (*looking relieved*) Alfonso, thank goodness. He has much more sensible ideas.

Mrs Daniels: (*enthusiastically*) Now that young man contributes so much to college life.

Additional information

- 1 Council meetings are held on the third Monday of the month after lessons finish.
- 2 Erika once found a classmate in tears but told the girl that she was too busy to stop and talk.
- 3 One of the class representatives takes notes at the meeting, then publishes them within 48 hours for the whole college.
- 4 In the debating society, Alfonso has been on the winning side 35 per cent of the time.
- 5 Maria is hoping to achieve top grades in her ballet and her piano examinations this year.
- 6 Erika recently realised that she had not taken part in any extracurricular activities to write about on any university application form.
- 7 Erika was supposed to help Rhiannon organise a charity event two years ago but kept making excuses.
- 8 The debating society meets on alternate Mondays after lessons finish.

Material for Section B**Text 1: An extract from The Rise of Community Repair: The People and the Data Building a Movement**

By The Open Repair Alliance

The concept of community repair is simple but powerful: gather together in your local community and work together to fix broken electrical products. The Repair Café concept was initiated by Martine Postma, who in October 2009 organised the very first Repair Café in Amsterdam. It was a great success and the concept has gained popularity around the world.

Martine writes, 'I was a journalist writing about sustainability and more specifically about waste reduction. I wanted to do more than 'only' write about this; I wanted to actively help change people's throwaway behaviour. So, I started thinking about why we create so much waste in our daily lives.'

Electrical waste (e-waste) is one of the fastest growing waste streams¹ globally. Out of the 62 million tonnes of e-waste produced in 2022, 33 per cent (20.4 million tonnes) were small devices, the most common products seen at community repair events. Only 12 per cent of these are recycled globally.

Martine continues, 'One of the things I found was that we no longer make repairs. People don't learn how to make simple fixes so they no longer know how to do it. They don't learn it from their parents or at school. Secondly, it is not seen as an exciting activity; it's not held in high esteem. On the other hand, buying new products is considered attractive. Fashion and advertising stimulate this behaviour, so we have become more and more focused on new products instead of repairing old ones. I wanted to change that. Community repair motivates people to lead a more sustainable lifestyle. By seeing that a repair need not be difficult and expensive but can be easy and affordable, they begin to understand that it's crazy to throw an entire product away when it's only a wire that needs to be reattached.'

All around the world, every month, people get together in their communities and do a simple but powerful act: they fix broken things. Since the first Repair Café in 2009, the idea of repairing things together in your community – 'community repair' – is now well established. With the help of volunteers, participants in community repair initiatives are able to fix 53 per cent of all products brought to events.

¹*Waste streams*: the movement of waste from its source to its final disposal or recycled end.

Text 2: Extracts from 'There's a real joy in fixing something': the rise of the repair café

by Nyima Jobe

The Guardian newspaper spoke to three volunteers about what repair cafés mean to them.

Sophie Heathscott (aged 35), says, 'There is a real joy in being able to fix something for someone, and then showing them how. It's much better than them dropping it off and collecting it later. We find that even people who haven't managed to get something fixed are generous and donate, or just say what a great time they've had. One motivation to start the repair café was to combat my feelings of isolation. Every month, the volunteers get together. There's a strong bond between us. It's a powerful feeling, knowing the environmental impact we've made each month.'

Harriet Bagley (aged 29), says, 'I was delighted to discover last year that there was a repair café in my small village. I'm highly aware of the situation we're facing about how much ends up in a landfill¹. The repair café is a great way to show my children a solution, instead of just telling them about a problem. I hope my two boys grow up with fond memories of visits to the repair café, and that it instils curiosity, determination and the confidence to fix things for themselves.'

Peter Gardiner, an electronics engineer volunteering at a repair centre in England, says, 'I started the repair café four years ago. We hold repair sessions once a month in our local community centre, free of charge. Any donations we receive are split between the community and a charity. Each member of our team works on different repairs. I repair phones, tablets and radios quite a lot. I'm still surprised at how busy it is. Occasionally, we've had nearly 100 items arrive in one morning.'

'A repair I'll always remember was for a woman who had dropped her phone into water. The phone had recordings of deceased relatives on it, as well as photographs and films that weren't backed up. It seemed to be beyond repair, but I managed to wake it up. She was thrilled to be able to hear the recordings again. Setting this up has almost been like therapy, really. It's nice to try to bring a bit of light into the world.'

¹*Landfill*: sites for the disposal of waste materials by burial in the ground.

Copyright acknowledgements

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