

Cambridge iGCSE – Exam Technique

Suggested Technique

- Read Passage A (5 minutes).
- Complete Question 1 (40 minutes).
- Read Passage B (5 minutes).
- Complete Question 3 (40 minutes).
- Complete Question 2 (30 minutes).

Question 1 (20 Marks: 15 for Reading, 5 for Writing Quality)

- Based on Passage A.
- Spend 40 – 45 minutes on this question (includes reading time).
- Aim for 2 – 3 pages (higher levels *must* use additional pages – label them clearly).
- Highlight keywords in the question.
- Follow bullet points *to the letter* – equal amounts of writing for each bullet point.
- Must write in paragraphs – you will lose a mark if it is not.
- DO NOT COMMENT ON THE TEXT.
- DO NOT COPY **ANYTHING** – YOU *MUST* USE YOUR OWN WORDS.
- Likely tasks are: formal report, journal, speech, news report, dialogue or interview.
- This is primarily a *reading* assessment – you are being marked on your ability to understand, locate and use information from a text.
- The marks available for writing are awarded for the use of language (so that it is convincing), structure and technical accuracy.

Question 2 (10 Marks: 10 for Reading)

- ❖ Spend 30 – 35 minutes on this question.
- ❖ Aim for 2 – 3 pages (higher levels *must* use additional pages – label them clearly).
- ❖ Before analysing evidence, you need an overview of how language is used by the author in each specific paragraph.
- ❖ NOT PEE paragraphs – try to use SWAT (P.28 in your planner) for individual words/phrases.
- ❖ No need to make Points: just start analysing language and its effects.
- ❖ Base your ideas on images that the text suggests.
- ❖ Look for ‘shades’ of meaning – what else could that evidence suggest?
- ❖ Try to have 4 pieces of evidence per paragraph try to have different types of evidence i.e. do NOT select 4 similes or 4 verbs.
- ❖ Always consider the effect on the reader e.g. sensory and/or emotional.

Question 3 (20 Marks: 15 for Reading, 5 for Writing Quality)

- ✓ Based on Passages A and B.
- ✓ Spend 40 – 45 minutes on this question (includes reading time).
- ✓ **SUMMARISE** is the key word – find relevant information and put it into your own words.
- ✓ Find *at least* 15 points (aim for 20) over the two paragraphs (1 mark for each *up to* 15).
- ✓ Write in full sentences – not note form / bullet points.
- ✓ You can use words from the text, but you will be penalised if you quote more than 2 consecutive words as this is considered ‘copying’.
- ✓ 1 paragraph per text.
- ✓ No more than 1 page (unless your handwriting is particularly large).
- ✓ Use a range of connectives to link ideas.
- ✓ Make it clear, fluent and as brief as possible.
- ✓ Only focus on the information that is asked for – do not get side-tracked.
- ✓ This is primarily a *reading* assessment – you are being marked on your ability to understand, locate and use information from a text.
- ✓ The marks available for writing are awarded for the focus on the question, clarity, fluency and using your own words (not directly copying from the text).