

Answer Question 1 **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 The passage below is a piece of travel writing. At this point, the author arrives in Madrid, Spain, to begin his exploration of the world of bullfighting.

(a) Comment on the ways in which the writer presents his initial impressions of a new country. [15]

(b) Imagine that the same writer visits your country.

Write the opening of his description of his arrival (120–150 words). Base your answer closely on the style and features of the original. [10]

In the dusty arrivals hall at Barajas Airport, Madrid, the air swirled with the scent of coffee, hair cream and strong tobacco. A pretty flight attendant leant against a pylon, checking her nails. At the Banco de España booth a sign on the wall read 'By Royal Decree smoking is prohibited in airport terminals', but the man behind the glass sat puffing away regardless, squinting through a pall of nicotine. '*Bienvenidos a España,*' he said, pushing my money across the counter. 5

Outside, I hopped in a cab, promptly falling mute with fear as the driver gunned his way through the gears, leaning on the wheel like a demented chimp as he pushed the vehicle to a velocity approaching levitation. Once in the city centre, however, the traffic thickened and he slowed to a crawl, muttering to himself and humming. 10

The world slipped by as if in a dream. The radio crackled. Towering billboards showed caramel-skinned women in fluorescent bikinis. At Calle Alcalá, two enormous cast-iron lions, luxuriant and grand, guarded the steps to Congress. Soon the dusky façades lining La Gran Vía, one of the city's main thoroughfares, loomed up like wedding cakes, wrapped around with layer upon layer of wrought-iron balconies. All the buildings were haughty and filigreed, a curious blend of baroque and art deco. Smartly dressed people scampered about in the early morning chill, wrapped in scarves and breathing steam. I felt excited and fatigued, exhausted but elated. My tongue tasted of cardboard. 15

I'd booked a room in the festively named Hostal Playa – *playa* as in beach – a cheap hostel off the Puerta del Sol, the bustling plaza in the heart of Madrid from which all distances in Spain are measured. Despite the hostel's name, Madrid is actually 400 kilometres from the nearest beach, located smack bang in the middle of the country, with Andalusia and the Mediterranean to the south, the Atlantic to the north and Portugal to the west. Barcelona – Madrid's rival city in everything, especially soccer – lies to the east. 20

Hostal Playa was a moody, gloomy place, much bigger on the inside than looked possible from the outside and full of corridors that appeared identical but weren't. It had one of those ancient boxy elevators, the kind with a criss-cross grille that you have to pull shut, and it made whirring noises like a spaceship at take-off. Ramón, the desk boy, was polite and cheery in an earnest, workmanlike way. Within minutes of my arrival he'd launched into a guided tour of the premises (flourishing his hand as he showcased the shared toilet), a review of the top five most economical *restaurantes* in the immediate vicinity and the location of the cheapest Internet café. Finally, his face darkened. 30

'It saddens me to say it, señor, but Madrid is full of bad types these days.' He called them *manolos*, slang for corner boys, anybody on the make. 'It pays to take care.'

Once in my room, I stepped out onto the balcony to check the view, which was partly obscured by the cracked yellow 'Hostal Playa' sign. It was an old part of town, and the streets were easily narrow enough for me to see into the living rooms 40

across the way. I stood there for some time, peering across, hoping to see something dramatic happening, but no such luck. Instead, I looked down into the street. A baker rushed past carrying a tray of piping hot *churros*, twists of deep fried batter dusted in sugar. In the café opposite, businessmen breakfasted on cigarettes and anis. In the cool moist air of the mid-March morning, the sounds of the city came curdling up like a fat man clearing his throat; car alarms, cat whistles and shop shutters, a steadily swelling cacophony of clanging, banging and cursing.

45

The busier the city got, however, the lonelier I felt. What was I *doing* here? And who, I wondered, could care less about bullfighting?

50

- 2 The passage below is a web advertisement/advertorial for holidays in Dubai, sponsored by an international hotel chain.
- (a) Comment on the ways in which the language and style of the passage help to promote Dubai as a holiday destination. [15]
- (b) Imagine that the same hotel chain also has a hotel in a tourist destination that you have visited.

Write a section of the advertisement that might be produced for that destination (120–150 words). Base your answer closely on the style and features of the original extract. [10]

How long have you got? Three, five or seven days in Dubai

Audacious Dubai is a city unlike any other. Futuristic skyscrapers rub shoulders with lively souks,¹ Bedouin heritage collides with 21st-century shopping and cutting edge bars and restaurants sit atop some of the world's leading hotels. 5

Three days in Dubai

Dubai is hot all year round so you won't want to be walking too far. Book your stay at Hilton Dubai Jumeirah Resort and you won't have to; you'll be based right on the city's best beach. You'll also be close to the metro, so use this to travel to the Al Fahidi Fort, the city's oldest building, which dates from 1787. The area has been inhabited for far longer though, and the museum the fort houses has the evidence, including Bronze Age alabaster and plenty of other artefacts. 10

After a morning of culture, get high in the afternoon with a flight above the city. Go by seaplane with Seawings, taking off from the Creek for a scenic tour above the coastline, or dip and dive above the city's tallest towers by helicopter with HeliDubai. Either way you'll get to see The World, a series of manmade islands laid out like a world map. 15

Come back down to earth on day two – literally – with a spot of dune bashing. Head out into the desert with Desert Safari Dubai and you'll get 20 to 30 minutes of racing through the dunes as well as camel rides, belly dancing, shisha² – and one of the best sunsets of your life. 20

On day three indulge in Dubai's favourite pastime: shopping. Visit the Gold Souk to haggle over affordable gold jewellery, the Spice Souk to pick up every spice you've ever heard of – plus plenty you haven't – and the Perfume Souk to find your new scent, before hitting the world's biggest shopping mall, the Dubai Mall. For your final sunset in Dubai head to At the Top, on the 124th floor of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building at 830 metres. This is the world's highest public outdoor observation terrace and you're unlikely to forget the view in a hurry. Even better, you can stay up here as long as you like. 25

Five days

With two more days you can really get to grips with Dubai's culture. Head to the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding for an engaging overview of Islamic culture and make time for a tour of the Jumeirah Mosque, the only mosque 30

in the city open to non-Muslims. Here you can see a demonstration of ablutions and prayers and ask those burning questions in a Q&A session. 35

Dubai is unbeatable for an opulent night out and the best place to start yours is the Conrad Dubai's Marco Pierre White Grill. The open kitchen here cooks up perfectly tender steaks, from wagyu³ tenderloin to the whopping 28oz tomahawk.

Seven days

With a full week here you can afford a second day at the beach, just make it a more active one. Mark Andrew Kite School at Kite Beach provides kitesurfing lessons, while Xtreme Wake UAE takes anyone brave enough out from Dubai Marina for an afternoon of high-octane wakeboarding⁴ and plenty of laughs along the way. 40

Spend your last day back at the beginning, in Bastakiya, the atmospheric Persian quarter and home to the city's oldest buildings. Then head over to Shindagha to see the historic coral-walled creekside homes that once housed the city's elite. Finish at Uptown, one of Dubai's most stylish bars, which affords views back over it all, from the Burj Khalifa to the Burj Al Arab, the creek to the coast. 45

¹*souks*: market places

²*shisha*: a pipe for smoking flavoured tobacco

³*wagyu*: Japanese-style luxury beef

⁴*wakeboarding*: acrobatics on a towed surfboard

- 3 The blog below gives advice for ‘rookies’ (inexperienced presenters) on how to speak in public.
- (a) Comment on the language and style of the blog. [15]
- (b) Write a post to the blog from an inexperienced speaker which comments on whether the advice was useful. You should base your answer closely on the style and language of the original blog. You should write between 120–150 words. [10]

Top Rookie Mistakes in Public Speaking

Having coached clients on presentation skills since 1997, I’ve noticed some clear patterns in the behavior of inexperienced presenters.

SPEAKING WITH LOW ENERGY.

Actually, this problem is not restricted solely to rookie presenters. 80–90% of the presenters that I observe do not expend enough energy. Hence, they come across as uninvolved, uninteresting, and unenthusiastic. Crank up the energy level! You will command more attention and project more confidence and charisma. I cannot stress this strongly enough. For more, check out our video on Speaking With Passion.

5

NOT PREPARING ENOUGH.

Granted, many rookie presenters don’t know how to prepare effectively other than preparing their media. Experienced speakers do plenty of research so that they feel confident in their material and their ability to respond to any question the audience might throw at them. They daydream about their topic and often find the most creative ideas when doing other activities. I often come up with great ideas while driving, shopping, or running. It’s important to go through multiple drafts of your material, revising and editing, to arrive at the most finished form of your talk.

10

NOT PRACTICING ENOUGH.

Not practicing your talks and presentations on your feet is one of the single biggest mistakes you can make. Experienced speakers will often do a dry run of their material with a trusted audience of friends, family, or colleagues. They will simulate the environment of their presentation using a projector and slide remote. They’ll choreograph their movements and gestures which will dramatically increase their ability to remember their material. They recognize areas of challenge and come up with tricks and tactics to help them flow seamlessly through their material.

15

20

25

PLAYING IT SAFE.

Many presenters, rookies included, avoid taking risks. As my mentor and co-founder of our company often said, ‘Not taking a risk is also a risk.’ When your presentation content is too safe, it usually comes across as boring. When the most important ability as a speaker is the ability to generate audience attention, can you afford to avoid taking risks?

30

TAKING ONESELF WAY TOO SERIOUSLY.

Many speakers tend to be very serious and formal. If they could bring more of their natural, informal style into their presentations, they would be more authentic and engaging. The stiff formality and rigid ‘professionalism’ many tend to slip into when presenting may gain respect, but respect only has value if people actually want to spend time with you. If you defer too much to your audience, you are projecting that you are not of an equal stature. Respect the audience’s professionalism but relate to their humanity informally. By speaking to them more informally, you project that you are equal. They will read that as confidence. As I often say to clients, ‘If you are not having fun, you are not doing it right.’

35

40

PRESENTING TOO MUCH MATERIAL.

Though it's always better to have more material than you need, you also need to know what you will cut if you run out of time. Rookie presenters feel compelled to get through all their material even if it means going past their allotted time. I've heard of speakers who have gone as much as 45 minutes over their time commitment. This is inexcusable. If you want to estimate how much time your talk will actually take in front of an audience, practice on your feet and time yourself.

45

RUSHING.

Rushing further exacerbates any existing delivery or content problems you may already have. Phrases will lose impact because you are rushing. Slowing down will make you seem far more poised and confident and experienced. Using more pauses will also:

50

- a) Increase audience perception as well as your feeling of confidence and ease.
- b) Give your audience time to digest your key points and give those points greater impact.
- c) Give you time to formulate your thoughts into more succinct and cogent sentences.

55

S-l-o-w d-o-w-n!

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which itself is a department of the University of Cambridge.