



Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER

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Paper 2 Comprehension

October/November 2021

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.

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This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Material for Section A

Background

At Giglow College the committee in charge of organising the end-of-year entertainment for the college leavers is meeting to make a final decision on who to book for the event from a shortlist of two acts.

IndiGoGothik

They are a semi-professional rock group, specialising in taking international hits, giving them the IndiGoGothik rock treatment and so making these classics their own. They have been performing together for three years, slowly building up a reputation for being innovative, exciting and worth paying to see.

Going for Giglow

They are amateurs – a trio of Giglow College students meeting most lunch-times in the Music Department practice rooms to compose their own songs. They specialise in commercial-style pop, and hope to get jobs composing music for adverts, films or video games in the future. They have been playing music together for six months. They have occasionally performed their songs to the whole college, either during college gatherings or at evening events.

Members of the committee

Pen Johansen, Head of Music

Tove Fernandez, Manager of College Finances

Kalia Dipev, Student Representative

Conversation at the start of the committee meeting

- Pen: Hi everybody. Well, got to make a decision today – Going for Giglow or IndiGoGothik. So, to my mind, having witnessed Going for Giglow go from strength to strength before my very eyes, I think that they have a strong case, but I'm remaining open-minded at this point. Lots to discuss ...
- Tove: And let me jump in here right away, Pen, to declare an interest in IndiGoGothik. Knowing this meeting was coming up, I grabbed the chance to see IndiGoGothik perform last weekend. Have to say they were brilliant. Tremendous lightshow, a drummer who never stopped, a lead singer who belted out the songs at the top of his voice. Felt I had to do that as I've seen Going for Giglow perform several times and was impressed by their musical talent and vocal ability. Need to discuss financial aspects of course before coming to any decision, so, like you, open-minded.
- Kalia: IndiGoGothik are becoming famous, but I think Going for Giglow would be the right choice. I have had lots of students come up to me and say they want Going for Giglow to perform. Only right to give fellow students a chance. Don't you agree?
- Pen: Right then. Opening statements done. Let's get down to business and get on with discussing their relative merits. No time to waste as we have lots of other decisions to make about this leavers' event, you know.

Additional Information

1. The five members of IndiGoGothik have jobs, with two members working night shifts and one alternate weekends, so they need plenty of notice for a booking.
2. Last year the cost of decorating the college hall and tables, plus paying the college canteen staff to provide food and refreshments for the event, was \$1000.
3. Tove is the only committee member to have seen both groups perform.
4. Before and after the act has performed, there will be a DJ playing songs requested by students.
5. Going for Giglow have started to make a name for themselves. A local venue has offered them a regular slot from next month.
6. The ticket price for the event is deliberately kept low so that no student is denied access because they cannot afford to attend.
7. Giglow College provides the committee with a fund of \$1500 towards the cost of the event.
8. Going for Giglow have said that they have enough material to perform for an hour.
9. One member of IndiGoGothik was in a famous boy band until he left to help form IndiGoGothik; he could not cope with the pressure of such a level of fame.
10. Going for Giglow have their first paid performance coming up at the weekend, playing at a popular outdoor concert in the local park.
11. IndiGoGothik are considerate towards their student fans, charging a reduced fee of \$2500 for a set lasting 30 minutes when booked by a college or a university.
12. IndiGoGothik were recently awarded the title Best Newcomers by local media, as voted for by their viewers, readers and listeners.
13. Recently Kalia approached Going for Giglow, asking if she could join the group. She is going to audition for them in a couple of days.
14. Every year many students raise money to boost the \$1500 fund by, for example, holding cake sales or washing people's cars.
15. At the end of the evening, the college principal presents the members of the organising committee with beautiful bouquets of flowers.
16. IndiGoGothik's manager has been quoted as saying that they are on the point of breaking through and becoming famous.
17. Going for Giglow are so keen to perform at the event that they have said that they will do it for free.
18. The college principal has the final say. She is a quiet, reserved woman of conservative tastes. She likes to promote the interests of her students at every opportunity.
19. Many of the students have told Kalia that they are huge fans of IndiGoGothik and are very excited at the prospect of seeing them perform at Giglow College.
20. Tove worked for 10 years in an insurance company before joining the staff of Giglow College.
21. Going for Giglow had some technical difficulties during their last performance at a college event.

Material for Section B

Introduction

An article by Veronique Mistiaen

Keeping the mountains alive

In Italy, people are reclaiming the once magnificent Apuan Alps. They are trying to put a stop to destructive marble mining, repopulate abandoned villages and build an alternative economy.

Eros Tetti

He grew up on his grandfather's farm in one of the Garfagnana region's most beautiful valleys. Like many young people of his generation, he left his village at 19, seeking a better life elsewhere, but 'there was always a pull', and eventually he returned.

While hiking, he noticed that the quarries had started to excavate more and more. 'I was afraid that the rest of the Apuan Alps would become like Carrara.* If you walk in our mountains, you'll see that people don't work and live here any longer. Tourism and gastronomy had been the main parts of our economy, but now both have gone because of the quarries.'

In 2009, Tetti founded Save the Apuan Alps to campaign for the gradual closure of the quarries, while developing an alternative economy. The association now counts more than 12 000 members and has become an information hub for activists, helping to promote collaboration at the regional, national and international level. More than 100 000 people have signed its petitions, and videos of the flashmobs organised by the movement have been widely shared.

'Everyone has always said that without the quarries, we cannot survive, but we want to show that we can. We are looking at our mountains' lost culture – not in a nostalgic way, but because in this culture there are tools – the natural resources, the values, people's spirit – to address the challenges we are experiencing. We're finding new ways to relate to our mountains without destroying them.'

Arianna Watson

Her parents are originally from England, but Arianna Watson considers herself an Italian native. She is part of Odissea, a cooperative created in 2014 by young people to develop a mountain economy and integrate immigrants into local communities. The programme, which is funded by the Italian government, has so far provided training for about 100 refugees in local restaurants, farms and enterprises.

'For those born in the 60s and 70s, the future was working in paper and pharmaceutical factories in the valleys, but many are now closed,' Watson says. 'We believe that our future is in coming back to the mountains, where we are restarting something old to make something new. In Tuscany, this feeling is strong: we have lots of resources – chestnuts, mushrooms, agriculture, tourism and art – to create a better future for our communities. Ten years ago, there was no tourism here; now it's growing, but we are still at only 25 per cent of what we could do.'

'We are the ones who have to build our future, because we care passionately about this place and we can do it.'

Yusupha Darboe

'I was a teacher in a technical college in The Gambia, but had to leave four years ago because of my political views,' says Yusupha Darboe. 'I spent nine months in Libya, then fled on a boat, which was rescued by the Red Cross.'

A year and a half ago, the Odissea Cooperative found him a job in Laboratory de Transformation, a small cooperative that cleans, grinds, cans and bottles produce found in the mountains. Because of the altitude, mountain crops grow at a different time of the year than those in the valleys, and some are unique to the region, such as beans that taste like figs. These ancient seeds are now preserved in a regional seed bank.

'We process crops from our own land, and local people bring us their produce to process,' says Darboe. 'We make chestnut flour, we clean and bag beans, corn and farro,** and we make tomato sauce and raspberry jam. I can operate the mills and all the other machines. I love it here.'

'Many refugees live in cities because they believe there is more work there, but I like village life. I feel free here. I've built my future in the mountains.'

Stefano Bresciani

In the past, chestnut trees, which grow in abundance on the mountains, were cultivated and produced food for the entire region. They were called 'bread trees', because people made chestnut flour and used it in all kinds of ways. When people left the mountains some 40 years ago, the trees were left unmanaged. As a result, the area has become more prone to floods and landslides.

On his 30-hectare patch of land, Stefano Bresciani has begun to tend to the chestnut trees again.

With the help of refugees, who he is training through the government integration programme and the Odissea Cooperative, he is clearing his chestnut forest, pruning the trees, cutting wood, and collecting and processing chestnuts.

'It's a win-win situation: I train people in an ancient job that people no longer do and help integrate refugees. Their energy is important for society, especially in this area. They learn things and people can see that they are doing a good job.'

'It's part of managing and reviving the mountains. Three or four years ago, there were only old people here and many villages were abandoned. But now, young people start to think that it is possible to come back and make a future in the mountains. This is the meaning of my life: to keep the mountains alive.'

* much white marble has been and still is being excavated around the town of Carrara, but it is no longer processed there, and Carrara is one of Italy's poorest cities

** a whole grain derived from wheat

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