



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Ordinary Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/21

Paper 2 Reading

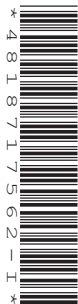
October/November 2014

INSERT

1 hour 45 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains the two reading passages.



This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



Passage 1 – Coffee

- 1 The most popular account of the origin of coffee concerns a ninth century Ethiopian goatherd, Kaldi, who, having noticed that his goats became very frisky when they nibbled the berries of a certain bush, decided to copy them and found the berries had an energising effect on him too. Another story is that a monk in Ethiopia noticed some particularly lively birds and, on sampling the berries they had been eating, experienced increased vitality. Other accounts attribute the discovery to an Ethiopian holy man called Oman, who not only ate the berries but also roasted and boiled them in water, which produced the fragrant brown liquid now known as coffee. However, no direct evidence has ever been found to indicate where exactly in Africa coffee first grew, or even that it existed before the fifteenth century. 5
- 2 Coffee beans were exported from Africa to Yemen, and references to coffee drinking and knowledge of the coffee plant appear in monasteries there. Monks used it to keep themselves alert during long periods of night prayer. Soon Yemeni traders began to cultivate the beans themselves. There were periods when coffee was banned by religious leaders who disapproved of its stimulant effect; places where coffee was drunk and warehouses where it was stored were attacked and ransacked. But through time the bans were lifted and coffee became an acceptable drink which spread to many influential cities, such as Medina, Baghdad and Istanbul. Coffee-houses were popular social centres, where chess was played and dancing and music were enjoyed in comfortable surroundings, and where lively conversation and debate took place. 10 15
- 3 By the seventeenth century, vibrant trade between Africa and Venice, Europe's leading port, had made huge varieties of African goods available, including coffee. Venetian merchants introduced coffee drinking to the wealthy; the first Venetian coffee-house, Cafe Florian, survives to this day and is a magnet for tourists. Coffee-houses grew in popularity and coffee drinking spread to other European cities and countries; for example, it is estimated that by 1675 there were more than 3,000 coffee-houses in England alone. A major influence in the popularity and availability of coffee in Europe was that Dutch merchants obtained some of the closely guarded coffee bushes from Yemen, enabling the Dutch to cultivate coffee in the country now called Sri Lanka. 20 25
- 4 Despite social upheaval and economic swings, the twentieth century saw a continued rise in the importance of coffee production, a rise which has continued to the present day. In particular, the development of railways allowed more coffee to be transported more easily. Coffee-growing in South and Central America benefited from the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, which meant that coffee could be exported further afield. 30
- 5 Coffee production in the past sometimes, unfortunately, led to the exploitation of local communities. As a result, socially aware consumers nowadays are attracted by the fact that they can buy coffee which is certified as Fairtrade. This means that it is approved through an international system which ensures that coffee farmers get a fair deal. Globally, the cultivation, processing, trading, transportation and marketing of coffee provide employment for millions of people. Coffee is crucial to the economies of several developing countries, accounting for, in some cases, half of their foreign trade. 35 40
- 6 All over the world, people drink coffee because its caffeine drives away fatigue and lethargy, bringing to the body energy and vigour, while the advent of decaffeinated coffee offers a popular alternative for those who object to artificial stimulants but wish to enjoy coffee's taste and aroma. The development of instant and freeze-dried coffee has made the drink convenient and easy to make, a must for the pace of life in the twenty-first century. Moreover, coffee comes in seemingly endless varieties, from espresso to latte, from percolated to filter, from sugared to sugar-free. Choosing from the menu in a modern coffee-house is a nightmare! 45
- 7 Today it is possible to drink good coffee in every major city in the world, cities as diverse and as far apart as Johannesburg, London and Kuala Lumpur. Is it any wonder that 400 billion cups of coffee are consumed in the world every year? 50

Passage 2 – The Locusts

- 1 Richard was always gloomy, a pessimist. The car only had to run out of petrol for him to announce that the engine had broken down.

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Each one grows at an astonishing rate and, together with millions of others, forms one unit in a monstrous carpet which eats as it moves.

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Copyright Acknowledgements:

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