

Cambridge IGCSE[®] (9–1)

SET A

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0990/01

Paper 1 Reading

INSERT

2 hours

INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading texts.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.

Read **Text A**, and then answers **Questions 1(a)–1(e)** on the question paper.

Text A: How Apollo 11 brought humanity together

This text is an article about the moon landing.

In their space suits, three astronauts set out on a mission that would propel them and all humanity into a new era.

In 1961, President John F Kennedy announced his plans to send astronauts to the Moon. Just seven years later, commander Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Mike Collins were on their way to the Moon.

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The Saturn V carrying them roared into the air, rising beautifully into the sky on a perfect summer's day. Once safely in orbit, Buzz Aldrin used an early colour video camera to film a pastel blue Earth rapidly receding through the spacecraft window.

Turning the camera in towards the crew area, we see a joyful Neil Armstrong turning upside down in the weightlessness he found himself in. Four days later, the astronauts had arrived for the riskiest part of the mission.

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Amid on-board computer problems, Neil Armstrong took manual control of the landing craft, Eagle, calmly steering it away from dangerous boulders and a large crater. Buzz Aldrin then spoke the first words spoken by a person on another world. "Contact light. OK, engine stop..."

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Armstrong confirmed what an anxious mission control had wanted to hear: "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed."

Whatever the time zone, people all across the world watched in awe. Six hundred million followed the dark, indistinct pictures live on TV. After what seemed an age, Neil Armstrong stepped on to the lunar surface, uttering the words that would reverberate through history forever more.

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"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

The astronauts planted America's flag. But as Neil Armstrong read from a plaque he placed on the lunar surface, it became clear that this was an achievement for all humanity. "We came in peace for all mankind."

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The Apollo era was a time when all things seemed possible.

Space historian Prof Chris Riley believes that the Moon landing led to a cultural transformation for our species that will remain with us.

"It is endlessly inspiring for what humanity can do when we have to rise to a single impressive challenge. Right now, stopping the worst excesses of climate change seems utterly impossible. The message of Apollo is that is totally achievable," he says.

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Read **Text B**, and then answers **Question 1(f)** on the question paper.

Text B: Apollo 11 – An Eye-Opening Documentary

The text is taken from a review of a documentary film called 'Apollo 11'.

The documentary Apollo 11 starts, as the famous mission did, in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Trucks ferry massive rocket props, machinery grinds as it would in any construction zone, the sky is a crystal blue. The scene is, in a word, vibrant – so startlingly alive that for the first few minutes, I wasn't sure if I was watching footage from 1969 or a Nasa promo shot from last year.

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The 93-minute film is anchored by four pivotal moments in the Apollo 11 mission: lift-off, landing the Eagle lunar module on the moon, reconnecting Eagle with the Columbia spacecraft to return home, and re-entry into Earth's atmosphere. We already know the outcome of these risks, and yet the sequences are still mesmerizing. With a score that ranges from swelling orchestra to a single thump, thump, thump of a heartbeat, coupled with stitches of headset and Mission Control recordings, the movie's technical spacecraft scenes are less suspense baits than genuinely moving, hypnotic odes to teamwork.

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The film's emotional power, however, comes not in the documentation of astronauts in space (though that is, of course, undeniably arresting, even half a century on), but in the absolutely incredible footage of the crowds who watched the launch from Earth.

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Apollo 11 juxtaposes massive feats of scale – groundbreaking engineering, built with thousands of minds in cooperation – with mid-century modern ketchup packets and outdated bathing caps. The film allows you, without commentary, to make meaning of these contrasts.

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While there are legitimate criticisms of America's space program, it's hard to argue with a film that defers so humbly to the primary source material. There's a deep pleasure, especially now, in immersive historical voyeurism, in the illusion that we can transcend the limitations of our own time and understand another collective experience. And there's something deeply kind in letting the archives stand on their own, of giving the evidence we have of what happened in July 1969 the space to breathe. Perhaps it's that space – a record of people and incredulity and intense focus, without talking heads or hyperbole – that's the great humanizing force of Apollo 11.

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Read **Text C**, and then answers **Questions 2(a)–(d)** and **Question 3** on the question paper.

Text C: The Martian

The text is taken from a longer narrative. At this point in the story, Mark tells us he is an astronaut on an exploration mission to Mars. He has been left stranded.

I wonder if this log will be recovered before the rest of the crew die of old age. I presume they got back to Earth all right. Guys, if you're reading this: It wasn't your fault. You did what you had to do. In your position I would have done the same thing. I don't blame you, and I'm glad you survived.

It was a ridiculous sequence of events that led to me almost dying, and an even more ridiculous sequence that led to me surviving. 5

The MAY is a spaceship. It has a lot of delicate parts. It can put up with storms to a certain extent, but it can't just get sandblasted forever. After an hour and a half of sustained wind, NASA gave the order to abort. Nobody wanted to stop a monthlong mission after only six days, but if the MAY took any more punishment, we'd all have gotten stranded down there. 10

We had to go out in the storm to get from the Hab¹ to the MAY. That was going to be risky, but what choice did we have?

Everyone made it but me.

I vaguely remember having the wind knocked out of me and my ears popping painfully as the pressure of my suit escaped. The last thing I remember was seeing Johanssen hopelessly reaching out toward me. 15

I awoke to the oxygen alarm in my suit. A steady, obnoxious beeping that eventually roused me from a deep and profound desire to just die.

The storm had abated; I was facedown, almost totally buried in sand. As I groggily came to, I wondered why I wasn't more dead. 20

There was only one hole in the suit (and a hole in me, of course). I had been knocked back quite a ways and rolled down a steep hill.

Right that moment I knew I was doomed. But I didn't want to just die out on the surface. I limped back to the Hab and fumbled my way into an airlock. As soon as it equalized, I threw off my helmet. 25

Once inside the Hab, I doffed the suit and got my first good look at the injury. It would need stitches. Fortunately, all of us had been trained in basic medical procedures, and the Hab had excellent medical supplies. A quick shot of local anaesthetic, irrigate the wound, nine stitches, and I was done. I'd be taking antibiotics for a couple of weeks, but other than that I'd be fine. 30

I knew it was hopeless, but I tried firing up the communications array. No signal, of course.

All the crew's suits are networked so we can see each other's status. The rest of the crew would have seen the pressure in my suit drop to nearly zero, followed immediately by my bio-signs going flat. Add to that watching me tumble down a hill with a spear through me in the middle of a sandstorm ... yeah. They thought I was dead. How could they not? 35

They may have even had a brief discussion about recovering my body, but regulations are clear. In the event a crewman dies on Mars, he stays on Mars. Leaving his body behind reduces weight for the trip back. That means more disposable fuel and a larger margin of error for the return thrust. No point in giving that up for sentimentality. 40

So that's the situation. I'm stranded on Mars. I have no way to communicate with Hermes or Earth. Everyone thinks I'm dead. I'm in a Hab designed to last thirty-one days. If the oxygenator breaks down, I'll suffocate. If the water reclaimer breaks down, I'll die of thirst. If the Hab breaches, I'll just kind of explode. If none of those things happen, I'll eventually run out of food and starve to death. 45

So yeah. I'm doomed.



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