



Cambridge International AS & A Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE**9093/12**

Paper 1 Reading

October/November 2021**2 hours 15 minutes**

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

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



Section A: Directed response

Question 1

Read the following text, which is a review of a new watch, from the *New Atlas* science and technology website.

- (a) You work in the advertising department at Oaxis. Write the text of an advertisement for the new Oaxis semi-smartwatch, which will be published in a magazine for young people. Use 150–200 words. [10]
- (b) Compare your advertisement with the review, analysing form, structure and language. [15]

This very tidy-looking semi-smartwatch is designed to roll the functionality of a fitness tracker in with a stylish analog dress watch you can wear anywhere. It's a great concept – let's see how this Singaporean company has executed it!

First things first: the chief purpose of a watch these days is to look good, and I think Oaxis has done a terrific job with this minimalist design. In the few days I've been wearing it around I've had more than a few compliments, it's a nicely neutral design that works with a suit or casual wear. It is by a factor of 10 the nicest looking watch I've ever worn.

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Having said that, maybe it's a bit thick, and as soon as you hit the side button (and it is just a button, don't go trying to adjust the time with it) and the tiny 0.42-inch OLED¹ screen comes on, it does get a touch of the old digital calculator about it; the rectangular screen sits inside a circular window looking a bit awkward.

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It ships with a small wireless charging dock that fully tops up the watch in an hour and a half, which will last you around 30 days of wear – a refreshing change from most smartwatches.

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It syncs to my Google Pixel 3 XL Android phone quickly and easily, with no fuss, and the Oaxis Timepiece app lets you quickly synchronize the time with whatever your phone's saying. Here too, you can decide how 'smart' you want the Oaxis to be. Do you want it to vibrate and tell you who's calling? Read you text messages and emails? Calendar reminders? Social media alerts? After a couple of days running all of these, I ended up deciding the answer was: no. The tiny screen on this thing means that sometimes single words can't completely fit on a page. Scrolling through to read anything of substance is a pain. I'm out.

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The app itself isn't particularly impressive, it's basic at best. The back button doesn't work, which is odd, and there's no obvious way to force a data sync.

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On to the fitness tracking side of things, then. The Oaxis carries a built-in pedometer, which works well if you're into that sort of thing. It does rudimentary sleep analysis if you leave it on overnight, which is nice. And it gives you estimated calories and distance walked, which are fine, but to this point, it's only replicating things your phone can do anyway.

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The big ticket item here is the heart rate monitor – a handy thing to have if you want to keep track of your cardio progression during exercise and at rest.

Now, perhaps my expectations here were out of line, but to me, a heart rate tracker should constantly keep an eye on your heart rate, take measurements every few seconds, display a rolling readout if you put it in the right display mode, and output a nice graph that you can check out at the end of the day. 35

The Oaxis, at least in its current form, does not do this. It takes measurements – but only when you directly request them. So if I want to know what my heart rate is doing when I'm cycling, I need to take a hand off the bars, beep my way through to the heart rate screen (which is hard to do, because the OLED screen doesn't show up very brightly in the sun), hold the button down for 3 seconds, wait about 10 or 15 seconds for it to take a reading, and then squint at the screen for a reading. 40

These individual readings are synchronized with the Timepiece app, where they're presented to you in the form of daily tables: here's the time you asked for a reading, and here's the reading. Honestly, I don't find this useful at all during exercise. As a way of tracking your resting heart rate, I guess it's fine. 45

The Oaxis is selling at US\$89 for the 38 mm model, and US\$99 for the 41 mm, which is the size we're reviewing. It comes in black, silver or gold, with black or white faces, and a variety of straps.

At those kinds of prices, even though the Timepiece isn't what we were hoping for in a heart rate monitor, it's still a nice watch at a good price with the potential to improve significantly in software upgrades. 50

Notes:

¹*OLED*: a type of light

Section B: Text analysis

Question 2

Read the following text, which is an article from the Yale Daily News blog. It was written in 2012 by a graduating student of the university.

Analyse the text, focusing on form, structure and language.

[25]

We don't have a word for the opposite of loneliness, but if we did, I could say that's what I want in life. What I'm grateful and thankful to have found at Yale, and what I'm scared of losing when we wake up tomorrow and leave this place.

It's not quite love and it's not quite community; it's just this feeling that there are people, an abundance of people, who are in this together. Who are on your team. When the check is paid and you stay at the table. When it's four a.m. and no one goes to bed. That night with the guitar. That night we can't remember. That time we did, we went, we saw, we laughed, we felt. The hats.

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Yale is full of tiny circles we pull around ourselves. A cappella groups, sports teams, houses, societies, clubs. These tiny groups that make us feel loved and safe and part of something even on our loneliest nights when we stumble home to our computers – partner-less, tired, awake. We won't have those next year. We won't live on the same block as all our friends. We won't have a bunch of group-texts.

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This scares me. More than finding the right job or city or spouse – I'm scared of losing this web we're in. This elusive, indefinable, opposite of loneliness. This feeling I feel right now.

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But let us get one thing straight: the best years of our lives are not behind us. They're part of us and they are set for repetition as we grow up and move to New York and away from New York and wish we did or didn't live in New York. I plan on having parties when I'm 30. I plan on having fun when I'm old. Any notion of THE BEST years comes from clichéd 'should haves ...' 'if I'd ...' 'wish I'd ...'

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Of course, there are things we wished we did: our readings, that boy across the hall. We're our own hardest critics and it's easy to let ourselves down. Sleeping too late. Procrastinating. Cutting corners. More than once I've looked back on my High School self and thought: how did I do that? How did I work so hard? Our private insecurities follow us and will always follow us.

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But the thing is, we're all like that. Nobody wakes up when they want to. Nobody did all of their reading (except maybe the crazy people who win the prizes). We have these impossibly high standards and we'll probably never live up to our perfect fantasies of our future selves. But I feel like that's okay.

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We're so young. We're so young. We're twenty-two years old. We have so much time. There's this sentiment I sometimes sense, creeping in our collective conscious as we lay alone after a party, or pack up our books when we give in and go out – that it is somehow too late. That others are somehow ahead. More accomplished, more specialized. More on the path to somehow saving the world, somehow creating or inventing or improving. That it's too late now to BEGIN a beginning and we must settle for continuance, for commencement.

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When we came to Yale, there was this sense of possibility. This immense and indefinable potential energy – and it's easy to feel like that's slipped away. We never had to choose and suddenly we've had to. Some of us have focused ourselves. Some of us know exactly what we want and are on the path to get it; already going to med school, working at the perfect NGO, doing research.

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For most of us, however, we're somewhat lost in this sea of liberal arts. Not quite sure what road we're on and whether we should have taken it. If only I had majored in biology ... if only I'd gotten involved in journalism as a freshman ... if only I'd thought to apply for this or for that ...

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What we have to remember is that we can still do anything. We can change our minds. We can start over. Get a post-bac or try writing for the first time. The notion that it's too late to do anything is comical. It's hilarious. We're graduating college. We're so young. We can't, we MUST not lose this sense of possibility because in the end, it's all we have.

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We don't have a word for the opposite of loneliness, but if we did, I'd say that's how I feel at Yale. How I feel right now. Here. With all of you. In love, impressed, humbled, scared. And we don't have to lose that.

We're in this together, 2012. Let's make something happen to this world.

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