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Cambridge Assessment International Education

# Cambridge International AS & A Level

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE** **9093/11**

Paper 1 Reading **October/November 2025**

**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.

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## Section A: Directed response

### Question 1

Read the following text, which is an extract from a memoir about an English family who fell in love with a Spanish farm and decided to buy it.

**(a)** You are the writer's teenage daughter Ella. You write an email to a friend in England, reflecting on your new life on the farm in Spain. Write a section of your email. Use 150–200 words. [10]

**(b)** Compare the text of your email with the extract, analysing form, structure and language. [15]

**From *No Going Back: Journey to Mother's Garden***

Next stop the ten-acre farm.

We trundled back up the track to the road and turned right. The road started to rise gently and passed through a cut in the red soil and rock where small clumps of wild rosemary and other plants clung tenaciously to the vertical sides. When we emerged at the far end, Terry pointed across a parched meadow to a derelict building that looked worse than the one we'd just left. But we knew from the photograph they'd sent us that this wasn't it. 'That's part of the farm – this bit of meadow too – but the main house is just behind it. See?'

Jutting out from above a bunch of billowing fig and walnut trees we could just make out the rise and fall of the roof and catch glimpses of sandy-coloured walls through the green leaves. The hire car bumped off the road again, brushed past some olive trees and scraped across a seam of rock that bulged in the track just before the final rise to the house. The sun was high and the air was still as we pulled up in the dappled shade of one of the trees and got out.

Mother's Garden blew us away.

The whole setting – the house with attached red stone barn, the overgrown terraces, the vistas and the lush vines running away beyond the fig trees – was unbelievably beautiful. There were holes and cracks in the rendering, small patches of dull, grey cement slapped on here and there and evidence enough that it was in need of love. But despite the blemishes it was enchanting. It had symmetrical three-storey towers at either end, mottled walls the colour of the bleached earth, and a sundial at the centre above two balconies which the vine above the front door was straining to reach. I remember thinking, 'Come on, concentrate, boy. This is amazing, yes, but look for problems. Anyway, you can't afford it. It's nearly £100 000. YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT.'

I repeated this mantra countless times as the elderly owners, Enric and Nuria, spent an hour and a half showing us round the house, walking the land and telling us it was derelict when they bought it twelve years before. For all their love and care the place still looked battered and bruised. Inside, some of the walls were scarred and flaking, floor bricks were broken and wiring sockets were hanging out of the wall. The older window frames carried the scars of woodworm and rot.

But it's habitable, said my heart. It's got four bedrooms, a shower room, an open fire and two wood burners, water pumped from the well, electricity, and a great big barn. Part of the roof has been replaced. There is a huge water reservoir, a cottage you can rebuild, not to mention healthy vines and almonds and olives. How many olives did he say?

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A hundred and thirty? How many vines? More than seven hundred? And what about the space round the house – the barbecue, the bread oven? Come on! COME ON!

That afternoon, evening and most of the night we talked about Mother's Garden, trying to imagine what it would be like if – a big if – we found ourselves living somewhere as incredible as that. We played with the idea of how we might survive, what our budget would be, where Ella would go to school, what the pattern of our lives would become, dreaming as we had done so often before after seeing farms and cottages in Norfolk which in truth were beyond our reach but which for a few heady days so fired the imagination that the dark realities were forgotten.

After leaving the farm we went on to another dilapidated finca[1] that was half the size and half the price and had none of the same charm or outlook.

By this time, Maggie and I were soaking up every detail of the place, checking out the school, the grocers, the bakery and the swings and seesaws shaded by eight plane trees beside the ages-old and now peaceful spring-fed washing pools that resembled a Roman bath, and where it wasn't difficult to imagine the chatter and clothes being slapped onto stone.

[1] *finca*: Spanish word for farm

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## Section B: Text analysis

### Question 2

Read the following text, which is an article about the impact of the coffee harvest on wild birds. The article describes how some coffee can be certified as bird friendly.

Analyse the text, focusing on form, structure and language. [25]

**How The Coffee You Drink Could Help The Birds In Your Backyard**

*Bird Friendly Coffee is great for birds, wildlife and people, too.*

If there's one thing that competes with my love of birds (besides my family, of course), it's my love of coffee. I can't get through the day without at least two or three cups. And I'm not alone. Canada is one of the world's top 10 coffee-guzzling countries, consuming an average 14 pounds of coffee beans per person every year.

Our collective coffee habit has a big impact on the environment. More than 2.5 million acres of forest have been cleared in Central America alone to make way for coffee plantations. This massive deforestation is not only detrimental to the wildlife that lives there year round, but it destroys important wintering habitat for migratory birds we see here at home. Nearly 40 percent of the birds that nest in Canada migrate to Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

Coffee is also heavily sprayed with pesticides. Even if these chemicals don't make their way into your cup, they pose a threat to farmers, ecosystems and local communities where coffee is grown. Coffee processing is responsible for yet more pollution: processing plants, usually located near coffee farms, discharge organic chemicals into nearby waterways.

A little background: coffee farming wasn't always so ecologically destructive. Most of the world's coffee used to come from *Coffea arabica*, a species native to the mountainous rainforests of Ethiopia. An evergreen shrub, Arabica traditionally grows within a forest, shaded by the tree canopy. In the '70s, farmers were encouraged to replace shade coffee with *Coffea robusta* and newer hybrids that could withstand the sun. These 'sun coffee' varieties were more resistant to fungus and produced higher yields. So, to meet the world's growing coffee habit, more and more farmers started clearing native forests to grow sun coffee. Now, about three-quarters of the world's coffee farming is sun-grown.

So how do you know where your coffee comes from or how it was grown? With so many different labels these days, from certified organic to fair trade to shade grown, trying to make a sustainable choice can be confusing. Thankfully, there is another option you can look for, one with strict standards to ensure coffee is grown sustainably and protects biodiversity: the Bird Friendly certification.

**What is Bird Friendly coffee?**

The program was founded in the early 1990s by ornithologists from the Migratory Bird Center, a branch of the Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute in the U.S. They could see that migratory bird populations were in steep decline, largely due to habitat loss. And one of the major culprits was industrial agriculture like coffee farming, which was wiping out huge tracts of tropical forest.

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Although coffee was a threat, it was also an opportunity. Unlike many other crops, coffee can be grown in the shade, keeping the forest intact. So the Smithsonian, in an effort to prevent shade coffee farms from being converted to monocultures, developed a certification for coffee farms that were shade grown and organic. The program now has more than 5400 participants around the world, including Mexico, Central and South America, Ethiopia, India and Thailand.

More than 60 studies over the last 25 years have shown that traditional shade-grown coffee habitat is on par with natural forest. In fact, one study of cerulean warblers – which spend their summers in Ontario and American states around the Great Lakes – found three to 14 times more birds in shade coffee plantations than primary forest.

'Bird Friendly coffee comes from farms that provide really high-quality habitat for birds and other wildlife,' says Kirstin Hill, Bird Friendly Program Manager with the Smithsonian.

Just think, the birds you love spotting in your backyard or on hikes – species like wood thrush, scarlet tanager and magnolia warbler – could be wintering in the very forest where your coffee was harvested.

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