



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Cambridge Lower Secondary Sample Test
For use with curriculum published in
September 2020

English Paper 1

Insert

Stage 7

Text A**Hanging on (no threads allowed!)**

El Capitan is a vertical rock formation in Yosemite National Park, USA. This monster of exposed granite stretches for about 900 metres from base to summit, providing the ultimate challenge for rock climbers.

On 27 December 2014, after years of preparation, Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson set out to climb the Dawn Wall, so called because it is the first part of El Capitan to get sunlight from the east. This climb is considered El Capitan's most treacherous route and one of the hardest climbs in the world.

To climb huge rock faces such as El Capitan, mountaineering equipment is usually needed. A climber hammers pegs into small cracks in the rock face. Nylon rungs, like steps on a ladder, are then clipped into place and the climber moves up the rungs far enough to repeat the process. However, free climbers do not use any equipment, using nothing more than hands and feet to progress upwards. Caldwell and Jorgeson joined forces in 2009 to map a free climb route up the Dawn Wall. Free climbing the Dawn Wall had never been done before – it had always been considered impossible.

The climb involved slippery footholds, the men relying only on the friction of their rubber-soled shoes against the rocks to prevent them from falling. They were forced to hang on by their fingertips to tiny razor-sharp edges protruding from the smooth rock. One section of the climb, which they referred to as Pitch 15, almost defeated Jorgeson. This is a lengthy, sideways traverse*, which is the most challenging section as there is almost nothing to cling onto. However, Jorgeson was determined not to abandon the venture and Caldwell refused to continue alone. So, they carried on together. On 14 January 2015, after 19 days on the sheer rock face, Caldwell and Jorgeson hauled themselves over the upper lip of the Dawn Wall and into the history books.

Glossary

a traverse: a route on the side of a rock or cliff

Text B

Rock climbing can take you to amazing and unimaginable places. It will inspire you to do things that others may think are impossible to achieve and it will, in all probability, change your whole outlook on life.

The perfect way to begin is by heading out with friends who already know how it's done. But actually, for most people that isn't a possibility. I remember sitting alone in my climbing harness, hanging on a rope about five metres above the ground, thinking, 'Why can't I go up any further?' This was my debut to climbing on natural rock. I hadn't even tried climbing on an indoor wall prior to that trip. It may well be wise for you to do this before venturing outside. Many towns and cities have indoor climbing walls these days, and they're easy to find with a quick search on the internet. Wall climbing is great fun, however good or bad you are at it, but if you do want to go outdoors straightaway there's no reason you shouldn't. But at least get the basics right first. You can do this by: starting on lower-level slopes without a harness, making yourself familiar with the rock face, and getting used to walking in climbing shoes – they can feel quite different from your ordinary trainers.

New climbers tend to try to move directly upwards, when they should be thinking about moving sideways or even stepping down when necessary. The important thing is to always maintain three points of contact with the rock (for example, two feet and one hand), and when you feel confident enough, try leaning slightly away from it so you have a clear view of where to put your feet next. If you do decide to invest in kit, the essentials are a helmet, harness and rope. If you're intending to explore a new region, a local climbing guide is also a must. They will have details of climbs of all difficulties and will advise on the most appropriate climb for you.

5

10

15

20

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© *Complete First Free Climb at Dawn Wall*; www.outsideonline.com
© *Up to Summit*; www.uptosummit.com/rock-climbing

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English Paper 1

Stage 7

1 hour 10 minutes

Name

Additional materials: Insert

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- You should pay attention to punctuation, spelling and handwriting.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].
- Suggestions for how long to spend on each section are given in the booklet.

Section A: Reading

Spend 30 minutes on this section.

Read **Text A** in the Insert, and answer questions 1–6.

- 1** Give **one** word and **one** phrase from the first paragraph (lines 1–3) that tell the reader that climbing El Capitan is not easy.

word:

phrase: [2]

- 2** Look at the second paragraph (lines 4–7).

- (a)** How did the 'Dawn Wall' get its name?

.....
..... [1]

- (b)** Give **one** word that means dangerous.

..... [1]

- 3** Look at the third paragraph (lines 8–14).

- (a)** Give **one** word that introduces a contrasting idea.

..... [1]

- (b)** Give **one** phrase that means *only*.

..... [1]

- (c)** Give **one** two-word phrase that tells the reader Caldwell and Jorgeson worked together.

..... [1]

- (d)** Give **two** examples of a passive verb form from the third paragraph. Give **one** example using a present verb form and **one** example using a past verb form.

present passive:

past passive: [2]

4 Look at the fourth paragraph (lines 15–23).

- (a) Explain in your own words what makes the Dawn Wall such a difficult climb.
Give **one** quotation from the text to support your answer.

Explanation:

Quotation: [2]

- (b) After completing the challenge Caldwell and Jorgeson became famous.
Give **one** phrase from the text that tells the reader this.

..... [1]

5 Look at the heading.

Why do you think this heading is suitable for this text? Give **two** ideas.

•

• [2]

6 How is this information text structured? Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

The text has numbered points.

☐

The text has an introductory paragraph.

☐

The text is non-chronologically organised.

☐

The text uses one-sentence paragraphs.

☐

The text uses time connectives.

☐

[2]

Read **Text B**, in the Insert, and answer questions 7–10.

7 What is the purpose of **Text B**? Tick (✓) **one** box.

to persuade

☐

to recount

☐

to argue

☐

to advise

☐

[1]

8 Give **one** word from the second paragraph (lines 4–14) that introduces a contrasting and surprising idea.

.....

[1]

9 (a) Look at line 12 in **Text B**. Why has a colon (:) been used?
Give **one** reason.

.....

[1]

(b) Why has a dash (–) been used in line 13?
Give **one** reason.

.....

[1]

- 10 (a) Your friend wants to take up rock climbing and has asked you what they should do. Write a list of tips using the information from **Text B**.

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[3]

- (b) Write a summary of up to 50 words about what to do before taking up rock climbing seriously. Include **four** points from your list. Use your own words as far as possible.

.....
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.....
.....
.....

[2]

Section B: Writing

Spend 30 minutes on this section.

11 Write an account for your friend about a new activity that you have tried.

Think about:

- the type of activity
- what you need for the activity
- persuading your friend why it is a good activity
- any helpful tips.

Space for your plan:

Write your account on the next page.

[25 marks]

