



**English B – Higher level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension**  
**Anglais B – Niveau supérieur – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite**  
**Inglés B – Nivel Superior – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura**

3 May 2023 / 3 mai 2023 / 3 de mayo de 2023

Zone A afternoon	Zone B morning	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B matin	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B mañana	Zona C tarde

Candidate session number  
Numéro de session du candidat  
Número de convocatoria del alumno

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1 h

**Question and answer booklet – Instructions to candidates**

- Write your session number in the boxes above.
- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all questions. Each question is allocated **[1 mark]** unless otherwise stated.
- Answers must be written within the answer boxes provided.
- All answers must be based on the appropriate texts in the accompanying text booklet.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[40 marks]**.

**Livret de questions et réponses – Instructions destinées aux candidats**

- Écrivez votre numéro de session dans les cases ci-dessus.
- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Répondez à toutes les questions. Chaque question vaut **[1 point]**, sauf indication contraire.
- Rédigez vos réponses dans les cases prévues à cet effet.
- Toutes les réponses doivent s'appuyer sur les textes correspondants dans le livret de textes.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est de **[40 points]**.

**Cuadernillo de preguntas y respuestas – Instrucciones para los alumnos**

- Escriba su número de convocatoria en las casillas de arriba.
- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Conteste todas las preguntas. Cada pregunta vale **[1 punto]** salvo que se indique lo contrario.
- Escriba sus respuestas en las casillas provistas a tal efecto.
- Todas las respuestas deben basarse en los textos adecuados del cuadernillo de textos correspondiente.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es **[40 puntos]**.



### Text A — Top Future Transport Innovations

Answer the following questions.

1. What is the DOT's transport improvement program currently focused on?

.....

2. According to the text, how soon might hyperloops come into service?

.....

Find the word or phrase in **lines 1–5** which means the following:

3. published

.....

4. urgent

.....

5. transform

.....



Choose an appropriate ending from the list that completes each sentence.

- |                                   |                          |                                                       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 6. Hyperloops...                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | A. have been shown to be extremely safe.              |
| 7. Self-driving electric buses... | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. enable people to sleep while travelling.           |
| 8. Elevated buses...              | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. are mainly intended to transport goods.            |
| 9. Flying hotel pods...           | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. should help to reduce pollution by thirty percent. |
|                                   |                          | E. depend on outside supplies of food and drink.      |
|                                   |                          | F. are at present being developed in China.           |
|                                   |                          | G. are currently in service throughout the US.        |
|                                   |                          | H. carry their cargo through tubes at high speed.     |

Choose the correct answer.

10. Driftscape...

☐

- A. plans to erect hotels in a range of locations.
- B. enables guests to enjoy impressive views.
- C. could have considerable negative environmental impact.
- D. flies people to luxury hotels in exotic locations.

11. NextGen will lead to...

☐

- A. increasingly large planes.
- B. reduced plane numbers.
- C. reduced refueling times.
- D. enhanced flying safety.

12. The text is about transport...

☐

- A. problems.
- B. policies.
- C. solutions.
- D. schedules.



# Text B — The Kanneh-Mason Family in Concert

The following statements are either true or false. Tick [✓] the correct option, then justify it using words as they appear in the text. **Both** parts are required for **[1 mark]**.

13. Some of the Kanneh-Mason siblings play more than one instrument.

<input type="checkbox"/> True	Justification: .....
<input type="checkbox"/> False	.....

14. Mr and Mrs Kanneh-Mason play music professionally.

<input type="checkbox"/> True	Justification: .....
<input type="checkbox"/> False	.....

15. The Kanneh-Mason siblings were educated privately.

<input type="checkbox"/> True	Justification: .....
<input type="checkbox"/> False	.....

16. The Kanneh-Mason siblings are more comfortable playing a particular type of music.

<input type="checkbox"/> True	Justification: .....
<input type="checkbox"/> False	.....

Find the word or phrase in **paragraph 2** which means the following:

17. mixture

.....

18. spoke enthusiastically

.....



19. described the situation precisely

.....

20. old-fashioned

.....

Answer the following questions.

21. Why was Sheku's 2016 BBC Young Musician award significant?

.....

22. In 2018, why did so many people see Sheku play the cello?

.....

23. Which siblings have already released music successfully?

.....

Choose an appropriate word(s) from the list that completes each gap in the following text.

[ – 24 – ] Mrs Kanneh-Mason, the siblings' success has not been like a fairy-tale. It has required a great deal of effort [ – 25 – ] sacrifice. Talent is, of course, an important element. However, [ – 26 – ] the importance of talent, Mrs Kanneh-Mason thinks that genius is even more significant. For Mrs Kanneh-Mason, genius is associated with a hunger and thirst to do something, and it is [ – 27 – ] this that her children have managed to achieve so much.

24. [ – 24 – ]

☐

25. [ – 25 – ]

☐

26. [ – 26 – ]

☐

27. [ – 27 – ]

☐

- A. as well as
- B. without
- C. thanks to
- D. in spite of
- E. according to
- F. except for
- G. concerning
- H. depending on



**Text C — “Take us home” – an extract from the novel *All the light we cannot see***

Find the words that complete the following sentences. Answer using the words as they appear in lines 1–16.

28. Finding a way into the puzzle boxes is not easy: it...

29. Marie-Laure’s father gives her the chalet puzzle when it is...

30. Marie-Laure is so quick at solving this year’s puzzle that her father knows he must...

31. Marie-Laure understands her father’s puzzle boxes much better than...

32. The real intersection of the rue de Mirbel and rue Monge is always filled with...

Choose the correct answer.

33. Which of the following is correct based on lines 17–23?

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- A. Marie-Laure has been blind since she was one year old.
- B. Marie-Laure is asked to study the model intersection repeatedly.
- C. Marie-Laure thinks the model is a very accurate representation.
- D. Marie-Laure has never walked on the road to the Grand Gallery.

34. When Marie-Laure is told “you’re going to take us home” (lines 25–26), her first reaction is...

☐

- A. shock.
- B. frustration.
- C. acceptance.
- D. confidence.



35. The father tells Marie-Laure, "I want you to think of the model" (line 28) in order to...

☐

- A. remind her of a happy memory, before she became blind.
- B. show her that she knows the roads, despite her blindness.
- C. reassure her that he will accompany her all the way.
- D. distract her from thinking about problems they face.

36. When Marie-Laure starts crying, her father...

☐

- A. scolds her.
- B. praises her.
- C. ignores her.
- D. encourages her.

To whom or to what do the underlined words refer? Answer using words as they appear in the text.

37. Opening them involves... (line 3)

.....

38. ...on winter days it swims... (line 14)

.....

39. ...it serves as little more... (line 18)

.....

40. "You can do this... (line 43)

.....



Please **do not** write on this page.

Answers written on this page  
will not be marked.

Veuillez ne **pas** écrire sur cette page.

Les réponses rédigées sur cette page  
ne seront pas corrigées.

**No** escriba en esta página.

Las respuestas que se escriban en  
esta página no serán corregidas.



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