



Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER

8021/23

Paper 2 Comprehension

October/November 2024

INSERT

1 hour 45 minutes

INFORMATION

- This insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.

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

Material for Section A

Background

Three months ago, Max Brown met the girl of his dreams, Carla Gomes, at the party of a mutual friend. It was a whirlwind romance, both having quickly decided that they had met 'the one'. Now engaged, Max and Carla are looking for a venue where they can have their wedding reception.

Max and Carla are both lawyers in Greystone City. Since going to university 10 years ago, Carla has lived away from the family home in rural Orangemount, visiting only when work commitments allow. She loves urban life but is a country girl at heart. Max grew up in the city and feels truly at home there.

Phone conversation between newly engaged Carla and her parents, Henry and Matilda.

Carla: (*speaking quickly*) Hi, Mum. I've exciting news! Max and I are getting married. Isn't that amazing?

Matilda: (*hesitantly*) Oh, wow! That is a surprise! Really?

Henry: (*gasping*) Er, who is this 'Max'?

Carla: (*exasperated*) Oh, Dad, honestly! I've been talking about him for months. He's the love of my life.

Henry: (*with resignation*) Didn't you say that about Felix, two years ago?

Carla: (*indignantly*) Dad, that's unfair! You know Felix had to go and work abroad.

Henry: Not before we'd put down a massive non-refundable deposit for the wedding, though.

Matilda: Oh, Henry! Do be quiet. You know that one wasn't meant to be.

Henry: Funny that, just like the other two!

Carla: (*ignoring him*) Can we talk about venues for the wedding reception? We've found a great one here near work, The Beauville Hotel, with availability in three weeks' time.

Matilda: Near you? In the city? Three weeks? What about here on the farm? Couldn't we use the farm? Everyone nearby could come.

Henry: (*with sudden interest*) Yes, that's a great idea! The old barn still needs a bit of work, though.

Matilda: (*excitedly*) Yes, the barn would be ideal. We could do the catering ourselves, with traditional country cooking – I'd love that. Your sisters could help. We could ask Orangemount Country and Western Band to play. Let me get thinking ...

Carla: (*quickly*) Hold on! Let me tell you about the other venue ...

Details about the two possible wedding venues

	Option 1	Option 2
Venue	The Beauville Hotel, a fashionable, exclusive hotel in Greystone City	The family's cattle, horse and sheep farm in Orangemount
Location of marriage ceremony	Greystone City register office	The local church
Location of wedding reception	A large room on the Hotel's 10th floor	One of the farm's barns, yet to be refurbished
Overnight accommodation for guests	Fifty double rooms costing \$200 per night on a room-only basis	The farmhouse has space for 20 guests The local hotel has 10 double rooms for \$50 per room per night, including breakfast
Food	A four-course meal created by an award-winning chef	A large home-cooked buffet, including local specialities prepared by Matilda
Entertainment during dinner	Professional string quartet	Streamed classical music on a Bluetooth speaker
Entertainment for after-dinner dancing	Well-known pop band, The Middle Cs	Orangemount Country and Western Band
Transport	Access by road and rail International airport on the edge of Greystone City, but with good links to highways	Access by road only
Parking	No parking at The Beauville Hotel Offsite in a multi-storey private car park; charges apply	On-site parking in a large field for all guests
Estimated cost per wedding guest for the reception's food and entertainment	\$150	\$30

Additional Information

1. Max's mother, Lydia, recently inherited her husband's massive fortune.
2. Carla's eldest sister, Trudy, lives on the family farm and is expecting a baby within the next month.
3. Henry has been intending to repair and decorate the barn for the past five years.
4. Lydia originally comes from Orangemount.
5. Carla and Max plan to invite 100 people to their wedding.

6. Orangemount Country and Western Band has a great reputation locally.
7. Most farming families are struggling financially, with increasing costs for fuel and animal feed.
8. Lydia regrets not having been able to visit her Orangemount relatives as often as she would like.
9. Carla's youngest sister, Jasmine – a student at Greystone City University – has a fear of heights.
10. Carla and Max love fine dining.
11. Lydia is a deeply religious woman, attending church regularly.
12. Medical guidelines advise women to limit their travel within the last six weeks of their pregnancy.
13. Lydia lives in a luxury apartment block in the capital city of a neighbouring country.
14. Henry and Matilda never go on holiday as the farm needs constant attention.
15. Orangemount is a seven-hour drive from Greystone City.
16. Carla's parents will be paying for all the food and entertainment of the guests at the wedding reception.
17. Lydia used to be a violinist in an orchestra.
18. The Middle Cs have had mixed reviews on social media.
19. Matilda holds monthly supper clubs for food lovers, and her food blogs have gone viral.
20. Lydia is frightened of large animals.

Material for Section B

Social glow

What does gathering around the TV have in common with the campfire habits of our Stone Age ancestors?

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‘It’s one of the mysteries
we need to focus on if we really want to understand the evolution of our species.’

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