

## PAPER 1 READING (1 hour)

## Part 1

You are going to read an extract from a novel. For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

On the very last day of a bad year, I was leaning against a pillar in the Baltimore railway station, waiting to catch the 10.10 to Philadelphia. There were a lot more people waiting than I had expected. That airy, light, clean, polished feeling I generally got in the station had been lost. Elderly couples with matching luggage stuffed the benches, and swarms of college kids littered the floor with their bags.

A grey-haired man was walking around speaking to different strangers one by one. Well-off, you could tell: tanned skin, nice sweater, soft, beige car-coat. He went up to a woman sitting alone and asked her a question. Then he came over to a girl standing near me. She had long blond hair, and I had been thinking I wouldn't mind talking to her myself. The man said, 'Would you by any chance be travelling to Philadelphia?'

'Well, northbound, yes,' she said.

'But to Philadelphia?'

'No, New York, but I'll be ...'

'Thanks, anyway,' he said, and he moved toward the next bench.

Now he had my full attention. 'Ma'am,' I heard him ask an old lady, 'are you travelling to Philadelphia?' When the woman told him, 'Wilmington,' he didn't say a thing, just marched on down the row to one of the matched-luggage couples. I straightened up from my pillar and drifted closer, looking toward the platform as if I had my mind on the train.

Well, I was going to Philadelphia. He could have asked me. I understood why he didn't, of course. No doubt, I struck him as unreliable. He just glanced quickly at me and then swerved off toward the bench at the other end of the waiting area. By now he was looking seriously stressed. 'Please!' he said to a woman reading a book. 'Tell me you're going to Philadelphia!'

She lowered her book. She was thirtyish, maybe thirty-five – older than I was, anyhow. A school-teacher sort. 'Philadelphia?' she said. 'Why, yes, I am.'

'Then could I ask you a favour?'

I stopped several feet away and frowned down at my left wrist. (Never mind that I don't own a watch.) Even without looking, I could sense how she went on guard. The man must have sensed it too, because he said, 'Nothing too difficult, I promise!'

They were announcing my train now. People started moving toward Gate E, the older couples hauling their wheeled bags behind them like big pets on leashes. Next I heard the man talking. 'My daughter's flying out this afternoon for a study year abroad, leaving from Philadelphia. So I put her on a train this morning, stopping for groceries afterward, and came home to find my wife in a state. She hardly said "hello" to me. You see my daughter'd forgotten her passport. She'd telephoned home from the station in Philadelphia; didn't know what to do next.'

The woman clucked sympathetically. I'd have kept quiet myself. Waited to find out where he was heading with this.

'So I told her to stay put. Stay right there in the station, I said, and I would get somebody here to carry up her passport.'

A likely story! Why didn't he go himself, if this was such an emergency?

'Why don't you go yourself?' the woman asked him.

'I can't leave my wife alone for that long. She's in a wheelchair.'

This seemed like a pretty poor excuse, if you want my honest opinion. Also, it exceeded the amount of bad luck that one family could expect. I let my eyes wander toward the two of them. The man was holding a packet, not a plain envelope, which would have been the logical choice, but one of those padded envelopes the size of a paperback book. Aha! Padded! So you couldn't feel the contents! And from where I stood, it looked to be stapled shut besides. Watch yourself, lady, I said silently.

- 1 What was the narrator's impression of the station that morning?
  - A People were making too much noise.
  - B It was unusually busy.
  - C There was a lot of rubbish on the ground.
  - D The seating was inadequate.
  
- 2 Why does the narrator show an interest in the grey-haired stranger?
  - A He was fascinated by the stranger's questions.
  - B He was anxious about the stranger's destination.
  - C He was jealous of the stranger's appearance.
  - D He was impressed by the stranger's skill with people.
  
- 3 What does the writer mean by 'she went on guard' in line 27?
  - A The woman was employed by the railway company.
  - B The woman was ready to call the police.
  - C The woman was surprised by the man's attitude.
  - D The woman was cautious in her response.
  
- 4 According to the stranger, how was his wife feeling when he got home?
  - A relieved to see him
  - B annoyed by their daughter's phone call
  - C upset about their daughter's situation
  - D worried about planning the best course of action
  
- 5 What does 'this' refer to in line 36?
  - A the story
  - B the passport
  - C the station
  - D the telephone call
  
- 6 When the narrator had heard the stranger's explanation, he felt
  - A sympathetic towards the stranger's daughter.
  - B willing to offer his assistance.
  - C doubtful about the combination of events.
  - D confused by the story the stranger told.
  
- 7 When the narrator sees the packet, he thinks that the woman should
  - A remain on the platform.
  - B proceed carefully.
  - C ask to check the contents.
  - D co-operate with the man.
  
- 8 What do we learn about the narrator's character from reading this extract?
  - A He enjoys talking to strangers.
  - B He has a strong sense of curiosity.
  - C He has a kind-hearted attitude to people.
  - D He interferes in the affairs of others.

## Part 2

You are going to read a newspaper article about a board game called 'pichenotte'. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A–H** the one which fits each gap (9–15). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

## Onto a winner

*Two brothers are finding that their childhood game is very good for business.*

Dave and Norm Lagasse, two bushy-bearded brothers in their forties, are sitting in their modest home in Santa Fe in New Mexico, USA, and reliving their childhood. In front of them lies a wooden board covered in round plastic pieces. They are playing the ancient game of pichenotte, one which, they insist, is unlike any other.

Their grandfather, Lucien Rajotte, a grocer originally from Quebec, Canada, brought the game into the USA and introduced it to his family. It wasn't long before, on just about every weekend and holiday, the family were playing the game and, as Dave says, 'having the best time ever'. Eventually, the family moved to New Mexico. **9** If visitors dropped by they were often fascinated, for the game was completely unknown in southern USA.

One day, three years ago, Dave set up the ancient pichenotte board and, realising how cracked and battered it had become, decided to make a new one. This turned out to be a beauty. A relative noticed and wanted one. Then a friend wanted another. **10** 'People there started to watch,' says Dave, 'and say, "No way I'm playing that silly game." Then they'd sit down, and pretty soon you couldn't get them up from the table!'

**11** The roots, he discovered, were probably in India, where a similar game called 'carroms' exists. That was adapted into a game called 'squails' which was played in pubs in Britain and, a century ago, British people emigrating to Canada



brought the game with them. Pichenotte is the name of the French-Canadian version of the game that developed in Quebec.

**12** Each competitor gets 12 pieces or 'pucks'. These are 'flicked' across a wheel-like board using the middle or index finger of one hand. Flicking a puck into a small hole is worth 20 points. Three concentric rings around the hole are worth 15, 10 and 5, respectively. Eight tiny posts present obstacles. The game usually lasts just two minutes.

When they saw how popular the game was at the Santa Fe bar, the Lagasses made a couple more boards and took them to markets and craft fairs. Crowds gathered, money changed hands and the game's popularity grew. **13** With word spreading more widely, the boards began to sell as fast as the brothers could make them. Eventually, they decided to go into the pichenotte business full-time.

They set up a workshop in the garage of their house and started turning out boards. More than 450 have been produced to date. **14** As Norm explains, 'They're very durable, as they have to stand up to lots of wear.' They are available, at \$595 each, from the brothers' website.

As yet, there are no professional pichenotte players or TV coverage to produce pichenotte celebrities. **15** Until then, they're happy to spend their off-duty hours playing the game they hope will make their fortune.

- A** This idea always brings a smile to the face of Mrs Lagasse, at 70 still an excellent player herself.
- B** Made of birchwood and mahogany, each weighs 12kg and is 1cm thick.
- C** Pichenotte, which can be played by two to four people, is clearly a game of skill.
- D** But Grandpa's pichenotte board, which he'd made out of old wooden food crates, was not forgotten and they continued to play regularly.
- E** When people started asking about the origins of the game, Dave decided to do some research.
- F** So much so that championships began to take place and a trophy called the 'Lord Pichenotte Cup' was created.
- G** Nonetheless, the day is not far off when the brothers' garage will be home to a luxury Mercedes rather than a saw and piles of wood.
- H** Curious as to how great the interest might be, one night the brothers took one of Dave's new game boards to a sports bar in Santa Fe.

**Part 3**

You are going to read an article about four sportsmen. For questions **16–30**, choose from the sportsmen (**A–D**). The sportsmen may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

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## Which sportsman mentions

a time-consuming aspect of being well known in his sport?

16	
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a career opportunity resulting from an achievement in sport?

17	
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the financial rewards of success in his sport?

18	
----	--

a good result that went largely unnoticed?

19	
----	--

the importance of having a social life outside sport?

20	
----	--

enjoying a change of scene when training?

21	
----	--

difficulties in a relationship resulting from his lifestyle?

22	
----	--

enjoying being recognised by people in the street?

23	
----	--

attracting attention for things not directly connected to the sport?

24	
----	--

not finding the idea of fame attractive?

25	
----	--

regretting having to turn down invitations?

26	
----	--

the advantages and disadvantages of supporters coming to watch the sport?

27	
----	--

the time of day he has to go training?

28	
----	--

disappointment at not getting help as a result of an achievement?

29	
----	--

a feeling that his sporting career will be relatively short?

30	
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# Dedicated to their sports

*Four young sports stars talk about their lives.*

## A Darius (runner)

I've always been sporty. I played a bit of everything at one time, but I was best at football and athletics. When I was 14, I had a trial for a professional football club, but eventually I opted to go down the athletics route instead. My biggest moment came when I got to compete for my country in the youth team and got a medal. It didn't result in much media attention, though, which was a shame. I'd been hoping some sponsorship would come out of it, because the training doesn't come cheap. I train at home all winter and then go away for three weeks, usually Florida, before the season starts. It's good fun – there are great athletics facilities there and the nightlife's great too. You've got to be really disciplined, though. If friends ask me to go out the night before training, I have to say no. I wish I didn't, but dedication pays in this sport. The main goal for me is to get to the next Olympics – that would be fantastic.

## B Gabriel (surfer)

The surfing community is small, so you get to meet the same guys wherever you compete. Professional surfers are very serious and often the best waves are at dawn, so if you're really going to get anywhere, you have to cut out late-night parties altogether. I don't mind that so much, but I do love having a lie-in, and I usually have to give that up too. But it's worth it, because without that kind of dedication I might not have won the National Championships last year. I make sure that a big night out follows any win, though, and if there's cash involved in the winnings, I'll go away somewhere really nice. And, of course, the sacrifices are worth it in the long run because winning that championship meant I got picked to present a surfing series on TV. I guess I'm a bit of a celebrity now.

## C Dieter (yacht racer)

With five lads on a boat together, you have a good laugh. We're very traditional and we always celebrate a win in great style. It's been said that we act a bit childishly when we're out, but we don't actively go looking for media coverage. Sometimes the reporters actually seem more concerned about where you go out celebrating and what you get up to there than about where you came in the race. I'm away for eight months of the year, so it's great to get back, go out with my mates from other walks of life and do the things they do. You can't live, eat and breathe the sport all the time – it's not healthy. I'm known within the world of sailing, but fortunately I can count the number of times I've been recognised in the street on the fingers of one hand. I'd hate to become some sort of celebrity. I get a lot of nice letters from people wanting signed pictures, though. It may take ages, but I reply to every one. It would be cheeky to complain, even if it does take a bit of organising.

## D Tomas (tennis player)

It's always a great thing to walk on court and feel that the crowd's behind you. At the last tournament, though, it all got a bit crazy with people crowding around. Despite that, I have to admit that I do still get quite a thrill out of being spotted by fans when I'm out shopping or something. It has its downside though. My last girlfriend didn't like it if I got too much attention from female fans. The thing is, tennis players have to travel quite a lot, and in the end that's why we split up, I guess. That was hard, but you've got to make sacrifices in any sport; you've got to be serious and professional. Actually, it doesn't really bother me too much. I'm content to concentrate on my game now and catch up on the other things in life once I've retired, because, after all, that comes pretty early in this sport.