



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SINGAPORE  
in collaboration with  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE  
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level  
Higher 1

CANDIDATE  
NAME

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## GENERAL PAPER

**8807/02**

Paper 2

October/November 2015

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

### READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, index number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **all** questions.

The Insert contains the passages for comprehension.

Note that up to **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

This document consists of 7 printed pages, 1 blank page and 1 Insert.



Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board



**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Examinations



## SPORT

**Passage 1.** *Kate Robb sets out the merits of playing and watching sport.*

- 1 As children we all enjoyed play because it was spontaneous and unconstrained by time and location. Sport develops play and provides structure: sport is codified play, of an agreed duration and in a designated setting. Perhaps this loss of spontaneity causes some youngsters to react against sport, along with inadequate facilities and the pressures applied by over-zealous parents. This disenchantment is regrettable, as missing out on sport is to miss out on something beneficial to us in so many ways. 5
- 2 When we play sport it improves our coordination, balance and flexibility, at the same time as combating obesity. It also develops important character traits such as self-discipline, determination and respect for rules. Psychologically, our self-esteem is increased when we rise to challenges and achieve goals. Sport offers us a retreat – invigorating or relaxing as the case may be – from the stresses of modern living. The social interaction it entails provides an antidote to isolation: in team sports we work together for a common goal, through which we can acquire leadership skills and a sense of responsibility towards others. Competitive sport, played in the right spirit, develops modesty in victory and resilience in defeat. We learn to lose at something that is relatively trivial to prepare ourselves for the setbacks in life which really matter. 10 15
- 3 Staging the highest level of international competition brings prestige to the host nation, and is lucrative. It also offers a benign outlet for patriotic passions as spectators celebrate the exploits of their country's competitors. And sport can provide a platform for displays of national solidarity in the face of disaster: witness the huge crowds attending baseball matches in the USA in the days following the 9/11 tragedy. 20
- 4 At its best, sport also provides us with an aesthetic pleasure on a par with other forms of performance, such as theatre. Spectators witness a dramatic clash of wills or moments of transcendent beauty, whether it is the utter mastery of a skill, the exhibition of poise or power, or the exhilaration of speed. The very best performers in these fields set new benchmarks for succeeding generations to improve upon. Similarly, they can exhibit the highest standards of behaviour in victory and defeat – what Hemingway called “grace under pressure” – which, hopefully, others may emulate. 25
- 5 Particularly pleasing for me is the way women's sport is gaining in popularity and recognition, despite television schedulers too often marginalising it and some tournament sponsors discriminating against women in the rewards they offer. We have come a long way from the original Olympic Games, where women were banned from competing at all – along with slaves and barbarians, which tells us a lot about women's status then. Today, sportswomen in some countries still face cultural barriers arising from the expectation that they observe a code of modesty and live a life of domesticity. Elsewhere, women live in a body-obsessed culture, where the media present thinness as preferable to muscle. Other obstacles are more practical: women have less leisure time than men and are eight times more likely to suffer stress fractures. Despite all this, women are now participating along with men in an ever-increasing range of sporting activities, and this is laudable. 30 35
- 6 And those indifferent to sport should consider this: F1 motor racing is in the vanguard of the technological innovations – increased fuel efficiency, better braking systems – in our family cars. True enough, such advances may seep rather than cascade down, but they are everyday reminders of how we are all beneficiaries of sport. 40



**Passage 2.** *Alfred Benjamin questions the value of sport.*

- 1 When a prestigious journal publishes an in-depth survey by a reputable academic in the field, it is reasonable to assume its findings have some validity. This survey asked 200 Olympic competitors – men and women of various nationalities across several disciplines – if they would take an imaginary, undetectable drug which would guarantee them improved performance. 95% said they would – which leaves a mere 5% who would decline. Just as revealing as the result itself is that the response of the wider sporting community was resignation: a metaphorical shrug of the shoulders as if to say the result was no surprise at all. 5
- 2 When the athletes in the survey were further asked if they would take an imaginary drug guaranteeing them victory in every competition for five years, *knowing that they would then die from its side-effects*, over 50% said they would. This recalls the centuries-old Faust myth, the story of a man who makes a pact with the devil: in return for a set period of uninterrupted success he will give up his soul. In the light of these athletes' responses, that legend does not seem outdated now; rather it is the notion of the purity of sport – at least at the professional, elite end of it – which seems antiquated. 10 15
- 3 In fact, was sport ever pure? Greek athletes in the original Olympic Games used stimulants – what we today euphemistically call “performance-enhancing substances”. They took drugs to gain an unfair advantage and, despite today's ever more stringent testing regimes, the reputation of professional sport is regularly besmirched by confessions and revelations of drug-taking. Roman emperors organised public games to guarantee the quiescence of the populace: sport was employed as a form of social control, a distraction from pressing issues of the day. So it is today with professional sport, which occupies so much space on the television and in the newspapers that it elbows aside more important matters. 20
- 4 In the nineteenth century, when sport first began to be organised and popular, its heroes were the naturally talented individuals, the amateurs who performed for the sheer fun of it and whose victories seemed effortless. Today's professional champions, their attire or their equipment festooned with sponsors' logos, follow punishing training regimes and are supported by whole teams of nutritionists, sports scientists and psychologists. And then there's the further corruption which financial reward can encourage – bribery and the fixing of results – which leads us to wonder how much of what we witness is down to genuine talent and how much to chemical enhancement or financial skulduggery. 25 30
- 5 Granted, the sport most of us participate in is healthy, sociable and entertaining. Whether we pit ourselves against an opponent, the clock, the elements or just ourselves the end product is simple pleasure. But much elite sport today seems joyless and, what is more, takes place in an ethical void. When winning is everything, ruthlessness, disdain for one's opponents and gloating in victory are celebrated; finer feelings, such as compassion, sportsmanship and magnanimity are considered weaknesses, whereas in the world outside sport they are seen as virtues. Looked at in this way, sport, far from featuring the best of human athletic endeavours, often encourages much that is worst in human nature. 35



Read the passages in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

**NOTE:** When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words and phrases from the passage.

**From Passage 1**

- 1 Give two differences between play and sport that the author suggests in lines 1–3. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

- 2 Explain how the development of women's sport can be hindered by the actions of television schedulers and sponsors (lines 30–31). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

- 3 In paragraph 5, the author describes the difficulties sportswomen face as "cultural" and "practical". Give **one** example of **each** difficulty that the author provides and explain how it would hinder a sportswoman's career. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

- 4 What is the author suggesting by writing "such advances may seep rather than cascade down" (line 42)?

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.....[1]



- 5** Using material from paragraphs 2–4 only (lines 7–28), summarise what the author has to say about the benefits sport brings both to the individual and to society.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

Firstly, playing sport benefits us because .....

.....[8]



**From Passage 2**

- 6 What is the author implying about reaction to the survey by his use of the word “resignation” in line 7?

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.....[1]

- 7 In paragraph 2, how does the author support his idea that the Faust myth “does not seem outdated” (line 14)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....  
.....[2]

- 8 Why has the author written “performance-enhancing substances” in inverted commas (line 17)?

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.....[1]

- 9 What distinction is the author making when he refers to “confessions and revelations of drug-taking” (lines 19–20)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....  
.....[2]

- 10 In paragraph 4, what differences does the author see between successful athletes in the nineteenth century and those of today? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

- 11 In the final sentence of paragraph 5, what contrast does the author make between what sport should be and what it often is? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

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**From both passages**

- 12 One writer thinks sport has considerable value, while the other questions this view. How important is sport for you and your society, and how far would you agree or disagree with the opinions expressed in these two passages?

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