



Entry Test

Academic Session 2025-26

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Total Marks **25**

45 minutes

Class: IGCSE level II (IX)

Fill in these boxes and read what is printed below:

Candidate Name

Date

Read Carefully

- 1 Write your answers in black ink in the space provided.**
- 2 Before leaving the examination room, you must give this paper to the invigilator, if you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.**

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Total Marks		Marks Obtained		Percentage	
-------------	--	----------------	--	------------	--

Section A: Comprehension

Text A: Whaling in Barrow

In this extract a travel writer is invited to go whaling in Barrow, Alaska.

As we wait at Barrow airport for our luggage to emerge from the plane, we take turns to put our heads out of the exit door and we instantly return giggling like school children. None of us has ever experienced cold like it. The wind is fierce enough in the thickest, most professional extreme cold weather clothing I could find and still it is not enough. I'm beginning to revise my oft-repeated assertion that I would rather be too cold than too hot.

At half past ten at night, it is still as bright as day. I wander about the town, taking in the sights, such as they are, before submitting to the fact that it will never be dark. The curtains in my hotel room are not thick enough to keep out the white light and I pass a fitful night.

In the height of Barrow's summer, it sometimes gets above freezing. That is the best they have to look forward to. The majority of the town's population is made up of Inupiat Eskimos who subsist by hunting caribou, fish and whale. The federal and international authorities who govern these issues allow Eskimos of Barrow to hunt twenty-two whales a year. The whales are shared amongst the whole community. In a land where fruit and fresh vegetables are hard to come by even today, white meat provides all the vitamins and the nutrition that the Inupiat need.

I have an appointment with whaling captain Henry, who invites me into his home to meet his bouncy and boisterous family. Henry is delighted: a warm, friendly and very proud Inupiat. He makes his own drums, he fashions his own tools, and he tries to live a life that his ancestors would be proud of.

He agrees to take us on his whaling boat. The season is nearly upon us and it may be that whales will be spotted in the open seas. I am quite happy if we don't see a whale, for it would mean a killing.

While I fully respect the Inupiat's traditional rights and while I recognize their hunting techniques on oar-powered boats have never endangered the bowhead or the beluga whale, I am still reluctant to watch the slaughter of any whale, no matter how traditionally done it may be.

Barrow is a coastal town, which is hard to verify when sea is frozen. Henry's whaler is actually a mile or so out. He pulls us along on sleds, driving a Ski-doo. The blueness of the ice comes as a shock to me. I had not thought that frozen sea water would be so hauntingly lovely.

We arrive at the whaler, which is not bigger than an average dining table. A crew of eight, at a moment's notice can run the boat off the ice and jump into it just as it hits the water - water in which a human, no matter how fully dressed, could not survive for more than three minutes. Henry shows me his harpoons which, he assures me, ends the life of a whale instantly. The Inupiat take pride in never causing pain or distress to their quarry.

We stand where the frozen sea ends and watch the horizon. I am glad to say that I see no whales.

Question 1

(a) Why are the writer and his companions ‘giggling like school children’ in **Paragraph 1**?

.....

..... [1]

(b) **Using your own words**, explain fully what the writer means by ‘submitting to the fact’ in **Paragraph 2**.

.....

..... [2]

(c) Give **two** reasons that justify the Inupiat’s right to hunt whales from **Paragraph 3**.

-
- [2]

(d) (i) How does the writer feel about whale hunting?

(ii) Give **two** details from **Paragraph 4** to support your answer.

(i) Feeling:

.....

(ii) Details:

.....

.....

..... [2]

(e) Explain **using your own words** the challenges of living in Barrow. Give **three** details from anywhere in the text to support your answer.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [3]

[10]

Section B: Composition

Question 2

Write about 150 to 250 words on any **one** of the following questions.

Up to 6 marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to 9 marks for the quality of your writing.

EITHER

Descriptive writing

- a) Write a description of a crowded place before and during a sudden burst of heavy rain. [15]

OR

Narrative writing

- b) Write a story which involves a moment of panic. [15]

[illegible]

Sample Papers

Sample Papers

Content: /6
Style: /9
Total: /15

[Total marks:25]