

Integrated Skills in English II

Time allowed: 2 hours

This exam paper has four tasks. Complete all tasks.

Task 1 – Long reading

Read the following text about a short history of skyscrapers and answer the 15 questions on page 3.

Paragraph 1

Our passion for tall buildings has grown across the centuries, and there are many buildings standing today to remind us of this fact. Dramatic buildings of the past include the Egyptian pyramids, the impressive towers of Italy, and the beautiful cathedrals of France. Because these buildings were all made of natural materials such as heavy stone, most of the structures had thick and sturdy walls. However, the result of building with this material was that rooms always seemed to be dark and gloomy, and if engineers had included too many windows, the structure would have been weakened.

Paragraph 2

Throughout the 19th century, engineers worked with two new materials in the design of their buildings – iron and steel. These metals were stronger and lighter than stone, so builders were excited when the first tall building was built with them. Named the 'Home Insurance Building', it was erected in Chicago in the United States. At 10 floors high, it was considered tall, and included a steel skeleton as a support. It even had windows but people still complained that the closely spaced steel blocks made the building feel smaller than it was.

Paragraph 3

In 1857, everything changed. The first passenger lift in a department store in New York meant that it was possible to construct buildings of more than four or five storeys tall and make the space practical. People would no longer have to climb so many stairs and getting to floors high up in a building became much easier. This created a great interest in skyscrapers, as builders and engineers suddenly realised that putting a lift into a building could open up space for living and working. It became really important to find ways to build higher than ever.

Paragraph 4

As skyscrapers grew taller, engineers discovered they were facing a new enemy – the wind. Today, skyscrapers must be much stronger against wind than shorter buildings. This is because a building so tall will move at its highest point – so the latest designs ensure that skyscrapers move at their highest point, a bit like a tree moves in the wind. Wind pressure on the structure can make the base move too. So engineers have worked to balance the skyscrapers from top to bottom, and a computerised device inside the building helps the building move in strong winds.

Paragraph 5

Experimenting with various new styles and building methods remains popular. Having building materials that are lighter and easier to use means that taller and more innovative structures are springing up around the world. The space available to build in urban areas continues to shrink, so the only option is to build upwards. Building technology is continually improving, and the people who are responsible for city planning know they can safely push the limits of design. New homes and offices are being built that are stronger, higher and more luxurious. The new age of the super skyscraper could be closer than we think.

Questions 1-5

The text on page 2 has five paragraphs (1-5). Choose the best title for each paragraph from A-F below and write the letter (A-F) on the lines below. There is one title you don't need.

1. Paragraph 1 B
2. Paragraph 2 E
3. Paragraph 3 A
4. Paragraph 4 F
5. Paragraph 5 D

- | |
|---------------------------------|
| A Race for the sky |
| B A long-standing admiration |
| C Controlling wind speed |
| D The sky is the limit! |
| E The first official skyscraper |
| F The force of nature |

Questions 6-10

Choose the five statements from A-H below that are TRUE according to the information given in the text on page 2. Write the letters of the TRUE statements on the lines below (in any order).

6. A
7. B
8. E
9. F
10. G

- | |
|--|
| A Traditional sites around the world are evidence of our affection for tall buildings. |
| B Building taller structures was made possible by using metals. |
| C People complained about the windows in the Home Insurance Building. |
| D The first department store opened in New York in 1857. |
| E Having a lift in a building made builders and engineers excited about ways to use the space. |
| F Smaller buildings need less wind protection than tall buildings. |
| G A machine helps the building to change position when it's windy. |
| H New technology means that city planners can take risks in designing buildings. |

Questions 11-15

Complete sentences 11-15 with an exact number, word or phrase (maximum three words) from the text. Write the exact number, word or phrase on the lines below.

11. Older buildings were thought to be beautiful, but the use of NATURAL MATERIALS , eg heavy stone, meant the buildings were dark.
12. The first tall building, the Home Insurance Building, was held up by a STEEL structure.
13. Taller buildings created additional room for both LIVING AND WORKING .
14. The wind is a skyscraper's enemy because of the PRESSURE it puts on the structure at both the base and the top.
15. In the future, new materials and technology mean we may soon see a SUPER SKYSCRAPER that is taller and more comfortable than anything we have seen until now.

Turn over page

Task 2 – Multi-text reading

In this section there are four short texts for you to read and some questions for you to answer.

Questions 16-20

Read questions 16-20 first and then read texts A, B, C and D below the questions. As you read each text, decide which text each question refers to. Choose one letter – A, B, C or D – and write it on the lines below. You can use any letter more than once.

Which text

- 16. describes the kinds of films you can see in different types of cinemas? A
- 17. analyses the cost of a cinema visit? D
- 18. looks at the pros and cons of cinema and home viewing? B
- 19. explains why it is good business sense to ensure cinemas survive? C
- 20. identifies the kinds of people who go to the cinema? D

Text A

www.theroyalcinema.com/calltoaction

The Royal Cinema

Call to action

You may have read in the local press that The Royal Cinema may have to close. It can no longer compete with the chains of multiplex cinemas in the city. For film fans in the area this is a disaster.

Although the multi-screen cinemas say they offer more variety, they are restricted because distributors tell them which films they can show and these are usually big budget movies to attract cinema goers in large numbers.

But what about independent filmmakers who are at the centre of the creative film industry? By losing the independent cinemas, we lose our chance to see some wonderful new and unusual films. If you love films, join my campaign to save The Royal Cinema. If you don't, you may regret it.

Text B

The Movieblog: Movies at home or at the cinema – what do you think?

Alice1: Home – I have an awesome sound system, a remote with a pause button and a kitchen to get my own snacks.

HalimaM: Home, definitely...no one eating their popcorn and chatting next to me...and the excessive volume of the movie that leaves me deafened.

ACHihiro1998: If I have a date then it's the cinema...otherwise it's movies at home!

DannyBoy: I could watch films on my laptop, but I get distracted doing other stuff – I miss the magic of great movie moments. I still love the cinema experience, the previews, the adverts, the big-screen movie.

Paco_Movies: You can't beat 3D in a BIG cinema for exceptional movies, otherwise I watch at home – it's cheaper and more convenient.

Leila_K: I sometimes need subtitles to understand the dialogue – you don't get them in the cinema.

Text C

Now that we can watch any film whenever we want and wherever we happen to be, from our television, laptop or tablet, does cinema have a future?

Surround sound systems and wall-sized screens help us create a cinema at home, although one person watching a movie at home means one less cinema ticket sold.

Cinema audiences are down and 3D hasn't been a huge success. In fact, cinema film distribution is so expensive that only a minority of films make back the money that is spent on them. DVD sales are much more profitable. Would the major film studios be so upset if cinema disappeared? In cinema's favour, it's hard to generate the publicity gained by a high profile film premiere just by releasing a DVD.

Text D

Are you a regular movie goer?

General population: 22% Yes, 78% No

What proportion of each age group visits the cinema every week?

13-17	39%
18-24	27%
25-34	24%
35-44	21%
45-54	39%
55+	27%

Relationship status

Relationship status: 26% Single, 31% Dating, 19% Married

Yes, ticket prices are high. But run the numbers through an inflation calculator and they don't look as bad.

	Actual price (£)	Adjusted for inflation (£)
1980	2.69	7.40
2000	5.39	7.09
2011	7.93	7.99

The cinema is popular with people in a relationship, but married couples prefer movies at home.

The recent decline in ticket sales is probably more due to media than to ticket prices.

Questions 21-25

Choose the five statements from A-H below that are TRUE according to the information given in the texts above. Write the letters of the TRUE statements on the lines below (in any order).

- 21. B
 - 22. C
 - 23. F
 - 24. G
 - 25. H
- A Independent cinemas have more freedom in planning their programmes.
 - B Some people who prefer movies at home recognise the special experience offered by the cinema.
 - C New developments in filmmaking have failed to revitalise the cinema business.
 - D Independent cinemas often lose money because they can't show the more popular films.
 - E Cinema makes as much money as DVDs.
 - F There are fewer opportunities for new filmmakers to sell their work in multi-screen cinemas.
 - G Changes in ticket prices are smaller than they seem to be.
 - H Single people like the cinema more than couples.

Turn over page

