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English B – Standard level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension
Anglais B – Niveau moyen – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite
Inglés B – Nivel Medio – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura

6 November 2025 / 6 novembre 2025 / 6 de noviembre de 2025

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

1 h

Text booklet – Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet accompanies paper 2 reading comprehension.

Livret de textes – Instructions destinées aux candidats

- N'ouvrez pas ce livret avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Ce livret accompagne la partie de l'épreuve 2 portant sur la compréhension écrite.

Cuadernillo de textos – Instrucciones para los alumnos

- No abra este cuadernillo hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Este cuadernillo acompaña a la parte de comprensión de lectura de la prueba 2.

Text A

Football changed my life; now I help other women play



Zainab Hassan is proving the power of sport in her Somali community

I first started playing football at school, aged 12, and instantly loved it. When I play football, I forget about my problems. They don't matter anymore. It's just my teammates and the ball, and these are the only things that count.

- 5 I grew up in my Somali Community in Leicester, in the UK, and I kept my hobby a secret from my parents. I did this because I am a Muslim girl, and the older generations in my family expected me to focus on my schoolwork. I thought they would disapprove.

- 10 The school coach saw my potential and I signed up to a new girl's football team, and before long, I was practising football whenever I could. I also joined the gym to improve my fitness. I used to tell my parents that I was staying behind at school for tutoring, but eventually I had to tell them the truth.

Fortunately, they were happy that I had found something that I was so passionate about and was keeping me mentally and physically healthy.

- 15 Covering up the body is important to me, and when I play, I wear long-sleeved tops under my t-shirts and leggings under my shorts. I also wear a sports hijab or just a regular one which I tuck in.

- 20 I became so proud to be a Muslim hijabi girl playing football that I wanted to teach other girls from the school to play and compete too. I set up an after-school club at the school, and seeing the girls having fun while playing football is a joy, and other girls have asked if they can sign up too.

Although I can't change the mind of everyone in my community about girls playing sport, I believe this is the start of a big change.

Text B

Walk with a Doc: Bringing communities together through movement and conversation

1 [– 24 –]

Back in 2005, cardiologist David Sabgir invited his patients to go for a walk with him at a local park in Columbus, Ohio. To his surprise, more than 100 people showed up—and Walk with a Doc was born.

- 2** Today, Walk with a Doc helps people across the nation take steps toward a healthier lifestyle—both literally and figuratively. True to its name, the program offers free doctor-led walking groups to give people of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities a safe, accessible, and fun way to get active. And doctors kick off each event by discussing a health topic, empowering participants to make informed decisions about their health.

3 [– 25 –]

Walk with a Doc also promotes conversation and camaraderie. The walks give participants an opportunity to socialize with each other and with a doctor—who they can also talk to about their health. “There’s no doubt that our walking groups provide health benefits”, says Program Manager Bryan Romey. “But social connection is really the glue that makes the program work and keeps people coming back.” This kind of social connection can be especially important for older adults, who may be dealing with isolation and loneliness.



4 [– 26 –]

Walk with a Doc is rooted in the core belief that, “at any age and any ability level, the simple act of walking and strolling has the power to change lives.” So the program’s staff and volunteers take special care to make sure all Walk with a Doc events are accessible.

- 5** “We want people with wheelchairs and walkers* to attend the walks,” says Romey. That’s why the program provides participating doctors with guidance on how to ensure walks are accessible for as many people as possible, including older adults—like by choosing routes with paved walkways.

- 6** Romey also emphasizes that the program offers another type of accessibility altogether: access to doctors outside of a clinical setting. He says that for many people, the opportunity to get to know their doctor and ask questions in a relaxed environment is a primary motivator for regular participation in walks.

7 [– 27 –]

Today, Walk with a Doc has more than 500 groups worldwide, including in 46 states. Each year, Walk with a Doc hosts more than 8000 walks in rural, urban, and suburban communities—and more than 120 000 people participate.

* walker: a frame designed to assist with walking

Text C

August’s Night Sky Notes: Seeing Double

During the summer months, we tend to miss the views of Saturn, Jupiter and other heavenly bodies. But it can be a great time to look for other objects, like globular star clusters such as Messier 13, open star clusters such as the Coma Star Cluster (Melotte 111), but also double stars!



What Are Double Stars?

If you have seen any movies or read any books that refer to having two suns in the sky, that would be a double star system.

These star systems typically come in

two types – binary and optical doubles. Binary stars are two stars that are gravitationally bound and orbit each other, and optical double stars only appear to be close together when viewed from Earth, but in reality, are extremely far apart from each other, and are not affected by each other’s gravity. With a small telescope, in moderately light polluted skies, summer offers great views of these stellar groupings from the Northern Hemisphere:

- **Double Double:** also known by its technical name, Epsilon Lyrae, this multiple star system appears as one star when observed with the naked eye. But with a small telescope, it can be split into two stars. A large telescope reveals Epsilon Lyrae’s secret – what looks like a single star is actually a quadruple star system!
- **Albireo:** a gorgeous double star set – one blue, one yellow – in the constellation Cygnus.
- **Polaris:** while technically a multiple star system, our North Star can easily be separated from one star to two with a modest telescope.
- **Mizar and Alcor:** located in the handle of the Big Dipper constellation, this pair can be seen with the naked eye.

Aside from looking incredible in a telescope or binoculars, double stars help astronomers learn about measuring the mass of stars, and about stellar evolution. Some stars orbit each other a little too closely, and things can become disastrous, but overall, these celestial bodies make for excellent targets and are simple crowd pleasers.

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