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English ab initio – Standard level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension
Anglais ab initio – Niveau moyen – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite
Inglés ab initio – 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

Postcards from Grandma



To: My Grandkids, 37 Main Street, Ourcity, CO 80200, United States

December 12, Egypt

Hello wonderful kids,

I am here during the coolest time of the year, but it is still hot. It is so sunny here that I wear
5 my hat and sunglasses all the time. I'm glad I brought lots of sunscreen. It hardly ever rains in
this place. Only a few plants can survive here because it is so dry.

Love, Grandma

To: My Grandkids, 37 Main Street, Ourcity, CO 80200, United States

August 15, Spain

10 Hi kids!

It's summer here and that is the hottest and driest time of year. It's about 80 degrees and
people told me that it's a good idea to take a nap during the middle of the day to avoid the heat.
They call the nap a siesta. In the winter it's cooler and there are more showers, but it doesn't get
cold enough to snow.

15 Love, Grandma

To: My Grandkids, 37 Main Street, Ourcity, CO 80200, United States

March 10, Brazil

Dear kids,

20 Greetings from the rainforest! It stays very warm here all year long. Lush green plants grow and monkeys swing from trees. I am visiting during the rainiest time of the year, so I wear my raincoat everywhere I go. The monkeys don't have raincoats. They don't seem to mind the rain.

Love, Grandma

To: My Grandkids, 37 Main Street, Ourcity, CO 80200, United States

April 16, Siberia

25 Hello kids!

It looks very wintry here, even in April. It is cold and snowing and the lakes are frozen. The people I've met are excited for summer to come in a few months. They tell me that the temperature warms up into the 60s in June, July, and August and more rain falls than during this time of year.

30 Love, Grandma

Text B

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Text C

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.

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