

SECTION A: Reading

You should spend about 40 minutes on this section.

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions which follow.

Center Parcs offers family holidays in woodland settings, with the opportunity to participate in a range of activities.

Magical Moments

Creating memories as unique as you

Remember the joy of having time to spare? Time to play, to let go, to relax, to grow closer to the things you love. A time for all of you. Natural and beautiful, few places impress the senses and mind quite like Center Parcs, inspiring you to create the moments that will live forever.

Escape the rush and routine to a place of freedom and space, where children play and laughter echoes. Where friends and families share new experiences. Center Parcs – the natural choice.



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Togetherness

Who would want to deny themselves those spontaneous moments of family togetherness? When you just go with the moment, and don't have to do anything, or be anywhere. Children grow up so fast that you can easily miss the joys of really connecting with them. But in the special world that is Center Parcs, you can, sharing in their innocent excitement, their wonder at nature, their thrilling new experiences – and never miss a moment. The memories you create with your children are their memories too. They'll carry them through life, always there when they reflect upon the special times with you.

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Memories are made of this

Look at their faces, their smiles, as the adventure unfolds. Your children want you to enjoy being with them as much as they enjoy being with you. So why not launch the laughter and family fun in the Subtropical Swimming Paradise, amidst the exhilarating flumes and cascading rapids that flow from the warmth of the indoor pools to the fresh air outside. And when you can persuade yourselves to return to dry land, you'll find an inspiring array of other activities and challenges to share: navigate a quiet cycle trail perhaps, serve up a game of badminton, or discover the art of falconry, archery or maybe even fishing. Or just meander through the peace and tranquillity of the surrounding forest. Your time together is precious: be sure to make it memorable too.

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Actively inspired

Escape from the humdrum and return to past pleasures. Be daring, be a child again and try things you've never done before. There's all the time in the world and an inspiring array of challenges and activities to share. Test your reflexes with a fencing partner or feel the breeze as you tack across the lake. Arouse your artistic side and create a watercolour, bringing to life the amazing landscape around you. 35

Feeling naturally at home

Accommodation comes as cleverly arranged clusters of villas, distinctive lodges and the option of apartments. Practicality and good value go hand-in-hand in a Comfort villa or lodge. Simple, sociable living space and essential comforts to suit you and your budget. Go for the ultimate and treat yourself to an Exclusive villa experience. These two-storey villas really do take accommodation to another level. They include your own steam room and outdoor hot tub, so you can take it easy and spoil yourself thoroughly. 40

Suiting individual tastes

With freshly prepared ingredients, subtle flavourings and innovative combinations, our experienced chefs are dedicated to making eating out a really special part of your holiday. There are all different kinds of foods to tempt you. Children can choose from healthy and appetising menus or ask for a half-portion of adult meals. For quiet nights in, you can find a good range of food including freshly baked bread and an extensive choice of wines, beers and spirits at the ParcMarket – our own continental style supermarket. 45

It's the perfect moment to book

There's so much variety and so many different experiences, so many places to explore and so many magical moments to share. 50

Days revolve around doing what you want to do, at your own pace. You can be on the go all day or as laid back as you like. The natural terrain inspires a whole range of activities and facilities to suit every mood and a choice of accommodation to suit every budget. In fact you'll find that Center Parcs offers surprisingly good value for money all year round. 55

We look forward to welcoming you soon. 60



SECTION B: Reading and Writing

You should spend about 40 minutes on this section.

Remind yourself of the passage, *Impact Alert – Asteroids* from the London Examinations Anthology, and then answer questions 5 and 6.

Impact Alert – Asteroids

Asteroid facts

- an asteroid is an irregularly shaped lump of rock, measuring between 10m and 10km across.
- if you collected together all known asteroids, they would weigh less than the Moon. 5
- being composed of minerals and metals, asteroids are potentially worth a fortune.
- it is estimated that 30,000 asteroid fragments – meteorites – fall on the Earth every year. The vast majority land in deserts or in the seas, which between them make up most of the surface area of the Earth, and so they are not recovered. 10

What’s the probability of Earth being hit by an asteroid in the near future?

Our being hit by a large asteroid in the future is a certainty. The question is when, and that is what astronomers are trying to find out now.

How much warning time do you think we might have?

We should be able to get 80 or 100 years’ notice. 15

What’s the best way to deflect a hazardous asteroid?

There is no best way because all asteroids are different.

What to expect if one hits

Looking at the eyewitness reports from the 1908 Tunguska comet-impact, in Siberia, tells us what to expect if an asteroid hits the Earth. Amazingly, no people were killed but over a thousand reindeer were burnt to a cinder. As the shock wave smashed through the forest, it felled trees and stripped them of branches, leaving them looking like telegraph poles. Hunters, further away, were knocked unconscious and thrown to the ground by the blast. Everyone within 1,000 km of the impact saw the great flash in the sky from the explosion. The devastation covers an area approximately the size of Greater London. Should such an impact occur over any city, the human death toll would be measured in millions. 20 25

Tunguska was caused by an object no bigger than 100m in diameter, and you can expect impacts of that type every century or so. Of course, most will take place over one or other of the vast majority of unpopulated areas. 30

In the case of a repeat of the dinosaur-killing impact of 65 million years ago, the proposed scenario is almost unthinkable. When a 10km-sized asteroid hits the ground, it will throw so much dust into the air that the planet will be bathed in a fiery meteor storm. Bill Napier, an astronomer from Armagh Observatory, says: “Global destruction occurs largely through the ejection of hot ash, causing huge numbers of shooting stars that just incinerate everything. Then there would be a massive destruction of the atmosphere.” 35



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The chemicals released by the impact are likely to destroy the ozone layer and create enormous quantities of acid rain. The dust that does not fall back as meteorites becomes suspended in the atmosphere, blocking out the sunlight. Seismic waves from the Tunguska impact were registered around the world. After a 'dinosaur-killer', the entire planet would be wracked with earthquakes. "I think conservatively, you are talking about Richter 9 quakes," says Napier. 40

Would life survive a big one?

Throughout Earth's history there have been at least five mass extinctions. The last one was of the dinosaurs. Every time, life survived and built up once again. So although life in some form would continue, predicting what would live and what might die is difficult. Without sunlight for photosynthesis, because of the Earth's dusty shroud, the collapse of food chains on land and in the upper layers of the oceans seems inevitable. Perhaps seeds will survive to start again when the dust settles. Small scavengers such as rats and cockroaches might be able to adapt to the new regime. Life very deep on the ocean floor, around hot water vents, would probably be unaffected. 45 50

Worst Case Scenario

So, which should we worry about: global catastrophe dinosaur-killer size, or smaller city-smashers? Napier says: "I think the biggest danger is a Tunguska – or super-Tunguska-sized object. Especially if it lands on water, the Atlantic, say. The tsunami caused by this would be disastrous for cities around the Atlantic rim." 55

Between the 100m class and the 10km class is a size range of objects that also causes concern. They are the asteroids measuring about 1km across. These would not cause global devastation but could have global consequences, with massive damage in every country on Earth. It is estimated that such an impact would cause the death of about a third of the world's population: billions of lives. So although the human race would survive, the biggest question is: could civilisation? 60

(Source: adapted from an article by Stuart Clark, *Focus*, January 2003)



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