
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/22

Paper 2 Reading

October/November 2015

INSERT

1 hour 45 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains the two reading passages.



This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Passage 1

Cinema

- 1 One of the marvels of cinema is that it is the result of global endeavour. It has been said that cinema, like the detective story, makes it possible to experience without danger all the excitement which must be repressed in normal life. Since its inception at the end of the nineteenth century, it has become a popular and inspiring art form all over the world.
- 2 A breakthrough in the production of moving images occurred in 1878 when, in order to prove that a galloping horse lifts all four legs off the ground simultaneously, a racehorse was photographed every thousandth of a second by several cameras along the racetrack. In 1889 came the invention of a camera which could take ten consecutive pictures per second using celluloid film, followed the next year by the advent of the kinetoscope. This box-shaped device showed a strip of film carrying images in sequence; its drawback was that, as the film was viewed through the top of the device, it could be used only by one individual at a time. By the late nineteenth century, the possibility of cinema as we know it today was realised with the invention of the film projector, which allowed films to be shown on a screen to many people simultaneously. The fact that, for example, acrobats and sporting events like boxing could be recorded meant that they could be shown repeatedly at no extra cost to the producers. These early films lasted about a minute, and were flat, rather dull compositions, but that in no way detracted from their popularity. 5
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- 3 At first films were shown in theatres or by travelling showmen in temporary venues, but a major development came with the building of permanent cinemas, the first of these being in 1905 in Pittsburgh, USA. By this time, although films lasted no more than a few minutes, enough of them had been produced to create programmes lasting for half an hour; these programmes could be changed weekly when the audience became bored. It is astonishing that in the USA, by 1907, there were 4,000 cinemas, called 'Nickelodeons' after the first one in Pittsburgh. 20
- 4 Cinema films at first comprised moving images only, without sound, and to popularise them they were often accompanied by live music, usually provided by a pianist, but sometimes by groups of musicians. Where the entire story could not be portrayed by the film, narrators were used to fill in the missing parts; in Japan, for example, narrators called benshi slotted naturally into this role as they were descendants of an old oral tradition of story-telling. Later, sound was added to these silent films, giving rise to the term 'talkies'; sound-on-disc played back a pre-recorded sound to synchronise with the film, although the synchronicity was often far from accurate. An improvement came with sound-on-film, an innovation where the sound was actually recorded on to the film rather than played alongside it, although amplification of the sound was often a problem. 25
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- 5 Cinema continues to enjoy popularity in modern times, having been enhanced by improved technology in, for example, sound effects and lighting. Sophisticated camerawork allows audiences to see more clearly the emotions of the characters and to relate the situations they see to their own lives. Films about specific issues and themes, such as civil liberties or poverty, can be a force for good in the world by shaping the way societies and individuals think. Bollywood – an informal name popularly used for the Hindi language film industry – draws on ancient Indian epics and Sanskrit drama; thus it can be seen that cinema can keep heritages alive. The different genres of films produced – war, mystery, crime, romance – cater for all tastes and provide relaxation and entertainment for all. 35
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- 6 Trips to cinemas are much better than watching television at home, as their widescreens facilitate the showing of spectacular and extravagant films, the dramatic qualities of which are lost on a television screen. The quality of modern films is often enhanced by computer animations, whereby computers are used to create anything from crowded battlefields to surreal fantasies. Celebrity film stars – a phenomenon unknown in the pioneering days of cinema – might be good role models for their fans, although, unfortunately, this is not always the case. In the early stages of videos and, later, DVDs, film producers saw these as a threat to their profits; however, we now live in the age of 'the second venue' for films, in that DVDs can be watched at home as family entertainment. 45
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Passage 2

The Bandits

- 1 I was first captivated by the kusimanse, a mongoose-like animal, when I saw one asleep in a zoo under a pile of straw that heaved gently and rhythmically. As this was a creature I was likely to meet on my forthcoming trip to photograph animals in their natural habitat, I felt justified in disturbing it by rattling my thumbnail along the bars of the cage. Movement took place in the straw, and a little face appraised me for a moment; noticing the nuts I held tentatively near the bars, the animal uttered a faint shriek and struggled madly to release itself from its cocoon of straw. It ate the nuts on offer and, as soon as it realised that no more titbits were forthcoming, it gave a long-suffering sigh and dived back into the straw. 5
- 2 Three months later, on my trip, I had ample opportunity to get to know kusimanses properly. I often saw them when I was sitting in concealment in the forest waiting for animals to show up. Then one morning a colleague brought me a basket of three baby kusimanses; they had been found abandoned and in need of human parenting. I started teaching them to feed, by wrapping some cotton wool round a matchstick and dipping it in milk, so that the babies would suck on it. However, they struggled and squeaked, and every time I pushed the cotton wool into their mouths they frantically spat it out again. Did they think that I was some sort of monster endeavouring to choke them? I wondered if I had not got more than I had bargained for. Luckily, it was not long before they discovered that the cotton wool contained milk, but then they sucked so hard that unfortunately even the cotton wool disappeared down their throats. 10 15
- 3 For the first week they spent most of the day sprawling on their bed of dried leaves in their basket beside my bed, scrambling excitedly around inside the basket at meal times. However, soon their front teeth appeared and, as their legs got stronger, they became more eager to see the world that lay outside their basket, and I would put them on my bed so that they could have a walk around. However, I called an abrupt halt to this habit when they discovered my bare foot sticking out from under the bedclothes and decided that if they bit my toe hard enough it might produce milk. 20 25
- 4 This was, alas, merely the first of the many troubles in store for me. Very soon the kusimanses had become such a nuisance that I named them the Bandits. They grew fast because their appetites seemed insatiable. Consequently, their lives turned into one long quest for food. One of the things of which they made a light snack was their basket lid. Having demolished this they hauled themselves out and went on a tour of inspection round the camp. With unerring accuracy, they made their way to the one place where they could do the maximum damage in the minimum time: the kitchen. They broke a dozen eggs and, to judge by the state of them, rolled in the contents. 30
- 5 There was also a tame monkey, a somewhat vain creature called Colly, who had befriended us. One afternoon she decided, having spent a lot of her time grooming her lovely coat and long plume-like tail, to enjoy a siesta. She lay like a sunbather, her hands folded neatly on her chest. Unfortunately, just as she was falling asleep, the Bandits appeared on the scene. When they saw Colly's tail lying on the ground, apparently not belonging to anyone, they decided it must be a tasty morsel of something or other that destiny had placed in their path, and so they rushed forward and sank their sharp little teeth into it. Colly gave a wild scream of fright and scrambled towards the top of a tree, but the Bandits were not going to be deprived without a struggle, and they hung on grimly. The higher Colly climbed, the higher she lifted the Bandits and, when eventually I got there, I found them hanging by their teeth, like some miniature trapeze artists, three feet off the ground. 35 40 45
- 6 Eventually, it was with a feeling of relief as well as regret that, our job done, we released the Bandits back into their natural habitat, although life without them would be considerably less exciting.

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