



Cambridge Lower Secondary Checkpoint

ENGLISH

0861/01

Paper 1 Non-fiction

April 2023

INSERT

1 hour 10 minutes

INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading passages.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Text A

Park Güell

Antoni Gaudí is one of Spain's most famous artists. The park he created, Park Güell, in Barcelona is one of the most visited attractions in Spain. It is as whimsical¹ as a park can get. Initially, the park was meant to be a housing estate for the rich, commissioned by a wealthy nobleman, Count Güell. He hired Gaudí to design the project, but it eventually folded due to the land's incompatible conditions for building. Despite this, Gaudí continued and the housing estate became a garden park. Gaudí modelled these gardens on ones he had seen in England, building around the natural elements of the land instead of destroying them. 5

Today's park covers 170 000 square metres of space, full of everyday park features with a twist that is characteristically Gaudí. For example, instead of numerous benches spread throughout the park, visitors are greeted with one long, wavy stone bench adorned with vibrant mosaics and magnificent views of the ocean. And instead of drab administrative buildings, the welcome centres (which contain park souvenirs and learning materials on Gaudí and the park) look like buildings you'd see in Dr Seuss's children's books. 10 15

You can also find plenty of picturesque pathways that weave along verdant vegetation, down cascading tiled staircases and through jagged stone columns and tunnels. While you're here, don't miss the chance to see the Sala Hipóstila. Located right at the entrance, the Sala Hipóstila was originally intended to be a market hall. Today it serves to do nothing more than dazzle visitors with its stately stone columns and beautiful mosaic works, which you'll find dotted all over the ceiling. Other popular attractions include *Turó de les Tres Creus* (Hill of the Three Crosses), a lookout point, situated in the south-western part of the park with impressive views of the city. 20

Park Güell is a lovely place to spend a day in Barcelona. Take time to explore the trails Park Güell has to offer, but make sure you come prepared. Being built on a hill, trails feature steep inclines and unpaved pathways. And keep in mind that since this is one of Barcelona's most popular attractions, there will always be crowds. In fact, only 2.4 per cent of Barcelona residents visit the park. The vast majority of the visitors are national and international tourists. 25

Park Güell is open every day; hours vary depending on the season. Tickets are 7 euros (around \$8) online and 8 euros (about \$9.50) at the park. To avoid the disappointment of not being able to visit the park on the day you want to, make sure you book your ticket in advance online. For more information, visit Park Güell's website. 30

Glossary

¹whimsical: playful, light-hearted, quirky

Text B**Pocket parks**

Pocket parks, also known as miniparks, are urban open spaces on a very small scale. Usually only the size of a tennis court or smaller, pocket parks can be tucked into and scattered throughout the urban fabric, where they serve the immediate local population. These diminutive parks act as scaled-down neighbourhood parks, but still often try to meet a variety of needs. Functions can include small community event space, play areas for children, spaces for meeting friends or taking lunch breaks. However, because space is restricted and user needs are both diverse and vary throughout the day, conflicts can sometimes arise between different groups. Thus, in organising pocket parks, designers must often work out a delicate balancing act so that all groups can use the space in peaceful co-existence.

One of the unique and exciting characteristics of pocket parks is that they may be created out of waste ground or otherwise forgotten spaces. Many pocket parks are the result of community groups or private entities reclaiming these spaces for the benefit of the local neighbourhood. Unfortunately, they are sometimes easier to create than to maintain, because without community support, use and maintenance, they may fall into disrepair.

Although the ecological functions of pocket parks are limited because of their size and location, greenery within them can still help the environment. They regulate microclimates and present opportunities for increasing the number of permeable surfaces. Pocket parks throughout the urban environment also have the potential to benefit the ecology of cities. This is because people who have parks within walking distance are less likely to drive far away for the same facilities, thereby reducing traffic and pollution.

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