



Cambridge Primary Checkpoint

ENGLISH

0844/01

Paper 1 Non-fiction

April 2022

INSERT

1 hour

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

Are you cut out for space?

Want to be an astronaut? Of course you do. Who wouldn't want to float around in space, gazing back at our gorgeous blue planet in the distance and zooming to work on a speeding rocket? But it can be tough out there. Have you got what it takes to fly in space?

What is an astronaut?

It sounds a ridiculously easy question. An astronaut is someone who flies in space, right? Well, yes – but it's pretty difficult to say where space actually starts. If you fly straight up from Earth, you'll get to space eventually. But before you do, there's a blanket of gases (the Earth's atmosphere) which gets thinner until it fades into nothing. After that, you're in space. But because the gases fade out gradually, it's hard to say where the Earth's atmosphere ends. So, scientists have invented an imaginary line – the Karman line – 160 kilometres above the Earth. That's where space officially starts. Get past that line and you can think of yourself as an astronaut.

Into space

But getting to the Karman line is a problem. Not many people have spaceships, as they're the most expensive form of transport there is. Luxury cars like Rolls Royces? Private jets? They're dirt cheap compared to your average spacecraft.

Who's paying?

To get a ride into space, you'll have to do one of these things:

- work for a government space agency
Government space agencies are the number one employers of astronauts.
- become a billionaire...
With eye-watering sums of money, you can go into space as a tourist.
- ...or just work for one
Be a pilot for one of the few billionaires with their own space travel company and you could fly the rich to space!
- win a competition
Some people have won tickets into space. But none of them have flown yet, so don't hold your breath.

Text B**Alan Shepard****Who was Alan Shepard?**

Alan Shepard was the second person, and the first American, in space. In the late 1940s, he became a test pilot. Then, in 1959, he was one of the first seven astronauts chosen by NASA* to train to go into space.

Going into space

On May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard went into space for the first time, on a spaceship called Freedom 7. There was just enough room for one person on board. On this flight, Shepard did not circle the Earth. He flew 185 kilometres high and came back down. The flight lasted about 15 minutes; it was a great success!

Experimenting in space

Shepard was the commander on his second spaceflight, which was on Apollo 14. The other astronauts on this mission to the moon were Stuart Roosa and Edgar Mitchell. On 15 February 1971, Shepard and Mitchell landed part of their spaceship on the moon, while Roosa kept the main ship orbiting around the moon. Shepard and Mitchell walked on the moon, did science experiments there, and collected over 45 kilograms of moon rocks. Shepard also surprised everyone by suddenly producing a golf club and becoming the first person to hit a golf ball on the moon! He demonstrated how far the ball would go in the moon's low gravity – so, in a way, that was science, too!

After Alan Shepard flew on two space missions, he then worked as the head of the Astronaut Office. He left NASA in 1974, but continued to be involved in exploration by raising money to train new astronauts.

Glossary

*NASA: the North American Space Agency, which is the space organisation of the USA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of Cambridge Assessment. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is a department of the University of Cambridge.