Cambridge IGCSE

Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/12**

Paper 1 Reading Passages (Core) **February/March 2015**

READING BOOKLET INSERT

1 hour 45 minutes

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Reading Booklet Insert contains the reading passages for use with **all** questions on the Question Paper.

You may annotate this Reading Booklet Insert and use the blank spaces for planning.
This Reading Booklet Insert is **not** assessed by the Examiner.

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

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Part 1

Read **Passage A** carefully and then answer **Questions 1** and **2** on the Question Paper.

Passage A: A Sea Crossing

The following passage is set in the 18th Century. It tells of a sea journey made by a young man named Bresciano on the sailing ship, 'The Three Brothers'. He is travelling from Gibraltar to Tangier in Morocco with a new friend, Lempriere.

The Three Brothers was soon under way, leaving the calm waters of the Bay and entering the Straits. They made good progress as they sailed west, close to the Spanish coast. To their right were the narrow beaches of the Spanish coastline, its shrubs and grassland burnt brown after a long summer. They were close enough to shore to make out some herds of goats grazing on the steep slopes, and to see that they were themselves the subject of scrutiny by two ragged young goatherds. Bresciano concentrated on the choppy sea in which appeared the sleek shapes of dolphins. They kept pace with the boat, leaping out into the air to dive deep. They turned and twisted and were an exhilarating escort that eventually tired of its sport and turned aside in search of shoals of mackerel. Bresciano's thoughts turned to what lay ahead.

If only I knew a little more Arabic, he thought, I could have gone further into Morocco. That's the sort of adventure I need – to get away from the drudgery of the office! Then he reminded himself of his serious business in Tangier. His sister Lucia had to be protected from this rogue who was pursuing her and she and Aunt Maria had to be returned safely to Gibraltar. Then there was his father: he was too ill to keep the business going in Gibraltar without his son's help.

He sighed. When would he have another opportunity like this one? To travel into the heart of Morocco, that wild and enigmatical land! Oh, well, he would have to make do with Tangier.

As the boat veered south, across the narrow straits towards Tangier, the weather changed and the sea became choppier. Bresciano was not much troubled by this; he buttoned his jacket, pulled up his collar and prepared to endure. The many fishing expeditions he had shared with his father as a boy had accustomed him to the rough waters of the Straits, but the motion of the boat was affecting Lempriere.

'How long will we have to endure this?' Lempriere muttered. 'I have never been able to enjoy ship travel. To think that I thought of becoming a sailor when I was a boy!'

Trying to reassure him, Bresciano engaged him in conversation. They talked about Lempriere's childhood on the island of Jersey, and Bresciano's experiences in the Great Siege of Gibraltar. This reminded Bresciano of Abraham: 'I have a friend who is in Tangier at the moment. I shall visit him when I arrive,' he said.

The sea remained rough and a slight drizzle set in. Eventually their conversation petered out as Lempriere concentrated on trying to subdue his heaving stomach. The captain cheerfully informed them that his little vessel was unsinkable; they would arrive within a couple of hours.

They rounded a headland and Tangier came into sight. The few passengers crowded the port side of the boat to get their first glimpse of the town ahead of them. It lay behind crumbling defensive fortifications – a small walled town set on a slight hill. They glimpsed a few houses behind the walls, buildings with pitched roofs. Above the town rose the ruin of an old castle, and before it was a shallow bay. Bresciano was a little disappointed: it looked to be a place housing something like two thousand people. It seemed to him to be a very small town.

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Part 2

Read **Passage B** carefully, and then answer **Question 3** on the Question Paper.

Passage B: The Gibraltar Straits Bridge

The following passage describes an ambitious plan to link Europe and Africa by a bridge between Spain and Morocco.

North American architect, Eugene Tsui, has designed the longest bridge in the world spanning the Straits of Gibraltar and connecting the continents of Europe and Africa. This revolutionary design does not resemble any existing bridge; it features an original floating and submerging concept and also will create a five kilometre wide floating island in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. From this newly created island it will be possible to view both the European and African continents simultaneously for the first time in human history. If built, the bridge will be the greatest and most ecological architectural project in the world. Spanning about 14.5 kilometres, the floating bridge will contain 150 windmills and 80 underwater tidal turbines, generating 12 billion kilowatt hours of electricity. The bridge will generate enough electricity to power the southern Spanish province of Cadiz and the entire nation of Morocco, making it the largest wind and water power farm in the world. The design will make use of the natural current flow of the Straits and its constant winds. It will not disturb the existing ecology and sea life of the site.

The bridge is designed to float gracefully on and under the water like a giant, elegant serpent, anchored to the cities of Tarifa on the southern coast of Spain and to Point Cires on the northern tip of Morocco. The first stretch of the bridge will extend out from the coast line and gradually slope under the Mediterranean at a maximum depth of 200 metres. It will slope upwards to the central floating island before continuing down underwater again and coming out on to the neighbouring continent. The design will allow very large ships to pass unimpeded within a six kilometre width where the bridge is submerged, leaving sea currents undisturbed.

In total there will be 24 lanes for all motor vehicle traffic, four standard train tracks and two high speed ones. In addition, five elevated, wide pedestrian lanes will accommodate people who wish to walk, cycle, ride camels and horses. Lush gardens, trees, flowers, waterfalls, rest areas and drinking fountains will surround all pedestrian areas.

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