Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/12**

Paper 1 Reading **February/March 2021**

INSERT **2 hours**

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INFORMATION

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

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Read **Text A**, and then answer **Questions 1(a)–1(e)** on the question paper.

Text A: *Top tips for travel writing*

This text is an online article giving advice from the editor of a website to people thinking of a career in travel writing.

'Don't worry,' said the stallholder. 'The snake round your daughter's neck is not venomous.'

That was the example my instructor used when he taught us the immense value of a good opening to an article. My instructor is the travel editor for a national newspaper. Since 2000, he has written about, and been hopelessly lost in, diverse destinations on six continents.

Having quit my job in software design to become a travel blogger and edit this website, I was attending a travel writing conference he was running. I wanted to improve the writing on my blog; my writing has improved, but I didn't anticipate how much that conference would affect my role as an editor. If you have sent me an article and I have rejected it, it was probably because of something I learned at that conference.

Writers of the unsuccessful articles submitted to me seem to think that they need extra padding at the beginning that goes something like: 'Travel is wonderful. We should all travel.' Get to the point. The articles I hate the most begin: 'Our plane landed in …'. If the most interesting portion of your trip is the plane landing and collecting your luggage, then OK, start your story that way. Arguably though, if this really is the most interesting portion of your trip, you'd be better off staying at home.

Good travel writing transports people. It celebrates the differences in manners and customs around the world, helping readers to understand other people and places. It helps readers plan their own trips and avoid costly mistakes while travelling. Most of all, readers get to experience those far-off destinations that they may never visit.

I should point out, while I'm encouraging others to pursue their career in travel writing, that it was also at that conference that I decided to return to working in software design. Sitting in a room full of travel writers who were describing how difficult it is to make a living persuaded me to keep it strictly as a hobby.

But if you have the desire to travel, and the savings, I can recommend that annual conference which my good friend runs every August.

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Read **Text B**, and then answer **Question 1(f)** on the question paper.

Text B: ***The truth about being a travel writer***

This text is a magazine article about being a travel writer.

Go ahead, hate travel writers.

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We spent an agonising night at the airport – no lounges, only stiff plastic chairs.'

Read **Text C**, and then answer **Questions 2(a)–2(d)** and **Question 3** on the question paper.

Text C: *How I became a travel writer*

The narrator, Charlie, has booked a place on a sponsored trek to the ancient ruined city of Machu Picchu, Peru. He hopes to meet his favourite travel writer, Jed Davies, who has been invited by the charity to go on the trek.

I would meet the others in Madrid.

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I'd already decided – travel writing was what I wanted to do.

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