UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/11**

Paper 1 Reading Passage (Core) **May/June 2010**

1 hour 45 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.
Dictionaries are **not** permitted.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

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Read the following passage carefully, and then answer all the questions.

Sheryl Garratt, her husband and five-year-old son Liam visit an eccentric Dutch theme park.

Soon after arriving at the Dutch theme park, Efteling, we were in a boat on a man-made waterway which is pretty much as you'd expect of a trip to Holland. Apart from the camels and the crocodiles...

Floating through the bazaar of the fictional Arabian town of Fata Morgana, we passed hordes of shoppers and beggars crowding the bazaar while a man screamed in agony as a robotic dentist administered to him in an open-air surgery. Women in exotic dresses danced in the courtyards and prisoners groaned in the dungeons. A tiger was shot and snakes were charmed. We even got to drift between the legs of a giant.

An hour or so later, we were floating again, this time in the air in open-fronted cable cars. The fairytale scenes before us on the Dream Flight were cheesy but charming, and beautifully done: the smells and temperature changed as we moved from one set to another; fairies perched in trees in a rainy wood full of goblins and trolls.

These state-of-the-art rides are recent additions to a fairytale-themed park that is almost 50 years old, set in the Brabant region near the Belgian border. Efteling's mature woods make it less artificial than most theme parks, with clever details like talking litter bins to keep little minds occupied and little legs walking. Wholesome and quietly appealing, it's a great place to blow away the winter cobwebs.

My five-year-old son's favourite spot was the Fairytale Forest, featuring low-tech tableaux from various fairy stories. A fakir [magician] who was charming tulips from the ground before flying from one side of his home to another on a creaky magic carpet had Liam transfixed. He also liked Laafland, an imaginative playground that is home to a 'lost tribe', with statues of grotesque-looking little folk called Laafs.

We stayed in the Golden Tulip Efteling Hotel, well suited for children. It has a generous play area with actors dressed as fairies and trolls. The family rooms were large and comfortable and the hotel has its own entrance to the park, allowing guests to get to some of the more popular rides before queues build up.

The next morning, my husband played with our son in a nearby maze, whilst I rode on the stomach-churning Bird Rok, an indoor rollercoaster which lurches around for much of the time in total darkness, leaving you disorientated. 'Mum, you look funny,' observed Liam cheerfully as I got off; ignoring my pale smile he dragged me on to the nearby Carnival Festival ride. He loved it and wanted to go on again immediately.

This is only the second year the park has opened during the winter months, as 'Winter' Efteling. The response during the school holiday exceeded all expectations: there were 25,000 people inside; the car parks had to be closed and the resulting traffic jams made the national news bulletins.

Although the majority of the rollercoasters and white-knuckle rides are closed, and can be seen only from the carriages of a steam train which chugs around the park, there is plenty added on to compensate. There's a huge indoor skating rink, where small children glide along holding on to chairs and parents can have hot drinks in the 'après-ski' bar. An indoor winter wonderland playground provides huge inflatables, snowball-throwing stalls and a snow slide that children can hurtle down on tyres.

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As darkness falls, lights come on in the trees and along the pathways, and bonfires are tended in the big open squares. Then the musicians and entertainers who have performed around the park all day really come into their own, entrancing children with fire-eating and juggling. The beautifully lit Flying Pagoda ride glides high in the sky, hovering over the park like a UFO, and everything stays open till 8pm, offering a long, good value day out.

On the crisp, clear winter days we were there, we were warmed up by frequent visits to reasonably priced stalls selling hot chocolate and delicious hot snacks (from doughnuts to French fries with mayonnaise). However, there is plenty to do under cover, so even rain wouldn't have dampened our spirits. We spent more than an hour, for instance, in a building housing a glorious 150-year-old steam carousel, an ornate miniature railway, a theatre where fountains danced to music and several refreshment bars.

This was a winter day out with parents and children happy, and not a TV or computer screen in sight. Now that's magic!

1 **(a)** In what country would you find Efteling? [1]

(b) Give **two** words from the second paragraph ('Floating through … legs of a giant') which tell you that what you can see from the boat is not real. [2]

(c) **Using your own words**, explain fully the purpose of the talking litter bins (paragraph 4, 'These state-of-the-art … winter cobwebs'). [2]

(d) Give **two** effects that the Bird Rok roller coaster ride had on the writer (paragraph 7, 'The next morning … again immediately'). [2]

(e) Apart from the Bird Rok roller coaster, state **four** things on which visitors can ride within Efteling. [4]

(f) In the introduction, the writer describes Efteling as 'eccentric'. Choose **three** words or phrases used by the writer and explain how each conveys the unusual and unexpected nature of the park. [6]

(g) Explain, **using your own words**, what the writer means by:

(i) "blow away the winter cobwebs" (lines 16-17)

(ii) "grotesque-looking little folk" (lines 21-22) [4]

(h) From the whole passage, write a summary of what parents would particularly like about Efteling.

Write a paragraph of about 50-70 words. [7]

(i) What effects does the writer achieve by ending her article with the statement, 'Now that's magic!'? [2]

[Total: 30]

2 Your class is planning a trip to Europe and will be staying near Efteling. You have written to your cousin who lives in the area asking for details about the park and if it would be a suitable place for your class to visit. **Write the letter** your cousin sends in reply.

You should include:

- details of what Efteling contains
- what would appeal to people of your age group
- when it is best to visit and why.

Start your letter, 'Dear …'.

You should base your ideas on what you have read in the passage, but do not copy from it.

You should write between 1 and 1½ sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

Up to ten marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to ten marks for the quality of your writing.

[Total: 20]

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