UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/23**

Paper 2 Reading Passages (Extended) **May/June 2012**

2 hours

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 **5** printed pages and **3** blank pages.

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Part 1

Read **Passage A** carefully, and then answer **Questions 1** and **2**.

Passage A

Gabriella Le Breton describes hunters harvesting the world's highest beehives. The much prized honey is harvested only twice a year to ensure the bees' welfare.

Nepal's Honey Hunters

After three days' walking, the seriousness of the simple fight for survival in Nepal's remote and unforgiving mountain communities becomes apparent. Kanhaiya, who is my guide, begins chiding us for our slow pace; he has just sprinted up the unrelentingly steep path to the village of Ludhi – a three-hour walk he takes twice each day.

After several days of uncertain weather, it appears the hunt will take place. There's a triumphant shout from Kanhaiya, 'We're going!' After a 20-minute walk, we come across a handful of local men waiting for the Nai Chi honey hunters. As they chat, they deftly slice bamboo into long, thin strands, using the curved blade of their khukuri knives, before braiding them to create slender yet strong ropes.

Eventually, we spot the hunters labouring up steep, terraced fields towards us, laden with heavy bamboo ropes and sticks. We leave the fields, climbing steeply through tall, waxy-leaved black cardamom plants until we reach a straw-covered shack with views towards towering lichen- and moss-covered cliffs. The men drop their loads and start to unravel the thick, twisted ropes, arranging them in parallel on the ground to a length of some 50 metres. Then they make a ladder, placing sturdy sticks at regular intervals and securing these rungs with the bamboo ropes made earlier. Once complete, the ladder is loaded onto the back of two hunters, one of whom has been carrying an unfortunate chicken. He waves the bird over our heads in a blessing before killing it quickly and putting it on a small sacrificial fire, adding honeysuckle flowers from nearby, as well as fruit and rice, to ensure a safe and successful hunt.

We, the spectators, will watch the hunt from a hill opposite the cliffs, and we beat our way through a dense forest of red-stemmed cardamom and gnarled rhododendrons. As we stop for breath in a small clearing, our guide points to the cliffs opposite. I follow his gaze and see what looks like three darkened discs on the cliff face, each about a metre wide. Every few seconds they shimmer and pulsate eerily, like ripples across water. These are the hives of the world's largest bee, the Himalayan honeybee, and the pulses are the bees, layered thick and brown and numbering up to two million per hive, moving as one. It's a mesmerising and frightening sight.

When we eventually reach the top of the hill, we move slowly so as not to attract the bees' attention, and settle down to watch as some hunters gather leaves and wood for the fire and the others continue to the top of the cliffs. As if on cue, Mount Manaslu and its range suddenly emerge from behind their cloud veil for the first time in days. The snow-dusted peaks gleam in the late afternoon sunshine, providing a spectacular backdrop for the hunt.

Within minutes of a fire being lit, smoke billows upwards and the bees start to leave their hives. The edges of the discs turn from brown to a burning orange and after 10 minutes the honeycomb is almost entirely exposed – three giant golden orbs. The hunters at the top of the cliff lower the ladder and a basket in which to deposit the honey. Communicating by whistles to reduce the chances of the bees attacking them, they realise the ladder is not long enough, so start to add extra rope sections. It's a time-consuming process and dusk starts to fall … . By now I can barely make out the hunter descending the ladder in the failing light. Peering desperately across the vast gorge below us to the cliffs, I see the hunter reach the first of the hives and start to prise off chunks with a long pole, before I'm pulled away. We must leave now. As we slip and slide through the dark forest of banyan trees, excited shouts echo behind us. By the time we return to the shack, it's pitch dark. The moon hasn't risen but the stars are a million pinpricks of light in the black velvet sky.

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When we arrive in Ludhi, steaming cups of chai await us in the dark, smoky kitchen. Bursting into the gloom, the men proudly show off their gooey haul and red, swollen bee stings. Thrusting a hand into a battered steel jug, one of them brings out a large slab of thick honeycomb, dotted with dazed bees. Flicking them off casually, he offers me a piece of the dark orange, brown-speckled treasure. The rich flavours explode in a potent floral blend – mango and lychee blossom – and it has a tangy rather than sugary sweetness. As I tuck in eagerly, the grinning hunters seem to approve as they wolf down vast chunks.

1 Imagine that you are Gabriella Le Breton. You have been invited to speak to a group of young travellers planning to trek in the same area of Nepal and hoping to witness the next honey hunt.

Write the words of the talk to the travellers.

In your talk you should:

- explain the challenges of going to see the honey hunt
- outline what these young travellers may find interesting about the hunt
- discuss your own feelings about the honey hunters and what they do.

Base your talk on what you have read in Passage A. Be careful to use your own words.

Write between 1½ and 2 sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to 5 marks for the quality of your writing.

[Total: 20]

2 Re-read the descriptions of:

(a) the forest and the bee hives in paragraph 4, beginning 'We, the spectators …';

(b) the honey and the eating of it in paragraph 7, beginning 'When we arrive …'.

Select words and phrases from these descriptions, and explain how the writer has created effects by using this language.

[Total: 10]

[Turn over for Part 2]

Part 2

Read **Passage B** carefully and re-read **Passage A**.
Then answer **Question 3**, which is based on both passages.

Passage B

Trophy hunting, a sport in which the aim is to shoot rare animals to show off to others, is still big business in many parts of the world.

Trophy Hunting

The slaughter of thousands of animals around the world by big game hunters is supported by conservationists who maintain that the sport protects wildlife. Lions, leopards, elephants and crocodiles are among the species being shot by hunters from the Western world. Even the critically endangered black rhino finds itself in the telescopic sight of a hunter's rifle.

A recent study concludes that the overall toll on big game is more than matched by the benefits. Hunters are prepared to pay thousands of pounds for the chance to shoot trophy species. The money they bring in to the 23 African nations that permit trophy hunting provides jobs and encourages people to preserve the landscape rather than turn it into farmland. According to a report in the *New Scientist* magazine, a proportion of the money reaches conservation organisations, which use it to promote wildlife and protect the natural habitat.

The study, published in the journal *Biological Conservation*, concludes that where game areas are well managed, the negative effects of hunting are outweighed by increases in animal populations made possible by conservation initiatives. Money gained from hunting was directly responsible for the recovery of at least three rare species in South Africa – the bontebok, black wildebeest and Cape mountain zebra – and assisted the recovery of southern white rhino numbers. 'Trophy hunting can also play an important role in the rehabilitation of wildlife areas. Income generated from wildlife does not jeopardise the population growth of trophy species,' the study adds.

The money generated by trophy hunting is seen as particularly important in areas that are unable to attract tourists. At the same time, the presence of trophy hunters encourages local people to put in place anti-poaching measures. Another study estimates that about 1,400,000 square kilometres of land in Africa are protected because of hunting – which is more than double the area of national parks in sub-Saharan Africa. The study calculates that trophy hunting is worth more than £100 million to Africa.

Mark Wright, of the World Wildlife Fund, says that while the wildlife organisation regards hunting as 'an option of last resort', it could have a positive effect on wildlife. In particular, he says, in many areas where there is no eco-tourism, it provides a source of income far less damaging than the alternative of illegal and uncontrolled poaching. Rather than take the high moral ground, 'conservationists need to be practical and accept that hunting could be the lesser of two evils.'

There are, however, a range of problems to overcome, researchers say: in some parts of Africa the hunting is adequately managed, while in others its overall effect remains detrimental to conservation. Will Travers, of the Born Free Foundation, says: 'I'm totally opposed. For me an animal is a treasure alive and a carcass dead. I think hunting and killing an animal for so-called sport, for fun, is a tragedy of the human psyche and something we should have grown out of.'

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3 Summarise:

(a) the benefits of allowing trophy hunting, according to **Passage B**;

(b) the landscape and features of the area described in **Passage A**.

Use your own words as far as possible.

You should write about 1 side in total, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to 5 marks for the quality of your writing.

[Total: 20]

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Question 3 © ADAPTED: Lewis Smith; *Big game trophy hunters 'help to save rare species'*; The Times; 4 January 2007.
Question 3 © ADAPTED: Anna Shepard; *Trophy Hunting; Eco-Worrier Blog*; The Times; 4 January 2007.

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