Cambridge IGCSE

Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/11**
Paper 1 Reading Passages (Core) **May/June 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** the questions on the Question Paper.

You may annotate this Insert and use the blank spaces for planning.

This Reading Booklet Insert is **not** assessed by the Examiner.

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Part 1

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

Passage A: Tiger Encounter

The following passage is set in Bandhavgarh National Park, India. The writer is describing a meeting with an Indian tiger, one of the world's endangered species. The writer is accompanied by other visitors and a guide called Anil.

It's early morning and the dappled sunlight is just breaking through the trees of the deep Bandhavgarh forest. We're driving down a small dirt lane between Sera and Rajbera Meadows, behind the massive plateau from which Bandhavgarh takes its name. Our road is suddenly blocked by the massive grey bulk which is Gautam, the lead elephant used for patrols, tiger monitoring, and tourist forays into the jungle. Sitting astride Gautam, is Kuttapan, the renowned mahout, the keeper and 'driver' of the elephant. He has been at Bandhavgarh for 24 years and knows more about its tigers than anyone. Kuttapan gets my attention and points to something on the road. It's the distinct impression of a tiger's body which has recently lain there. The imprint - torso, fore-paws and tail - lies clearly over any tracks or disturbances which may have come in the night.

Off to the right we hear the distinct 'bleep-bleep' - the alarm call of the chital, or spotted deer, announcing the presence of a predator. Kuttapan and Gautam go off to investigate and we begin to drive around to intercept them on the other side of the forest. Not ten metres down the road, we hear a loud 'varoom' - the call of the tiger - and we slide to a halt on the dusty road. Walking directly towards us at a distance of 100 metres is a large male tiger. It is one of the 3-year-old males known to share this territory with his brother.

We sit in stunned silence in open-topped jeeps. Some cameras continue to whir and click and some knuckles begin to whiten as grips tighten on the seats and roll bars of the jeep. The tiger continues his casual stroll directly towards us. About 20 metres from our jeep, he walks into a small clearing off the road, turns to mark a tree with his scent, then comes back out on to the road and walks past us, just a metre away from the jeep. Suspension of all breathing is the easiest thing in the world at a moment like this.

When the tiger is about 50 metres past us, our reverie is broken by a commotion in the forest across the road. Anil, our guide, whispers loudly, "Wolves!". There, propped up like little statues in a clearing in the forest, are two Indian grey wolves. Rigid, alert, clearly in a state of alarm and agitation, they begin yelping at the tiger. The tiger spins around on the road and charges off into the forest after them.

We drive down the road to where we were originally going to meet Kuttapan and Gautam. There, in an open clearing, stands the tiger, looking around as if to ask, "Where'd they go?". We park the jeeps and watch a silent drama unfold.

As the tiger turns to walk away, out of the forest comes the larger of the wolves, probably the male, and scampers up to within a few metres of the tiger. The tiger turns his head and the wolf scampers back into the forest. The tiger continues to walk away down the road. Out of the forest comes the larger wolf again and moves up cautiously to within what is apparently a safe distance from the tiger. This time the tiger turns round and glowers at the wolf, probably assessing the distance between them and the speed it would take to catch the wolf. They stare at each other for a few seconds; the tiger is still, and the wolf is nervously pacing back and forth. The muscles of the tiger begin to twitch and off goes the wolf into the forest again. Finally, after one more of these encounters, the tiger moves some distance away and the

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wolf disappears into the forest for one last time. We can only assume that the aggressive and bold behaviour of the wolf meant he was protecting some cubs and wanted to be sure the tiger was driven out of his territory. **40**

The tiger, now left in peace, continues his stroll.

Part 2

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

Passage B: 3,200 Left on Earth

Efforts to save the tiger from extinction will be stepped up this year after the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) placed the animal at the top of its list of the most endangered species.

Conservationists say there are just 3,200 tigers left in the world as the future of the species is threatened by poachers, destruction of their habitat and climate change. This means that the world population of tigers has fallen by 95 per cent in the past century.

Tiger numbers have dwindled as a result of activities by humans. Demand for tiger skins, still regarded as luxury items in some countries, has left them at the mercy of poachers who have increasingly targeted the animals. The threat is compounded by the market for their body parts, which are considered to hold medicinal properties in some cultures. Poachers also hunt many species which are the prey of tigers, diminishing their natural food supply, and forcing them to attack farmers' livestock instead. At the same time, destruction of forests for timber, agriculture and road building has forced tigers into ever smaller areas where they are increasingly vulnerable. Climate change also poses a growing threat - 70 per cent of the Bengal tiger's remaining habitat in the Sunderbans mangrove forest may be lost within 50 years owing to rising sea levels.

The WWF said it intends to intensify pressure to save the tiger by classifying it as the most at risk on its list of 10 critically endangered animals. It hopes to increase patrols and work with politicians to eradicate poaching and prevent illegal trade of tiger skins and body parts. The wildlife charity aims to work with governments to promote more responsible forest management. It also wants them to provide compensation for farmers whose livestock are killed by tigers, to prevent them being hunted.

Of the nine main subspecies of tigers, three - the Bali, Caspian and Java tigers - are now extinct, and there has been no reliable sighting of a fourth, the South China tiger, for 25 years. Only the Bengal, Amur, Indo-Chinese, Sumatran and Malayan tigers remain but their numbers have been reduced to a few hundred per species, apart from the Bengal and Indo-Chinese species.

To save the tiger, we have to save its habitat, which is also home to many other threatened species. So, if we get things right and save the tiger, we will also save many other species at the same time.

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