Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/21**

Paper 2 Reading Passages (Extended) **May/June 2015**

2 hours

READING BOOKLET INSERT

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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 Insert and use the blank spaces for planning. This 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: Common Land

Villagers meet to hear proposals from a large company wishing to develop a piece of common land.

The crowd swarmed into the building, many eager to hear plans that might bring prosperity to their town. Others wore grim expressions, aware of the titanic fight needed to save a precious site. Anuja scanned the people, many roughly dressed and weather-beaten from long hours of working outdoors. None looked well-fed – except the main speaker, the representative of the development company.

'You know why we are here tonight,' a leading member of the community began. 'FoodFreight wants to build a depot on our common land next to the river. Mr Carmichael is here to tell us why we should let them.'

The temperature in the room rose as the meeting wore on. Hands were swept across sweaty brows and some removed outer garments. A short break was announced during which people could look at the glossy plans and maps pinned up around the hall, and enjoy cool drinks and delicious-looking snacks thoughtfully provided by FoodFreight. Fingers traced the lines of new roads on the maps.

A journalist sought out Anuja and her companions. 'The company is just trying to bribe our people,' remarked Anuja. 'Not just with a few drinks but with a promise of a medical centre.'

'Yes,' added a man at her side. 'And I spoke to Dr Misha yesterday when she was here on her weekly visit. She said what we really need is a proper hospital, where operations can take place.'

The meeting resumed. Rufus Carmichael rose to speak. 'As you all know, the area bordering the river is an eyesore. What use is it to anyone? Tall trees cast heavy shade. Noxious weeds choke the ground. Indeed it is an impenetrable thicket, a haven for vermin, a lair for undesirables. And noisy rooks have taken over the canopy, with their raucous, unending cries. We will sweep this away. Your town will be a pleasanter place.' His voice boomed.

Anuja clenched her fist and muttered, 'Those are ancient oaks. The rooks' nests are used by the red-footed falcons, beautiful and rare birds!' She shook her head in disbelief.

Rufus was still talking, '…Warehouses will be built. The new harbour that we will build downstream will create a magnet for your local produce. Your market will overflow with food and will become a symbol of your new-found prosperity.'

Anuja thought of the reliable supply of meat from the deer that fed on the acorns in the woodland, a bonus for local hunters.

'There could be jobs for many of you. And after we have developed the land, we will build a medical centre for you.'

People squirmed in their seats, turning to neighbours to exchange excited comments. Anuja could stand it no longer. 'Sir,' she began, 'and my people: our ancestors began this settlement on that piece of land. They planted those majestic trees hundreds of years ago.' She strode to the front to address the people directly. 'Remember the stories your parents told you. If those trees die, our settlement will fall into decline. Yes, we have neglected it, but with the neglect has come increases in wildlife, even rare species of dragonflies and field mice. We can carefully clear up the mess of weeds so it remains a home to the lovely creatures. We could resurrect the sacred rituals that used to take place here every year.'

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As Anuja expanded on the virtues of the site, ragged cheers went up, first from those sitting near her. The sound strengthened as people became again conscious of its many benefits. This was a special place!

Rufus' face tightened into a grimace. His lips had compressed into a thin line of anger. Dots of perspiration sprang out on his forehead. He banged his fist on the table to quieten the crowd. 'Gentlemen – and ladies – just listen to sense,' he began. Jeers and boos broke out. A dark cloud passed across his face, and suddenly he was panting as though he had run a race. His good humour was gone. 'My company is stronger than all of you!' he shouted. 'We will get our way!'

Not long after this, the meeting broke up in some disarray. As Anuja and her friends left, a blue-grey falcon jetted across the skies, the red of its undertail and legs clearly visible. It swooped on a large insect, then veered away before heading for some treetops visible above the houses. Fat drops of rain began to fall, then lightning sizzled across the sky. A portent, perhaps.

Part 2

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

Passage B: Ospreys

This widespread bird of prey is vulnerable when in contact with humans.

The osprey – also called the fish eagle – is the world's most widely distributed bird of prey, found in every continent except Antarctica at stages in its migratory life cycle. Its usual habitats are coastal areas or near large bodies of freshwater.

Birds which breed in Western Europe, such as in the UK and Sweden, follow a westerly migration, over Spain, across the Mediterranean into Morocco. They then fly round the Atlas Mountains to the western part of the Sahara, before spending the winter months in countries such as Guinea. In September 2012, a five-month old bird left her Scottish nest and in a fortnight flew the 4,800 kilometres to southern Mauritania. Birds with nest sites further east, for example Finland and Estonia, fly south through Eastern Europe into the Middle East before wintering in African countries like Cameroon. One Finnish bird wintered on the southern coast of South Africa, with a record-breaking migration of 12,500 kilometres.

Ospreys are large, at about 60 centimetres long with a wingspan of up to 170 centimetres. Females can be 10% larger than males and weigh on average 1.6 kilograms. The plumage of both is dark brown on the back, tail and upper wings, while the head and body are white with a dark eye stripe. Parts of the crown and upper breast have mottled feathers. Other features include eyes with bright yellow irises, a sharply-curved black beak and pale grey feet.

These fish eagles are especially adapted to take their prey efficiently. They have nasal passages which close when they dive underwater. Ospreys almost uniquely have outer toes which are reversible, allowing them to grasp slippery fish securely with two toes in front and two behind. The talons are long and barb-like. Unsurprisingly, fish make up 99% of an osprey's diet. Records from the Middle Ages show ospreys were killed because they raided stock in fish ponds. Their vision is well adapted to detecting underwater objects. A fish is first sighted when an osprey is 10–40 metres in the air, after which the bird hovers momentarily, then plunges feet first into the water. Sometimes, a bird is completely submerged as it takes a fish. Having regained the air, it will carry the fish with one foot in front of the other, so the head is facing forward, an aerodynamically efficient position. Once on a perch, often near the nest, the osprey eats the fish, headfirst.

Ospreys faced enormous threats with the coming of industrialisation in the last three centuries. The invention and use of the gun, coupled with an obsession with collecting specimens and eggs, led

to drastic reduction in numbers in many countries. Elsewhere, ospreys suffered problems from the chemical DDT from the 1960s; being at the top of the food chain they ingested the chemicals from the fish. As a result, females laid eggs with thin eggshells which were easily broken. In the future, other pollutants may cause similar problems. Shooting still takes its toll of migrating birds in parts of Europe and of wintering birds in Africa.

Destruction of suitable wetlands and trees in which ospreys might build their nests is a concern. Increased forest management has led to the removal of old pine trees which ospreys favour for nests. Disturbance during the incubation and chick-rearing period by tourism, forestry work and encroaching urban development has resulted in the failure of breeding attempts. Young ospreys can be injured by collision with overhead wires, get entangled in nylon fishing line or have hooks embedded in their throats. Owls and eagles will prey on ospreys, and foxes, raccoons and other climbing animals are known to take both the eggs and chicks.

Overfishing along the African coast could dramatically reduce fish stocks, affecting the people who live in that area and the wildlife like the ospreys which depend on the fish in the winter.

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