Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/33**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition **May/June 2015**

2 hours

READING BOOKLET INSERT

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Reading Booklet Insert contains the reading passage for use with **Section 1**, **Question 1** on the Question Paper.

You may annotate this Reading Booklet Insert and use the blank spaces for planning.
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This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

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Read the passage carefully, and then answer **Section 1**, **Question 1** on the Question Paper.

Parents' Forum: Is your teenager 'house trained'?

Presenter: Good morning, listeners. First of all, many thanks to all the parents out there who've completed our online questionnaire on the contentious subject of teenagers and household chores, the topic of our forum today. The answers you gave us support recent research that shows we no longer expect our young people to help out in the home in the way we did ourselves when we were younger. As a mother of teenagers, I don't think I needed a survey to tell me that!

My studio guest today, Pierre Joubert, argues that the world our teenagers inhabit has changed beyond recognition and so should our expectations. Mr Joubert, I work hard in my job to provide for my kids. Why shouldn't I expect them to shoulder some of the burden at home?

Mr Joubert: Well, it depends on what kind of work. As a child, I spent many hours a week helping my father run his shop and now, with a chain of department stores to my name, I see it as part of my early business training. All the same, I wouldn't want that life for my son or daughter. Their education has to come first these days when the job market is so much more competitive.

Presenter: But a majority of teenagers in the survey had never cooked a meal, cleaned the bathroom or washed their clothes! Surely these chores are an important preparation for adult life? They shouldn't be relying on their parents at sixteen or seventeen. I think we're in danger of raising spoilt, lazy kids who complain about everything they're asked to do. Which employer would want that kind of person on their payroll?

Mr Joubert: My daughter is driven by a laudable ambition to be a doctor and anyway, she's not an adult yet. I'm more concerned about the academic pressure she's under and I like to see her relaxing in her spare time, enjoying herself with her friends, not following the 'chore chart' that some of the respondents to your questionnaire impose on their children. That's outrageous!

Presenter: Oh, I don't think it's so unreasonable. Many of us have successful careers *and* look after our families! There's a pride that can be derived from doing useful work well, and teenagers need to see what it takes to run a home and a family. Of course, some young people are willing to baby-sit for their younger siblings, tidy their rooms, or whatever, but only if they're paid for it. Now, *that's* outrageous!

Mr Joubert: Is it, though? If I need a cleaner or a cook in one of my businesses, I expect to have to pay the going rate. My children will learn soon enough how to do these menial jobs when they need to, but learning how to work to meet your needs and then manage your money is a much more important responsibility. My son's at university and I give him an allowance which he has to supplement by working if he wants any luxuries. He learned that lesson as a teenager and perfected his negotiation skills by offering me two different rates for washing my car!

Presenter: But I don't want my children to think of household work as only worth doing if they get a monetary reward for it. My mother fell ill when I was only fifteen and my younger brother and I needed to step up and help the family survive until she got better. I look back at that time now as a real highlight of my teenage years, a time of closeness, when we took pride in working together to help each other through a difficult time. It wasn't just a chore, it was a responsibility that took us out of our own little worlds and gave us a useful role in the family.

Mr Joubert: I just don't see it that way. Our first duty as parents is to give our children every chance to succeed in life and these days that means allowing them to focus on their goals, free from the tedium of household tasks. With determination and self-discipline, who knows what they might achieve? They might be successful enough when they're older to pay other people to do the chores.

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Presenter: Perhaps, Mr Joubert, but in many less affluent or larger families than yours the work done by children is vital. Helping in the home or in the fields isn't a lifestyle choice for many young people around the world – it's how their families survive, particularly in difficult economic circumstances. Personally, I applaud those who put the prosperity of their families above their individual comfort and ambition.

I'm not sure we're going to agree on this issue here in the studio, but teenagers, why not let us know *your* views? I'd be very interested in hearing what young people think.

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