Cambridge International Examinations
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/11**
Paper 1 Reading Passages (Core) **May/June 2016**
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 Reading Booklet Insert and use the blank spaces for planning. This Reading Booklet Insert is **not** assessed by the Examiner.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

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

Passage A: The House in the Mist

In this extract from a mystery story, the narrator describes what happens when he comes across a lonely house in a remote part of the countryside.

My path to the house was by no means an easy one. After confused wanderings through tangled hedges, struggling with obstacles that looked strange to me in the surrounding gloom, I arrived in front of a long, low building. There, to my astonishment, I found doors and windows open to the pervading mist, except for one square window through which a light shone from a row of candles on a long mahogany table.

The quiet and apparent emptiness of this odd and picturesque building made me pause. I am not much affected by the appearance of things, but this silent room, with its sinister atmosphere, made me feel uneasy. I was about to reconsider and go back to the road, when a second look at the comfortable interior I was leaving, convinced me that I was being foolish and sent me straight back to the door which stood open so invitingly.

But half-way up the path, my progress was halted by the sight of a man coming out of the house that I had wrongly assumed to be empty. He seemed to be in a hurry and, at the moment when I first saw him, was busy putting his watch back in his pocket. He did not shut the door behind him, which I thought odd, especially as he had been looking behind him. He seemed to take in all the details of the place he was so hurriedly leaving.

As we met, he raised his hat. This also struck me as unusual, for he displayed more respect than that usually shown to strangers. I was further puzzled that he showed little surprise at bumping into another person in these remote, misty surroundings. Indeed, he was so little impressed by my being there that he nearly passed me without a word or any other hint of greeting, except the raising of his hat. But this did not satisfy me. I was hungry, cold, and eager for creature comforts, and the house before me offered not only warmth, but gave out an inviting smell of food being cooked which was difficult to ignore. I therefore spoke to the man.

‘Will a bed and supper be available for me here?’ I asked. ‘I am tired out after a long hike over the hills, and hungry enough to pay anything within reason—.’

I stopped, for the man had disappeared. He had not paused when I spoke and the mist had swallowed him. However, when I paused, his voice came back in a friendly tone and I heard:

‘Supper will be ready at nine, and there are beds for all. Please enter; you are the first to arrive, but the others cannot be far behind.’

A peculiar greeting, certainly, but when I tried to ask him to explain, his voice returned to me from so far away that I doubted if my words had reached him with any more clarity than his answer reached me.

I thought to myself, ‘Well, it isn’t as if a place to stay has been denied me. He invited me to enter, and enter I will.’

The house, which I now scrutinised more carefully, was no ordinary farm building, but a rambling old mansion. It had been made even larger by extensions that jutted out

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here and there and several out-buildings. Although it was furnished and lit by candles, it had about it an air of disuse which made me feel like an intruder, despite the welcome I had received. But I could not wait any longer. I quickly entered the great room and stood before the blazing logs; their glow lit up the doorway and made the room seem even more inviting. **40**

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

Passage B: Hadrian's Villa

This passage is an extract from a tourist guide to Rome and gives details of a grand villa built for the Emperor Hadrian in the second century CE.

Built as a private residence between CE 118 and 134, Hadrian's Villa was a vast open-air museum of the finest architecture in the Roman world. The grounds of the Imperial Palace covered an area of 120 hectares and were filled with full-scale reproductions of the emperor's favourite buildings from Greece and Egypt. Although excavations on this site began in the 16th century, many of the ruins lying scattered in the surrounding fields have yet to be identified with any certainty.

The grounds of the villa make a very picturesque site for a picnic, with scattered fragments of columns lying among olive trees and cypresses. For an idea of how the whole complex would have looked in its prime, visitors can study the scale model in the building beside the car park. The most important buildings are signposted and several have been partially restored or reconstructed. One of the most impressive is the so-called Maritime Theatre. This is a round pool with an island in the middle, surrounded by columns. The island, reached by means of a swing bridge, was probably Hadrian's private studio, where he withdrew from the cares of running an empire to indulge in his two favourite interests: painting and architecture.

There were also theatres, Greek and Latin libraries, two bathhouses, extensive housing for guests and the palace staff, and formal gardens with fountains, statues and pools. Hadrian also loved Greek philosophy. One part of the gardens is thought to have been Hadrian's reproduction of the Grove of Academe, where Plato lectured to his students. The most ambitious of Hadrian's replicas was the Canopus, a sanctuary of the god Serapis near Alexandria. For this a canal 119 metres long was dug and Egyptian statues were imported to decorate the temple and its grounds. This impressive piece of engineering has been restored and the banks of the canal are lined with statues.

Another picturesque spot in the grounds is the Vale of Tempe, the legendary home of the goddess Diana, with a stream representing the River Peneios. Below ground the emperor even built a fanciful re-creation of the underworld, Hades. This was reached through underground tunnels, of which there were many linking the various parts of the villa. The villa fell into disrepair after it was plundered by barbarian hordes in the 6th and 8th centuries.

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