Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/13**
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 Open Window

In this extract from a mystery story, the narrator is caught in a rainstorm in the middle of a forest and finds an apparently empty house with an open window which might offer shelter.

I looked closely, and mentally photographed all the little details of the house in front of which I was standing. An instant earlier, the world swam before my eyes. Then, I had seen nothing, but now I saw everything, with a clearness which was shocking.

More than anything, I saw the open window. I stared at it, aware as I did so, of a curious tightening of my throat caused by a sense of uneasiness. It was so near to me, so very near. I only had to stretch out my hand to thrust it through the opening of the window. Once inside, my hand would at least be dry. How it rained out here! My thin clothing was soaked; I was wet to the skin! I was shivering. Each second, it seemed to rain still more heavily. My teeth were chattering. The damp was chilling the very marrow in my bones.

Inside that open window, it was, it must be, so warm, so dry!

There was not a soul in sight. Not a human being anywhere near. I listened; there was not a sound. I alone was at the mercy of the rain-soaked night. Of all living creatures I was the only one unsheltered from the sky which had been opened. There was no-one to see what I might do; no-one to care. I had no need to fear being spied upon. Perhaps the house was empty. It was clearly my duty to knock at the door, wake the inhabitants, and call their attention to the open window. The least they could do would be to reward me for my trouble. But, suppose the place was empty, what would be the use of knocking? It would be to make a useless clatter. Possibly to disturb the neighbourhood, for nothing. Even if they were at home, I might go unrewarded.

Leaning over a low wall I found that I could very easily put my hand inside the room. How warm it was in there! I could feel the difference of temperature in my fingertips. Very quietly I stepped right over the wall. There was just room to stand comfortably between the window and the wall. The ground felt to my foot as if it were cemented. Stooping down, I peered through the opening. I could see nothing. It was pitch black inside. The blind was drawn right up; it seemed incredible that anyone could be at home, and have gone to bed, leaving the blind up, and the window open. I placed my ear to the opening. It was so still there was no doubt, the place was empty.

I decided to push the window up a few centimetres, so as to enable me to look round. If anyone caught me in the act, then there would be an opportunity to describe the circumstances, and to explain how I was just about to raise the alarm. Only, I must go carefully. In such damp weather it was likely that the window frame would creak as I opened it further.

However, it gave no sound at all. It moved as easily and as noiselessly as if it had been oiled. The silence gave me such confidence that I raised the window more than I intended. In fact, as far as it would go. It did not betray me – not even by the slightest sound. Bending over the sill I put my head and half my body into the room. But I was no further forward. I could see nothing. Not a thing. For all I could tell the room might be unfurnished. Indeed, the likelihood of such an explanation began to occur to me. I might have found an empty house. In the darkness there was nothing to suggest it wasn't empty. What was I to do next?

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

Passage B: Ggantija

The following passage gives information about Ggantija, two ancient remains on the island of Gozo in the Mediterranean.

The Ggantija Temples are two prehistoric temples on Gozo, the second largest island in Malta. One of them is the oldest stone structure in the world, pre-dating the Great Pyramids by hundreds of years. Round in shape and containing statues of goddesses, the Ggantija temples were dedicated to the Great Earth Mother and probably included an oracle where a priestess would give predictions of the future. The site was a place of pilgrimage for the ancient inhabitants of Malta and even for pilgrims from North Africa and Sicily.

The two temples of Gjantija are estimated to be 5,800 years old (built between BCE 3600 and 3000). According to an ancient legend, the temple walls were built in one day and one night by a female giant named Sunsuna, who did it while nursing a baby. Ggantija is Maltese for ‘giant's grotto’.

According to archaeologists, the Ggantija Temples were dedicated to the Great Earth Mother, a goddess of fertility. Evidence indicates there was an oracle here, as at the much later Temple of Apollo at Delphi. A priestess prophesied while in a trance, possessed by the spirit of the goddess. Ggantija also seems to have been a place to pray for the sick to be healed.

In addition to being the oldest, the Ggantija temples are the most complete complex of shrines on Malta. The two temples cover a total area of 3,000 square metres. They are surrounded by a wall, which reaches up to two metres, and they share a courtyard at the front.

As with many ancient sites built with large stones, it is hard to imagine how the builders were able to hoist stones weighing several tonnes into place. However, the slabs may have been rolled into place on ‘roller stones’ about the size of cannon balls, which have been found on the site.

Each temple consists of five arched alcoves connected by a central corridor that leads to the innermost section. The first temple is larger and has niches with altars decorated with carvings. The second has none of these features. The large shared courtyard may have been where congregations gathered to attend rituals, while the inner rooms of the temple were reserved for the priestess.

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