Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/31**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition **May/June 2016**

2 hours

READING BOOKLET INSERT

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

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Read the following transcript of a radio interview, and then answer **Section 1**, **Question 1** on the Question Paper.

In this radio interview, Sonia Small, the presenter of a series called 'Town and Country', talks to a man who has recently returned to live in the city after moving to the countryside.

Sonia Small: Now, Mr Schmit, just a year ago you and your family were among the growing number of city residents, here and in many countries across the world, who were desperate to leave their city homes for the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. And yet, here you are, back in the hustle and bustle of city life. Tell me why your countryside paradise was not what you expected.

Mr Schmit: Well, it wasn't all a disaster but it definitely wasn't paradise! The air was certainly cleaner and I didn't miss the constant noise of traffic. My youngest child loved the village school where there were just a handful of children, a huge playground and a teacher who really got to know him. It wasn't so easy for the older ones though.

Sonia Small: A longer journey to school, perhaps, though it must have been a more enjoyable route than through choked city streets?

Mr Schmit: A twenty-kilometre bus ride on narrow roads was an adventure at first, that's true, but it could take an hour if they got stuck behind farm traffic, or the local farmer was moving his livestock over the road. I'd hoped to find a suitable post nearer our home, but the salaries were paltry compared with city jobs and there are no big company headquarters with exciting modern jobs in rural villages. So every morning, instead of a quick commute by rail, or a twenty minute walk, I had a fifty-kilometre trip back to the city.

Sonia Small: That still sounds better than being crammed into a train like sardines with thousands of other people before you're properly awake!

Mr Schmit: It had some advantages but one of the reasons we moved was because I wanted a better quality of life for the family in the open countryside. I also wanted to feel less guilty about using up the world's resources. Ironically, we only bought a car when we relocated and I've driven many, many kilometres in the last year.

Sonia Small: Your older children – what were their impressions of living in the countryside? Many people think that the city is no place to bring up children, where there are dangers around every corner.

Mr Schmit: Oh, that's certainly true. I was convinced my children would have much more freedom and independence as teenagers than we could ever allow them in the city. I was disappointed that they never really saw it that way. My seventeen-year-old son complained constantly about internet speeds and found village life tedious and oppressive. Our neighbours were much friendlier than in the city where we didn't even know people who lived in the same apartment block, but he said he was treated with suspicion and hostility at school. The village kids had never known any other life and resented city strangers like him who'd come from better schools and weren't afraid to point out the shortcomings of a rural education. My daughter was not as unhappy at school but she's younger so those all-important exam grades weren't so pressing for her. She missed the city's sporting facilities, the cinemas, the shops. By the end she was spending many weekends staying with her old friends in the city, catching up with the latest films and window-shopping.

Sonia Small: Perhaps you'll return to your rural idyll when the children have flown the nest and you're thinking of retirement? That's what many city people do, after all.

Mr Schmit: Yes, that's an attractive prospect in many ways. It's certainly more peaceful and country villages are real communities where people know each other well and help each other out as a matter of course, as long as they fit in. We might just have to accept that we're not really cut out for country living. My children certainly aren't!

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Sonia Small: Well, that's all for now. I'm sure there are listeners who have found the move from city to countryside a much more positive experience than Mr Schmit. We'll consider their views next week.

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