Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/11**
Paper 1 Reading Passages (Core) **May/June 2017**
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.

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Part 1

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

Passage A: Flannan Isle

In December 1900 three lighthouse keepers on the uninhabited rocky outcrop of Flannan Isle, off the coast of western Scotland, disappeared without trace. The lighthouse had been constructed in the 1890s on the island known as Eilean Mor in the wild Atlantic Ocean.

On the night of December 15th, 1900 a sudden storm broke out in the vicinity of the islands. The crew of a passing ship, the Fairwind, were angry and disturbed that no guiding light from the newly built Flannan Isle lighthouse appeared to be in operation. Nothing appeared to have been done about it. Perhaps the authorities felt that it was best to wait a few days, as the relief ship, the Hesperus, was due to sail out to the islands on December 20th.

Bad weather delayed the sailing and the Hesperus didn't set out until dawn on December 26th. On the Hesperus were fresh supplies for the lighthouse and Joseph Moore, who was due to relieve one of the other keepers on watch duty. Moore was anxious about the mystery of the dead light. He knew that it was virtually unheard of for lighthouse keepers to allow a light to go out like that. On the short voyage to the islands he was restless, filled with foreboding, pacing the deck and refusing any breakfast.

Things were mysterious on the lighthouse island from the moment they arrived. There was no welcoming committee from the three men, no provisions boxes had been put out to be restocked, and the flag wasn't up on the flagpole. The Hesperus anchored in silence, and Joseph Moore headed for the lighthouse, calling out as he did so, trying to break the eerie silence that enveloped the island.

Inside the lighthouse nothing looked out of the ordinary. The oil lamps were ready to use, the beds were untidy, as if the men had just got up, the washing-up done, and cold ashes were in the fireplace. Other reports state that a chair was overturned in the kitchen – although some observers believe this was a later, journalistic, exaggeration – and the clocks had all stopped. What is agreed is that two sets of outdoor clothing were missing, and only one set of oilskins remained. This meant one of the men had gone out without his protective weather gear on – something that would have been virtually unheard of. Not only was this wholly impractical, but for all three men to leave the light unattended at once went against the rules laid down by the Northern Lighthouse Board.

So much myth and folklore has grown up over the mystery of Flannan Isle that some have reported that when Joseph Moore first opened the main door, three strange birds flew out. As the lighthouse tower was searched, odd strands of seaweed were found both on the stairs and in the little cupboard where the lighthouse logbook was kept.

A comprehensive search was made of the island. At the landing stage they found extraordinary damage. Iron railings were bent grotesquely out of shape as if by some unearthly force and some of them were completely wrenched out of the concrete. The conclusion was that the damage had been caused during the terrible storm.

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Part 2

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

Passage B: The Kraken

In this passage the writer describes a legendary sea creature that was thought to be a danger to sailors and their ships.

Probably no legendary sea monster was as horrifying as the kraken. According to stories this huge creature, with its many tentacles, could reach as high as the top of a sailing ship's main mast. A kraken would attack a ship by wrapping its tentacles around the hull and capsizing it. The crew would drown or be eaten by the monster. Of all the greatest sea monster tales, those concerning the kraken are the best evidence that such a creature was based on something real.

Tales of huge horned sea creatures with many heads and tentacles exist from ancient times. In 1555, Swedish Archbishop, Olaus Magnus, described a sea creature 'about 2 metres long, very black, and with huge eyes...'.

Although the term 'kraken' is first found in print in 1735, stories about this monster date back to twelfth century Norway. These often referred to a creature so big that it was mistaken for an island or series of islands. As late as 1752, the Bishop of Bergen (in Norway) described the kraken as 'incontestably the largest sea monster in the world' with a width of up to two kilometres. The Bishop also noted that it had tentacles like an octopus: 'It seems these are the creature's arms, and, it is said, if they were to take hold of the largest fighting ship, they would pull it down to the bottom.' Despite this, the Bishop said that the greatest dangers the kraken presented to ships were the disturbance it made as it came to the surface and the whirlpool created as it descended below. Because fish were attracted to where the kraken was, Norwegian fishermen would often fish directly above the creature, despite the risk to their ship and their lives.

Recent research suggests that the legendary kraken was a giant squid. A colossal octopus might also fit the description but a squid is thought to be much more aggressive and more likely to come to the surface where it might be seen by the human eye. Although giant squids are considerably less than two kilometres across, some are thought to be large enough to wrestle with a whale. On at least three occasions in the 1930s giant squids reportedly attacked ships.

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