Cambridge Assessment International Education
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/11**
Paper 1 Reading Passages (Core) **May/June 2019**
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: Hang-gliding in Rio

In this passage, the writer describes their experience of hang-gliding while on holiday in Rio de Janeiro.

Rio de Janeiro appeals to everyone. From the natural wonder of Rio's harbour to the mountain top paradise of Sugarloaf, Rio has got it all: world-class carnivals and two of the most famous beaches in the world, Ipanema and Copacabana. But I only had a week there and was desperate to try something I'd heard about long before arriving in Brazil. I was going to go hang-gliding.

Paulo was a nice guy and spoke perfect English. I was a bit nervous because I didn't know anything about hang-gliding. He assured me everything was going to be OK and that he had completed thousands of jumps before. When we arrived at the registration hut to sign my life away, I found it strange that nobody else was going. That made me nervous. Nonetheless, I proceeded to the van to be driven up several thousand metres to the jump ramp.

As we arrived at the jump site, I looked out over the ledge and saw nothing but a vast carpet of trees and, in the distance, the Atlantic Ocean thousands of metres down. Paulo told me what he wanted me to do:

'When I say: "1, 2, 3, go!" You run and then jump off the mountain.' This seemed pretty logical: just run and jump off a sheer cliff. I love jumping off mountains having no idea what's going on. So, I shrugged my shoulders and decided he must know what he's doing.

A savage wind buffeted us. Paulo said we would be able to stay up for half an hour and I would definitely be getting my money's worth while drifting helplessly around thousands of metres up in the air. I found myself on the ramp ready to hurl myself off into a perilous abyss. Paulo screamed, 'Go!' As I took my final step off the ramp, I heard that all too familiar voice in my head saying, 'Why are you doing this, you fool?'

To this day I still haven't come up with a good answer, but maybe that, in fact, is the answer. I don't know why, it's just something that I am drawn to. Not everybody likes to live life on the edge and feel the rush of putting your life in danger, especially in someone else's hands. I get adrenaline pumping through my veins just thinking about it. After the initial screaming, and realising that I was still in the air and not going to crash and die, it was just me, Paulo and the passing birds. I was soaring through the air with a clear view of the most beautiful city in the world.

Half an hour later, we started descending. I was very sad to be landing, but if I had to land somewhere it might as well be on a beautiful beach in Rio de Janeiro. As we came down, Paulo unstrapped my legs so I could land and run with the momentum of the hang-glider, but of course this ended up with me flat on my back. I didn't care: I was so happy I had experienced something that most people will never do.

My trip to Rio de Janeiro was full of highlights and it's hard to pick one thing that really stands out because it is such a great international city. After we landed, Paulo showed

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me some of his favourite parts of the city, but nothing beat the trip flying above it. I would recommend Rio de Janeiro to anyone who asks and if you do happen to go hang-gliding, tell Paulo I will see him again next time I am in Rio. *40*

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Part 2

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

Passage B: Flying squirrels

Although they are called flying squirrels, these small mammals do not really fly: they glide using a thin, furred membrane of skin that extends from their wrists to their ankles. By gliding with outstretched arms and legs, the flying squirrel is able to move about the tree tops, for up to 90 metres at a time. Holding onto the tree trunk, the squirrel judges the distance and, using its hind legs, it leaps into the air. During 'flight' the arms and legs are stretched to form a flat surface area for gliding. The tail flips downward and is used for steering and as a brake. The feather-light landing takes place in a vertical, upright position with the back feet making contact first.

Weighing 100–167 grams, the flying squirrel is the smallest of all the squirrels. They make a soft churning noise or a chirp. They use lichen, dried grass, and finely shredded bark to make nests in tree cavities. Sometimes they will make use of an abandoned woodpecker nest. When natural cavities are scarce, an abandoned bird's nest will be modified. In some areas, they nest in bird boxes and in attics.

Their velvet soft fur varies in colour, ranging from cinnamon or grey to a red or blackish-brown. The tail is broad, flattened and fluffy. Large, black eyes dominate the head and the ears are small and lightly furred.

The squirrels' diet consists of berries, blossom, buds, cherries, and nuts, supplemented by insects, stolen bird's eggs, or small nestling birds. The major predators are foxes, weasels, martens, and owls. Protection is found by living in the trees and being active after dark. It is the only squirrel species that is nocturnal and spends the majority of its life in a tree. Hence, most people have never seen the spectacular sight of a flying squirrel gliding through the air.

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