Cambridge Assessment International Education

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FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/11**

Paper 1 Reading **May/June 2023**

INSERT **2 hours**

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INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading texts.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.

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Read **Text A**, and then answer **Questions 1(a)–(e)** on the question paper.

Text A: *What is a motivational speaker?*

This text is one person's explanation of what being a motivational speaker involves.

A motivational speaker, also known as an inspirational speaker, is someone who delivers speeches with the intention of motivating or inspiring the people in the audience. Typically, a motivational speaker has a reputation as an expert on the subject being discussed and will encourage the audience to look at things from a different perspective and to make the most of their own talents and abilities.

The ultimate goal of a motivational speaker is to affect people profoundly on an emotional or mental level to help them make some kind of significant personal change in their lives. People naturally tend to focus on all their problems, and the motivational speaker will help an audience to focus on the many opportunities instead, by using any number of persuasive speech tactics.

Some motivational speakers may be hired to speak as special guests or to present online to an invited audience with particular interests. Others perform a planned programme of live or virtual talks for the wider public, selling tickets for each event.

Highly successful speakers are in demand and present at important conferences, often travelling to events all over the world, resulting in irregular working hours. Popular and famous motivational speakers become celebrities: writing books, recording videos or podcasts and appearing on television.

There is a huge demand for motivational speakers. I've resisted the attempts to cash into this 'lucrative' industry, though I'm often asked whether I know of any 'good' motivational speaker I could recommend. Many motivational stories that are clustered out there follow the same predictable storylines – the rags-to-riches story along the lines of: 'I was poor; I came from nothing, and here I am, outrageously successful.'

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Read **Text B**, and then answer **Question 1(f)** on the question paper.

Text B: *Why I am quitting motivational speaking*

The writer of this text has been a wheelchair user since birth and is a well-known motivational speaker. In this extract from her blog, she explains why she has decided to quit motivational speaking.

Many of you know me as a motivational speaker. I have always enjoyed that work and hearing my introduction being read on stage. It certainly makes one feel accomplished, but I questioned myself, 'Is that really me?'

I never imagined I would come this far. My passion for humanity brought me here, but the best contribution ever is honesty and sincerity. After many ups and downs, I'm raising my voice one last time to protect my legacy: inspiring the next generation to be individuals with substance and minds of their own.

After careful thought, I am quitting motivational speaking.

Motivational speaking was never a choice I made. My peers were matched with being engineers or doctors. As a disabled individual, I was matched with being a motivational speaker. It's like just because I have a disability, I automatically qualify to be inspirational. I never got up on stage on my own. I was put up (literally and metaphorically) even before I could figure out the path I was on. It also overshadowed other conscious choices I made.

People ask about my story, but I don't really have one. Many motivational speakers have tragic stories. They have been through adversities, have lost what held value for them. I didn't lose anything: what seems lost, I never really had. My story is not tragic at all. It was my lifestyle since day one. I'm expected to make it sound like a tragedy, but the problems I face are very much what any individual might experience.

When I'm on stage, audiences rarely see beyond the disability. I have organised many events, challenged policies, have two degrees and enjoy bringing ideas to the table. It all gets wasted when people know me as a motivational speaker: the apparent glamour outshines everything I have done and want to do. During interviews I'm always questioned about the 'struggle of life' rather than my thoughts on how to correct the education system: no one really knows about my main work for the past 10 years. I've struggled more as an entrepreneur than as a wheelchair user, but seldom will I be asked about it.

I don't mean we don't have good speakers, or all of my experiences were bad. We have great speakers and much of my success is thanks to supporters who invited me to speak, but if motivational speaking is your only source of income, beware: you will need another one. The stage is the biggest gamble ever. One day you are being praised and everyone wants to hear you. Then comes a day when everyone has heard your story. The intensity is gone. Then comes another day when another person walks up on stage with a sadder story than yours. Then what?

I'm not an entertainer. I'm an author and the Chief Executive Officer of my company.

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Read **Text C**, and then answer **Questions 2(a)–(d)** and **Question 3** on the question paper.

Text C: *Running for my life*

Anna has recently arrived in New Zealand. It is 8:25 and she is being interviewed by a local radio station.

'And special guest, Anna McNuff, joins us in the studio right now. Anna, you're running the entire length of New Zealand, starting today?'

'Yes! In forty-five minutes, I'll be on the start line at the trailhead signpost, at Stirling Point.'

I was sitting, star-struck, in the Southland FM's Invercargill studio, marvelling at radio host Rach's seemingly exotic accent. I already loved the way that people here pronounced my name as: 'Inna!' I grinned widely from behind a microphone bigger than my head.

Rach continued: 'So, are you brave or stupid?'

'Perhaps both,' I laughed enigmatically. 'And excited.'

We talked about my reasons for the run: my amazing childhood with access to sport and the outdoors, the benefits of exercise, and raising awareness for organisations that support individuals recovering from accident or illness to take on a physical challenge. I explained that I'd be visiting schools along the way.

We discussed the attractions of the 3000-kilometre-long Te Araroa Trail – an exquisite, wild showcase of natural diversity framed by forests. I could feel my spirits lift and soar. Nagging self-doubt and gnawing concern over the pain in my right foot eased with every word I uttered into that gigantic microphone. Rach seemed impressed that all my gear fitted into my backpack. I didn't think to mention that I'd only run with it once in training before leaving the UK. I'd struggled, concluding that running with a backpack was hard, and could wait until I had to do it for real.

'You're doing it totally unsupported! Aren't you nervous about how you'll cope alone?' Rach asked.

'It just comes down to a choice about how you live your life,' I shrugged. 'I'm a ''work-it-out-when-I-get-there'' kind of person.'

This was perhaps the reason why I'd failed to read even 10 per cent of the trail notes before setting out. And possibly why a perceptive work colleague had introduced me to Kevin who would meet me at the airport.

Local expert Kevin had quizzed me about sections of the trail. Mostly my responses were: 'Umm, I'm not too sure on that particular bit.'

No, I'd no idea what speed I would do carrying the backpack. I'd wildly over-estimated and certainly hadn't accounted for the massive mountains sprawled across the landscape like giant sleeping tarantulas with their hairy tussock-covered legs forming sharp ridges and deep basins, punctuated by icy streams and seas of chest-high grass. Trails were easy to follow at first using those orange trail-markers designed for tourists but would peter away leaving a confusing connection of gaps in the complex maze of slippery roots and leaves covering the forest floor, any of which could have been trails themselves.

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Yes, I did consider purchasing a GPS at one point, but decided that wasn't entirely in keeping with the 'adventurous spirit'. No, I was a paper maps and compass kind of girl. The explorers of old did things that way, and I wanted the same thrill of 'discovery'. Kevin had looked concerned, though seemed comforted by the fact I had an SPT-tracker, which would let friends and family know I was okay.

We'd chatted more about the differences between trails in New Zealand and those in Europe. My new friend Kevin explained how so many people doing the trail were entirely unprepared, narrowly avoiding disaster through sheer luck. 'They start the trail expecting it to be a well-graded highway. Of course, most are coming south, so by the time they get down here they get it. But it's the ones starting off with no idea from this end that I worry about.' He looked at me. I nodded and looked away quickly.

I hoped, but didn't know for sure then, he'd be impressed when next we met. Having watched my parents be showered with respect over their years of Olympic achievements, I would soon have some of my own.

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