Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/12**

Paper 1 Reading **May/June 2024**

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: Bring your child to work day

This online article has been written to introduce employers in large companies to the idea of a 'Bring your child to work day' (BYCTWD).

When you were a kid, did you ever wish to visit your parents' workplace with them? 'Bring your child to work day' is designed to give youngsters a glimpse into the working world's opportunities and challenges.

The initiative first started in Canada as part of an educational programme during which parents could take their offspring to work for one day. It's now hugely successful, with many similar schemes globally. Rather than being on any set international date, a day is usually chosen that is mutually convenient for participating companies with crucial deadlines and their staff with school-age children.

Why not share the work you do at your workplace with your kids, so they can gain an insight into the atmosphere of your workplace? If your company is following a work-from-home policy, you can devise typical activities that you might do at your workplace and participants can complete these with their child. Your employees also love having their children involved in the business for a day and often work harder to impress them.

The scheme engages staff with children during tours of the building, reminding staff of company rules and procedures as they answer youngsters' questions, and encouraging them to talk positively about the role they play at work – teaching communication skills that might help children in the future. Young visitors see the different roles that are carried out by people to run a business and might even find their interest in one of the fields.

Of course, you'll need to plan schedules carefully. Will children be attending any work meetings? If yes, you'll need to ensure you keep enough time free in between for fun activities. Will they only be attending family-friendly team activities? Your company may decide to organise a single activity for the children, rather than having them at work for the entire day – ensuring health and safety is important. Alternatively, a family-friendly activity may be part of a longer day of events. Whatever you decide, include virtual activities that both in-office and remote teams can participate in. For a memorable day, we suggest organising some special BYCTWD activities – perhaps crafting or a magic show.

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

Text B: A change of direction

The writer of this article has gone back to university to study for another degree at 50 years old.

When I first applied to university at 18, I was interested in psychology. My parents felt law was more suitable. In 2016, after 25 years as a lawyer, I returned to university to study psychology!

Classes initially were both terrifying and exciting – because of the career change and uncertainty, knowing I was likely to be the oldest person in class, and the new journey. It wasn't easy meeting new people, learning new theories, but not as difficult as I'd expected, and was very rewarding.

Learning new technology is hard as a 50-year-old. There were various online tools to communicate with professors and other students. Most students today use technology and find it easy. However, once I'd mustered the nerve to ask, help was always there. Younger students found that explaining to me strengthened their understanding too.

As an 'older student', forget about 'not fitting in'. Embrace your mature perspective as an asset you bring to class. Speak up, ask questions, make comments – being at university isn't just about learning from books and professors, but learning from each other.

Admittedly, memorising new information was harder than I'd remembered, though the skills and abilities required for study felt familiar. Being a parent at the same time, I had honed my time-management skills during my legal career – invaluable when dealing with multiple assignments and exams.

Sometimes it felt weird being taught by professors younger than my son, but they treated me no differently from other students. Ironically, because I was more comfortable than my peers seeking clarifications from professors, I was often sought out by the other students when they were nervous about speaking up. For example, after one exam some students felt one question was too hard. They asked me to voice their concerns. After I'd successfully argued on the class's behalf, the professor smiled good-naturedly saying, 'Aren't you all lucky to have a lawyer as your representative?'

To capitalise on your university experience, resist the urge to just leave when class is over. If you're asked to socialise with your classmates, say yes! Make time to sit and study with other students. As I continue my education in psychology, informal chats with classmates – who I now consider friends – give me invaluable insights into younger generations, teaching me greater empathy for the different world that they have grown up in.

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

Text C: Changing places

Sonja, a teacher who has been working in a school in England for several years, has volunteered for a work exchange. She is going to live and work for a few weeks in the village of Siurung, Nepal.

10 January

Today's my birthday. I don't know anyone well enough to say. There'll be messages for me online, but there's no internet here. I hope no one back home is worried.

When I first arrived, I was enthusiastic about my decision and the work I am going to do, but I've mixed feelings now: is it presumptuous and arrogant of me to imagine I have anything to offer here? Ramesh assures me colleagues at his school are looking forward to meeting me.

I've already learned how to say thank you and 'malai bhaiyo' (which signifies politely that I have eaten enough), a phrase that will prove useful with such generous hosts and delicious food.

12 January

First day at school.

Huddled under three blankets, I wake up early. Texts home still aren't getting through.

I want to tell them about the narrow and snaking drive up the mountainside; the deeply moving traditional welcome of exquisite flower garlands awaiting me in the village; the lanes paved with impossible jigsaw puzzles of metamorphic rock and my accommodation – a homestay room. Homestays are small huts less sturdy than the main houses. They offer adequate, affordable accommodation to trekkers and extra income for local families. They're designed optimistically to be used in tourist season, not the middle of winter.

29 January

Ramesh also teaches Class 8. I'd told him how I loved their enthusiasm. He reassured me they enjoy my lessons too: they like my 'unusual' teaching style and gain confidence from being able to understand everything I say in English.

3 February

The weather's definitely getting better – less cold. Ramesh proposes another hike after school. Since arriving, I've been grateful for his kindness. He's become like a brother. When we're in a group and everyone's talking, he makes sure I'm not left out, translating for me what's going on.

Next week, there's a wedding in Ramesh's family!

9 February

With festivities starting tomorrow, priorities seem to be cleaning the house and washing bedding. I feel immensely privileged to be part of this happy family occasion, but problems

of communication mean I'm not sure what to expect. Fortunately, Ramesh explains: this wedding's particularly important for the family, the final celebration of its kind, as his brother Tulshi is the last of his siblings to get married. Some relatives have travelled far for the festivities. The bride, Dipha, works in the capital city Kathmandu. She'll arrive tomorrow along with her own family and friends who will all stay here until the wedding celebrations are over. I guess that explains why so much bedding was washed this morning!

My Northern European mind wonders what would have happened if it had rained today. Ramesh looks confused, then amused, explaining that this isn't the rainy season. Simple!

10 February

There's a buffet: mini mountains of curried vegetables, accompanied by copious amounts of rice! The village square teems and fizzes with people eating, drinking, laughing and children of all ages running. Weddings always provide an opportunity for people who live far apart to see each other, catch up, remark on how the children have grown. Everything here's so similar and so different from the world I've left behind.

12 February

A family trek is planned to a local beauty spot perched higher up the mountains. I am thrilled to be invited. The sun is pouring out of the uninterrupted Himalayan sky. On the way up Ramesh tells everyone that tigers sometimes roam this area – information I could happily do without. I know Nepal is home to the Bengal tiger but was not expecting to meet one lurking here. As I express concern, he giggles, reassuring me solemnly in English that these tigers are 'not so big'. Then I realise and giggle too. The valley and river below stretch shimmering into the distance. I already know that leaving this place isn't going to be easy.

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