UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/21**

Paper 2 Reading Passages (Extended) **October/November 2010**

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

0026660322

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.
Dictionaries are **not** permitted.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **5** printed pages and **3** blank pages.

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Part 1

Read **Passage A** carefully, and then answer **Questions 1** and **2**.

Passage A

A Strange Wedding

The wedding ceremony between Cecilia, elder daughter of Major and Mrs Ferris-Grebe, and Fred, one of many sons of George and Mavis Kougar, was destined to be a minor disaster.

The couple had met at University and had instantly fallen in love. Fred, who came from a family of energetic market traders, had given no thought to how Mrs Ferris-Grebe might react to the union. She was a strait-laced woman who had been heard to say 'most unsuitable' on a number of occasions. She assumed that Fred's degree in engineering would lead to a life of fixing nuts and bolts. The Kougars too had no idea what Cecilia's degree in psychology and classical studies might entail or how it could be relevant to selling clothes in a street market. Cecilia had managed to ensure that her mother and Fred's mother had never spoken to each other in private.

Now, here they were, meeting together in the church of Saint Thomas Bulstrode. On one side were the Ferris-Grebes with their family and friends, standing stiffly to attention. On the other side was the Kougar family, Fred's brothers and sisters of all ages, including the three-year-old twins who were already playing hide and seek around the woodwork.

The church was a barn of a place, full of gloomy, eerie corners that goodness knows what livestock might inhabit. An intermittent dripping could be heard from somewhere far away, for today it was raining heavily and with age the roof had become an ill-fitting jigsaw. The congregation was aware of an unpleasant clamminess inside the church. Mrs Ferris-Grebe had chosen this place for her daughter's wedding, as she and the major had been married here twenty-five years before.

She had also persuaded her daughter, against her will, to wear the yellowing family wedding dress, and here at last was Cecilia, unfortunately late, hanging on her father's military arm and making her way up the aisle. Mrs Ferris-Grebe clicked her tongue and looked accusingly at her daughter. Fred, who had fleetingly wondered if Cecilia had changed her mind, smiled and looked loving again. The Ferris-Grebe side of the church stood formally to attention and gripped their orders of service.

The Kougars were a mass of movement and colour. George and Mavis were not used to churches, but they knew all about celebrations. George had therefore picked out an assortment of garments from the market stall for his entire family. He appeared a rainbow of a man. He wore a loud, garishly striped shirt, unbuttoned at the top. His bright purple trousers sagged a little at the waist and, with the brightness of his beaming smile, he seemed to shine in the otherwise drab church. He strutted like a peacock and looked immensely proud of his son. Other members of the family were dressed in hideously mismatched colours and designs that clashed violently with the sombre greys of the Ferris-Grebes.

All this life went on behind the backs of Fred and Cecilia, but was uncomfortably noticeable to the vicar who was trying to conduct the service amidst the cooings and the laughter of the younger Kougars. At one point a voice said distinctly, 'Ooh, look at 'er!' Mrs Ferris-Grebe spun round and glared at Mrs Kougar who was a very voluble woman and could make herself very plain and speak at great length whenever the occasion demanded.

The vicar had embarked on what he called 'a few words of advice to the young couple' and as his homily grew longer and longer the entire congregation began to fidget. The Kougar twins became involved in a minor fight, which culminated in some loud recriminations. At this point the vicar forgot entirely where he was and spluttered to a complete stop.

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Need one say more? Fred's brother, the best man, panicked because he forgot where he had put the ring. Oddly, throughout the whole procedure, Fred and Cecilia – whose day it was – remained blissfully happy. It didn't matter to them that the clumsy organist (an old friend of Mrs Ferris-Grebe) made the Wedding March hardly recognisable. They did not mind that by the time they had reached the door for the photographs the rain had become a raging torrent, or that Mrs Ferris-Grebe had broken down into her own, private rainstorm.

1 Imagine that shortly after the marriage service, Mrs Ferris-Grebe and Mrs Kougar have their first conversation together. **Write the conversation** that would take place.

In the conversation you should explore:

- their views on the wedding ceremony;
- their feelings about the suitability of the marriage;
- the differences between the two women and their families.

Base the conversation on what you have read in Passage A and be careful to use your own words.

Begin the conversation as follows:

Mrs F-G: Well, I expect you must be very proud of your son, Fred.

Write between 1½ and 2 sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

Up to fifteen marks will be available for the content of your answer, and up to five marks for the quality of your writing.

[Total: 20]

2 Re-read the descriptions of:

(a) the church in paragraph 4;

(b) Mr Kougar in paragraph 6.

Select words and phrases from these descriptions, and explain how the writer has created effects by using this language. **[Total: 10]**

[Turn over for Part 2]

Part 2

Question 3 is based on both **Passage A** and **Passage B**.
Read **Passage B** carefully, and then re-read **Passage A**.

Passage B

Chinese Wedding Traditions

For Chinese people, the purpose of marriage is to continue the ancestral line and to create alliances between two families. As the world changes, Chinese weddings have evolved and changed as well. Only a few traditions have survived the centuries and have become part of modern day weddings. However, there are still families who wish to include traditional practices in their wedding plans.

In the ancient days, communication was done through letters, which played a vital role in the betrothal and wedding process. Today, three letters are sent. First is the request letter, which serves as a confirmation of the formal arrangement of marriage. This is sent by the groom's family, accompanied by gifts. The second letter is called the gift letter. It serves as a gift record that describes the value of each gift. The third is the wedding letter, which is given to the bride on the wedding day itself.

In other countries nowadays, the bride's family handles the expenses of the wedding. In some countries, both the bride and the groom take care of the wedding expenses. However, according to Chinese wedding traditions, it is the 'groom's day'. This means the groom's family handles all the festivities before, during and after the wedding.

Before the big day a Chinese bride is isolated with her closest friends. In this custom she symbolically mourns the loss of family and friends. On her wedding day, the bride is bathed in water, which is infused with pomelo in order to cleanse her from bad influences.

A traditional Chinese couple is very particular when it comes to choosing the date for the wedding – it should be a lucky one. Most Chinese couples choose a date according to the lunar calendar. Apart from that, they also make sure that the moon and stars are properly aligned on the chosen date. It is also customary that the couple should marry on the half-hour rather than on the hour. In this way, the hands of the clock are moving up instead of down. This is associated with the belief that the couple begin their married life on an upswing if this custom is followed.

The colour red plays a vital role in the wedding festivities of the Chinese people. They consider red to be a bold and lucky colour. In addition, red signifies love, prosperity and happiness. Therefore, everything is in red – wedding invitations, gift envelopes and one of the bride's wedding dresses. It is also important that the symbol for double happiness is placed on invitations, envelopes, wedding decorations and accessories.

In traditional Chinese families, the parents of the couple usually provide a new bed complete with pillowcases, pillows and sheets. The night before the wedding, the groom is required to sleep on the bed and a young nephew has to jump up and down on it to give luck to the couple in producing an heir soon.

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On the day of the wedding the couple serves tea to parents, family and guests. In return they are presented with jewellery and money placed in red envelopes. There will be three different dresses for the bride. The white dress with veil is worn during the wedding ceremony. The second wedding dress, the traditional red wedding dress, is used at the banquet. The last dress is called the bride's going away dress and is worn after the bride leaves the banquet.

A post wedding ritual happens the day after the wedding. The bride should wake up early to honour her ancestors. On this day the bride is formally introduced to the groom's family, relatives and friends.

3 Summarise:

(a) the traditions that Chinese families often follow, as described in **Passage B**;

(b) the things that went wrong at the wedding ceremony described in **Passage A**.

Use your own words as far as possible.

You should write about 1 side in total, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

Up to fifteen marks will be available for the content of your answer, and up to five marks for the quality of your writing.

[Total: 20]

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Question 3 © Chinese Wedding Traditions – Marriage Customs; http://www.983wedding.com/chinese/ 1/8/2009.

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