UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/22**

Paper 2 Reading Passages (Extended) **October/November 2013**

READING BOOKLET INSERT

2 hours

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Reading Booklet Insert contains the reading passages for use with all questions on the Question Paper.

You may annotate this Insert and use the blank spaces for planning. This 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

A French professor tells of how he and his friend, and a sailor called Ned, fell into the Pacific Ocean in 1850 when their ship was hit by a huge creature. They at first believed it to be the legendary whale they were searching for on behalf of the International Marine Society.

The monster of the deep

My first concern was to look for the ship. I glimpsed a black mass disappearing eastward, its lights fading in the distance. I shouted for help, swimming desperately toward the ship. My clothes were weighing me down. I was sinking! Then I found and seized the arm of my loyal friend.

'What about the ship?' I asked.

'As I jumped overboard, I heard the helmsman shout, "Our propeller and rudder are smashed by the monster's tusk!"'

'Then the ship can no longer steer, and we are done for!'

Having concluded that our sole chance for salvation lay in being picked up by the ship's longboats, we had to take steps to wait for them as long as possible. I decided to divide our energies so we wouldn't both be worn out at the same time: while one of us lay on his back, the other would swim and propel his partner forward.

The monster had rammed us at 11 in the evening. I therefore calculated on eight hours of swimming until sunrise. The dense gloom was broken only by the phosphorescent flickers coming from our movements. I stared at the luminous ripples breaking over my hands, shimmering sheets spattered with blotches of bluish grey. It seemed as if we had plunged into a pool of quicksilver.

An hour later, I was overcome with tremendous exhaustion. My limbs stiffened in the grip of intense cramps and paralysing cold. I tried to call out. My swollen lips wouldn't let a single sound through. I heard my friend cry 'Help!'. Ceasing all movement for an instant, we listened. His shout had received an answer. I could barely hear it. I was at the end of my strength; my fingers gave out; my mouth opened convulsively, filling with brine…

Just then something hard banged against me. I clung to it and was pulled back to the surface. I fainted… Then someone was shaking me vigorously.

'Ned!' I exclaimed. 'Were you thrown overboard by the collision?'

'Yes, professor, but I was luckier than you and immediately able to set foot on the gigantic whale as it surfaced. I soon realised why my harpoon got blunted and couldn't puncture its hide. This beast is made of plated steel!'

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I hoisted myself to the summit of this half-submerged creature that was serving as our refuge. I tested it with my foot. Obviously it was some hard, impenetrable substance; not the soft matter that makes up the bodies of our big marine mammals but a bony carapace, like those that covered some prehistoric animals. The blackish back supporting me was smooth and polished with no overlapping scales. On impact, it gave off a metallic resonance and, incredibly, it seemed to be made of riveted plates. No doubts were possible! This animal, this monster, this 'natural phenomenon' that had puzzled the whole scientific world, that had muddled and misled the minds of sailors, was an even more astonishing one – made by the hand of man! There was no question now. We were stretched out on the back of some kind of underwater boat that took the form of an immense steel fish.

Just then, a bubbling began astern and the boat started to move. We barely had time to hang on to its topside, which emerged about 80 centimetres above water. It was imperative to make contact with whatever beings were confined inside the machine. I searched its surface for an opening, but the lines of rivets were straight and uniform. We would have to wait for daylight to find some way of getting inside this underwater boat, and if it made a dive, we were done for!

In the early hours, the vessel picked up speed. We could barely cope with this dizzying rush, and the waves battered us at close range. Our hands came across a ring fastened to its back, and we all held on for dear life.

Finally, the long night was over. From inside the boat came noises of iron fastenings pushed aside. One of the steel plates flew up, and a few moments later, eight sturdy fellows appeared silently and dragged us violently down into their fearsome machine.

This brutally executed capture was carried out with lightning speed. My companions and I had no time to collect ourselves. I don't know how they felt about being shoved inside this aquatic prison, but as for me, I was shivering all over. With whom were we dealing? Surely with some new breed of pirates, exploiting the sea after their own fashion.

Part 2

Read **Passage B** carefully and re-read **Passage A**. Then answer **Question 3**, which is based on both passages. Answer on the Question Paper.

Passage B

This passage is about Tanya Streeter, the record-breaking freediver.

No Limits

In 2002, Tanya Streeter achieved a world record for No-Limits freediving. It was a 3-minute 26-second dive of 160 metres off the Turks and Caicos islands. No-Limits is the most extreme form of diving, where the diver descends on a weighted sled and returns to the surface using an air bag. The following year she broke another record by diving to 122 metres on a single breath of air and returning to the surface without aid. Between 1998 and 2003 Tanya broke nine world records – two of which still stand – in every category of freediving.

Freediving pushes the human body to extremes and there is no scuba equipment involved. The water pressure gets more intense the deeper one goes, compressing lungs to the size of lemons. 'It feels as though you have an elephant sitting on your chest,' says Tanya. The heart slows to 15 beats per minute. During ascent the lungs expand again, and this rapid change can bring on a blackout. How deep humans can dive and survive is still a mystery to doctors and scientists, as the limits keep being pushed further. She explains that it is not only a physical achievement but a mental one. 'The diver learns a lot about him or herself on that long, dark dive, and I think that's where the real achievement lies, in that degree of self-discovery. Once you conquer something you thought was impossible, it changes your life.'

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She would be happy for her other records to be broken, but points out that this sport is extremely expensive, and she believes that this is the great barrier for those who want to attempt to beat them. Sponsors are hard to find, but they are necessary for the correct training and safety measures to be put in place. She herself has spent a fortune; it took 17 training dives and 14 divers to ensure her safety before her No-Limits world record attempt.

Tanya had a bond with the sea from an early age as she was born and raised on Grand Cayman, in the Caribbean. She would spend hours in the ocean, and when that wasn't possible, she stayed in the pool until her hair turned green from the chlorine. Through this sport she learned to control her breathing and to discipline her body. She would dive with local spearfishermen, who noticed her talent and encouraged her to try freediving. It gave her a sense of independence; one feels more alone and self-reliant than in any other sport. She thinks that humans have a natural affinity with water, starting before birth, and that freediving is a way of demonstrating this.

She has always used her fame to fight for the oceans she loves so much. When asked how she feels about the deluge of bad news, from global warming to dying coral, she says, 'Awareness is the key. I honestly believe that if more people realised how their daily activities affect the oceans, and therefore the planet's health, they would make small changes that could make a big difference.'

She is even an apologist for sharks. She has freedived with many different species, from extremely docile ones to reef and tiger sharks. She believes that there's no substitute for education. 'I learned so much about sharks and their behaviours and my personal experience is that they are completely fascinating.' She has also enjoyed diving with humpback whales and dolphins, other species of freedivers and breath-holders. And her sport takes her to the most stunningly beautiful places in the world.

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