Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/31**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition **October/November 2015**

READING BOOKLET INSERT

2 hours

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Reading Booklet Insert contains the reading passage for use with **Section 1**, **Question 1** on the Question Paper.

You may annotate this Insert and use the blank spaces for planning. This Insert is **not** assessed by the Examiner.

This document consists of **2** printed pages and **2** blank pages.

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Read the passage carefully, and then answer **Section 1, Question 1** on the Question Paper.

In this transcript, a doctor who believes in homeopathy, a type of alternative medicine, is interviewed for a radio programme by the presenter, Ms Sanderling.

Ms Sanderling: My guest today, Dr Schinkl, is a doctor who diagnoses and treats a whole range of illnesses, just like any other doctor, but his methods are very different from those in mainstream medicine and remain controversial.
Dr Schinkl, most people would say that modern drugs have made striking advances over the past 150 years. Many once fatal diseases, such as smallpox, have even been entirely eradicated from the planet. For many other illnesses, including cancer, modern drugs can either cure or hold at bay the symptoms and improve patients' chances of survival as well as their quality of life. Why do you think that people turn to homeopathy when modern medicine has more than proved its worth?

Dr Schinkl: Well, modern medicine can't cure everything and patients don't always respond well to chemical remedies. Homeopathy is a gentler science. The side-effects of some modern cures often make patients miserable, even if their original symptoms are eased. Conventional doctors consider such people cured even though their drugs may be addictive or may do damage in the long term.

Ms Sanderling: So people turn to homeopathy out of frustration with modern medicine rather than faith in your methods, perhaps?

Dr Schinkl: Not really. There's a lot more to homeopathy than that, or it wouldn't have survived for hundreds of years. Actually, its origins go back thousands of years to the beginnings of civilisation and it's been practised by different cultures across the world since then. People believe in it because it's a system that benefited people centuries before modern medicine made the advances you describe.

Ms Sanderling: Nevertheless, 'folk remedies' and superstitions aren't credible these days, surely?

Dr Schinkl: Homeopathy has nothing in common with such practices and has its roots in two basic principles. The first is that the cause of a disease can be used to cure it, an idea used in producing modern medicines too and which goes way back to ancient times. Paracelsus, who many doctors regard as the father of modern medical science, wrote that 'what makes a man ill also cures him.' The second principle is often harder for people to accept. This principle is that the more diluted, or watered down, the remedy is, the more effective it is as a cure. It may seem strange but it works, and has done for centuries.

Ms Sanderling: But how can a tiny quantity of a remedy help to cure disease? Some conventional doctors say that homeopathy is increasing in popularity only because sick people are desperate and willing to try anything – and believe anything, maybe. Research suggests that such cures do no more good than placebos – sugar pills that sometimes have a psychological effect but can't possibly cure diseases in any real sense.

Dr Schinkl: But such research is often carried out by people who profit from modern drugs and there's a lot of ignorance about homeopathic practices. The thousands of people who benefit from homeopathic treatments tell a completely different story!

Ms Sanderling: Speaking of profit, since only tiny quantities of substances are used, and sick people are often desperate for a cure, homeopathic doctors can charge high prices for their services. Is that not exploitative?

Dr Schinkl: Homeopathic remedies are very expensive to produce. They require great subtlety of understanding as well as precision in the preparation of the ingredients. To the millions of patients whose lives have been changed, who have been cured of conditions which conventional doctors had written off as incurable, the benefit is beyond price. None of them has ever complained about the cost!
What I say to you, Ms Sanderling, is this: come to me with an incurable condition which is making your life a misery, and I will cure you. Then we shall see how you view homeopathy.

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