Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/11**

Paper 1 Reading Passages (Core) **October/November 2016**

READING BOOKLET INSERT

1 hour 45 minutes

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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 Reading Booklet Insert and use the blank spaces for planning. This Reading Booklet Insert is **not** assessed by the Examiner.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

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Part 1

Read **Passage A** carefully, and then answer **Questions 1** and **2** on the Question Paper.

Passage A: The Mountain Pass

In the following passage the narrator describes a dangerous journey by car along a mountain road to help a friend who is in danger.

For a little time I drove cautiously, for the road had many twists and the snow was confusing to the eyes. Then there was a sharp drop and I speeded up. It grew colder, and I shivered a little. The snow became a wet white fog around the glowing arc of the headlights; always the road fell, now in long curves, now in steep short dips, until I was aware of a valley opening towards the south. As I had lived in this remote area for many years I had some sense of the landscape and knew where the ravine narrowed or widened, though it was black darkness.

In spite of my restlessness I had to go slowly, for after the first rush downhill I realised that, unless I was careful, I might wreck the car and spoil everything. The surface of the road on the southern slope of the mountains was far worse than that on the other. I skidded and side-slipped, and once grazed the edge of the gorge. It was far more exasperating than the climb up. That had been a straightforward grind with the car trying its best to reach the top, whereas going down, I had to hold it back because of my own lack of skill. I consider that time crawling down from the summit as some of the weariest hours I ever spent.

Quite suddenly I came out of the bad weather into a different climate. The sky was clear above me, and I saw that dawn was very near. The first pinewoods were beginning, and at last came a straight slope where I could let the car accelerate. I began to feel more positive and to estimate the distance I had still to travel. Then, without warning, a new world sprang up around me. Out of the blue dusk, indistinct white shapes appeared, peaks and needles and domes of ice, their bases fading mistily into shadow, but their tops glowing like jewels. I had never seen such a sight, and the wonder of it for a moment made me feel less anxious. Moreover, it gave me a sense of victory. I was in full daylight, and surely, in this clear air, my fears that had arisen during the night would be defeated.

And then I saw, a short distance ahead, the little square red-roofed house that was the home of my friend, Geoffrey.

I had grown careless and looked at the house instead of the road. At one point the hillside had slipped down onto the road and I did not notice the landslide until it was right in front of me. I swerved too far to the right and, before I knew it, the car went over the edge. I slammed on the brakes, but too late. The car slithered down the steep bank into a meadow and ran into a fallen tree trunk with a jolt that shook me out of my seat and nearly broke my arm. Even before examining the car, I knew what the damage would be. The front axle was bent, and the front wheels badly buckled. I had no time to curse my stupidity. I clambered back to the road and started running down it towards the house.

There was a man at the door who, catching sight of my approach, rushed to meet me. I saw that it was Geoffrey, but his face was pale and terrified. He looked gaunt and haggard like one who had not slept for several nights, and his eyes were hot coals.

'Richard!' he cried. 'Help me, please!'

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Part 2

Read **Passage B** carefully, and then answer **Question 3** on the Question Paper.

Passage B: A Guide to Surviving Hurricanes

A hurricane is a tropical weather system with winds that have reached a sustained speed of 100 kilometres per hour (kph) or more. Hurricane winds blow in a large spiral around a relatively calm centre, known as the 'eye'. The eye is generally 30–40 kilometres wide, and the storm may extend outward from it for 600 kilometres. Walls are torn from concrete buildings, five-metre-tall trees ripped from the earth and six-metre-high waves crash to shore. The power of hurricanes is awesome. Hurricanes can create tornadoes. Floods and flash floods are generated by torrential rains that accompany hurricanes. Even more dangerous is the storm surge – a dome of ocean water that, at its peak, can be nine metres high and 80–160 metres wide. The surge can devastate coastal communities as it sweeps ashore.

As a hurricane approaches, the sky darkens and winds strengthen. As it nears land, it can bring torrential rains, high winds and storm surges. A hurricane can stretch the entire length of a country's coastline, with winds extending inland for hundreds of kilometres. Hurricanes are classified into five categories according to wind speed. Category 1 is the mildest, with winds from 120 to 150 kph. Category 5 is the strongest, with winds above 240 kph.

Fortunately, there are measures that can be taken by individuals and communities before a hurricane strikes to reduce vulnerability to hurricane hazards. Simple construction measures, such as placing storm shutters over exposed glass or installing hurricane straps on roofs, have proved effective in limiting damage when hurricanes strike. Communities can improve protection from hurricanes by adopting and enforcing building regulations for wind and flood resistance. Sensible land-use planning also can ensure that structures are not built in high-risk areas. The hurricane season lasts from June to November, and August and September are the peak months.

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