Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/31**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition **October/November 2016**

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.

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

In this magazine article, a journalist finds out more about the ways some communities are starting to share their belongings, skills and ideas.

Share Nicely Now

Borrowing your neighbour's mower could work in a sleepy village, but in the fast-moving city? I've my doubts.

It's surprising then to find business booming at the Share-Shack, a new type of lending library. Forget books, this twinkling Aladdin's cave offers pretty much everything else you can think of from board games to bread makers, designer hats to power tools. Many people would love to own the more expensive items but can't afford them.

Like an eco-friendly Santa Claus, Valerie, manager of the Share-Shack, explains, 'There's anything you'd want here. People lend and borrow all sorts.'

'Sharing's something we encourage in children,' she continues. 'It's considered socially mature behaviour, yet adults lose sight of that. We're bringing sharing back. It costs nothing to be a member. Donate something and you're in. Most of us have things we don't really use any more cluttering up our homes – things others might use, given the chance.'

Perhaps it does make sense. The average power drill is used only 12 minutes in its entire lifetime, a statistic that hardly merits buying one. Increasingly aware of the real costs to the environment, people are also questioning whether we need as many things as we thought. Sharing makes sense economically and environmentally.

Single-mother Katy is one of three visitors this morning. Selecting an impressive catering-size food mixer, she says, 'I only make a cake once a year. I can't justify buying one of these for myself.' She places the sleek model she's borrowing into the Share-Shack's recycled bin-bag. The glint in her eye matches mine. I'd kill for a machine like that. If I borrowed it, I wouldn't fancy Valerie's chances of ever seeing it again.

For Valerie, it's simply a question of trust. 'When someone comes to borrow something, we agree how long they need it and when they'll bring it back. People trust us to look after their belongings. We trust them to return things.'

'Sometimes we do *lose* items,' she admits when pressed. 'But we stay calm. Another one usually turns up.'

'This all started thanks to meeting my neighbour when he knocked on my door to borrow extra chairs for a party,' explains Valerie. 'I lent them to him. The basic idea grew from there. Originally, I planned just an online site, but people like having somewhere physical to come to. The Share-Shack's become a meeting place, generating even more ideas.'

The evidence that the Share-Shack is more than a lending library is pinned to the Shack's noticeboard. Alongside those advertisements for items needed or offered, are others for lift-shares. There are also notices explaining inventive fundraisers such as 'City Harvest' (a scheme turning excess produce from gardens into jams and pickles for sale at the Shack).

'Some items are borrowed a lot and may need replacing. We're always looking for ways to manage and fund that,' explains Valerie. 'This isn't just charity for those on restricted incomes though. It's an efficient way for a community to operate. We're even persuading members to share under-used space, such as sheds, garages and gardens. One elderly resident had her garden made over by young volunteers keen to have somewhere to hold a barbecue. They certainly put our strimmer and hedge-trimmer to good use.'

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However, a nearby retailer of electrical goods, David Martin, notes with concern the stream of clients to Valerie's door. 'There are unanswered questions, in my opinion,' he says. 'Who's maintaining all this gear? Is it fit for purpose? Even with the right instruction booklet, it can be dangerous to use a machine you don't know.'

Entrepreneur Trisi Weclawek has few such worries. She is planning to make money using Valerie's idea. 'Social networking sites mean that sharing online has become second nature,' she beams. 'We're extending that to the high street. We've acquired empty premises in several major cities and offer support to anyone interested in running their own Share-Shack.'

I politely decline a copy of the 'Share-Shack-Starter-Pack' (advice on protecting yourself, your property and what to do if things go wrong). Instead, I drop some loose change in the donation box Valerie keeps in the shop. 'We all work for free here,' she says. 'There are overheads of course, rent on the shop and so on. Sometimes we have to decide not to let someone borrow anything else until they bring something back, but that doesn't happen very often.'

Share nicely now then everyone…

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