Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/12**

Paper 1 Reading Passages (Core) **October/November 2017**

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** the 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.

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Part 1

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

Passage A: The Incident on the Express Train

In this extract a young man, named Joe, is walking through the countryside when he witnesses an unusual incident on a passing train.

Joe came out of the wood on the far side of the hill, next to the railway line. He must have left the path without noticing in the dark and he was frustrated to find himself following a wide circle around the slopes above the tunnel. He was about to return when he realised that he was standing beside the exit of the tunnel. He paused, standing completely still, watching the stars in the night sky above. The thunderous roar of a train emerging from the depths of the earth, growing louder and louder by the moment, shattered his tranquillity.

Joe saw the dark mouth of the tunnel lit up, like a gaping furnace filled with burning coal. Then the engine burst out with the dazzling glare of its great big round eye, the lantern in front, illuminating the rails for a long way ahead. It came like a thunderbolt with the carriages following afterwards. The small square windows of the doors, brilliant with light, displayed compartments full of travellers. The train flew past at such a whirling speed that Joe could not be sure about what he saw.

At that precise moment, Joe glimpsed, through a carriage window, one man holding another by the collar of his overcoat and pinning him struggling against the wall. But, before he could take it all in, the train had already dashed past, and was disappearing in the direction of the city, and nothing more could be seen except for the three lights at the back forming a red triangle.

The young man, rooted to the spot, followed the train with his eyes as its thunder gradually died away. Was he sure about what he had seen? He hesitated. Not one feature of the two men in the carriage remained clear. All the details had become confused, and evaporated as if it was a dream. For an instant, he had witnessed a dramatic image and then it vanished. All this gave him an icy chill. It seemed to him so extraordinary, that at last he admitted he must have been seeing things.

For another hour, Joe walked on, his head filled with conflicting thoughts and emotions. Feeling confused and exhausted he found himself standing in the darkness in front of the signalman's house. Seeing a ray of light from under the front door, he pushed it open.

In the corner of the room, the railway worker was searching in a large storage cupboard. Disturbed by the noise of the door opening, the railway worker turned around.

'I came to find my lantern, because a little while ago, as I was coming along by the main railway line, I saw a man lying on the bank on the far side.'

Joe appeared violently upset by the news of this discovery. The scene he had witnessed in the passing train, the thunderous noise and the brief vision of two men struggling with one another, returned to him in a vivid flash.

'A man by the line!' he exclaimed, turning pale. 'Where?'

The railway worker was about to explain that he was returning from a long walk, but seeing Joe's response, changed his mind. He gestured vaguely in a northerly direction and replied:

'Over there, about 500 metres up the line. I couldn't see clearly in the dark if he was alive or not. I need a light to find out more.'

'I'll go with you,' said Joe.

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Part 2

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

Passage B: Travelling by Train in India

Expert, Mark Smith, offers some tips about train travel on an Indian holiday.

India's massive rail network is a wonderful way to get around and see the country. Indian Railways runs the third biggest rail network after Russia and China. Train journeys aren't merely transportation; they become an integral part of your trip. In many ways you haven't enjoyed the full experience of India without witnessing bustling Indian railway stations and riding long-distance on an Indian train. They are complete with the tea seller singing 'Chai, chai, garam chai' and dispensing cups of addictive hot sweet tea.

You can forget those images of overcrowded commuter trains with passengers hanging on the side or sitting on the roof. You'll be travelling on long-distance trains with your seats safely reserved for you, with air-conditioning and reasonably comfortable sleeping compartments at night with clean sheets and pillows.

Indian trains have eight different classes of compartment, but second class is the popular choice for most tourists. It has air-conditioned seating in open bays of four on one side of the aisle and bays of two on the other. At night, the seats convert to sleeping berths, bedding is provided and curtains give a degree of privacy. Second class is the way that Indian families travel, and you'll meet many of them on board.

First class is available on the best trains, and consists of lockable two-berth and four-berth sleeper compartments. You'll be travelling with army officers and bank managers. A compartment in first class is reasonably priced. For short distances an 'Air-Conditioned Chair Car' offers open-plan seating and is a good choice, especially on the fast, more expensive, express trains.

You can buy tickets at the station where you start your journey. Indian trains are very busy, however, and are often fully booked, weeks in advance. Nevertheless, a remarkably effective system of reservations has been developed and the most important trains have a limited 'tourist quota' for visitors that allows last minute bookings.

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