Cambridge IGCSE

Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/11**

Paper 1 Reading Passages (Core) **October/November 2018**

READING BOOKLET INSERT

1 hour 45 minutes

8569209023-I

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.

DC (CE) 144921/2
© UCLES 2018

CAMBRIDGE International Examinations

Part 1

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

Passage A: Machu Picchu: the Inca Trail on horseback

In this passage the writer describes the experience of visiting the ruins of Machu Picchu, in Peru.

When I first visited the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, in the 1970s, travellers took the train and walked up the hill to the ruins. As a backpacking student, I slept alone and without charge in an open-sided hut with a thatched roof. It was not waterproof, as I realised when the storm hit at 3 a.m., but witnessing the Inca emperor's great summer retreat blasted by thunder and forked lightning more than compensated for a soaked sleeping bag.

If you believe travel experts, Machu Picchu reached its peak of popularity 40 years ago. The 21st-century adventure vibe, however, has created rewarding approaches that compensate for the rampant commercialism of the site. The most popular is the Classic Inca Trail, a five-day hike during which you spend the nights under canvas. Up to 500 people start daily on an undulating route with three dramatic passes and the prospect of sleeping out in temperatures below freezing. The trail I took, known as Salkantay, is more attractive for the lack of crowds, the astounding scenery and the luxurious lodges along the route. Plus you can do it on horseback. No contest, really.

At first sight, Cesar, my horse, looked woefully unenthusiastic, but the horse would do the job, my guide Pedro assured me, and he was right. All the horses had comfortable touring saddles with high pommels properly secured with breast-plates. That was reassuring when it became clear that Pedro, relentlessly enthusiastic, had a passion for galloping on rocky dirt roads, often downhill. After a picnic lunch, we set off towards the first mountain lodge, built to last from stone, timber and mud at 3800 metres, overlooking the Soraypampa grasslands and the Humantay Glacier.

My first impression of the lodge was of eerie grandeur: such a tantalising, no-expense-spared structure in such a bleak spot could only be an illusion. But it wasn't. Large doors opened and we entered, gratefully embracing hot flannels and steaming mugs of tea as we removed our boots. With 12 double rooms, it is twice the size of the other three mountain lodges on the Salkantay trail. Guests, whether on foot or horseback, can stay for two nights to acclimatise before the climb.

During our stopover there, we rode up a steep z-bend trail to a glacial lake, glittering turquoise under sun-filtered clouds. Twenty condors, wings spread to their full three metres, circled speculatively, then spiralled around us menacingly. Back at the ranch, we felt we'd earned a large and exotic meal of local delicacies followed by an early night and uninterrupted sleep.

In Peru the band of smaller trees between the bare fields and the giant trees of the Amazon is known as ceja de selva, the eyebrow of the jungle. On a route that included exciting white-water river crossings and rickety bridges, farmers greeted us cheerfully. Initially, the simple stone villages were built among maize and vegetable plots, replaced at lower altitudes by orchids, passion fruit and bananas, often with hummingbirds and flocks of parrots in raucous attendance.

In the evenings, we enjoyed the familiar Peruvian hospitality, first at Wayna, its hot tub built in the central courtyard for protection against a fiercely windswept location, then at Colpa, on an expansive plateau overlooking a meeting place for three rivers. After a final day and night in the fourth mountain lodge among avocado groves and coffee plantations, we took the train to Aguas Calientes and rejoined the real world. No one should miss out on Machu Picchu and travelling on horseback in the mist at such altitudes is something I'll never forget.

© UCLES 2018

Part 2

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

Passage B: Rapa Nui (Easter Island)

This passage describes the history of Rapa Nui (Easter Island).

Easter Island's mysterious statues, stone blocks carved into head-and-torso figures, average four metres in height and weigh 14 000 kilograms. Constructing these monuments and moving them around the island must have taken considerable effort – but no one knows exactly why the Rapa Nui people undertook such a task. Most scholars suspect that they were created to honour ancestors, chiefs or other important personages.

A Polynesian society blossomed after hardy explorers somehow navigated a fleet of wooden canoes to this tiny speck in the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. Here, in isolation, some 3700 kilometres west of South America, and 1770 kilometres from the nearest island, the Rapa Nui people developed a distinct architectural and artistic culture. That culture reached its zenith during the 10th to 16th centuries, when the Rapa Nui placed statues across the island.

It's not clear when the island was first settled; estimates range from 800 to 1200 CE. It's also not clear how quickly the island ecosystem was wrecked – but a major factor appears to be the cutting of millions of giant palms to clear fields or make fires. It is possible that Pacific rats, on the ships of human settlers, may have eaten enough seeds to help to decimate the trees. Loss of the trees exposed the island's rich volcanic soils to serious erosion. When Europeans arrived in 1722, they found the island mostly barren and its inhabitants few.

Today's tourists are numerous, and most visit the Rano Raraku quarry, which provided the stones. Easter Island's earlier inhabitants left the quarry in a fascinating condition – with 400 statues in all stages of completion.

Meanwhile, across the entire island, many statues are deteriorating rapidly from priceless carvings back into plain rock. The volcanic stone is subject to weathering, and intensive conservation efforts are needed to help preserve Easter Island's awe-inspiring statues.

© UCLES 2018

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge International Examinations Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cie.org.uk after the live examination series.

Cambridge International Examinations is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.

© UCLES 2018