Cambridge IGCSE

Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/22**

Paper 2 Reading Passages (Extended) **October/November 2018**

READING BOOKLET INSERT

2 hours

4053172322-I

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 Insert and use the blank spaces for planning.
This 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 Magician

At Thomas's birthday party, Mr Pengelly, a children's entertainer, fails to impress with his magic tricks.

Mr Pengelly sighed. He'd try once more. During the 'miser's dream' trick, where he supposedly plucked endless coins from thin air, all the children had watched his slow hands far too closely. None of them had been deceived by his 'sucker trick', where he pretended to lose a multi-coloured ball in a two-compartment box. It seemed to Mr Pengelly that their little faces had tilted knowingly straight to the ball's true location – his top hat – even before he had shown them the empty box compartments. He wondered who the real 'sucker', or idiot, was. Well, this last trick was the one The Magic Circle had taught him he could always depend on when the atmosphere seemed rather flat: the 'audience participation' trick. Mr Pengelly remained hopeful.

'Here, the birthday boy! You go first, Thomas!' Mr Pengelly offered the small child the rigid magic wand. Thomas looked around uneasily at his mother and silent friends. His mother nodded encouragingly, so Thomas clambered to his feet, took hold of the wand, and screwed his forehead, perplexed, as it crumpled in his hand.

'Aha, Thomas, but when I do it … Look!' Mr Pengelly took the wand, his smile triumphant as the stick became taut, but wavering as the wand crumpled again. He quickly tried to cover his mistake, but knew he was too late.

'Mum, can I go on my games console now? It is my birthday! We've been nice to Mr Pengelly for a long time now!' Thomas wailed. His flustered mother quickly ushered the children inside and then turned her flushed, smiling face to Mr Pengelly.

'Oh, thank you, Edward. The children so enjoyed it; we all did. Come on in and I'll get you a drink.' It seemed to Mr Pengelly that she could not turn her face away from him fast enough. He stumbled after her into the kitchen where, lemonade in hand, he stood looking out of the window.

Blinking, he surveyed the forlorn heap of tricks on a small black table in the yard. The two-compartment box was wide open, desperately revealing its inner secrets to anyone who cared to look. His top hat had suffered a humiliating dent and its once smart black ribbon was now a rag waving its surrender in the slight breeze. Some rebellious playing cards had made a break for freedom, gathering hopefully around the bolted back-gate, while the crumpled wand performed a last tragic bow as if leaving a grand stage forever.

He turned to peer through a doorway where a half-dozen children gathered around a games console, their expressions animated. Thomas's mother nodded in their direction. 'You go through, Edward. Take a seat in there.' Mr Pengelly entered the small room. Yes, Thomas's mother was a kind woman. She had given him a job for this afternoon and now she was doing her best to make him feel part of the gathering. What a failure he'd been. His mind wandered back to a leaflet that had come through the post a few days earlier from The Magic Circle. 'Revitalise Your Magic Skills' its heading had invited.

Thomas was operating the game controller as the other children gasped at the screen.

'Time to eat!' came the sudden call of his mother. Thomas's mouth opened in dismay. 'But I've not finish … ' His howl was interrupted as the controller slipped from his hands and fell, clattering heavily, to the ground. It skidded across the polished wooden floor, and came to a sharp, juddering halt against the wall, before neatly cracking open. Red and yellow control buttons performed small cartwheels and two small batteries escaped their case. A joystick mischievously popped its head out of its base, shoulders heaving, as if in barely controlled sniggering at the spectacle.

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'Nothing that can't be fixed,' Mr Pengelly consoled the distraught children. 'Go through and eat your birthday tea, and I'll sort it out.' As the children departed through the door, he carefully gathered up the small pieces, wondering where to start. Within a minute, he was smiling. With the re-assembled game controller sitting obediently in his hand, he walked through the door to the children.

As he bathed in the glow of their gratitude and happiness, Mr Pengelly allowed his thoughts to trail back to another compartment of tricks in the yard. Nothing that couldn't be fixed, he supposed: that leaflet had offered him a six weeks' re-training course. What a good idea!

Part 2

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

Passage B: Robots

The owner of Radical Robot Designs, a company that makes robots, gives a speech to try to encourage potential customers to buy his robots.

Good afternoon.

My name is Liam Cheng and I am the owner of Radical Robot Designs. I am most delighted to see so many delegates in attendance today. It is an indicator of your own shrewd judgement and business acumen that you are putting your trust in Radical Robot Designs. We will show you some of our cutting edge technology and robot prototypes in fields that are years, maybe a decade, ahead of our rivals' efforts.

To my left, meet Celine. Celine is a 'personal' robot. I am sure you can't wait for me to tell you what Celine can do: how she can say 'Hello' to your customers, use eye contact and even point them to different departments in shop stores. But I am not going to tell you this. We offer you so much more than the standard 'personal' robot that you could buy from any of our rivals. Let me tell you instead about the robot that does not only do those things, but can also determine different social and cultural backgrounds, just from verbal clues and body language. And wait for this! She then adapts in perfect accordance. Gone are those bungling moments when your ordinary robot shakes a hand when a head inclination is a more appropriate greeting. Good business runs on good customer relations. Celine speaks all European languages, Chinese and Japanese. She represents the ultimate in customer hospitality and is unique to Radical Robot Designs.

Hold that thought, because behind me we have a selection of our hot-off-the-shelf 'manufacturing' or 'industrial' robots. Again, forget those other robots which may impress you with what are merely repetitive actions. Clive, Cordelia and Christiana are the most stunning examples of robots whose advanced algorithms enable them to learn very quickly and effectively. You tell me you are happy to design a specific workplace for Clive, Cordelia and Christiana? Forget it. They will adapt to your workplace just the way it is. Clive is our top-of-the-range model. He is capable of particularly deep learning. His large neural networks mean that not only can he see and grasp like all other robots, but that he can also employ reason. Industrial robots have proved most adept at sorting items on a line for years now, but Clive will also discover faults and make judgements. And wait for this. Such is the deep-seated nature of his learning capabilities, he can train other robots in your workplace to your exact and specific requirements. Imagine the savings in resources and time to have Clive teach new robots how to recognise a particular object or perform a new task!

We have recently moved into the arena of autonomous drones[1], and I understand that this is an area of great interest and excitement to some of our international delegates today. At the end of 2015, the US Federal Aviation Administration released regulations for registering drones. We were ready for that. All of our brand new drones come with a unique pack that enables you to secure this requirement

within an incredible five minutes. Online goods suppliers will not look back after they have secured the services of our smart aerial vehicles: imagine how your businesses could boom through speedier deliveries and a massively increased customer base. Those of you in the surveillance business already know how our smart inspection drones have benefited from increased intelligence.

Such is our immense stature in the robot market, we have acquired amazing deals with manufacturers in both hardware and software, and we share the benefits of this with our customers. This means we will reward your loyalty and discount all bulk orders. Purchasing one robot or a team of robots from our unique company, Radical Robot Designs, is possibly the smartest decision you could take this year.

Please step up and take a Radical Robot Designs glossy brochure.

Notes:
[1] *autonomous drone*: an unmanned aircraft

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