Cambridge IGCSE

Cambridge Assessment International Education
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/31**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition **October/November 2019**

2 hours

READING BOOKLET INSERT

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Reading Booklet Insert contains the reading passages for use with **Section 1**, **Question 1** 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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Read the **two** passages carefully, and then answer **Question 1** on the Question Paper.

Passage A: All for a good cause

In this magazine article, a parent explains why she is not happy with the fundraising activities suggested by her children's school.

Am I the only parent wondering why it is that I'm sending in a can of tinned fruit for a teacher to sit in a bath of them this month? Apparently, it's all 'in aid of charity' and is really 'cool' according to my twelve-year-old child. I've also just had an exasperating conversation with my teenage daughter about why she can't be sponsored to cut off her hair or throw a bucket of ice-cold water over herself, nor host a retro dinner party for her and her friends to compete in eating chocolate-covered mints. We're now left with just a handful of dubious alternatives on the list of fundraising ideas from the school. The first consists of our family being filmed for one minute as if frozen in an everyday pose – why? Another involves me submitting to being photographed at my least attractive – in the early morning and before make-up has covered the worst ravages of time. Can't I just sign a cheque quietly and not join in with this farce? What if we just gave our tinned food to the charity in the first place?

If there's going to be a challenge, make it real. Do something that is really challenging, makes a difference and is worthwhile. Posting online before and after photographs of yourself having had your hair cut off in some sort of dramatic mini-makeover as a show of solidarity for sufferers of hair loss doesn't count. Yes, everyone can see how generous you are, but your hair will grow back. Whilst online gimmicks like this are claimed to raise awareness, they risk losing the depth of the message.

These so-called challenges are as much about vanity as charity – look at me, aren't I generous, brave and selfless! Before the internet, people just donated, anonymously. The irony is people now believe they are doing something important when really their actions are changing nothing, or worse …

Remember the ice-bucket challenge? The challenge involved people sharing online videos of themselves and others having buckets of ice-cold water dumped over them. Publicity-seeking celebrities were joined by those of us who should have known better doing little more than getting our hair wet for charity and then expecting to be taken seriously in our concern for the environment and the need to conserve scarce natural resources.

Nowadays, it seems there is no point in doing something if you are not prepared to share it on social media. The challenges are more about making ourselves look and feel good than about helping others. We are just using social media to clear our consciences. The global fundraising website, justgiving.com, which anyone can access, provides a button for anonymous donations – hardly anyone uses it.

With every campaign email we receive, every invitation to support this cause or that, every suggestion to be seen doing something ridiculous, we're made to feel if we don't do it, we'll look mean-spirited and nasty. Which is why I suppose I will be there, with those other well-meaning parents, serving soup to my son's year group as they camp out in cardboard boxes on the school playing field in support of homelessness while someone takes photos for the school website.

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Passage B: Extreme charity challenges

In this section from a website homepage, a company selling activities to people wanting to raise money describes the range they have to offer.

The standard of events to raise money for charity continues to rise. It's becoming increasingly difficult to stand out from the crowd to attract donations. Taking on an extreme challenge for charity is one way to keep your activity at the top of everyone's agenda.

Extreme challenges come in all shapes and sizes, from amazing feats of endurance and demonstrations of physical prowess to adrenaline-fuelled stunts and epic, unforgettable adventures. There's something for just about everyone to walk, run, paddle or hurl themselves out of.

Extreme challenges capture the imagination, attracting the attention of those looking to donate. A triathlon will gain the respect of your peers – though not nearly as much as an achievement like running 250 km across the Gobi desert!

Preparation
It's important to remember, though, that travelling abroad doesn't necessarily mean a holiday. The clue's in the title – extreme challenges are hard. They need thorough, dedicated preparation. You'll need to be tough, determined and physically and mentally in top condition.

What we offer
Endurance: How about seven marathons in a week? Head to our events section for the ultimate running tests.

Stunts: Fancy abseiling down a skyscraper? Conquer your fears with one of our dramatic stunt challenges.

Adventures: Could you survive the jungle? Push yourself with our range of extreme challenges from around the globe.

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