Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/13**

Paper 1 Reading **October/November 2020**

INSERT **2 hours**

3632260685-I

INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading texts.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.

11_0500_13_2020_1.11
© UCLES 2020

Read **Text A**, and then answer **Questions 1(a)–1(e)** on the question paper.

Text A: Space travel

Humankind is becoming increasingly interested in space travel. This offers both challenges and rewards.

'One small step for a man; one giant leap for mankind.' Neil Armstrong's words, broadcast to the world as he stepped onto the Moon in 1969, became a defining phrase of the twentieth century. They marked the first time a human being stood on a world other than planet Earth.

The desire to go to space is as old as humanity. Although the Sun and Moon were often characterised as gods by ancient civilisations, others saw them as places we might dream of visiting.

Many writers used their imagination to step off the Earth, usually in order to reflect humorously on its inhabitants. Improbable narratives of trips to the Moon include 'True History' by Lucian of Samosata (second century), and Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Unparalleled Adventure of One Hans Pfaall' (1835).

Despite fictional excitement, many longed to learn the truth. By the start of the twentieth century, technology was catching up with literary imagination, and a trip to the Moon was no longer just a flight of fancy.

However, since the last lunar landing in 1972, no missions beyond a low Earth orbit have included human life on board. In 1977, the Voyager probes[1] were sent on exploration past the planets of the solar system and out into deep space. More recently, robotic probes have landed on Mars, and even on a comet at the end of 2014. Humans, however, have been all but grounded.

Space flight is prohibitively expensive. A round trip to Mars would cost billions of dollars and require humans to spend at least eight months in space, probably a lot longer, depending on what technology was available. Although NASA has provisional plans to begin safe human missions to Mars in the mid-2030s, human space travel may depend on private enterprise rather than government cash.

Whether by public or private means, it seems the will is there for humans to have more than just a second-hand understanding of life on Mars. It is a daunting challenge, but so was flying to the Moon in 1969. And how motivational it is too that a human footstep on another world may well become the defining moment of the twenty-first century.

[1]*probes* – spacecrafts with no humans on board

© UCLES 2020

Read **Text B**, and then answer **Question 1(f)** on the question paper.

Text B: The human swan

The British conservationist and 'human swan', Sacha Dench, travelled in a motorised paraglider (a paramotor) as part of a 7000 km journey. She was following migrating Bewick's swans from Russia to Britain in order to better understand the reasons for their declining numbers.

'The whole way I've been trying to put myself in the head of a swan. There are times when I wish I was a swan. It would've been so much easier,' reflected Dench. 'When the temperatures got really cold I wished I could flap my arms and generate some heat, but that would make the whole paramotor shake.'

With her swan's-eye view of the world, Dench said she particularly appreciated crossing the Taiga forest of Russia, seeing no trace of human habitation, and witnessing the scale of the tundra. 'The colours of the tundra are the most beautiful I've ever seen in a landscape. They look as if they could be from Mars,' she said.

When she reached urbanisation, she met Russian schoolchildren who were sent out to shoot migrating birds for food. They were 'riveted by how conservation and research works. They had no idea where the swans went.'

Although she took care to avoid disturbing other migrating birds, there were moments when they joined her. When she flew up to 900 metres above the clouds, the sky was filled with geese. 'You really felt in the thick of migration,' she said.

At one point, two white-fronted geese veered towards her. 'I was just about to turn away thinking there would be a collision when they suddenly flew alongside my wing-tips in a V-formation. That was very special,' she said.

On another occasion she flew 50 metres below a migrating flock of Bewick's swans. 'They drew right alongside me. I didn't look like a threat to them. I was just a big flying thing and they completely ignored me,' she said.

Low points included time spent in a Russian hospital for an MRI scan following a dislocated knee during a take-off. She also lost track of one of the satellite-tagged swans she was following, during foul weather in Estonia. Dench realised it had perished. 'You get quite attached to them as individuals,' she said.

Although flying low over the Taiga forest was particularly hazardous with its lack of safe landing spots, crossing the English Channel was Dench's toughest challenge. 'When I crossed from Belgium into France and first saw the white cliffs of Dover I started to cry,' she said. 'I'm not much of a softy but I thought, actually, I am keen to be home.'

© UCLES 2020

[Turn over

Read **Text C**, and then answer **Questions 2(a)–2(d)** and **Question 3** on the question paper.

Text C: An incredible journey

In 1935, two men, Max (the narrator) and Helmuth, try to find a land route from India to China. Here, Max describes part of their journey from the Judaean Desert in the Middle East and across the River Jordan.

We set off on our desert journey the following day in good spirits, and full of high expectations. The car glided through the gorges of Judaea over bubbling hot asphalt until a sign-board in Arabic, Hebrew and English proclaimed the words 'Sea Level'. The way descended another 400 metres and it was a peculiar feeling to know that all the water in all the oceans of the world was towering above you like mountains.

In front of us lay the leaden expanse of the Dead Sea. Was it true that it was impossible to sink in it? I tried for myself while Helmuth looked on and smiled. You lie on top of the water, motionless, like a cork. Swimming in the conventional sense is not possible, since hands and feet flail around in the air like useless paddles. According to the brochures, one could 'read a newspaper undisturbed or hold up a sunshade'. A local photographer lurked nearby.

However, reading a newspaper in comfort is just a publicity stunt. After only a few minutes the salt begins to affect you. You itch and burn in every pore and I wanted nothing else than to get into the River Jordan double-quick and rinse the salt crust off. Helmuth laughed as I urged him to put his foot down on the accelerator.

We crossed the Jordan by bridge. This was where Asia really began.

The track leading up out of the Dead Sea depression, along the slopes of the Jordan valley, was stony and steep. We had to get over a high point of 1200 metres in the mountains. The May sun blazed fiercely and the engine laboured its way up in first gear. The radiator thermometer was already showing over 90 degrees.

'This car is far too heavy,' I eventually admitted.

Helmuth nodded silently. 'I did warn you, Max.'

Out of the corner of my eye I could see anxiety in his face, and I bit my lip controlling an urge to point out that most of our luggage was his, packed lovingly by his mother before we started out. The overloaded car springs were groaning on the bumpy road.

100 degrees. The radiator boiled and whistled. I stopped the car. Helmuth dug out our map of Asia. 'Here's Palestine and there's China,' he said. 'We've come about 400 km so far, and there are about 23 000 still to go.'

We sat there for a long time brooding, side by side, with the big map of Asia on our knees. We were both depressed but understood the need not to let this turn into recrimination.

Our weight was at the root of our whole problem. 'We'll have to downsize,' I said. 'We'll have to jettison some of our luggage.'

Helmuth nodded silently, staring at the boxes in the rear of the car.

© UCLES 2020

‘Maybe we can manage with them as far as Baghdad,’ I offered, ‘and they can be put into storage.’

Easier in our minds, we waited for darkness to fall before we drove on. Night journeys are not only cooler but are beautiful in the East. Over the landscape arched a sky sparkling with a plethora of stars. Along the rocks of the gorge huddled flocks of storks, shining like patches of snow as the light danced on their plumage. I wished I’d brought a better camera. The birds were not alarmed, being tired from their long journey. They had come from the Sudan, and the next day they would fly on to their northern kingdom and the European springtime. A few of them raised their heads sleepily from their feathers and followed us with the long, serious gaze of philosophers. Perhaps they were thinking, ‘Funny these humans going south just now.’

At eleven o’clock we gratefully pitched camp. Sleeping on camp beds in the open with the gentle warm breezes caressing our faces was wonderful.

© UCLES 2020

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

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 Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

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

© UCLES 2020