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Cambridge Assessment International Education

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CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER | | | | | |

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0061742524

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/13**

Paper 1 Reading **October/November 2025**

2 hours

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- If additional space is needed, you should use the lined pages at the end of this booklet; the question number or numbers must be clearly shown.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].
- The insert contains the reading texts.

This document has **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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[Turn over

Read **Text A**, ***Is there life on Mars?***, in the insert and then answer **Questions 1(a)–(e)** on this question paper.

Question 1

(a) What temperature can Mars reach in wintertime, according to the text?

..... [1]

(b) **Using your own words**, explain what the text means by:

(i) 'inhospitable wasteland' (line 1) .....

..... [2]

(ii) 'comprised principally' (lines 2–3). .....

..... [2]

(c) Reread paragraph 2 ('However, Mars … vanish into space.').

Give **two** factors that could have made life a possibility in the first billion years of Mars's existence.

• .....

• .....
[2]

(d) Reread paragraphs 3 and 4 ('Most potential … as we know it.').

(i) Identify **two** suggestions of what could have happened to life forms on Mars.

• .....

• .....
[2]

(ii) Explain what the rover currently on Mars has been able to do well.

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..... [3]

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(e) Reread paragraph 6 ('This could be exciting … more pressing concerns.').

Using your own words, explain why some humans might want to find evidence of life on Mars.

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Read **Text B**, ***Life at Concordia Station***, in the insert and then answer **Question 1(f)** on this question paper.

(f) According to Text B, in what ways can living and working in Concordia Station help a person to understand what it might be like to go on a long-term mission to Mars?

You must **use continuous writing** (not note form) and **use your own words** as far as possible.

Your summary should not be more than 120 words.

Up to 10 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 5 marks for the quality of your writing.

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[Total: 30]

Read **Text C**, ***The Mars expedition***, in the insert and then answer **Questions 2(a)–(d)** on this question paper.

Question 2

(a) Identify a word or phrase from the text which suggests the same idea as the words underlined:

(i) Bob was grateful that he, Sarah and Rajah would not be visiting any more sites after this one.

..... [1]

(ii) Sarah and Rajah had promised the Captain that they would cooperate with each other while out on this mission.

..... [1]

(iii) Sarah and Rajah both jumped up at the same time because they wanted to be the first to speak to the Captain.

..... [1]

(iv) Rajah had a very sad expression on his face after the Captain told him she wanted to speak to Bob, not him.

..... [1]

(b) Using your own words, explain what the writer means by each of the words underlined:

They'd ended up in an undignified heap together on Mars's surface, while Bob and the other astronauts had ambled over and past them to inspect the base that the rover had built.

(i) undignified ..... [1]

(ii) ambled ..... [1]

(iii) inspect ..... [1]

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(c) Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests what Bob experiences as he searches for water.

Use your own words in your explanation.

The ground was promisingly soft here. His booted foot sank the shovel blade through a surface layer of fine crimson crumbs. An unmistakably damp wedge of soil was removed, and clear liquid slipped gently into its place.

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(d) Reread paragraphs 12 and 16.

- Paragraph 12 begins 'Seconds passed …' and is about the astronauts watching as Bob puts the sample under the microscope.
- Paragraph 16 begins 'Bob realised …' and is about the astronauts' reactions to their discovery.

Explain how the writer uses language to convey meaning and to create effect in these paragraphs. Choose **three** examples of words or phrases from **each** paragraph to support your answer. Your choices should include the use of imagery.

Write about 200 to 300 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer.

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[Total: 25]

Reread **Text C**, ***The Mars expedition***, in the insert and then answer **Question 3** on this question paper.

Question 3

You are the Captain. After speaking to Bob about the mission of today, you write a journal entry about the progress of the Mars expedition so far.

In your journal entry, you should:

- describe what the mission today involved **and** your feelings about how it has gone
- describe your thoughts and feelings about your team of astronauts **and** the working and living arrangements on Mars
- explain what you did after you received the news of today **and** what your hopes are for the rest of the time you spend on Mars.

Write the words of the journal entry.

Base your journal entry on what you have read in **Text C**, but be careful to use your own words. Address each of the three bullet points.

Write about 250 to 350 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 10 marks for the quality of your writing.

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