



# Cambridge IGCSE™

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**FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH**

**0500/12**

Paper 1 Reading

**February/March 2021**

INSERT

**2 hours**

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## **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.

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This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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

**Text A: Top tips for travel writing**

*This text is an online article giving advice from the editor of a website to people thinking of a career in travel writing.*

‘Don’t worry,’ said the stallholder. ‘The snake round your daughter’s neck is not venomous.’

That was the example my instructor used when he taught us the immense value of a good opening to an article. My instructor is the travel editor for a national newspaper. Since 2000, he has written about, and been hopelessly lost in, diverse destinations on six continents.

5

Having quit my job in software design to become a travel blogger and edit this website, I was attending a travel writing conference he was running. I wanted to improve the writing on my blog; my writing has improved, but I didn’t anticipate how much that conference would affect my role as an editor. If you have sent me an article and I have rejected it, it was probably because of something I learned at that conference.

10

Writers of the unsuccessful articles submitted to me seem to think that they need extra padding at the beginning that goes something like: ‘Travel is wonderful. We should all travel.’ Get to the point. The articles I hate the most begin: ‘Our plane landed in ...’. If the most interesting portion of your trip is the plane landing and collecting your luggage, then OK, start your story that way. Arguably though, if this really is the most interesting portion of your trip, you’d be better off staying at home.

15

Good travel writing transports people. It celebrates the differences in manners and customs around the world, helping readers to understand other people and places. It helps readers plan their own trips and avoid costly mistakes while travelling. Most of all, readers get to experience those far-off destinations that they may never visit.

20

I should point out, while I’m encouraging others to pursue their career in travel writing, that it was also at that conference that I decided to return to working in software design. Sitting in a room full of travel writers who were describing how difficult it is to make a living persuaded me to keep it strictly as a hobby.

25

But if you have the desire to travel, and the savings, I can recommend that annual conference which my good friend runs every August.

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

**Text B: *The truth about being a travel writer***

*This text is a magazine article about being a travel writer.*

Go ahead, hate travel writers.

**Content removed due to copyright restrictions.**

an agonising night at the airport – no lounges, only stiff plastic chairs.’ We spent

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

**Text C: *How I became a travel writer***

*The narrator, Charlie, has booked a place on a sponsored trek to the ancient ruined city of Machu Picchu, Peru. He hopes to meet his favourite travel writer, Jed Davies, who has been invited by the charity to go on the trek.*

I would meet the others in Madrid.

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I'd already decided – travel writing was what I wanted to do.

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## FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0500/12

Paper 1 Reading

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2 hours

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

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### 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.

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



Read **Text A, *Top tips for travel writing***, in the insert and then answer **Questions 1(a)–1(e)** on this question paper.

**Question 1**

- (a) Give the example used by the instructor to teach the value of a good opening to an article, according to the text.

.....  
..... [1]

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

- (i) ‘immense value’ (line 3):

..... [2]

- (ii) ‘diverse destinations’ (line 5):

..... [2]

- (c) Re-read paragraph 3 (‘Having quit ... that conference.’).

Give **two** ways in which attending the conference changed the writer.

.....  
..... [2]

- (d) Re-read paragraphs 4 and 5 (‘Writers of ... never visit.’).

- (i) Identify **two** mistakes made by writers of unsuccessful articles.

.....  
..... [2]

- (ii) Explain why people like to read good travel writing, according to the text.

.....  
.....  
..... [3]

(e) Re-read paragraphs 6 and 7 ('I should point out ... every August.').

**Using your own words**, explain why people might not accept the writer's advice about being a travel writer.

.....

.....

.....

[3]





Read **Text C, *How I became a travel writer***, in the insert and then answer **Questions 2(a)–2(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) Charlie and the others in his group would be completing a walk at a great height.

..... [1]

(ii) Walkers had to collect a specific amount of funding for their trip before they could be allowed to take part.

..... [1]

(iii) Charlie also asked people he did not know well to sponsor him.

..... [1]

(iv) The organisers told trekkers that they needed to be very fit.

..... [1]

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

Trek-training began in earnest. My carefully planned route passed fortuitously close to a favourite café in case of emergency. I'd anticipated I'd need a few jabs for Peru, but the cheery list of disorders I needed vaccinating against was reeled off by my doctor with more than a little glee.

(i) in earnest ..... [1]

(ii) fortuitously ..... [1]

(iii) anticipated ..... [1]

- (c) Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests his attitude to preparing for the trip.

**Use your own words in your explanation.**

Trek-training began in earnest. My carefully planned route passed fortuitously close to a favourite café in case of emergency. I'd anticipated I'd need a few jabs for Peru, but the cheery list of disorders I needed vaccinating against was reeled off by my doctor with more than a little glee.

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[3]













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