



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

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**FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH**

**0500/01**

Paper 1 Reading Passage (Core)

**May/June 2009**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

Dictionaries are **not** permitted.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

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This document consists of **4** printed pages.



**Read the following passage carefully, and then answer all the questions.**

*Ariana Svenson works for Apus Peru Adventure Travel Specialists, a company that offers you opportunities to visit little-known places. Here she writes about a cycling journey across the Andes Mountains in South America, through varied scenery.*

OK. I admit it, we go looking for adventure. We had always wanted to visit the Manu region but it had seemed hopelessly expensive so we had the idea of cycling there, seeing Peru's National Bird, the Cock of the Rock, and then going home.

It was low season and although it was totally the wrong time of year to be crossing mountain passes, we set off, armed with an excess of wet weather gear, and brimming with enthusiasm. Two minutes after we had reached the top of a mountain pass it was hailing and we were drenched. 5

Our descent would have been truly exhilarating in good conditions – when it's freezing it is hellish. Our hands, though gloved, were the first part to lose feeling – not good when you need to be able to feel your hands to apply the brakes on hairpin corners! Your lips go numb first, and then your nose starts running and your knees begin to freeze up in the cold. It was pure agony. An Andean village, that appeared to be warmly welcoming from above, was coldly abandoned and shut up as we passed by closed doors. 10

About three hours later, bedraggled and miserable, we arrived at Colquepata. There they told us it was only another forty minutes downhill to Paucartambo: it took us over two hours! At least the journey was downhill and at its best there were smooth roads, good gradients and high speeds. We passed through pretty farmland, groups of eucalyptus trees and herds of cattle and sheep on their way home at the end of the day. 15

Paucartambo emerged around the corner, a charming place, with cobblestone streets, narrow alleys and whitewashed houses. People in skirts and draped in colourful blankets added an old world charm and we felt that we had stepped back centuries. 20

Later we arrived in San Pedro to see the Cock of the Rock birds doing their mating dance. We camped on a nice man's soccer pitch, and woke up at midnight to the sound of rain – incessant, heavy, continuous rain that pelted the tent with a somewhat dismaying regularity. We roused ourselves and trudged through the muddy quagmire to see the Cocks' dance again, wondering how many would look for a mate in this foul weather. We were right – very few! 25

Following a flat tyre, brake adjustments and load rearrangements, we were jolting our way downhill again, through ever more beautiful and warm jungle. Soon we were racing along through pampas luxuriant with grasses – the rich moist air of the jungle filled our lungs which felt as if they had been starved in the Andes. It was heady and intoxicating – and we just wanted to smile and laugh, out of sheer happiness. Great flocks of big, bright, buttercup-yellow butterflies were feeding on the road and when we passed they fluttered up and surrounded us, so we were cycling in a haze of butterflies – utterly dreamlike! 30

We continued to the village of Pilcopata where we managed to get some necessary repairs done to the bikes. We decided to travel further by local bus but had to wait because all the buses out of the region were full, and there were no more for two days. 35

In those long hours of waiting we developed the art of conversation with complete strangers. In our time-oriented society, it's not something that we usually do. Everyone is far too busy or has lots of friends. However, in the heat of the jungle people aren't in a hurry and are happy to discuss things with strangers. I got into a conversation with an old woman who had lived all her life in the region. She exclaimed, "Do you know how much tourists pay to visit Manu?" She added, without bitterness, "Not a cent reaches our town. They come with all the food they need – even bread and water! And all they leave is rubbish!" It struck me then just how important it is to buy locally, and be environmentally conscious in all our actions. I am glad that when we travel we buy at small shops and eat in local restaurants. You can't please everyone, but you can make a difference.

- 1 (a) From paragraph 1, give **two** reasons why the writer wanted to visit the Manu region. [2]
- (b) Explain, using your own words, what is meant by "truly exhilarating in good conditions" (line 8). [2]
- (c) Re-read paragraphs 3 and 4 ("Our descent...end of the day") and then write a summary of what the writer found unpleasant and what she found enjoyable about the downhill journey. Write a paragraph of about 50-70 words. [7]
- (d) Explain, using your own words, why the writer says that they felt they "had stepped back centuries" in line 21. [2]
- (e) Why do you think the writer described the owner of the football pitch as a "nice" man (line 23)? [1]
- (f) From paragraph 6, what reasons do you have for thinking that the writer found the Cocks' dance to be disappointing when she saw it the second time? [2]
- (g) Re-read paragraph 7, "Following a flat tyre...utterly dreamlike!" (lines 27-33). Choose **three** words or phrases which the writer uses to describe her enjoyment of this part of the journey. Explain how each of these words and phrases helps you to imagine this pleasure. [6]
- (h) Why did they have to wait for a bus in Pilcopata (paragraph 8)? [1]
- (i) Which **two**-word phrase in the final paragraph tells you that the old woman did not feel angry towards the tourists who left litter? [1]
- (j) Explain, using your own words, what the writer means by:
- (i) "trudged through the muddy quagmire" (line 25); [2]
- (ii) "time-oriented society" (line 38); [2]
- (iii) "environmentally conscious" (line 44). [2]

[Total: 30]

- 2 Imagine you are one of Ariana Svenson's companions on her journey. You are now on a boat on the way home and are writing your impressions of the adventure in your journal.

**Write your journal entry** in which you describe what you think were the good and bad points of your journey.

In your journal entry you should include:

- your thoughts and feelings
- what you have learnt from the experience.

You should base your ideas on what you have read in the passage, but do not copy from it.

You should write between 1 and 1½ sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

**Up to ten marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to ten marks for the quality of your writing.**

**[Total: 20]**

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*Copyright Acknowledgements:*

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