

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

**FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH**

**0500/01**

Paper 1 Reading and Directed Writing

May/June 2004

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

**2 hours**

**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 on both sides of the paper.  
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

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.

Dictionaries are **not** permitted.

This document consists of **6** printed pages and **2** blank pages.



For Questions 1-6 write down the letter **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** on your answer paper to indicate the most appropriate answer in each case.

1 Inside the tent

- A Oggioni joked about his visit to Portofino.
- B the atmosphere was uncomfortably damp.
- C the mountaineers dreamed of their loved ones.
- D the mountaineers were too near the edge to sleep. [1]

2 Mazeaud came into their tent because he

- A had a problem with his sleeping equipment.
- B needed to discuss the safest way to go down.
- C thought there might be just enough room for him.
- D wanted to get to know Bonatti better. [1]

3 What was the main problem for Bonatti as he was about to begin his descent on Friday morning?

- A He couldn't see through the mist and snow.
- B He had left his ice axe behind with the equipment.
- C There were no more single ropes.
- D The storm had started again during the night. [1]

- 4 Once Bonatti started the descent, he
- A became too dizzy to go on.
  - B felt lost in the storm.
  - C forgot the route he intended to take.
  - D suddenly went blind. [1]
- 5 About halfway down the Pillar
- A Bonatti found a rock to grasp.
  - B Bonatti lost contact with the others.
  - C the double rope ran out.
  - D the snow stopped at last. [1]
- 6 Throughout the crisis all the mountaineers
- A felt they had been unlucky.
  - B knew the great danger they were in.
  - C nearly died of thirst and suffocation.
  - D tried to keep as calm as possible. [1]

For Questions 7 to 10 you must answer as far as possible in your own words.

- 7 Give **four** things which Bonatti and the others did while they were waiting in the tent. [4]
- 8 Explain what is meant by 'my inmost self' (paragraph 2). [2]
- 9 Why was Bonatti's descent particularly dangerous? Give **four** reasons, taken from the passage. [4]
- 10 How can you tell that Bonatti was the leader? Give **four** reasons, taken from the passage. [4]

[Total for Part 1: 20]

Please note that the passage 'The Death Zone' has been removed for copyright reasons.

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**Turn over for Part 2**

## Part 2

Read the following passage carefully, and then answer Questions 11 and 12.

*Michael Palin describes a visit to a part of China where very few foreigners have ever been. He is making a film about his travels round the world.*

### A Visit to the Miao people of China

At the first Miao village we come to we are treated to a traditional welcome. Lined up to meet us are a dozen young girls in coiled headdresses with scarves of pink, green, yellow and white tucked into them. The young men who accompany them are having some trouble tying indigo cloth turbans. Two elders of the village wear black cotton robes with scarves and sashes around their heads and waists. Both have thin, pointed faces and tiny beards.

Songs are sung to the accompaniment of the *lusheng*, an L-shaped bamboo instrument which requires great skill to play as you are supposed to dance at the same time. Then the girls step forward and offer me a buffalo horn full of local rice wine. After the wine there is dancing which I am invited to join.

Their village has timber-framed, bamboo-walled barns and smoke rising from the curved tiled roofs of the huts. There is a modern red-brick school building, from which children wearing tracksuits spill out and make their way home across the paddy-fields.

Four miles away is a market to which any surplus maize, tobacco or vegetables are taken. This market takes place at the bottom of a grey rock face on top of which stand the remains of a Miao castle built six hundred years ago. Children are carried, always by the women, in bright embroidered cloth baskets slung on their backs. Alongside one of the buildings are lined up thirty or forty bamboo cages with songbirds inside. There are stalls full of rope, spectacles, hats, pills, clothes, steamed dumplings and other refreshments.

Shimeng is another Miao village on the edge of a plateau surrounded by green and gold rice terraces. It can be reached only from a dirt road by walking for half an hour along narrow mud paths. On either side the wet earth is being turned with a wooden plough yoked to the shoulders of a water buffalo. It's a slow process, only as fast as the beast itself, which plods on, occasionally glancing wearily to the side. I watch a very old man communicate with his animal by a series of short, sharp hisses interspersed with loud grunts. It seems to work.

The villagers rush out to see us, many of them holding half-empty lunch bowls, jaws slack with disbelief. The women laugh, the men frown. One family allow us into their house. They are sitting around a table on a mud-baked floor. Beside them is a brick hearth in which charcoal smoulders. Bowls of meat, chillies and sunflower seeds are on the table. In the room off to the right is bedding and an electric light; in the room to the left there is a water buffalo.

We are the first people from the West they have ever seen.

As we look around the village I notice that some changes have reached Shimeng. There has been electricity here for the last nine years. There are a few lights, a radio. Not much else, but it must only be a matter of time before television comes and then a road and cars and motor bikes and the wider world.

11 From what you have read:

- (a) Write a summary of the **activities** of the Miao people at work, at leisure and in their everyday lives.

You should write about 100 words.

- (b) Write a summary of the **features** of the different buildings the writer saw in the Miao villages.

You should write about 80 words. [20]

12 Imagine that you have spent some time living with the Miao people.

Write a letter to a friend, in which you record:

- your impressions of the people and of their lives;
- what you feel about the experience.

You may add details of your own, but what you write must be based on what you have read in the passage.

You should write about 1½–2 sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting. [20]

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*Copyright Acknowledgements:*

Passage A.                   Adapted from *The Death Zone* by Walter Bonatti.

Passage B.                   Extract from *Full Circle* by Michael Palin reproduced with the permission of BBC Worldwide Limited. Copyright © Michael Palin 1997.

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