



FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0500/22

Paper 2 Reading Passages (Extended)

May/June 2018

READING BOOKLET INSERT

2 hours

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Reading Booklet Insert contains the reading passages for use with **all** questions on the Question Paper.

You may annotate this Reading Booklet Insert and use the blank spaces for planning.

This Reading Booklet Insert is **not** assessed by the Examiner.



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

Part 1

Read **Passage A** carefully, and then answer **Questions 1** and **2** on the Question Paper.

Passage A: Fishing with Royer

The narrator and his friend Royer are going on their first fishing trip together in years. The two men have not seen each other since university, and have both married and had families in the meantime. Their proposed destination is White Cap River – the setting of Royer’s favourite childhood adventure story and somewhere neither has visited before.

People spend hours packing to go fishing, engaged in a kind of military manoeuvre, gear piled strategically and checklists in hand. On the eve of our campaign, I just made sure I’d packed a rod and reel, confident that comrade Royer would have invested heavily in a car-boot full of flashy state-of-the-art equipment as always. On the morning of our departure, Royer, a little rounder than I remembered, pulled up at my house in a bottom-of-the-range soft-top sports car he’d borrowed for our trip. Surprised to find ample space for my gear, I unearthed a faded atlas from the car boot, innocently imagining the pleasures of the long drive ahead.

The sky, unseasonably cloudless and omen-less when we set out, stretched out beyond the suburbs and responsibilities, moving into farming country and onto the highway. The camera lens of life was opening before my eyes, delivering more space and light, exposing an astounding panorama ahead. We coasted through rolling hills, past fragrant wild grasses surfed by the breeze. The car, echoing with tinny music, transported us back in time. ‘What a fine planet!’ I thought.

Unexpectedly, the road turned upward, clinging to the sides of a mountain. A series of hairpin bends afforded some impressive views of the valley below. Royer, now in the passenger seat, looked suddenly uncomfortable. He fidgeted and glanced the other way, emitting a strange yipping noise, until we descended in the afternoon back into the National Forest.

After a leisurely late lunch, we checked out a local fishing-tackle shop. The lonely clerk appeared to be surprised by the sight of potential customers, but eventually freed himself from his chair. When I asked how far White Cap River was he looked quizzical, answering, ‘About 15 minutes from here to the old road into the canyon.’ He assured us that the fish there were likely to be in excellent shape.

‘And from there?’

‘Another hour.’

‘That can’t be right,’ disputed Royer, searching for his spectacles. ‘The canyon road’s only eight kilometres on my map.’

‘You got a four-wheel drive vehicle?’ asked the clerk.

‘Not exactly,’ I told him, glancing outside when he did.

‘Well, you’ll probably make it.’

We found the canyon road without trouble – fifteen minutes as the clerk predicted.

The road had trickled down to a ribbon of cement-hard dirt, rutted and rough on the tyres. It wormed its way through forest land, slithering between the tall trees, obscuring our view. Royer, at the wheel, seemed utterly miserable, inching forwards cautiously, until we rounded one last bend, the trees fell away, and we were confronted by the magnificent pit of the great canyon below. Way at the bottom of this geological miracle, glittering like the tiniest trace of quicksilver, was the river.

An hour away? More like six hours at the rate Royer was driving and yipping. He was sweating now. His face drained of blood.

His yipping got louder as the crumbling road downwards narrowed still further. In minutes, it was scarcely wide enough for one car, much less two should anybody come driving up from below – if anyone ever had survived the drive down. The cliffs were sheer. The phrase ‘margin for error’ was meaningless. In the end it was too much for him. He froze.

‘You drive,’ he said, breathing hard.

I replaced him. What else could I do? When you’ve known a man for 30 years you’d figure you’d be aware of his phobias, but I certainly never knew. I released the brake and moved forwards but Royer trembled so violently as the incline steepened, I caught his phobia like flu and almost yipped myself.

‘You want to turn around?’ I asked, redundantly.

‘Might be good,’ he said.

Instead, we spent our waning daylight hours and remaining fuel searching for a less dangerous route to the water, finding eventually an unmarked roadway winding downwards at an almost reasonable tilt. It stopped just in sight of the river, which we now saw was foaming with whitecaps so big that we’d need a serious boat to fish it. The sky was almost dark too.

We surrendered sheepishly to a miserable night in the car without blankets or proper food, wondering if we could possibly be those same bold fellows of our youth – back then nothing had seemed daunting.

In the morning, our failure didn’t sit well with us. Despite greying clouds overhead, once more we felt ourselves filling up with the oxygen of blind faith. Royer inflated our second-hand dinghy ...

Part 2

Read **Passage B** carefully, and then answer **Question 3** on the Question Paper.

Passage B: The lure of fly fishing

An enthusiastic fly fisher explains the attraction of fly fishing for her and other participants.

'The greatest strategic error of my adult life,' says the chairman of the board, 'was to take my wife on our honeymoon on a fly fishing trip.'

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Tierra del Fuego perhaps ... then studying the water, waiting for flies to hatch ... then the fishing itself ... and the memories.

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