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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/12**

Paper 1 Reading Passage (Core) **May/June 2010**

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.

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

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

Sharon Sweeney visits an unusual and eco-friendly theme park, located in the east of England, that appeals to both children and parents.

In the reedy banks of the Norfolk Broads lurks Mildred, a beastly four metre long creature that looks like a crocodile, with a mouthful of sharp teeth and a spiky green back. It's not a freak of nature brought on by global warming but a children's character brought to life at Bewilderwood, the UK's first environmentally-friendly adventure park, which opened this week.

Spread over a large area of woodland and marshland, Bewilderwood is a magical playground of treehouses, aerial ropewalks and zipwires, reached by boat or boardwalk – all built from sustainable wood. The whole site is pesticide-free so there's no danger of chemicals filtering into the surrounding low-lying wetlands. Some 14,000 broadleaf trees, including oak, sweet chestnut and birch have been planted. There is a snack shack on the jetty and a cafe selling reasonably priced, locally sourced and mainly organic food – ostrich burgers and unfussy sandwiches, pure fruit smoothies and elderflower cordial – but you could just as easily bring a picnic.

So far, so green. But it's the magical forest folk who inhabit the site that will fire children's imaginations – Mildred, the vegetarian Crocklebog who lives in the Scary Lake; Swampy, a Marsh Boggle; a giant spider called Thornyclod; and Twiggles, goblin-like creatures that hate litter and mess. It's just not Disneyland.

Though Bewilderwood's creator and owner Tom Blofeld said he was partly inspired by the 90's computer game *Myst*, there's nothing modern about the concept of the adventure park. The principles on which Bewilderwood is based belong to a pre-computer game, pre-media-player, pre-cell-phone era. It provides exactly the sort of healthy, good old-fashioned fun that appeals to most parents and young children.

Sure enough the prospect of meeting Mildred in the lake had my five year old wide-eyed with wonder; however, I was at first concerned how my older children (one aged 11 and the other 13) would react to it. I was afraid that, at their sophisticated state of development, they might see it as too childish. As it happened, my fears were unfounded. Once the pink and purple boats eased up to the jetty, they were almost as excited to get in as the smaller children. The trip takes under five minutes, travelling at a snail's pace in reclaimed lifeboats that run on electricity and cause minimum disturbance to the ducks and other types of water birds that glide around the watery glade. When the boats reach the Scary Lake, laser technology helps green and spiky Mildred, who lurks in the undergrowth, to blast out a trumpet of water when you're least expecting it.

Some parts of the park are a little too scary for younger children – my five year old wouldn't go near the fireman's pole or the 40 metre long zipwires his older siblings adored. And one of the slides had far too sheer a drop for me to contemplate, yet the kids whizzed down it shrieking in delight.

However, there are tamer attractions as well – a sturdy rope swing for three to share, toddlers' swings, a maze where once you reach the centre you are led up and out rather than back the way you came, a climbing wall, scrambling nets, knotted ropes to climb up, and balancing logs, as well as a small quiet area called Peaceful Paths.

Tom Blofeld says a desire to do something different on his family's land was the initial prompt for planning Bewilderwood. He took control of the estate when his father, a High Court judge, retired. Tom had no wish to use the land for farming as it was not a way of life that appealed to him. Instead he let himself be inspired by his love of children's literature and this was the real driving force behind the park's creation. "What I'd really like to be is a children's publisher," he admits. He's partly achieved that ambition. His book, *A Boggle at Bewilderwood*, is available to buy, an extra that many parents will end up paying out for on top of the £45 family ticket.

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It's not cheap, but neither are traditional theme parks, and at least here we felt it was worth it. *45*
There was none of the after-shock slump you get from a typical theme park, no tasteless canteen food, no blaring music, no hard sell ... just shrieks, birdsong and dappled sunshine. And if you want to make a truly eco day of it, the Broadland Cycle Hire Company can be found next door.

1 **(a)** What is the name of the four metre long creature mentioned in the first line, and what type of imaginary creature is it? [2]

(b) Give **three** facts from the second paragraph ('Spread over ... bring a picnic') which tell you that the designers of the park are concerned about protecting the environment. [3]

(c) What effects do you think the writer achieves by starting paragraph 3 with the words, 'So far, so green.'? [2]

(d) Give **two** details about the boats on the Scary Lake (paragraph 5, 'Sure enough… least expecting it.') [2]

(e) Explain:

(i) the writer's thoughts about the way her two older children would react to the trip on the lake; [1]

(ii) how the two older children actually reacted. [1]

(f) Explain, **using your own words**, what surprises visitors have at the Scary Lake. [2]

(g) Choose **three** words or phrases the writer uses which suggest that Bewilderwood provides 'good old-fashioned fun' (paragraphs 1 to 7, 'In the reedy banks … called Peaceful Paths'). [6]

(h) Explain, **using your own words**, what the writer means by:

(i) "real driving force" (line 41); [2]

(ii) "dappled sunshine" (line 47); [2]

(i) From paragraphs 2 to 7 ('Spread over … called Peaceful Paths'), write a summary of what parents would particularly like about Bewilderwood.

Write a paragraph of about 50-70 words. [7]

[Total: 30]

[Turn over for Question 2]

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2 Last summer, you visited Bewilderwood. Your two cousins, aged 8 and 15, are going there this year. **Write a letter** to your older cousin.

You should include:

- what you can see and do in the park
- what your cousins might or might not enjoy and why
- what makes Bewilderwood unique.

Start your letter, 'Dear …'.

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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