



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

**FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH**

**0500/01**

Paper 1 Reading Passage (Core)

**October/November 2007**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

**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.

\* 9 4 7 1 5 0 4 0 3 5 \*

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



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

The following article appeared in the holiday pages of a European newspaper. The writer is recommending to his readers the pleasures of an East African cruise on a traditional sailing boat.

Fishing dhows are still built on Lamu Island off the coast of East Africa, using methods that have not changed in centuries. Now, as then, dhows are born on beds of wood shavings. Slowly, as the months go by, the hand-hewn hulls take shape, like the rib cages of Jurassic monsters, lovingly carved from trunks of Malabar teak with axe and plane – and no blueprint but the shipwright’s unerring eye.

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*Tusitiri* is such a vessel, a 65ft craft whose name means ‘Something to be Treasured’. For nearly a century it was based in Mombasa, carrying cargoes of cement and mangrove poles. Then, twenty years ago, it changed hands and was lovingly refitted for the charter trade.

Since then it has sailed as far south as Mozambique, and is the only dhow I know that can undertake such lengthy cruises with any degree of comfort. On deck are heaps of cushions, hand-carved Lamu chairs and ornate brass-bound chests from Zanzibar; and in the forepeak is the galley, the place where the crew conjure up miraculous seafood suppers. Living space is not a problem. Beds are laid out on deck every night, and even with a maximum of ten passengers and eight crew to sail it, it still has room for two life rafts, and tows a power-boat for scuba diving and snorkelling trips.

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When I joined *Tusitiri* it was lying at anchor off Shela Village, in a blue bay, opposite a crescent of coral sand on the shores of Pate Island. At dusk, when the monsoon wind died, a huge African moon rose, beating a silver path towards us across the water, and after supper – fish soup, sweet mangrove crabs and coconut rice – I slept on deck under the stars, waking only once in the small hours to see stars glittering overhead.

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I had been welcomed aboard with the traditional offering of *kahawa chungu* – black coffee spiced with ginger and cardamom, poured into small cups from a conical brass pot, and served with *halua*, a sticky Swahili sweetmeat. My shoes went into a wicker basket. I would not need them again unless I went ashore. For the rest of the voyage I would be living barefoot like the crew, who were already hauling the anchor.

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Green walls of mangroves tip-toed into the sea on spidery roots, and a procession of fishing dhows came drifting past like drowsy white moths. ‘Look,’ said Yusuf, our skipper, as we passed a gap in the mangroves. ‘That’s where elephants still cross the water to reach Manda. Sometimes you can see their footprints on the beach.’

On we cruised, across a dazzling bay beneath whose seemingly innocent waters lurk hidden sandbanks. Not that Yusuf appeared concerned. Unlike the old-time dhow captains who had only the stars to steer by, *Tusitiri* can feel its way with radar, depth-finder and a state-of-the-art navigation system. But these, and its 120hp Ford Sabre engine, are the only concessions to the twenty-first century. Its single sail, a giant shark fin of salt-stained canvas, is so heavy that it takes six sweating crewmen to haul it taut; but *Tusitiri* is a happy ship. Even at work, polishing the deck with linseed oil until the entire vessel was steeped in its oily smell, the crew would make up impromptu songs. ‘Oh *Tusitiri*,’ they chanted, ‘we will make you beautiful.’

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Our route lay inside the reefs, taking us past the island of Uvondo, its beaches empty except for pelicans, and the dhow-building town of Ndau, one of the oldest settlements in the entire archipelago, with its waterside baobab trees and fishermen’s houses. Ahead of us, across the bay, I could see the sandhills of Kiwayu, a narrow island flanked on its seaward side by a twelve-mile beach; and at the far end, overlooking a wide curve of sand on the mainland shore, rose the thatched rooftops of Kiwayu Safari Village, Kenya’s most exclusive coastal hideaway.

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Kiwayu and its beautiful lagoon marked the end of my three-day voyage from Lamu. This remote bay is about as remote as you can get. Kiwayu lies on the unspoilt shores of the Kiunga Marine National Reserve only thirty miles from the Somali border. No beach touts, no malaria, no mosquitoes. Apart from a handful of Bajuni lobster fishermen, the bay belongs to you.

- 1 (a) What is a dhow and what is it made of? [2]
- (b) Give **two** phrases from the first paragraph which tell you that dhows have been made for a very long time. [2]
- (c) Give **four** details stated in the second paragraph about the dhow *Tusitiri*. [4]
- (d) What does the phrase 'conjure up' (line 12) suggest about the crew and about the meals? [2]
- (e) By referring to paragraph 7, give **one** way in which *Tusitiri* is similar to traditional dhows and **two** ways in which it differs. [3]
- (f) Re-read lines 16-20 and 26-29 and then choose **three** words or phrases the writer uses to describe the calmness of the scenery. Explain how each of the words and phrases creates this effect. [6]
- (g) Explain, using your own words, what the writer means by:
- (i) 'steeped in its oily smell' (line 36);
- (ii) 'Kenya's most exclusive coastal hideaway' (line 43). [4]
- (h) Re-read lines 16-37 ('When I joined...make you beautiful') and then write a summary of what the writer found memorable about his time on the *Tusitiri*. Write a paragraph of about 50-70 words. [7]

[Total: 30]

- 2 You are the owner of the *Tusitiri*. You are very keen to encourage people aged between 30 and 50 to take holiday cruises on your boat. Write an article for a holiday magazine in which you:
- describe the on-board facilities
  - explain why a voyage on the *Tusitiri* would be suitable for people of this age group
  - reassure them of any concerns they might have about safety.

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 10 marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to 10 marks for the quality of your writing.**

[Total: 20]

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