

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**1115/02, 1120/02  
1123/02**

Paper 2 Comprehension

May/June 2005

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

**1 hour 30 minutes**

**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.

Leave a space of **one** line between answers to **each part** of a question, e.g. between **5(a)** and **5(b)**.

Leave a space of at least **three** lines after your completed answer to each **whole** question.

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.

The insert contains the passage for comprehension.

Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the Paper.

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



Read the passage in the insert and then answer **all** the questions which follow below.

You are recommended to answer the questions in the order set.

Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the Paper.

From paragraph 1

- 1 (a) At what stage of a sea journey must a sea captain be 'particularly alert'? [1]
- (b) Pick out and write down **two** single words from the paragraph which tell you that the islands are 'like hunters'. [2]

From paragraph 2

- 2 (a) Give **two** reasons why lighthouses were better than fires in warning ships of dangerous rocks. [2]
- (b) Initially, lighthouses were difficult to build. What was the disadvantage in the long term of having lighthouses rather than fires? [1]

From paragraph 3

- 3 (a) Why did it take four years to build this lighthouse? **Answer in your own words.** [2]
- (b) Explain fully why the lighthouse keepers needed the crane used in the construction of the lighthouse to be left in place. [2]

From paragraph 4

- 4 Why would the captain of the ship be surprised that even the firing of the rocket produced no response from the lighthouse keepers? [2]

From paragraph 6

- 5 Give **two** reasons why the sailors' leader was 'breathless' when he returned to the small boat. [2]

From paragraph 7

- 6 (a) The writer tells us that the men 'combed' the outbuildings and the lighthouse itself. What does 'combed' tell us about the way they searched? [1]
- (b) The searchers informed the captain of 'what they had been unable to find'. What had they expected to find? [1]

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INSERT

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This insert contains the passage for comprehension.

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## The Mystery of The Lonely Lighthouse

- 1 The appearance of land at the end of a long sea journey must be a welcome sight for any ship's captain. Yet he has to be particularly alert at this stage of the voyage, for in many parts of the world there are often rocky islands close to the shore he is approaching. These islands seem to lie in wait like hunters watching for their prey. Their jagged rocks trap and wreck many ships whose journeys take them too close to their perilous shores. 5
- 2 In the past, fires would sometimes be lit at night to mark dangerous sections of coast, but frequently their light was too feeble to penetrate the gloom. Eventually, the idea of a lighthouse was born. This was a tall tower, often located on an island out at sea and carrying a bright light at its top, warning ships of treacherous rocks ahead. Two or three men, called lighthouse keepers, had to live in the lighthouse so that the light could be maintained permanently. But constructing a lighthouse could be extremely difficult. The tale of one such lighthouse shows how difficult it was to build; it is all the more fascinating because of a mystery that later surrounded it. 10
- 3 The construction of this lighthouse began in 1895 and, because of the island's isolated location and hostile weather, it took four years to complete. The island's light shone out for the first time in December 1899. All went well over the first winter and summer. The crane used to lift all the building materials in the lighthouse's construction was left in place. One look at the list of supplies regularly taken by boat to the lighthouse shows why the crane was required. The metal containers of oil for the lamp, and the boxes of food and wooden barrels of fresh water needed by the keepers for survival, were extremely heavy. 15 20
- 4 Every fortnight a shipload of supplies was brought from the mainland to the lighthouse. On 26 December 1900, the delivery ship drew near the island, and its crew noticed immediately that something was wrong. There was no welcoming flag flying from the lighthouse pole, although the delivery ship would have been expected. However, it was possible the keepers were busy working out of sight on the other side of the island, and, therefore, had not noticed the ship approaching. The captain ordered the ship's whistle to be sounded, but the shrill blast brought only thousands of sea-birds from the cliff face, noisy and angry at being disturbed. There was no movement in or around the lighthouse. With mounting astonishment, the captain ordered a rocket to be fired over the island, and, although it burst its colourful contents with a loud explosion, still nothing was seen of the keepers. 25 30
- 5 A small group of sailors was instructed to go ashore and find out what was wrong. Perhaps, they thought, the keepers were ill and could not venture out of the lighthouse. They climbed aboard a small boat and rowed ashore. The sailors' leader went to the top of the cliffs on which the lighthouse perched, and began running along the pathway, calling out the names of the keepers. But the only answer that came was the howling of the gales. The keepers normally opened the entrance gate of the yard when a delivery was expected, but on this particular day the gate was closed; it creaked open at his touch and he moved towards the lighthouse itself. He was surprised to find the front door was wide open and cautiously he entered. He continued to call out the names of the three men, but still no-one answered his shouts. 35 40
- 6 In the kitchen, two chairs stood next to the table, but the third chair had been knocked over and was lying on its side. Although it was freezing winter weather, the ashes in the fireplace were cold, showing that it was some time since a fire had been lit. All the pots and pans were clean and stacked neatly in their usual places. The clock on the shelf above the fireplace had stopped. The leader then went into the bedrooms and found that the beds were unmade, just as they would be if their occupants had just risen from them and left hurriedly. By now, he was finding it difficult to control his feelings. The hairs were 45

- standing up on the back of his neck, and he ran all the way back to the landing point. He breathlessly explained to the crew of the small boat what he had found, and two of the men volunteered to go back up with him to the lighthouse. 50
- 7 This group of three combed the outbuildings and the lighthouse itself. On reaching the top of the tower, they found that the warning lamp of the lighthouse was in working order, but there was a thin film of dust over it, suggesting that it had not been lit for some time. In addition, the last entry in the lighthouse's record book was for the morning of 15 December, although normal practice was to complete the record daily. There was still no trace of the three keepers. It was becoming increasingly clear after this second search that no-one was there. The men returned to their ship where they informed the captain of what they had found – and what they had been unable to find. Because it was now dark, they had to wait until the following morning to begin to search even more extensively. 55 60
- 8 They began by examining the living area of the lighthouse again. They found that the waterproof clothing of two of the keepers was missing from the cupboard. Even more mysteriously, the third set of waterproof clothing still hung there. Then they went outside and began to investigate the platform where the crane stood. They were surprised to find that the grass had been torn away along the top edge of the cliff. The railings around the platform where the crane stood were broken. Furthermore, a huge boulder, probably weighing over a ton, which had been part of the cliff, had been moved a great distance down the stairway, and was partially blocking it. But of the three lighthouse keepers there was no trace, either then or later. They had disappeared completely. But how? 65 70
- 9 Once the newspapers got hold of the story, there was much speculation, most of it unconvincing. The mystery has never been conclusively solved, but for over a century many explanations as to what happened have been suggested. One theory is that violence broke out and one of the keepers murdered his colleagues and threw them over the cliff; he then jumped over the cliff himself through shame at what he had done. A second theory suggested that the island must have been cursed, because several years later a keeper threw himself from the lighthouse in a fit of depression. A third, and less fanciful, theory is that two of the men got up early and put on their waterproof clothing to go to the landing to repair the devastation of a night of particularly stormy weather. Could it be that the third man, watching from the lighthouse, saw a huge black hurricane cloud sweeping towards his two colleagues and rushed out to warn them, knocking over a chair as he did so? Could it be that all three men were then swept away by the wind? 75 80
- 10 Since that fateful day, the island's light has shone without further mishap. In 1971 the last keepers departed; the lighthouse is now operated by a computer. The only visitors these days are many species of sea-bird and an annual maintenance crew, complete with mobile phones. 85

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From paragraph 9

- 7 (a) According to the writer, what happened 'once the newspapers got hold of the story'? **Answer in your own words.** [2]
- (b) How can we tell that the writer regards the third explanation of the mystery as the most likely? [1]

From paragraph 10

- 8 What contrast between past and present is suggested by the writer's reference to mobile phones? [1]

- 9 From the whole passage

Choose **five** of the following words. For each of them give **one** word or short phrase (of no more than seven words) which has the same meaning as the word has in the passage.

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. mounting (line 30)    | 5. extensively (line 61) |
| 2. volunteered (line 52) | 6. solved (line 72)      |
| 3. film (line 55)        | 7. devastation (line 79) |
| 4. practice (line 57)    | 8. fateful (line 83)     |
- [5]

- 10 The crew of the delivery ship 'noticed immediately that something was wrong' (lines 23–24).

**Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the evidence the searchers had, before and after they landed, which made it clear that something was wrong at the lighthouse.

**USE ONLY THE MATERIAL FROM LINE 24 TO LINE 70.**

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form) must not be longer than 160 words, including the 10 words given below.

The ship's crew noticed immediately that something was wrong because ... [25]

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