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CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

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* 4 6 5 2 2 9 4 9 7 6 *

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/13**

Paper 1 Reading **May/June 2026**

2 hours

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen. Do **not** use correction fluid or tape.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- If additional space is needed, you should use the lined pages at the end of this booklet; the question number or numbers must be clearly shown.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].
- The insert contains the reading texts.

This document has **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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[Turn over

Read **Text A**, ***Octopuses***, in the insert and then answer **Questions 1(a)–(e)** on this question paper.

Question 1

(a) Give **one** thing that scientists regard as the most unusual feature of an octopus, according to paragraph 1.

..... [1]

(b) **Using your own words**, explain what the text means by:

(i) 'fans point to' (line 4) .....

..... [2]

(ii) 'escape a predator' (line 6) .....

..... [2]

(c) Reread paragraph 3 ('Later … out to sea.').

Give **two** examples that suggest octopuses might be capable of planning for the future.

- .....
- .....

[2]

(d) Reread paragraphs 4 and 5 ('"None of this … beak.').

(i) Identify **two** reasons why Dr Lanver is **not** surprised by Inky's escape.

- .....
- .....

[2]

(ii) Explain the similarities researchers have observed between octopus behaviour and human behaviour.

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..... [3]

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(e) Reread paragraph 6 ('Octopuses evolved … to other octopuses.').

Using your own words, explain what human brains can do that octopuses' brains cannot do.

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Read **Text B**, ***Best friends with an octopus!***, in the insert and then answer **Question 1(f)** on this question paper.

(f) According to **Text B**, why is the writer **not** convinced by the film that octopuses and humans could really be friends?

You must **use continuous writing** (not note form) and **use your own words** as far as possible.

Your summary should not be more than 120 words.

Up to 10 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 5 marks for the quality of your writing.

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Read **Text C**, ***Marcellus***, in the insert and then answer **Questions 2(a)–(d)** on this question paper.

Question 2

(a) **Identify a word or phrase from the text** which suggests the same idea as the words underlined:

(i) Marcellus is discovered by Cameron as he is attempting to go out of the rear entrance of the aquarium.

..... [1]

(ii) Cameron is surprised when Tova appears behind him in the storeroom.

..... [1]

(iii) Terry had told Cameron that Tova's injury meant that she would not be at work for some time.

..... [1]

(iv) The newly delivered octopus is shaking in her travel container.

..... [1]

(b) **Using your own words**, explain what the writer means by each of the words underlined:

'I came to see Marcellus,' Tova explains. 'Marcellus wanders at night, although he's never headed outside before.' She frowns, wishing Marcellus had stuck to his usual adventures: teasing the seahorses, poking around in the other tanks for a midnight snack.

'And no one else knows,' Cameron nods, understanding dawning.

(i) wanders ..... [1]

(ii) stuck ..... [1]

(iii) dawning ..... [1]

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(c) Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests Cameron's feelings about Marcellus at this point in the story.

Use your own words in your explanation.

The octopus shifts slightly, blinking its creepy eyes. 'It's okay.' She smiles, climbing up and offering her hand. Incredibly, the creature extends one of its arms and winds it around her wrist. 'I'm going to help you down, right?'

The octopus nods.

Wait, no. It didn't. Did it? Cameron rubs his eyes.

'There you go,' the woman whispers once the thing is directly over its tank. Cold, briny water sloshes as the creature plops back in.

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(d) Reread paragraphs 1 and 16.

- Paragraph 1 begins ‘Cameron rubs …’ and is about Cameron’s first encounter with Marcellus.
- Paragraph 16 begins ‘Back in his tank …’ and is about Cameron’s attempts to make friends with Marcellus.

Explain how the writer uses language to convey meaning and to create effect in these paragraphs. Choose **three** examples of words or phrases from **each** paragraph to support your answer. Your choices should include the use of imagery.

Write about 200 to 300 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer.

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.... [15]

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Reread **Text C**, ***Marcellus***, in the insert and then answer **Question 3** on this question paper.

Question 3

You are Tova. You hear that Cameron has been dismissed from his job because Marcellus cannot be found. You write a letter to Terry to persuade him to give Cameron his job back.

In your letter, you should explain:

- your concerns about what Marcellus has been doing
- how and why you think Cameron was good at his job **and** why he deserves to be re-employed
- what you did on the night of the delivery after Terry left **and** why.

Write the words of the letter.

Base your letter on what you have read in **Text C**, but be careful to use your own words. Address each of the three bullets.

Write about 250 to 350 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 10 marks for the quality of your writing.

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