

Cambridge IGCSE English 0500

October/November 2023 – Paper1 Reading

Reading Extract (condensed for worksheet)

“She paused at the cliff’s edge, watching the sea churn below. Each wave crashed with an unexpected ferocity, as if the ocean itself was battling unseen forces. The salty wind tugged at her hair and thoughts alike. She felt both exhilarated and terrified — a strange mixture of freedom and fear.”

Section A: Comprehension Questions (1a–1e)

Question 1 (1a). *Literal Comprehension*

Q: What is the woman doing at the beginning of the extract?

A: She is pausing at the cliff’s edge, watching the sea churn below.

Question 2 (1b). *Vocabulary in Context*

Q: What does “ferocity” most nearly mean in line 2?

A:

- a) Calmness
- b) **Strength**
- c) Gentle
- d) Warm

Question 3 (1c). *Inference*

Q: Why does the extract describe the sea as “battling unseen forces”?

A: To suggest the sea’s powerful movement feels like an internal struggle, emphasizing its intensity and unpredictable nature.

Question 4 (1d). *Language Feature*

Q: Identify one sensory image in the extract and explain its effect.

A: “The salty wind tugged at her hair and thoughts alike” evokes both tactile (wind on hair) and mental imagery, making the reader feel the character’s confusion and emotional pull.

Question 5 (1e). *Writer’s Effect and Tone*

Q: How does the mix of “exhilarated and terrified” contribute to the mood?

A: It shows the complexity of her feelings—freedom paired with fear—creating a thrilling yet tense mood.

Section B: Summary Writing (8–10 marks)

Task: Summarise how the writer portrays the cliff-top moment. 50–60 words, using your own words.

Model Summary:

The writer depicts a dramatic encounter with nature, showing a woman standing at a cliff’s edge as the sea rages below. Vivid imagery—like crashing waves and biting wind—conveys her mixed emotions of excitement and fear, capturing both the thrill and danger of the experience.

Section C: Directed Writing – Diary Entry (10 marks)

Task: Imagine you are the woman in the extract. Write a diary entry describing your experience and feelings. 120–150 words, capturing your sensory impressions and emotional conflict.

Model Opening:

15 November 2023

Today I stood on the edge of the cliff, heart pounding as the ocean roared beneath me. The salty wind whipped my hair and pulled at my thoughts, making every heartbeat feel alive...