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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/01**

Paper 1 Reading Passage (Core) **October/November 2008**

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 **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

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

In this passage, the naturalist Gerald Durrell describes his attempt to look after some baby hedgehogs when he was a young boy.

On my animal-collecting trips for zoos to various parts of the world, I have had to 'mother' quite a number of baby animals, and I have always found it a most nerve-racking task. The first real attempt I made at being a foster-mother was to four baby hedgehogs. The female hedgehog is a very good mother. She constructs an underground nursery for her young: a circular chamber about 30 centimetres below ground-level, lined with a thick layer of dry leaves. Here she gives birth to her babies which are blind and helpless. They are covered with a thick coating of spikes, but these are white and soft, as though made of rubber. They gradually harden and turn brown when the babies are a few weeks old. When they are old enough to leave the nursery the mother leads them out and shows them how to hunt for food; they walk in line, the tail of one held in the mouth of the baby behind. The baby at the head of the column holds tight to mother's tail with grim determination, and they move through the twilit hedgerows like a strange prickly centipede.

To a mother hedgehog the rearing of her babies seems to present no problems. But when I was suddenly presented with four blind, white, rubbery-spiked babies to rear, I was not so sure. We were living in Greece at the time, and the nest, which was about the size of a football and made of oak leaves, had been dug up by a farmer working in his fields. My first job was to feed the babies but an ordinary baby's feeding-bottle was much too large for their tiny mouths. Luckily, a friend's young daughter had a doll's feeding-bottle, and I managed to persuade her to part with it. After a time the hedgehogs took to this and thrived on a diet of diluted cow's milk.

At first I kept them in a shallow cardboard box. But in record time the original nest was so unhygienic that I found myself having to change the leaves ten or twelve times a day. I began to wonder if the mother hedgehog spent her day rushing to and fro with piles of fresh leaves to keep her nest clean, and, if she did, how on earth she found time to satisfy the appetites of her babies. Mine were always ready for food at any hour of the day or night. You had only to touch the box and a chorus of shrill screams arose from four little pointed faces poking out of the leaves, each head decorated with a crew-cut of white spikes; and the little black noses would wave desperately from side to side in an effort to locate the bottle.

Most baby animals know when they have had enough, but in my experience this does not apply to baby hedgehogs. Like four survivors from a raft, they flung themselves on to the bottle and sucked and sucked and sucked as though they had not had a decent meal in weeks. If I had allowed it they would have drunk twice as much as was good for them. As it was, I think I tended to overfeed them, for their tiny legs could not support the weight of their fat bodies, and they would advance across the carpet with a curious swimming motion, their tummies dragging on the ground. However, they progressed very well: their legs grew stronger, their eyes opened, and they would even make daring excursions as much as 15 centimetres away from their box.

I was very proud of my prickly family, and looked forward to the day when I would be able to take them for walks in the evening and find them delicious titbits like snails or wild strawberries. Unfortunately this dream was never realised. It so happened that I had to leave home for a day, to return the following morning. It was impossible for me to take the babies with me, so I had to leave them in the care of my sister. Before I left, I emphasised the greediness of the hedgehogs and told her that on no account were they to have more than one bottle of milk each, however much they squeaked for it.

I should have known my sister better.

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1 **(a)** Why did the writer go to various parts of the world to collect animals? [1]

(b) Explain, **using your own words**, the change that takes place in baby hedgehogs a few weeks after they are born, which is explained in paragraph 1. [2]

(c) How did the writer solve the problem of feeding the baby hedgehogs? [1]

(d) Give **four** words or phrases from paragraph 3 which suggest the hedgehogs are like human babies. [4]

(e) Re-read the lines "As it was…away from their box" (lines 31-35). Choose **three** words or phrases which the writer uses to describe the difficulty the baby hedgehogs had in walking. Explain how each of these words and phrases helps you to imagine their movement. [6]

(f) State **one** thing the writer thought he would be able to feed the hedgehogs when they were old enough to be taken on walks. [1]

(g) What effect does the writer achieve by writing "I should have known my sister better" (line 43) as a separate paragraph? [2]

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

(i) "thrived on a diet of diluted cow's milk" (line 19). [2]

(ii) "Like four survivors from a raft" (line 29). [2]

(iii) "I emphasised the greediness of the hedgehogs" (line 40). [2]

(i) By using details from the whole passage, write a summary of what you have learnt about hedgehogs. Write a paragraph of about 50-70 words. [7]

[Total: 30]

2 Imagine you are the writer's sister. Gerald has asked you to look after the hedgehogs. **Write a conversation that you then have with your mother.** You should include:

- what you have to do to look after the hedgehogs
- why you don't want to look after them
- what you think about your brother's interest in animals

Begin your conversation with:

You: Mum, I really don't want to do this…

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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