



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**1123/21**

Paper 2 Reading

**October/November 2012**

INSERT

**1 hour 45 minutes**

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

This insert contains the two reading passages.

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



## Passage 1

### Animals in Captivity

- 1 Throughout history, human beings have always had a close relationship with animals and other creatures with which we share the planet. One aspect of this relationship which provokes discussion is the issue of keeping animals in captivity.
- 2 There are certainly advantages to be gained by animals which are kept in captivity. Many zoos and safari parks employ veterinary surgeons to ensure that necessary medical attention is always available for the animals. In addition, nutrition experts are employed, so the animals have a ready supply of food appropriate to their needs. All of this means that life expectancy, for some creatures at least, is longer in captivity than in the wild; for example, wild squirrels live for an average of three years, whereas their captive counterparts live to be twelve years old. Nowadays, wildlife habitats are being encroached upon or destroyed at incredible rates; zoos and safari parks offer safe environments for animals which might otherwise have nowhere to live. Some rare species exist only in zoos because they have become extinct in the wild. Animals in captivity enable us to see common links between ourselves and some other species. Recently in one safari park, for example, the chimpanzee keepers discovered, through hidden cameras, striking similarities between chimps' responses to the death of a loved one and those of humans. When chimp Pansy was dying, her daughter Rosie and her companions stayed by her, apparently comforting her. Such astonishing research could only have been done with captive animals, and could influence future approaches to working with apes. 5 10 15
- 3 People benefit from animals being kept in captivity; they learn about the world of nature. It is delightful to see the wonder on a young child's face as he gazes at an elephant or tiger for the first time. Only the rich can afford to travel to see animals in their natural habitat, whereas in zoos, for example, the majority of people can afford to see them in close proximity. Thus, zoos encourage people to care for our planet and to see that they have a shared responsibility for its wellbeing. A day out to a zoo or safari park is a form of relaxation and entertainment, particularly when these places incorporate restaurants and children's play parks. Such a trip is an excellent family day out, and helps to bring family members closer by providing an opportunity for them to enjoy each other's company. 20 25
- 4 But zoos and safari parks have their critics too, and most people sit on the fence in this debate. Although more enlightened zoos attempt to emulate natural environments rather than using cages, the animals are still kept in relatively small spaces. They are deprived of their natural habitat, whether it is jungle, open land or seas. In addition, their natural instincts are curbed; it is all very well that a lion is given a few kilos of meat, but that is at odds with our image of it stalking its prey on the African plains. Often animals in captivity experience what is to them an unnatural climate; it is downright stupid to have polar bears and tigers living at identical temperatures. Although some animals are born in captivity, zoos and safari parks sometimes obtain animals from the wild population, which reduces the number of breeding animals in the wild and endangers their species. Animals in captivity often fail to breed. An example of this is the panda; attempts to get them to breed in captivity have proved to be notoriously difficult. Baby pandas are undeniably cute, and when occasionally one is born in captivity, it is a cause for global celebration. 30 35 40
- 5 Not all animals live longer in zoos than they would in the wild: it is unusual for an elephant in captivity to live beyond the age of twenty, whereas its counter part in the wild has a life expectancy of around forty years. There is evidence to suggest that elephants and other large creatures become stressed when kept in captivity. Although zoos and safari parks enable ordinary people to investigate wild animals for themselves, there are other ways in which this can happen, such as through books, films or the internet. Critics of zoos and safari parks argue that keeping animals in captivity is no more than cruelty and exploitation. 45

**Passage 2****Akira**

Ling had been with Akira's family for a long time.

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I could see profound gratitude in Akira's face. 'Tomorrow afternoon. Three o'clock,' I said.

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