UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/23**

Paper 2 Reading Passages (Extended) **October/November 2011**

2 hours

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 **5** printed pages and **3** blank pages.

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Part 1

Read **Passage A** carefully, and then answer **Questions 1** and **2.**

Passage A

This passage describes the finding of a wild child in northern India.

The Wolf-Boy

Narsingh Bahadur Singh is a tall, gentle-mannered man in his fifties, wearing hand-woven, spotlessly white cloth, a brightly coloured turban, and a striped towel draped across his shoulders. He owns six acres of land, planted with corn, dal and rice, is considered rich, and enjoys the respect of his community. He has a history of adopting stray children: besides his own two sons, he has rescued and brought up four boys found abandoned in the wild.

* * *

It was the dry season when Narsingh Singh decided to cycle to see his cousin, who lives in a village on the far side of Musafirkhana forest, about 20 miles from Sultanpur. He had got to about half way and it was approaching mid-morning, and a sweltering temperature, when he came to the area of thick bush in the middle of the forest. The track sliced through thickets of stately bamboo and passed by statuesque thorn trees which seemed to have been carved and placed there to pose, their spiky fingers pointing against the blinding blue background of empty sky, with alert, flamboyantly-beaked hornbills perched on their pinnacles to boom a warning.

In the scrub behind one of these he heard some squealing, so he got off his bicycle, crept up stealthily, and saw a boy playing with four or five wolf cubs. He was absolutely certain that they were wolves. The first things he noticed about the boy were his darkened skin, fingernails grown into claws, a tangle of knotted hair, and unusually pointed teeth. Then he saw the callouses on his palms, elbows and knees, and the scars on the side of his head which the mother wolf would have made when she picked him up and carried him as a baby. The boy ran rapidly on all fours, yet couldn't keep up with the cubs as they made for cover. The mother wolf was not in sight. Narsingh Singh caught the boy – and was bitten badly on the arm as a result – but he managed to truss him up in his towel, lash him to the bicycle with rope, and ride back home with him.

At first Shamdeo, as he was named, cowered from people and would only play with dogs. He made growling noises if Narsingh Singh's children approached him, and cuffed them if they came within range of his hands. He could only stand with difficulty at first, and tottered unsteadily when he tried to walk. He was always wary when entering a room, keeping to the wall and peering to see what lurked in the shadows. He hated the sun and used to curl up in dark places. Sometimes he would make a circle with his thumb and index finger and point to the sky, as if indicating a full moon. After sunset he grew restless and had to be tied up to stop him following the jackals which howled like vampires round the village at night. If anyone cut themselves, he could smell the scent of blood and would scamper towards it. He caught chickens and ate them alive, including the entrails.

When he had evolved a sign language of his own, he would cross his thumbs and flap his hands: this meant 'chicken' or 'food'. Narsingh Singh, a vegetarian, weaned him off meat and forced rice, dal and chappatis down his throat, but these made the boy sick. He took to eating earth, his chest swelled up, and the family began to fear for his life, but after a few weeks he got used to the new diet. Eventually, he started doing simple carrying jobs, like taking straw to the cows. At this point, Narsingh Singh decided that the boy needed to socialise with other young children and not spend all his time with animals. He arranged to take Shamdeo to stay for a while in a children's home in Sultanpur, to see if he could learn to behave like other children.

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1 Imagine that you are Narsingh Singh. You are being interviewed for the Sultanpur weekly newspaper by a reporter who has heard of the arrival of Shamdeo at the children's home.

The reporter asks the following questions:

- What were your thoughts and feelings when you found the boy?
- Why are you so sure that he was brought up by wolves?
- How do you think he will develop?

Write the words of the interview, beginning with the first question.

Base your interview on what you have read in Passage A. Be careful to use your own words.

Write between 1½ and 2 sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to 5 marks for the quality of your writing.

[Total: 20]

2 Re-read the descriptions of:

(a) the area and its wildlife in paragraph 2, beginning 'It was the dry season…';

(b) Shamdeo's behaviour while he was living with Narsingh Singh in paragraph 4, beginning 'At first Shamdeo…'.

Select words and phrases from these descriptions, and explain how the writer has created effects by using this language.

[Total: 10]

[Turn over for Part 2]

Part 2

Read **Passage B** carefully and re-read **Passage A**.
Then answer **Question 3**, which is based on both passages.

Passage B

This passage describes the phenomenon of children who are brought up by wild animals.

Living Wild

Throughout history feral children have been regarded with fascination and have played an important part in the mythology of nations; according to legend, the twins Romulus and Remus, raised by a she-wolf, were responsible for the founding of Rome nearly 3,000 years ago. It is not just wolves which have adopted and brought up human children as their own: there are numerous documented cases of dogs, bears and monkeys which have done the same. Even sheep and cows have been known to give shelter to human infants.

Perhaps the most famous wolf-raised child is the fictional Mowgli, invented by the English author Rudyard Kipling who spent some of his life in India. It is fitting that the best-known feral child should come from India, for it is there, to this day, that the largest number of such children have been found. Kipling established the typical behaviour of 'wolf-children', which has been repeatedly confirmed in real-life examples. They are immediately recognisable because of their nakedness and dirtiness, as well as by their long matted hair, and teeth which are sharper and more pointed than normal human teeth.

Another trait which 'wild' children have in common is that they run on all fours like animals, and have hardened, calloused hands and knees as a result. Also, like wild animals, they are most active at night and sleep during the day. Furthermore, they emit animal sounds and like to play with animals rather than humans, towards whom they are aggressive, sometimes even biting them. Because they have no immunity to human infections, they tend to have short lives.

Perhaps the most archetypal of the Indian wolf-children stories is that of Kamala and Amala, found in India in 1920. Supposedly either taken or found as babies by a female wolf, they were brought into the wolf's litter and raised as cubs until they were found when aged about three and five. Although over the years they were socialised to a degree, they always preferred the company of animals, and they never learnt enough human speech to communicate effectively.

Traian Caldarar from Romania was four years old when he was 'lost' under circumstances which are not clear. He was not found until three years later in 2002, when a shepherd came across him sleeping in a cardboard box in the mountains. He had been eating the carcasses of dead sheep, and police speculated that he must have been looked after by one of the wild dogs which live in packs in the mountains, because there was no other way he could have survived for so long. When found, he was wild-eyed and walked with a chimpanzee-like gait. He was very agile and police had difficulty capturing him. Like all wild animals, he hated confinement and sought open spaces. When shown a bed, he chose to sleep on the floor under it. This behaviour raised the question of how far such children should be forced to conform to human social conventions when they would rather continue to live contentedly as animals.

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3 Summarise:

(a) the typical behaviour of feral children, as described in **Passage B**;

(b) the physical characteristics of the wolf-boy, as described in **Passage A**.

Use your own words as far as possible.

You should write about 1 side in total, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to 5 marks for the quality of your writing.

[Total: 20]

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Copyright Acknowledgements:

Questions 1, 2 and 3 Passage A © adapted: Bruce Chatwin, *The Wolf-Boy*, Sunday Times Magazine; 30 July 1978.

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