



# Cambridge IGCSE™

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FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0500/12

Paper 1 Reading

February/March 2025

INSERT

2 hours

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## INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading texts.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



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This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Read **Text A** and then answer **Questions 1(a)–(e)** on the question paper.

**Text A: *Animals that migrate***

You have probably heard about epic migrations, such as humpback whales travelling from the poles to the equator, or myriads of monarch butterflies arriving in Mexico every winter. Many creatures migrate, usually to find food, a safe place to breed or a suitable climate. For example, European swallows famously migrate south every winter to Africa or Asia.

Despite their feats of incredible endurance, animals that migrate tend to be more vulnerable to climate change, relying on multiple habitats to survive or complete their life cycle. Technology has facilitated research, improving understanding of migration, but there is a lot we don't know. Unlike emigration, when animals move to find a new, permanent place to live, migration involves a return journey. This and other factors, including that migration happens seasonally, make it different from other types of animal movement.

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Astonished scientists recently discovered that plains zebras (the most common zebras) embark on an incredible journey of 480 km, the longest migration of all land mammals in Africa. The scientists fitted eight female zebras with satellite-tracked collars to monitor the herd's movements. Tagging a wild zebra is no easy task – a zebra kick can kill a lion – so the animals had to be sedated and docile before being approached. How the animals knew where to go and when to leave, especially when they'd never made the journey before, wasn't clear.

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In a second study, researchers modelled migration routes of zebras using two different computer simulations. They were interested in two possible theories: simulated zebras could use perception and sense, for example, based on the current levels of vegetation growing in their surroundings, or they could use memory, that is information from previous migrations, to forecast where to go. The researchers compared their simulated tracks with real-life tracks from GPS-tagged zebras.

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Preliminary findings indicate that the 'memory' simulation predicted the migration route more accurately than that using sense and perception, though years' more monitoring is required to figure out conclusively what drives zebras. Scientists will want to factor in the potential effects of predators such as lions on the route next time. Tracking data also showed that real zebras didn't all migrate to the same place and that once barriers such as fences were removed, zebras re-established migratory paths unused for generations, suggesting genetic influences. 'Protecting migration routes efficiently is only possible if we're sure how the animals migrate,' acknowledges the study's lead scientist.

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Read **Text B** and then answer **Question 1(f)** on the question paper.

**Text B: Zozu's story**

Zozu, like other white storks in Europe, typically flies to Africa for winter. Yet researchers tracking the bird using GPS discovered that he and a few pals skipped this year's gruelling migration across the Sahara Desert, stopping, instead, in cities like Madrid. Apparently, they'd developed a taste for the junk food in landfills (one shocking example featured in a recent book that turns data from studies tracing animal migration into a series of mind-blowing maps).

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Nowadays, technology allows us to monitor, say, a herd of elephants or a flock of storks as they move across the globe. With global warming affecting migration routes, there's a new urgency in such research. It's bad news that many animals have stopped migrating: for example, parasites often have transmission stages requiring their host animal to stay in the same habitat, and speedy migration can avoid giving parasites a chance to take hold.

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Zozu's story warns of one consequence as human populations become increasingly urban. Last year, researchers studied the effect of infrastructure in southern California, where mountain lion numbers are falling. Tracking the lions, researchers discovered their natural habitat was divided by eight lanes of traffic, houses and golf courses. Efforts to re-establish routes, using animal crossings such as underpasses, have failed.

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Meanwhile, in the traditional migration destinations of sub-Saharan Africa, reductions in the time migratory birds spend there have implications for the ecosystem, limiting insect consumption, seed dispersal and pollination. Analysis of bird records indicates that some migratory species are spending 60 fewer days on average in Africa each winter. If trends continue, some will eventually spend the full year within Europe where the longer presence of traditionally migratory birds could lead to increased competition for resources among resident non-migratory species.

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The book highlights the invaluable research generated by animal migration, citing insight applicable to aspects of human behaviour (baboons' movements as a group mirror crowd behaviour of human commuters). Monarch butterflies pictured in the book are just one species in decline – their migration an endangered activity since deforestation has destroyed potential stopover sites.

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Read **Text C** and then answer **Questions 2(a)–(d)** and **Question 3** on the question paper.

**Text C: *The last migration***

*This story is set some years in the future. A scientist, Lotta, is involved in a research project studying migratory birds called terns.*

I'm watching when the bird is caught. Her wing clips the hair-thin wire, closing the basket gently over her. I approach, not breathing, reluctant to scare her. She ruffles feathers, a small burst of defiance before my fingers close around her. I have to be quick now, deftly looping the band over her leg. The plastic tightens firmly, securing the lightweight tracker. The tracker blinks once, confirming it's working. Her heartbeat pounds fast and fragile inside my palm. I place her back in her nest, edging away. She explodes free, swooping at me suddenly, giving a shrill cry.

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I grin, thrilled. I've been out here for days, pecked a dozen times, but have now tagged three terns. My tent was blown into the sea last night. My cheap rental car's blessedly warm.

I check my notes again before setting off: Ennis Malone. Captain of the fishing boat *Raven* – in the days when there were fish to catch.

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That evening, I find Ennis alone in the harbour café – a husk of a man. 'What would you say if I said I could find fish?' I say, opening the tracking software on my laptop and watching his eyebrows arch. The sight of blinking red lights melts me with relief. I'd no idea if this would work, but here they are, the three little birds that will fly south for the winter, taking me with them to learn their secrets. I'm not sure when dreaming of this last desperate project began, but it's part of me now as much as the instinct for breath. It swallowed me whole – a fantasy quest, securing a place on a fishing vessel and having its captain carry me far south following the longest natural migration of any living creature.

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'I want to follow these birds,' I tell Ennis. 'They're part of the last colony.'

Ennis breathes out heavily, unsurprised. For decades, scientists warned about habitat destruction. Species after species were declared endangered, then extinct. There are no more monkeys in the rainforest, no bears in the once-frozen north, nor any other creature humankind hunted. Some birds remain, but there's no longer any funding for research.

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'I've put trackers on three, but couldn't afford cameras,' I explain, doggedly following Ennis back to his vessel. 'They'll only help to pinpoint where the birds fly. Someone needs to witness how they survive, to learn. Take me south – we'll follow them. If there are fish left, those birds will find them.'

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'No,' Ennis insists. 'There's no point.'

I wait all night on the harbour next to his boat. It's almost dawn when Ennis peers at me quizzically from the deck. 'You sure?'

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I open the map I've made, showing him how the birds set out on separate paths, then merge together, following different routes to the fish. 'The spots vary,' I say. 'But the birds find them.' Wistfully, Ennis traces the lines on the map like memories through the Atlantic.

'Why did you name your boat after a bird, Ennis?' I ask.

'Because she flies too,' he smiles, nodding.

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Months later, the remote shore ahead is magnificent – but empty. I'd told myself it was over when the signals stopped after the last storm; still somehow I'd hoped to see birds, or something, anything, alive. The boat can go no further, so we continue on foot towards the ridge – the only movement anywhere. My heart breaks and then jumps ... because something just flew across the sky. More somethings appear, swooping and soaring. I scramble to the summit and – oh, hundreds of terns smother an expanse of unspoiled ice below. Yet more dance upon the air. Dipping gracefully, diving hungrily, in a bay bubbling and thrashing with a million scales. Ennis reaches me with a low rumble of laughter, just as a huge whale fin crowns the sparkling surface. We gasp. What else is hiding in these clean, untouched waters – this sanctuary?

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**FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH****0500/12**

Paper 1 Reading

**February/March 2025****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 or correction fluid.
- 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.



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

### Question 1

- (a) Give **two** examples of animals which migrate (other than humpback whales) according to paragraph 1.

- .....
- ..... [1]

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

- (i) 'incredible endurance' (line 5) ..... [2]

- (ii) 'facilitated research' (line 7). ..... [2]

- (c) Reread paragraph 2 ('Despite ... animal movement.').

Give **two** ways in which migration differs from other types of animal movement.

- .....
- ..... [2]

- (d) Reread paragraphs 3 and 4 ('Astonished ... GPS-tagged zebras.').

- (i) Identify **two** things scientists had to do before they were able to study how far the plains zebras travelled during migration.

- .....
- ..... [2]

- (ii) Explain what researchers in the second study did to test what might influence the direction in which migrating zebras travelled.

- ..... [3]





(e) Reread paragraph 5 ('Preliminary ... lead scientist.').

**Using your own words**, explain why some people might not accept the findings of the study as conclusive.

.....

.....

..... [3]



- 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.**

This image shows a full page of a handwriting practice worksheet. It consists of multiple rows of horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is plain white, and there are no margins or additional markings.

[15]



Read **Text C**, *The last migration*, 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) The vehicle that Lotta hired was inexpensive.

..... [1]

(ii) Seeing the flashing signals on the computer screen stops Lotta worrying that the trackers will not work.

..... [1]

(iii) Even though there are still a few bird species left alive, there is no longer any money available to pay for scientists to study them.

..... [1]

(iv) Lotta explains how the migrating birds begin by taking different routes before they rejoin each other to find where the fish are.

..... [1]

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

'I've put trackers on three, but couldn't afford cameras,' I explain, doggedly following Ennis back to his vessel. 'They'll only help to pinpoint where the birds fly. Someone needs to witness how they survive, to learn. Take me south – we'll follow them. If there are fish left, those birds will find them.'

(i) vessel ..... [1]

(ii) pinpoint ..... [1]

(iii) witness ..... [1]





- (c) Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests Lotta's attitude to the project.

**Use your own words in your explanation.**

I'm not sure when dreaming of this last desperate project began, but it's part of me now as much as the instinct for breath. It swallowed me whole – a fantasy quest, securing a place on a fishing vessel and having its captain carry me far south following the longest natural migration of any living creature.

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..... [3]



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[15]



You are a journalist. You have interviewed Ennis and Lotta months after they have returned from their trip. You write a magazine article about Lotta's research project and the conservation work they are both now involved in.

- describe what Lotta did to prepare for the research project **and** the challenges Lotta faced
- explain why Lotta needed Ennis's help with the project **and** why Ennis decided to help Lotta
- explain how Ennis and Lotta felt about what happened on their journey **and** the changes they hope to bring about in the future.

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

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

[illegible]

[25]

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.



## Additional page

If you use the following page to complete the answer to any question, the question number must be clearly shown.

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