CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

CANDIDATE NAME

CENTRE NUMBER

CANDIDATE NUMBER

7409760214

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/12**

Paper 1 Reading **February/March 2026**

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. Do **not** use correction fluid or tape.
- 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.

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Read **Text A**, ***Giraffes, the climate and us***, in the insert and then answer **Questions 1(a)–(e)** on this question paper.

Question 1

(a) How many years did researchers spend studying giraffes in Tanzania according to the text?

..... [1]

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

(i) 'widespread decline' (line 1) .....

..... [2]

(ii) 'combined effects' (line 2). .....

..... [2]

(c) Reread paragraph 2 ('"Studying … years."').

Give **two** different reasons why the study had to go on for so long.

• .....

• .....
[2]

(d) Reread paragraphs 3 and 4 ('Her team … the leaves.').

(i) Identify **two** findings that surprised the researchers.

• .....

• .....
[2]

(ii) Explain the reasons scientists gave for what they found out about giraffe survival.

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..... [3]

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(e) Reread paragraph 5 ('Worse still … to blame.').

Using your own words, explain why people may not have noticed changes in giraffe numbers.

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Read **Text B**, ***Who or what is Sophie the giraffe?***, in the insert and answer **Question 1(f)** on this question paper.

(f) According to **Text B**, what is appealing about Sophie the giraffe to modern parents of young children?

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.

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[Total: 30]

Read **Text C**, ***Emil and the giraffes***, 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 shipping director hardly takes his eyes off the papers on his desk as Emil is guided into the office.

..... [1]

(ii) People creating spacesuits want to replicate the characteristics of giraffe skin.

..... [1]

(iii) The sailor explains the general features of how they intend to get the giraffes off the ship.

..... [1]

(iv) Emil speaks his concerns to the zoo manager.

..... [1]

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

That afternoon, I sit in the ship's library, sifting through documents estimating shipping costs, profit and loss, until I find the veterinary report. I make notes on the blood-pressure measurements recorded for one unfortunate giraffe before its voyage ended.

(i) sifting ..... [1]

(ii) estimating ..... [1]

(iii) recorded ..... [1]

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(c) Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer suggests what Emil might be thinking and feeling during the ride in the lorry.

Use your own words in your explanation.

Days later, I'm journeying onwards to the zoo in a lorry carrying four of the giraffes, including Snowstorm. Bemused schoolchildren on buses catch sight of the giraffes and wave. The woods we pass are increasingly dense, not the vast, open woodlands giraffes dream of. We rattle along bumpy back roads, avoiding bridges, turning north towards the mountains along the border. 'Slower,' I tell the driver. The narrow window in the back of the cab seems to frame the giraffes' captivity. Their eyes are shut tight.

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(d) Reread paragraphs 12 and 16.

- Paragraph 12 begins ‘One hour later …’ and is about the first encounter with the giraffes.
- Paragraph 16 begins ‘Next morning …’ and is about the morning’s activity at the port.

Explain how the writer uses language to convey meaning and to create effect in these paragraphs. Choose **three** examples of words or phrases from **each** paragraph to support your answer. Your choices should include the use of imagery.

Write about 200 to 300 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer.

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Reread **Text C**, ***Emil and the giraffes***, in the insert and then answer **Question 3** on this question paper.

Question 3

You are Emil. After you leave the zoo, you decide to share your concerns about the giraffes with an animal welfare charity. The charity asks you to write a report.

In your report, you should explain:

- how you were involved with these giraffes **and** your impressions of the people you met at that time
- what worried you about the different stages of the giraffes' journey
- why you feel this zoo is not a suitable place for the giraffes to live.

Write the words of the report.

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

Write about 250 to 350 words.

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

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