UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/31**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition **October/November 2013**

READING BOOKLET INSERT

2 hours

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Reading Booklet Insert contains the reading passage for use with **Section 1**, **Question 1** on the Question Paper.

You may annotate this Insert and use the blank spaces for planning. This Insert is **not** assessed by the Examiner.

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Read the following article carefully, and then answer Question 1 on the Question Paper.

Marauding wolves just a howl from Madrid

Francisco Esteban, a shepherd, gestures across the harsh Castillian plain to the distant sierra. 'There used to be villages all around here, with market days every Thursday. But now there's no one. It's deserted, except for packs of wolves which come down at night to savage my sheep.'

Mr Esteban has 2,500 sheep cropping the thin pasture of his village near Guadalajara, on the outskirts of Madrid. Wolves have raided his flock five times and killed 500 sheep in recent months, 200 in one attack. Animals whose throats were not ripped out suffered broken legs, were crushed to death in the panic or fled, never to return. 'I've had to buy guard dogs and fence my sheep in at night. I can't afford these losses,' he says, frowning in the winter sunshine.

For decades, the wolf was confined to Spain's north-western highlands, all but exterminated by farmers who laid traps and poison, paid for by the government which considered the animal to be a pest and paid a bounty on each dead wolf. As a result, their population fell so far that there was a danger of extinction. Once they were declared an endangered species by the environmental agency, the surviving wolves flourished. They crossed the Duero River in 1990, and not only took back their previous territory but headed for Spain's central plains. Their advance has been hastened by the recovery of their natural prey – wild boar and deer, also protected – and the depopulation of the countryside, which has caused all the wildlife numbers to increase. As they swept south they struck foals, calves of fighting bulls, and especially sheep, inflicting huge losses on farmers.

Numbers have grown to an estimated 2,000, and wolves were spotted around Guadalajara last year for the first time since 1965. 'I'm tempted to pick up a shotgun, but the wolf is protected and I'd be jailed or fined. We farmers are the endangered species,' says Juan Manuel Garcia, whose 450 sheep were raided one evening last November after they had been brought into the fold. 'Wolves jumped the fence and killed 54. Some were bitten, but most suffocated in the crush. It was a massacre. This has never happened before.' The shepherd has bought two mastiff pups, which gambol at his feet looking distinctly unthreatening, and says regional authorities have paid for barbed-wire fence for his fold. 'But we haven't received compensation for the loss of our sheep.'

One of the reasons for this is that thousands of domestic dogs are abandoned in the wild area every year. The authorities cannot be sure how much of the damage is being caused by starving ex-pets and how much by genuine wolves, and in any case the two are now inter-breeding to produce a wolf-dog hybrid species.

Wolves are intelligent and swift, reclusive by day and capable of covering up to 100 kilometres in a single nocturnal raid. Desperate to stop farmers taking counter-measures, regional authorities approved an emergency compensation package last month. But money isn't enough for Francisco Cuestas, who like the others is the son and grandson of shepherds, and who lost 180 sheep last August. 'What would you do if a wolf came into your fold and killed more than 100 sheep? This is my livelihood and I'm telling you, if I see a wolf I'll shoot it dead,' he asserts. 'The authorities take us for fools, but we're not, we're slaves. Sheep farming is dying, and this land is too poor for cultivation. Our children want to live in the city; there's nothing for them here. We're heading for extinction already, without having to fend off the wolves.'

However, the attitude to wolves, and the environment generally, has changed over the last half century, and most people now feel that native species should be protected rather than eradicated. Television wildlife documentaries have played a large part in making people feel less afraid and more admiring of the beauty and habits of such animals as the big bad wolf of fairy tales.

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