



CAMBRIDGE O LEVEL — MODEL EXAMINATION PAPER

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1123

Paper 1: Reading

YOUR PHYSICAL & ONLINE SELF-ASSESSMENT ROADMAP

PHYSICAL

1. Download any practice test →
2. Solve within assigned time →
3. Submit it to your Teacher/Examiner →
4. Get assessed and improve

ONLINE

1. Visit edusambam.com →
2. Open Assessment Arena →
3. Solve online papers →
4. Get auto-assessed and improve

Candidate Name:		Centre Number:	
Candidate Number:		Date:	
School / Institution:		Test Centre:	

Subject	English Language	Component	1123 / Paper 1
Focus	Reading	Total Marks	80
Time Allowed	2 Hours	Version	A



General Instructions

1. Read both passages carefully before answering any question.
2. Answer all questions in the spaces provided.
3. For Questions 1–3, answer in your own words as far as possible unless a question asks you to find a specific word.
4. For Question 4 (Summary), write in continuous prose, not note form, and keep to the word limit given.
5. For Question 5 (Directed Writing), address every bullet point and stay within the suggested word count.
6. Write in dark blue or black ink. Do not use correction fluid.
7. Dictionaries are not permitted.
8. This worksheet is prepared from the EDUSAMBAM practice assessment supplied for this paper.

Paper Pattern

Question	Focus	Parts	Marks
Question 1	Passage A — comprehension	5	11
Question 2	Passage A — vocabulary in context	5	5
Question 3	Passage B — comprehension	5	17
Question 4	Summary (Passage B)	1	15
Question 5	Directed writing (A & B)	1	25
Total	Reading Paper	17	80

This is an original model paper written by EDUSAMBAM, designed in the style and format of Cambridge O Level English Language 1123 Paper 1. It is not an official Cambridge Assessment International Education document and does not reproduce any real past paper.



Passage A

Read Passage A carefully, and then answer Questions 1 and 2 on pages that follow.

The Visitor

1 I woke before the alarm, the way you sometimes do when something outside has already decided the day is beginning. The curtains held a thin grey light, not quite morning, not quite night. I lay still for a moment, listening to the house settle around me, and then, without really meaning to, I got up and went to the window.

5 The garden looked unfamiliar in that light — flatter, quieter, as though it had been drawn rather than grown. And there, in the middle of the lawn, sat a fox.

7 It was not doing anything in particular. It sat the way a dog sits when it has nowhere urgent to be, tail curled neatly around its front paws, ears turning slightly at sounds I couldn't hear. For a long moment neither of us moved. I don't know what I expected — that it would notice me and vanish, probably — but it simply sat, and I simply watched, and the gap between us felt, absurdly, like the beginning of a conversation neither of us knew how to start.

13 I thought of all the times I had walked past the end of our road at night and seen the bins overturned, the rubbish scattered across the pavement, and blamed it, vaguely, on 'foxes' — as though they were a single indistinct nuisance rather than this: a very particular animal, alert and entirely unbothered by me, sitting in my garden as if it had every right to be there. Which, I suppose, in some sense it did. This land had been a field long before it was a garden.

19 Somewhere behind me, a floorboard creaked, and the fox's head snapped round — not towards me, but towards the sound, some instinct older than curiosity taking over. It rose in one unhurried movement, stretched the way cats do, and slipped through the gap beneath the fence without any particular urgency, as though it were simply continuing a journey I had briefly interrupted.

24 I stood at the window for a while after it had gone, oddly reluctant to move, feeling that I had been allowed to witness something not meant for me — a private, unremarkable moment in another creature's morning, which I had no business finding as extraordinary as I did. Then the alarm went off in the next room, and the day, the real one, began.



Passage B

Read Passage B carefully, and then answer Question 3 on the page that follows.

Wild Neighbours: Why Animals Are Moving Into Our Cities

1 Fifty years ago, spotting a fox trotting down a city street would have made the local news. Today, it barely raises an eyebrow. Urban foxes, along with a growing cast of other wild animals — deer, wild boar, peregrine falcons, and even coyotes in parts of North America — have become permanent residents of towns and cities across the world. Researchers estimate that some cities now support fox populations as dense as those found in the countryside, if not denser.

7 The reasons for this shift are more practical than sentimental. Cities offer a reliable, year-round food supply in the form of discarded food, unsecured bins, and deliberately left-out scraps, without the seasonal shortages that wild habitats impose. Urban temperatures also tend to run a few degrees warmer than surrounding rural areas — a phenomenon known as the 'urban heat island' effect — which makes winters considerably more survivable. Add to this a near-total absence of natural predators, and it becomes clear why, from an animal's perspective, the city can be a more attractive proposition than the countryside it left behind.

14 This is not a one-way relationship, however, and not without friction. Urban wildlife can carry health risks, damage property, and — in the case of larger animals such as deer or wild boar — pose genuine safety concerns when encounters occur unexpectedly. Councils in several countries have introduced management programmes, ranging from secure waste bins to controlled relocation schemes, aimed at reducing conflict rather than eliminating the animals altogether.

19 Conservationists, meanwhile, are divided. Some view the trend with quiet optimism, arguing that it shows nature's genuine capacity to adapt, and that cities designed with wildlife corridors and green spaces in mind could support biodiversity that rural, intensively farmed land increasingly cannot. Others caution against romanticising the phenomenon, pointing out that only a narrow range of especially adaptable species — foxes, pigeons, rats, certain gulls — thrive in cities, while countless other, less flexible species simply disappear as their habitats are built over.

25 What is broadly agreed is that the trend is unlikely to reverse. As cities continue to expand into what was once open countryside, the boundary between 'urban' and 'wild' will only grow blurrier — and city-dwellers, whether they welcome it or not, are likely to find themselves sharing their streets, gardens, and rooftops with an increasing number of wild neighbours.



Questions

Answer all questions.

Question 1 — Passage A

Re-read Passage A, and then answer the following questions.

(a) Give one word from lines 1–5 which suggests that the morning felt strange or not fully real. [1]

(b) "the beginning of a conversation neither of us knew how to start" (lines 10–11). Explain in your own words what this suggests about how the narrator felt towards the fox at this moment. [2]

(c) Why, according to the narrator in lines 13–18, might it be unfair to think of foxes as simply "a single indistinct nuisance"? Give two reasons, using your own words as far as possible. [4]

(d) What does the fox's reaction in lines 19–20 suggest about its priorities at that moment? [2]

(e) Explain what the narrator means by saying they had "no business finding as extraordinary" what they had witnessed (line 26). [2]



Question 2 — Vocabulary in Context (Passage A)

Choose one word from Passage A which is closest in meaning to each of the following. Give the line number where the word appears.

(a) settle into a calm, quiet state (paragraph 1) [1]

(b) not bothered or concerned (paragraph 3) [1]

(c) moved quickly but without effort or fuss (paragraph 5) [1]

(d) unwilling; hesitant (paragraph 6) [1]

(e) ordinary; not special (paragraph 6) [1]



Question 3 — Passage B

Re-read Passage B, and then answer the following questions.

(a) According to paragraph 1, give two examples of animals, other than foxes, that have become established in cities. [2]

(b) Using your own words as far as possible, explain three reasons given in paragraph 2 why cities are attractive to wild animals. [6]

(c) What is meant by the phrase "not a one-way relationship" in line 14? [2]

(d) Explain, in your own words, why conservationists mentioned in paragraph 4 hold differing views about urban wildlife. [4]

(e) What overall impression of the future of cities and wildlife is created in the final paragraph? [3]



Question 4 — Summary

Using material from Passage B only, summarise the reasons why wild animals are increasingly moving into cities, and the concerns this raises.

Write your summary in continuous prose (not note form). Your summary should be no more than 100 words, not counting the words given to help you begin.

Begin your summary as follows: "Wild animals have increasingly moved into cities because..."

Up to 10 of the 15 marks available are for the content of your summary, and up to 5 marks are for the quality of your writing.

[15]



Question 5 — Directed Writing

A local community magazine has invited residents to submit a short article about wildlife encounters in their area.

Using ideas from both Passage A and Passage B, write the article. In your article you should:

- describe a personal-style encounter with urban wildlife, in a similar spirit to Passage A
- explain, using ideas from Passage B, why such encounters are becoming more common
- suggest how residents might respond positively to sharing their neighbourhood with wildlife

Base your article on what you have read in Passage A and Passage B, but be careful to use your own words. Address each of the three bullet points above.

Write about 200 to 300 words.

Up to 15 of the 25 marks available are for the content of your article, and up to 10 marks are for the quality of your writing.

[25]





Mark Allocation Summary

Question	Focus	Marks
1	Passage A — comprehension (explicit & implicit meaning)	11
2	Passage A — vocabulary in context	5
3	Passage B — comprehension (explicit & implicit meaning)	17
4	Summary (Passage B)	15
5	Directed writing (Passages A & B)	25
	Reading total	80

Candidate Signature

Invigilator Signature

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Marks Obtained: ____ / 80		Checked By:	
Result / Grade:		Date Checked:	



Marking Guidance & Model Answers

Teacher reference: this paper contains largely open-ended, own-words responses. Equivalent, grammatically sound wording that captures the same meaning should be accepted. Guidance below indicates the key content expected, not a single fixed wording.

Question 1 — Passage A

- (a) Any one of: unfamiliar / grey / flatter / drawn — indicating the scene felt strange or not fully real. [1]
- (b) Accept answers indicating a quiet, unspoken sense of connection or mutual awareness — as though narrator and fox were both waiting to see what the other would do, without either acting first. [2]
- (c) Two of: foxes are treated unfairly as a single, faceless nuisance rather than individual animals with their own behaviour; the land was originally wild before becoming a garden, so the fox has some claim to being there too. [4]
- (d) Accept: the fox's instinct/alertness to danger or unfamiliar sound overrides its curiosity about the narrator — survival instinct comes first. [2]
- (e) Accept: the narrator feels they witnessed something private, ordinary to the fox but not meant for a human audience, and feels slightly self-conscious for finding an everyday moment so remarkable. [2]

Question 2 — Vocabulary in Context

- (a) settle (b) unbothered (c) unhurried (d) reluctant (e) unremarkable — one mark each for the correct word. [5]

Question 3 — Passage B

- (a) Any two of: deer, wild boar, peregrine falcons, coyotes. [2]
- (b) Three of: a reliable, year-round food supply from waste/bins/scraps; warmer urban temperatures (heat island effect) improving winter survival; little to no natural predators in cities. [6]
- (c) Accept: the relationship isn't purely beneficial for humans — wildlife in cities also creates problems such as health risks, property damage, or safety concerns. [2]



(d) Accept: some see it positively, as evidence of nature's adaptability and potential for cities to support biodiversity; others are more cautious, noting only a narrow range of adaptable species thrive while many others are lost. [4]

(e) Accept: a sense that the trend is permanent and likely to grow, and that city-dwellers will need to accept increasing everyday contact with wildlife. [3]

Question 4 — Summary (Model Answer)

Wild animals have increasingly moved into cities because they offer a reliable, year-round food supply from bins and discarded scraps, along with warmer temperatures than the surrounding countryside, which makes winters easier to survive. Cities also have very few natural predators. However, this shift brings concerns: wildlife can carry health risks, damage property, and sometimes pose safety risks, particularly with larger animals. As a result, some councils have introduced management programmes such as secure bins and controlled relocation to reduce conflict.

Mark on coverage of the key content points (up to 10) and quality/concision of expression (up to 5). [15]

Question 5 — Directed Writing (Marking Guidance)

Award content marks (up to 15) for: a personal-style wildlife encounter in the spirit of Passage A; an explanation, drawing on Passage B, of why such encounters are becoming more common; and a positive suggestion for how residents might respond. All three bullet points should be addressed, in the candidate's own words.

Award language marks (up to 10) for register and tone appropriate to a community magazine article, clear paragraphing, and accuracy of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. [25]