

# Cambridge IGCSE™ (9–1)

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**FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH**

**0990/01**

Paper 1 Reading

**For examination from 2027**

SPECIMEN PAPER

**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 **14** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Read **Text A, Horses**, in the insert and then answer **Question 1(a)–(f)**.

**Question 1**

(a) What is the other name for an Eohippus, according to paragraph 1?

..... [1]

(b) Use your own words to explain what the text means by:

(i) 'forest dweller' (lines 4–5)

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

(ii) 'only faintly resembled' (line 5).

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

(c) Reread paragraph 2 ('These early prototype ... tame?').

Give **two** of the main ways in which horses were used by humans in the past.

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

(d) Reread paragraph 3 ('Scientists identified ... proximity.').

Identify **two** reasons why scientists researching horse domestication thought that Iberia might have been the first place where horses were tamed.

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

(e) Reread paragraphs 4 and 5 ('But the archaeological ... importance of horses.').

(i) Explain why scientists first thought Botai was 'the most likely place' that horses were first tamed by humans.

.....  
.....  
..... [3]

(ii) Explain why scientists now no longer believe that modern domestic horses originated from Botai.

.....  
.....  
..... [3]

(f) Reread paragraph 6 ('Tantalisingly ... grass').

(i) Why does the writer use the word 'explosion' (line 29) rather than the word 'increase' to describe the development of horse-based transport?

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

(ii) Explain what the writer suggests about horses in the phrase:

'elegant, living machines, powered only by grass' (line 31).

.....  
.....  
..... [3]

[Total: 20]





Read **Text C, Riding across America**, in the insert and then answer **Question 3(a)–(d)**.

**Question 3**

**(a)** Identify a word or phrase from the text which suggests the same idea as the words in bold:

**(i)** The two reporters did not ask what **made Annie want to** do the ride.

..... [1]

**(ii)** Annie knew she was **lucky** that people were curious about her and her journey.

..... [1]

**(b)** Use your own words to explain what the writer means by each of the words in bold:

‘Annie **figured** Redding to LA would take another two months. She took Green’s details, promising to call when, if, she arrived in LA. Only small local newspapers had **covered** her **exploits** to date; she knew national media would take over now.’

**(i)** figured

..... [1]

**(ii)** covered

..... [1]

**(iii)** exploits

..... [1]

- (c) Use **one** example from the text below to explain how the writer uses language to suggest the reactions of the people in Redding to Annie’s arrival.

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

‘To her astonishment, jostling crowds lined the street. Had everyone really come out just to watch her ride by? She grinned and waved back, coming to a halt as yet more well-wishers swarmed and buzzed around her, demanding autographs.’

.....

.....

.....

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.....

..... [5]















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