



St Mary's School  
CAMBRIDGE

# Year 9 English Sample Entrance Examination

Time allowed: 60 minutes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS :

- Dictionaries and translators are not allowed
- There are two sections. You should spend:
  - 40 minutes on Section A
  - 20 minutes on Section B

## Section A

Spend about 40 minutes on this section.

Read the Profile of the Emperor Tamarin monkey and the account by Jacqui Durrell and then answer the questions that follow, using your own words as far as possible. The first five questions are only based on the account by Jacqui Durrell. You will need the Profile as well for Question 6. Jacqui Durrell is married to Gerry, mentioned in the passage.



### Profile: The Emperor Tamarin

This primate inhabits tropical rain forests, living deep in the forest and also in open tree-covered areas. This diurnal (that is, it is not nocturnal) species walks or runs quadrupedally through the forest, spending the majority of its days in the trees with quick, safe movements and broad jumps among the branches. Tamarins are omnivores, eating fruits and other plant parts as well as spiders, insects, small vertebrates and bird eggs. In captivity tamarins can live for up to 18 years.

### Jacqui Durrell's account

It is lovely having animals living with you, but we feel that, in fairness to them, it is essential that they should have a definite routine. It is also unwise to inflict one's own routine on animals; the best thing is that they should evolve their own. One creature that we did have in the flat who utterly refused to be influenced by us in any way at all was Whiskers, the Emperor Tamarin. These little monkeys from South America are fearless and Whiskers was no exception. 5

He arrived in pathetically bad condition and when he first arrived had to be given an injection. He immediately turned and bit Gerry severely on the hand. Gerry was so amused and taken aback that all he could do was laugh. This pugnacity was characteristic of Whiskers: later he became, for his size (a mere six inches), one of the most ferocious specimens in the zoo. If he adored you, you were fine but, if he did not, he would leap upon your head and try to bite you viciously. 10

As he was in such a weakened state when he arrived, it was decided to keep him in the flat for a little while, to build up his strength. He spent his time in a cage in Gerry's mother's room. Mrs Durrell, of course, doted on him. Nothing was too much trouble: she would spend hours making him little delicacies, stewing apples with honey or brown sugar, boiling rice and lentils and making other delicious tit-bits. This was the wrong treatment for Whiskers and, from being naturally arrogant, he became unbearable. He refused to go into his cage until he wanted to; he rioted around the room, played havoc with Mrs Durrell's possessions. Sometimes he would sit calmly in her lap, but most of the time he was tearing her knitting out of her hand, hiding her wool, getting in and out of her knitting bag, strewing bits of wool and patterns all over the place – in fact, becoming totally unmanageable. 15 20

Questions 1-5 are just about the passage written by Jacqui Durrell.

- 1 In no more than twenty words for each, sum up the attitudes each of the following have to Whiskers. Remember to use your own words as far as possible.
  - (a) Gerry
  - (b) Gerry's mother
  - (c) Jacqui. (7 marks)
- 2 Explain what is meant by 'in fairness to them' (line 1), making clear what is fair and using material from lines 1-3. (4 marks)
- 3 (a) Find a word in paragraph 2 which means 'being ready to fight': write it down.  
(b) Write down one adjective and one adverb from paragraph 2 which fit with the idea of Whiskers being fierce and ready to fight. Make clear which is the adjective and which is the adverb and say what each means. (7 marks)
- 4 In line 18 we are told that Whiskers 'from being arrogant .. became unbearable'.
  - (a) In your own words, say what this means.
  - (b) Briefly explain why the change had happened.
  - (c) In your own words, how would you describe his behaviour at this point? (5 marks)
- 5 Give the meaning and part of speech (noun, adjective, adverb, verb) of the following, as they are used in the passage:  
utterly (line 4) fearless (line 6) delicacies (line 16) possessions (line 20) (6 marks)
- 6 Drawing information from the passage, the facts in the Tamarin profile and any experience you may have of keeping pets, what advice would you give to someone who is considering keeping a Tamarin monkey as a pet? You should write four to six lines (about 50 words). (6 marks)

### Section B

**Spend about 20 minutes on this section. Write an essay or a story or a description in answer to one of the following.**

**Either** 'Keeping animals in cages – whether at home or in a zoo – is cruel.'  
What is your view? Argue for or against this statement.

**Or** Write a story or a description using one of the following titles:  
The unwelcome visitor  
One day in the middle of winter