

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE SYLLABUS A**

Paper 3 Oral Communication Day 2

1189/03

September/October 2011

**PART 1
READING ALOUD**

In this passage, a girl has definite ideas about her future.

Lucy was in one of her moods again. "I can't stand it," she said to her friend Matilda. "Every week we have to waste our time learning what they call 'domestic skills'. The cooking and cleaning are bad enough – but being taught how to look after babies properly is ridiculous at our age. And changing their nappies and bathing them is completely gross!"

Matilda had learned that Lucy had very strong opinions, and that she was never going to be very good at domestic skills. Lucy's cooking had been a disaster zone. Her fruit cake had come out looking like old cheese with currants in it, and her boiled eggs (Matilda thought) could have been sold to the army for ammunition. Also, she clearly disliked cleaning. Then there was baby care: any baby of Lucy's would certainly need to be strong to survive.

"Anyway," Lucy went on, "when I'm older I shall have someone else to cook and clean for me. It's good to provide jobs for other people. And there'll be no time for babies anyway – I want a full-time career."

Matilda smiled. She knew all about Lucy's plans of becoming the jet-setting boss of an international company by about the age of thirty-five. However, Lucy was a good friend, and great fun when she wasn't going on and on about her glittering career and future.

"I suppose," Matilda said, "that if you did ever really want a baby, you could pay someone to change the nappies for you ..."



© Singapore Press Holdings