www.dynamicpapers.com

International General Certificate of Secondary Education
CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH 0500/2

PAPER 2 Reading and Directed Writing

MAY/JUNE SESSION 2002
2 hours 15 minutes

Additional materials:
Answer paper

TIME 2 hours 15 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer paper/answer booklet.

Answer **all** questions.

Write your answers on the separate answer paper provided.

If you use more than one sheet of paper, fasten the sheets together.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

Dictionaries are **not** permitted.

This question paper consists of 6 printed pages and 2 blank pages.

SP (SLC) S08500/3
© CIE 2002

UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
Local Examinations Syndicate

[Turn over

www.dynamicpapers.com

BLANK PAGE

www.dynamicpapers.com

Part 1

Read Passage A and Passage B carefully; then answer both questions.

Passage A

This article is about eating out in Beirut, Lebanon.

Entering the American Zone

UNTIL eighteen months ago, the cliff-top restaurant Nasr was the king of the coast. Its many customers ate succulent kebabs and fish while watching the waves of the Mediterranean crash against the rocks below. Now it has been taken over by an American fast food chain serving good ol' burgers. Across the street, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Baskin Robbins vie with Hardees to attract junk-food eaters.

The opening of McDonald's this year with its valet parking and planned twelve branches nationwide has been heralded by teenagers as the 'coming of civilisation'. No other city in the world can boast two Hard Rock Cafes – one American and one Canadian. Bar hoppers can get a thrill at Henry J Bean's and Planet Hollywood. And just in case customers forget they are entering the American zone, waiters in many of the shops speak only English and entertain their charges by dancing to the music of 'Greased Lightning'.

As older Lebanese look on doubtfully at the invaders, teenagers and those in their early twenties seem to be having a ball. 'Finally,' one girl said to me, 'we can live like normal people.'

I nodded. A few years ago, I admit that I was just as happy when I heard an American chain was opening up and just as amused to have Lebanese waiters take my orders in English. In time, however, Henry J Bean's has lost its appeal.

The long-established, cluttered watering-hole that is Chez André, tucked out of sight off bustling Hamra Street, seems much more comfortable, although it's just a long bar with some old chairs strewn around. The corners are dominated by old timers carefully observing who's entering or leaving. Most are well into their fifties. Some are poets, some are journalists and others are politicians — airing their views to whoever will listen.

Starbucks Cafe may be nice and dandy, but I prefer sipping my tea – made with real mint – at Kahwit Rawda on the seafront. Surrounded by trees and shabby tables, I can allow my thoughts to drift as I stare at the open sea. On Sundays, families take advantage of the open-air area, one of the few in Beirut, to let their children romp around. My parents tell me that the city once had many such places. This is the only one left and rumours are already circulating that a businessman is trying to purchase it to develop the land.

But nobody could ever convince Francois Bassil to sell his little restaurant, called *Le Chef*. Set among a cluster of old buildings on Gemaizeh Street, the restaurant was opened in 1967 and to this day serves the same homemade dishes – a different one each day. The room barely fits 30 people and all have a full view of Bassil as he prepares his mouth-watering food. For the equivalent of about seven dollars, customers can expect a delicious meal. Bassil's son Charbel knows each and every customer by name and makes a point of memorising the names of newcomers, whom he welcomes courteously in his white apron.

'Once I meet people, I never forget them,' Charbel told me as he served rice and chicken. No drumsticks, however. He knows that I don't like them and takes the personal initiative of serving me only white meat. 'We're the only typical Beirut restaurant left in the city,' he says proudly. 'A lot of people like the old ways and don't want to change so they come to us.'

All I can say is that it's a pity we can't bid Burger King goodbye and welcome in another Le Chef.

[Turn over

www.dynamicpapers.com

Passage B

Bangkok, a city of change

At first sight it looks a thoroughly modern city, just like the rest of them you might think. After all, wherever you go, the names on the signs and the shops reflect the spread of globalisation, McDonald's, Lipton's Tea, Body Shop. And here, as you enter yet another shopping mall built on the site of what used to be a line of little family-owned shops, you will see the same familiar evidence of multi-national firms and large stores that have taken over.

They reflect the needs of the people to be up-to-date and fashionable, to make them feel that they are members of a world-wide club. After all, the internet and international television do just that.

But new and old still co-exist. I came here on the super-modern, super-clean and efficient elevated tramway. It was a different world up there, gliding effortlessly above the traditional snarlups for which Bangkok is so notorious. Below it was all noise and pollution. The *tuk-tuks*, the little three-wheeled taxis that give the city some of its charm, still darted in and out of the traffic. I wondered how long it would be before all of this changed, just as the view of the city has changed.

The huge concrete piers that support the elevated tramway take up nearly all that the eye can see. An old man stands staring at the line of white Y-shaped giants that gradually diminishes into the distance. He was born here and, for him, everything seems to have changed. In the gaps between the impressive modernity of the new glass and bright-fronted commercial buildings stand the occasional graceful houses of a now-forgotten past. The style is artistic and the stone and brick construction solid and long-lasting. Next to these the old man sees the houses of the poor, a sad shanty village, incongruous and persistently a sign of both past and present in this area of money and highlife.

The old life is still there, but it is tucked in between the giants of the new millennium. From the river there is a new skyline of big towers vying with each other for the title of tallest. I am reminded of an aged mouth with teeth set at random and gaps of varied size between. Not a pretty sight.

At ground level, in one of the gaps, I come across an old Thai house, now a restaurant, selling delightful, traditional food. In another, there is a market, thronged with people, open well into the night. The merchandise may have changed over the years, but the atmosphere and the ways of selling and buying remain the same. The uniformity of the street is suddenly brought to life by a magnificent golden shrine that no-one may develop or modernise.

I leave this opulence and wander away from the Centre, down a busy road out of the capital, and find commercial life as it must have been for generations. Outside the little shops there are mobile mini-kitchens offering delicious savoury foods and creating mouth-watering smells for all to share. And past me ride the impossible cyclists laden with huge loads of sticks and baskets, trusting their progress to luck.

It is a time of change, the new marching relentlessly on, the old remaining stubbornly part of the life of the city. It is the old that gives the place atmosphere. It may be inefficient and occasionally shabby, but let it die and Bangkok will become remarkably like many other cities the world over.

www.dynamicpapers.com

1 Write a summary of the ways in which modern, international city life is taking over in Beirut and Bangkok and of the signs of the past that remain.

Use your own words as far as possible.

You should write between 1 and $1\frac{1}{4}$ sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

2 Now that you have read the two passages, write a well planned argument in which you express your views about change in cities like Beirut and Bangkok.

You should argue in favour of:
modernisation
or keeping the past
or allowing the present and the past to co-exist

Your argument must be **clearly based** on ideas and details from both passages.

You should write between 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

[Turn over

www.dynamicpapers.com

Part 2

3

Young Citizen of the Year

Katrina and Tomas have been proposed for the award of Young Citizen of the Year. You have done your own research and your notes are printed below.

Write a letter to the organiser of the award explaining carefully your reasons for preferring one to the other. Make clear how far each of them reflects your values and beliefs. You may develop the information with details of your own.

Begin the letter: 'Dear Organiser'. Do not write an address.

You should write between 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

Tomas

Personality: cheerful, smiling, good listener, trustworthy. Faults: finds concentration difficult and sometimes objects to criticism.

Achievements: dramatic rescue of three young children in accident on lake. Natural musician: gave concert in aid of animal rescue centre in the town.

Public service: organised a young people's group, helping old people in a variety of ways, visiting them, working for them.

Comments from others:

'He's marvellous! I'd be so lonely without his visits. He always cheers me up.'
(Elderly person)

'Outstanding record of service – I wish he'd concentrate on his schoolwork a little more.' (Head teacher)

Katrina

Personality: powerful, decision maker, positive and persuasive in a friendly manner. Fault: sets herself too high standards.

Achievements: Excellent footballer; led her team to victory. Computer expert; writes own software and has set up own business.

Public service: organised 'clean up your area' event, including litter picking, plant tending and painting.

Comments from others:

'She's a natural winner. Things always happen when she's around.' (Teacher)

'I like her enthusiasm. She understands when I tell her if she's been wrong or selfish.' (Team manager)

www.dynamicpapers.com

BLANK PAGE

www.dynamicpapers.com

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Passage A © *New Internationalist*. "Entering the American Zone – Letter from Lebanon" by Reem Haddad. March 2000.