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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/31**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition **October/November 2009**

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

5351010378

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **two** questions: **Question 1** (**Section 1**) and **one** question from **Section 2**.
Dictionaries are **not** permitted.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

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Section 1: Directed Writing

1 You are the editor of a local weekly newspaper.

A national charity is planning to open a residential home for troubled teenagers in your area. You have viewed the homepage of the organisation that is opening the centre and one of your colleagues has also conducted interviews with a range of local people.

Some local people have objected to the residential home and some of their opinions are given below.

Write an editorial, in which you:

- Argue strongly in favour of opening the residential home
- Persuade your readers that their fears are mistaken and their objections are groundless

Base your writing on the ideas found in the web-page material opposite, and on the objections given below.

You may include additional details to make the article more authentic but these must be related to the reading material provided.

You should write between 1 ½ and 2 sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

Up to 10 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 15 marks for the quality of your writing. [25]

Objections raised in interviews with local people:

"I'm not happy... I just hope there aren't any problems with shoplifting."

J. P. Marshall, local shopkeeper.

"It's a bad idea. I bet the Headteacher won't be keen when she hears about it. I've heard that they're going to be building an adventure playground on the wasteland but I'm worried about groups of problem teenagers hanging around play areas that are meant for young children. All teenagers frighten me."

Sarah Long, mother of a toddler at the nursery.

"The important thing is that our community is safe and pleasant for its residents. I'm not sure how this initiative will benefit anyone except the teenagers involved."

Torben Wehymeyer, town councillor.

"We don't need this place. We don't want to know about their problems. We've got a good school here and we certainly don't want them bringing their bad behaviour into the classroom."

Cindy Lau, student at the high school.

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OUR SERVICES

We have a free national help-line, providing advice and information 365 days a year.

We have several residential homes, fully integrated into communities around the country.

Our homes also offer a day programme for those who wish to drop in, including a hot meal, medical care, education and sport.

All of the teenagers we help are offered counselling and take part in voluntary projects in the community.

Home number 6 planned!

Work is almost complete on the plans for a new residential home. HHTN Chairperson, Amirah Aristeh, explains: "This five-bedroom facility will specialise in offering teenagers a real chance to get back into the world of education. Tutors will visit the home every day until students are ready to go back into school.

There will also be work experience placements arranged and, as with all our homes, the teenagers will have to do their share of the housework, making sure that they're ready for independent living at 18.

As always there will be medical help (we have already secured the co-operation of a local health centre) and counselling on offer. There will also be a programme of supervised activities for residents and day visitors to ensure their time is well-spent.

Funds for the home will be raised in part by local business people and we hope there will even be a sponsored swim at the nearby school. The plan is for the home to have a grand opening with music from local students and food provided by a local supermarket."

Employee of the Month - Max Rylance

I started working for the network when I was a student, answering a phone line. At first it was pretty straightforward – explaining the legal issues involved in leaving home, sending out leaflets and that kind of thing, but then I started thinking about the life homeless kids have living rough and I went out with a patrol. It was shocking!

Then I got asked if I could pass on some of my knowledge (I was training to be an accountant at the time) so I started giving maths lessons in the shelter's classroom. There was one girl who was really good at maths but she hadn't even thought about doing exams because she'd run away from home after her Mum got re-married. She had been sleeping on the street ever since. I think that's when I realised I wanted to get more involved.

There was a boy whose story really affected me. He had some learning difficulties and had been bullied really badly at school so he started missing classes. One day he just didn't bother to go home. After six weeks of wandering around the streets, he ended up at our door. We managed to get him reunited with his parents and moved to a new school. Of course, there are other teenagers with major problems such as drug abuse or mental illness, but lots of them have just made a drastic decision after a row and really they're great kids.

Do get in touch if you'd like to help at the new home I hope to be managing.

Max



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Section 2: Composition

Write about 350 – 450 words on **one** of the following:

Argumentative/discursive writing

2 **(a)** 'Television is a dangerous influence on teenage behaviour.' Do you agree? [25]

OR

(b) Should young people have more influence on what happens in their lives? How does your country treat its young people? [25]

Descriptive writing

3 **(a)** Describe the features of the landscape or town which would form the setting for your ideal interactive computer game. [25]

OR

(b) A 'Reality' TV show is looking for families to take part in a new series called 'Meet My Family' and you want to take part. Only four members of your family can be chosen. Describe these family members to the TV production team, making each person sound interesting to the viewers. [25]

Narrative writing

4 **(a)** 'Forgiveness'. Write a story in which forgiveness plays a central part. [25]

OR

(b) Write a story, or part of a story, in which a character discovers something vitally important that people need to know about, but nobody will listen. [25]

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