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CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

International General Certificate of Secondary Education

MARK SCHEME for the October/November 2012 series

0500 FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0500/31 Paper 3 (Directed Writing and Composition), maximum raw mark 50

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2012 series for most IGCSE, GCE Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary Level components and some Ordinary Level components.

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Note: All Examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated. Nonetheless, the content must be clearly related to and derived from the passage.

Section 1: Directed Writing

Question 1

This question tests Writing Objectives W1–W5 (15 marks):

- articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined
- order and present facts, ideas and opinions
- understand and use a range of appropriate vocabulary
- use language and register appropriate to audience and context
- make accurate and effective use of paragraphs, grammatical structures, sentences, punctuation and spelling.

AND aspects of Reading Objectives R1–R3 (10 marks):

- understand and collate explicit meanings
- understand, explain and collate implicit meanings and attitudes
- select, analyse and evaluate what is relevant to specific purposes.

Read the article opposite. Write a letter to the journalist, Dennis Nadel, in which you comment on his views and argue for your own views about teenagers and digital communication.

In your letter you should give the advantages of digital communication for teenagers, address the writer's concerns and argue your own views.

Base your letter on what you have read in the article. Be careful to use your own words. Begin your letter, 'Dear Sir, I have read your article and would like to comment on your point of view…'.

Write between 1½ 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]

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Candidates may use the following ideas:

A Advantages (some of which are implicit)

- Most teenagers own a mobile phone; it's the easiest form of communication
- Teenagers are able to use digital communication to:
  - share pictures/swap videos
  - play games on mobile phones (which prevents boredom)
  - share information and socialise with many friends on social network sites
  - stay in touch with friends made on holidays/school exchanges
  - learn about other countries and cultures
- A defence against direct physical bullying in the playground/better action can be taken against cyberbullying online
- Breaks down barriers
- Provides 21st century skills that allow success in work

B Response to the views of the journalist (evaluative)

- Not every teenager has 450 social network friends/know the difference between real friends and online acquaintances
- Not all teenagers are fixated on texting or broadband/lead healthy lives that include sport, music or meeting up in cafés
- Mobile phones are essential in this day and age; some may go overboard, but many keep parents informed (e.g. where they are/that they are safe)
- It is the 'here and now' way of communicating and adults also rely on this
- Many teenagers derive a lot of happiness or fun from activities conducted using this communication
- Astute enough to know about the dangers of predators/the pitfalls of cyberbullying – only affects a few
- Teenagers have as many face-to-face friendships as adults had when they were young
- Question the legality of companies and universities and colleges, prying into private online social network pages – some may mention the furore over journalists' hacking

C Potential arguments with the journalist's views (implicit)

- This is how the world communicates now and it is how we deal with others
- As our parents did in their teens, we are also establishing our own identities/becoming independent
- Favourite musicians, writers and community projects advertise on social network sites
- Keep up-to-date with newest developments
- Some feel safer communicating online/by text before we meet up with others/dating
- Learn how to think before we send texts/reply online, which makes us more thoughtful/mature
- More aware of dangers/privacy than you think because we pass on information
- We have a sense of community online/at the end of a phone so we can share concerns
- We have friends in countries across the world who we may want to meet
- We use digital communication to discuss homework and widen our views

Accept all other relevant ideas derived from the passage and relevant to the question as a basis for the letter.

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The question is marked out of 10 for Reading and 15 for Writing.

Use the following table to give a mark out of 10 for Reading.

Band 1	**9 – 10**	Gives a thorough, perceptive, convincing evaluation. Reads effectively between the lines. Shows understanding by developing much of the reading material and integrating it into a response to the task.
Band 2	**7 – 8**	Some evidence of evaluation, engaging with a few of the main points with success. Uses reading material to support the argument. Occasionally effective development of ideas in the material.
Band 3	**5 – 6**	Reproduces a number of points to make a satisfactory response. The response covers the material adequately, but may miss opportunities to develop it relevantly or at length.
Band 4	**3 – 4**	Selects points from the passage rather literally and/or uses the material thinly. Does not combine points into a connected response.
Band 5	**1 – 2**	Parts of the response are relevant, though the material may be repeated or used inappropriately.
Band 6	**0**	Response does not relate to question and/or too much unselective copying directly from the material to gain a mark in Band 5.

Use the following table to give a mark out of 15 for Writing.

Band 1	**13 – 15**	Consistent sense of audience; authoritative and appropriate style. Fluent, varied sentences; wide range of vocabulary. Strong sense of structure, paragraphing and sequence. Virtually no error.
Band 2	**10 – 12**	Sense of audience mostly secure; there is evidence of style and fluency; sentences and vocabulary are effective. Secure overall structure; mostly well-sequenced. Writing is mainly accurate.
Band 3	**8 – 9**	Occasional sense of audience; mostly written in correctly structured sentences; vocabulary may be plain but adequate for the task; mostly quite well structured. Errors minor.
Band 4	**5 – 7**	Inconsistent style; simple or faultily constructed sentences; vocabulary simple; basic structure. Frequent errors, including sentence separation.
Band 5	**3 – 4**	Inappropriate expression; the response is not always well sequenced. Serious errors in sentence structure/vocabulary/grammar/punctuation.
Band 6	**1 – 2**	Expression unclear; flawed sentence construction and order. Persistent serious errors interfere with the conveying of meaning.
Band 7	**0**	Problems of expression and accuracy are too serious to gain a mark in band 6.

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Section 2: Composition

Questions 2 (a), 2 (b), 3 (a), 3 (b), 4 (a) and 4 (b).

Give two marks:
- the first mark is out of 13 for content and structure: see Table A
- the second mark is out of 12 for style and accuracy: see Table B

The maximum overall mark for the Composition is 25. Write the total clearly at the end as follows: C7 + S10 = 17 (C standing for 'content and structure', S for 'style and accuracy').

Argumentative/Discursive Writing

2 **(a)** 'Parents and teachers place too much pressure on teenagers and expect them to work too hard at school and at home'. What are your views on this statement? [25]

OR

(b) 'Charity begins at home; therefore each country should help itself rather than helping others.' Argue for or against this claim. [25]

Descriptive Writing

3 **(a)** A major cycling race is coming through your town centre. Imagine you are at the front of the crowd waiting for the cyclists to appear. Describe the sense of expectation and the arrival of the competitors. [25]

OR

(b) You are accidentally locked in your school after everyone has left. Describe the atmosphere and how this makes you feel. [25]

Narrative Writing

4 **(a)** Write a story entitled 'Caught in the Act'. [25]

OR

(b) Begin a story with a character who has lost something important to them. [25]

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COMPOSITION TASKS: TABLE A – CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

	ARGUMENTATIVE/ DISCURSIVE TASK	DESCRIPTIVE TASK	NARRATIVE TASK
Band 1 11 – 13	• Consistently **well developed, logical** stages in an overall, at times **complex**, argument. • **Each stage is linked** to the preceding one, and sentences within paragraphs are soundly sequenced.	• There are many well-defined, well-developed ideas and images, describing **complex atmospheres** with a range of details. • **Overall structure is provided through devices** such as the movements of the persona, the creation of a short time span, or the creation of atmosphere or tension. There is no confusion with writing a story. Repetition is avoided and the sequence of sentences makes the picture clear to the reader.	• The narrative is **complex and sophisticated** and may contain devices such as sub-texts, flashbacks and time lapses. Cogent details are provided where necessary or appropriate. • Different parts of the story are **balanced and the climax carefully managed**. Sentence sequences are sometimes arranged to produce effects such as the **building up of tension** or providing a sudden turn of events.
Band 2 9 – 10	• Each stage of the argument is **defined and developed**, although the explanation **may not be consistent**. • The stages follow in a **generally cohesive** progression. Paragraphs are mostly well sequenced, although some may finish less strongly than they begin.	• There is a good range of **images** with **interesting details which contribute to a sense of atmosphere**. • These are formed into an **overall picture of some clarity**, largely consistent and effective. There may be occasional repetition, and opportunities for development or the provision of detail may be missed. Sentences are often well sequenced.	• The writing **develops some interesting features, but not consistently so**. Expect the use of detail and some attention to character or setting. • Writing is orderly and the beginning and ending are satisfactorily managed. **The reader is well aware of the climax even if it is not fully effective**. Sequencing of sentences provides clarity and engages the reader in events or atmosphere.

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Band 3 **7 – 8**	• There is a **series of relevant points** and a clear attempt is made to develop some of them. These points are straightforward and logical/coherent. • Repetition is avoided, but the order of the stages in the overall argument can be changed without adverse effect. The sequence of the sentences within paragraphs is satisfactory, but **the linking of ideas may be insecure**.	• There is a **selection of relevant ideas, images, and details**, which satisfactorily address the task. An attempt is made to create atmosphere. • The description provides **a series of points** rather than a sense of their being combined to make an overall picture, but some ideas are developed successfully, albeit straightforwardly. Some sentences are well sequenced.	• A **straightforward but cohesive story** with identification of features such as character and setting. • While **opportunities for appropriate development of ideas are sometimes missed**, overall structure is competent, and some features of a developed narrative are evident. Sentences are usually sequenced to narrate events clearly.
Band 4 **5 – 6**	• Mainly relevant points are made and they are **developed partially with some brief effectiveness**. • The overall argument shows signs of structure but may be sounder at the beginning than at the end, or may drift away from the topic. There may be **some repetition**. The sequence of sentences may be occasionally insecure.	• Some relevant ideas are provided and **occasionally developed a little, perhaps as a narrative**. There are some descriptive details, but the use of event may overshadow them. • There is some overall structure, but the writing **may lack direction and intent**. There may be interruptions in the sequence of sentences and/or some lack of clarity.	• Responds relevantly to the topic, but is **only a series of chronological events** with occasional references to character and setting. • Overall structure is sound, but there are examples where **particular parts are too long or short**. **The climax is not effectively described or prepared**. Sentence sequences narrate events and occasionally contain irrelevances.

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Band 5 **3 – 4**	• **A few relevant points** are made and may be expanded into paragraphs, but development is very simple and not always logical. • There is weakness of sequencing overall and within paragraphs. Paragraphing is inconsistent. **Repetition and an inability to sustain relevant argument are obvious**.	• Content is relevant but **lacking in scope or variety**. Opportunities to provide development and detail are frequently missed. • The overall structure, though readily discernible, **lacks form and dimension**. Paragraphing is inconsistent. The reliance on identifying events, objects and/or people sometimes leads to a sequence of sentences without progression.	• **A very simple narrative**; it may consist of nonsensical or confusing events. • **Unequal or inappropriate importance is given to parts of the story**. Paragraphing is inconsistent. Dialogue may be used ineffectively. There is no real climax. Sentence sequences are used only to link simple series of events.
Band 6 **1 – 2**	• **A few points are discernible** but any attempt to develop them is very limited. • Overall **argument only progresses here and there** and the sequence of sentences is poor.	• Some relevant facts are identified, but the **overall picture is unclear** and lacks development. • There are examples of sequenced sentences, but there is also repetition and **muddled ordering**.	• Stories are **incoherent and narrate events indiscriminately**. Endings are absent or lack effect. • The **shape of the narrative is unclear**; some of the content has no relevance to the plot. Sequences of sentences are sometimes poor, leading to a lack of clarity.
Band 7 **0**	• Rarely relevant, little material, and presented in a disorderly structure. Not sufficient to be placed in Band 6.	• Rarely relevant, little material, and presented in a disorderly structure. Not sufficient to be placed in Band 6.	• Rarely relevant, little material, and presented in a disorderly structure. Not sufficient to be placed in Band 6.

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COMPOSITION TASKS: TABLE B – STYLE AND ACCURACY

Band 1	**11 – 12**	**Writing is consistent, stylistically fluent, linguistically strong and accurate; has sense of audience.** Look for: • appropriately used ambitious words • complex sentence structures where appropriate.
Band 2	**9 – 10**	**Writing is mostly fluent, sometimes linguistically effective and largely accurate; may have some sense of audience.** Look for: • signs of a developing style • some ability to express shades of meaning.
Band 3	**7 – 8**	**Writing is clear, competent (if plain) in vocabulary and grammar; errors perhaps frequent, but minor.** Look for: • mostly correct sentence separation • occasional precision and/or interest in choice of words.
Band 4	**5 – 6**	**Writing is clear and accurate in places, and uses limited vocabulary and grammar; errors occasionally serious.** Look for: • simple sentences • errors of sentence separation.
Band 5	**3 – 4**	**Writing is simple in vocabulary and grammar; errors are distracting and sometimes serious, but overall meaning can be followed.** Look for: • definite weaknesses in sentence structures • grammatical errors such as incorrect use of prepositions and tense.
Band 6	**1 – 2**	**Writing is weak in vocabulary and grammar; serious, persistent errors; meaning is blurred.** Look for: • faulty and/or rambling sentences • language insufficient to carry intended meaning.
Band 7	**0**	**Writing is difficult to follow because of inadequate language proficiency and error.**

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