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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/33**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition **October/November 2012**

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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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.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

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

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Section 1: Directed Writing

1 Read the article on cars by Winston Graham, which is printed on the opposite page.

Write a letter to Winston Graham saying whether or not you agree that motor cars are a curse.

In your letter you should:

- identify and evaluate the writer's views
- use your own ideas to support your comments on the writer's views.

Base your letter on what you have read in the article. Be careful to use your own words.

Begin your letter, 'Dear Winston Graham…'.

Write between 1½ to 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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The Curse of the Motor Car

I want to convince you that the motor car, or automobile, is a bad thing for nearly all of us. While it is true that much of the world's population is too poor to own a car or even to have access to transport, for most of us car ownership is an ambition that is easily realised. This is shown by a visit to most of the towns and cities the world over, where our experience is made a misery by endless, noisy traffic jams. Instead of being able to enjoy the atmosphere, looking at shop windows or appreciating fine buildings, you are hemmed in by hooting vehicles apparently battling it out with each other. Just suppose that cars were banned from large areas of a town: it is not too much to suppose that other adequate means of transport could take you to your destination.

Furthermore, cars are dangerous to life and limb. They are capable of travelling at twice the maximum speed limits that most countries find they have to impose. Statistics tell you which countries are the most dangerous in terms of car deaths per thousand of the population. Can we afford to give thoughtless drivers, intent on showing off their driving 'skills' or trying to make up for being late, the chance to ignore their responsibilities to other road users?

Then again, cars are great polluters, emitting poisonous gases into the atmosphere and affecting health in ways that we still do not fully understand. One country has had to ban cars with odd and even registration numbers from the streets of its capital on alternate weekdays. Perhaps this is a step in the right direction. If there were only half or a quarter of the cars in the world on the road at any one given time, how might this affect the quality of our life?

Cars also have a corrupting influence because they appeal to our sense of greed and the wish to show off our wealth. People with bigger, faster cars never tire of boasting to their poorer neighbours about performance and comfort. They rarely need big cars with powerful engines but are afraid of losing their status in the company car park. Being rich in the first place, they can afford the various taxes, insurance premiums and charges for maintenance that many of us cannot. In addition, they often own more than one vehicle.

All these reasons lend weight to the notion that cars have little positive to be said for them. I am not trying to argue that there should be no transport or that people should stay at home. Far from it; but there are obvious alternatives. Only one company executive can travel through a busy city in a limousine, while 50 can fit into a bus. Thousands of commuters can arrive for work using efficient train services. Walking a short distance to work through traffic-free streets is good for their health and relaxing for the mind. In some towns motorised vehicles have for the most part been banned and people make the final stage of their journey by bicycle. 'Borrow a bicycle' schemes can be set up, whereby you can collect one from one place and return it to another, either free or for a small fee. In one capital city, the outlying villages are served by buses that terminate at mass transit underground stations, which in turn connect with a city-wide tram system. You can usually make your entire journey with one ticket.

It is a matter of determination to invest in an infrastructure that uses road, rail and even waterways intelligently and for the benefit of the whole community; determination to stand up against those who have the money and the power to claim special treatment for themselves. For the majority, subsidised transport can make it worthwhile to keep their cars at home, and high taxes can make a family think twice about the number of cars they own. We could, for example, think of new ways of charging motorists for using roads. Devices would calculate the distance travelled in any one journey and payment would be automatically deducted from the motorist's account. If we do not tackle the problem of the car, it will continue to make our lives less bearable in the future.

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[Turn over

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Section 2: Composition

Write about 2 sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting, on **one** of the following:

Argumentative/Discursive Writing

2 **(a)** 'Dreams are important in our lives.' Discuss this view. [25]

OR

(b) 'The small things that we own are the most precious.' Do you agree? [25]

Descriptive Writing

3 **(a)** Imagine that after some years you revisit a place you used to know well, only to find that everything has changed. Write a description of the place now and how the changes make you feel. [25]

OR

(b) Describe the atmosphere of a quiet street or neighbourhood which is then suddenly disturbed. [25]

Narrative Writing

4 **(a)** Write the story of what happens after a place which has been locked for many years is finally opened. [25]

OR

(b) Write a story entitled 'The Return of the Voyager'. [25]

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