Cambridge IGCSE

Cambridge Assessment International Education
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/32**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition **February/March 2019**

READING BOOKLET INSERT

2 hours

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Reading Booklet Insert contains the reading passages for use with **Section 1**, **Question 1** on the Question Paper.

You may annotate this Reading Booklet Insert and use the blank spaces for planning.
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This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

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Read the **two** passages carefully, and then answer **Question 1** on the Question Paper.

In this article, the writer discusses the experience and benefits of going to university.

Is university really worth it? Hannah Morrish tackles some of the common myths about student life and higher education.

Going to university to study for a degree is as invaluable now as it ever has been. Yes, there are other paths you can follow, and it's always worth considering your options, but don't let anyone put you off university if that's what you want.

University is like everything in life: you only get out what you put in. So, inquisitive students who are not afraid to work hard will leave fully rewarded, both in terms of personal satisfaction and employability.

New evidence from the UK has revealed that three and a half years after leaving university, 96 per cent of graduates were in employment or undertaking further study. It's true that a degree itself is not enough to secure a job – employers are looking for solid communication skills, experience of administration, initiative and commitment. These are skills you can acquire from your overall university experience, if not from studying your chosen subject. Some universities offer career weeks and careers advisors.

Many students will supplement their bank balances by working part-time, thus using their time productively. But even if they are not picking up extra cash by working, students are generally industrious and committed to developing themselves. Some set up new volunteering projects or create new societies and groups that bring people together. There is no excuse for watching endless episodes of the latest TV series on your days off. Universities are excellent environments for students to hone their leadership skills and inspire other students to do the same. Don't believe me? Just join your university entrepreneurs' society.

The financial cost of a degree can seem daunting, but this shouldn't put you off. Loans are available to cover both tuition fees and your living costs. Yes, the level of debt when you finish your degree is difficult to ignore, but it's often the case that you will barely notice the repayments once you are earning a good salary.

However, it's important not to think about university costs as simply paying for lectures and seminars. You'll have access to fantastic learning resources. Listening to experienced lecturers means you learn about the latest research in their chosen fields. You'll also get the opportunity to be guided in your specialism, and receive expert feedback on your work.

Make the most of it. Education just for the sake of education shouldn't be dismissed.

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In the extract from a different article, three young people explain why they won't be applying for a university place.

Hazel: Since I don't know what I want to do for my career, I couldn't see a reason to go to university. Instead, I'm going to give myself those three years to try out lots of different things and work out what I really want to do. I want to try to find something I really love rather than study something I might regret.

Ajay: Work experience while at school made me realise that I didn't need to go to university. I had intended to go to university, but faced with a choice of three years of studies, or going straight into work and avoiding huge student debts, it seemed like an obvious choice. I talked to my parents about it and we agreed it was better to get professional qualifications. I'm just not someone who learns by sitting at a desk. I'll miss the lazy student life perhaps, but I'll still have a social life.

Edon: I found school and exams overwhelming and knew I would not be able to cope with the university workload. I do not want to live knowing that I have massive debts to pay back. My parents used to say if you have a degree you'll be paid more, but it's my decision. I'm trying to find work but many young people are trying to find summer jobs at the same time. Almost all of my friends are going to university. It does make me feel jealous, but I'll try to make the best of any situation I end up in.

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