UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/33**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition **May/June 2011**

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.

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Section 1: Directed writing

1 Read the following discussion and consider the views of both the teacher and her students.

Imagine that you are one of the students involved in the discussion. **Write an article for your school magazine about how people use modern technology.**

In your magazine article you should:

- examine issues about family and social life;
- examine issues about health and safety;
- give your own view and develop your arguments.

Base your magazine article on the ideas found in the discussion and be careful to use your own words.

You should write between 1½ and 2 sides, allowing for the size of your handwriting.

Up to ten marks are available for the content of your answer and up to fifteen marks for the quality of your writing.

[25]

After a Communication Studies lesson, the teacher, Mrs Trapido, and three students discuss modern technology.

Mrs Trapido: That lesson makes me more worried than ever about your physical well being. Surely it's not a good thing that you use modern technology to escape from reality so often?

Bharat: So, what do you do to escape from the stresses of your job? No doubt you 'up the volume' on your classical music in the car or watch the latest soap opera on television. Either way, it's not that different.

Mrs Trapido: Okay, we all need to switch off now and then, but the kids I see are permanently hooked up to some gadget that stops them communicating with others. My son is constantly in his own bubble; if he's not on the phone to a friend then he's 'shuffling' and focused on his music player, and don't get me started on these new games and films he watches on a ridiculously small screen.

Katrin: It's the latest technology. It solves the problem of what film you all want to watch on television. He's just 'zoning out'; it's what we all do. In your day you would have gone to your room. Well, now we can block out situations that are stressful.

Mrs Trapido: What? Like family life? You see that's what worries me. He's there in the room with us, but he's not really there.

Ali: Well, it depends on how high the volume is! I can easily listen to my music as well as tune in to what's being said around me. If my mother starts an argument, then I just turn the volume up to the maximum!

Bharat: That's how I like to listen to my music anyway. Loud.

Mrs Trapido: You see that also concerns me. New studies prove it is dangerous to listen to really loud music as it can cause hearing loss.

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Katrin: Well, what about you and your laptop? You're always hunched over it typing, risking injury to your back and your hands. You see, you condemn our use of technology, but you forget how much people older than us rely on it. Plus, if anything goes wrong with your new devices, you usually ask us to fix it.

Mrs Trapido: Okay, I know you belong to the technological society, but it doesn't stop me worrying about your health. My laptop isn't a miniscule gadget that requires me to risk my eyesight to see the screen. The keys on your game players are so small that you could suffer from repetitive strain injury or even arthritis in the future.

Katrin: I get your point. However, we know that we should have breaks when our eyes get tired or our fingers ache.

Mrs Trapido: What about the dangers of walking around or cycling whilst the latest rap song is blaring in your ears? You're oblivious to the traffic around you and you risk being in an accident. What's more, someone could attack you as you wouldn't be aware of their presence.

Ali: It is stupid to lock yourself up in your own world in a busy city, but is it very different from adult motorists talking on their mobiles and causing accidents?

Mrs Trapido: But it's in cities where I see most teenagers *not* interacting with what's going on around them, and they don't even mutter please or thank you to others who serve them.

Ali: You can't blame these devices for bad manners. Don't tell me that adults aren't tempted to block out the noise and stress of public transport! I saw an old guy with headphones on in the subway, blissfully unaware of his surroundings.

Mrs Trapido: Everyone over thirty looks old to you lot! My point is still relevant. I'm not just concerned about noise. I've even heard of discos where teenagers listen and dance to their own choice of music on their own headphones.

Katrin: Hey, that's a good idea! The world is changing. By the way, is that your cell phone ringing?

[Turn over for Section 2]

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Section 2: Composition

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

Argumentative/discursive writing

2 **(a)** 'Young people today do not have real friends. Long lists of names on social networking sites on the internet have taken their place.' Discuss this statement. [25]

OR

(b) Some people say that both girls and boys do better in single sex schools. What are your views? [25]

Descriptive writing

3 **(a)** Describe a restful place. [25]

OR

(b) Describe an alien's first impression of a town centre known to you. [25]

Narrative writing

4 **(a)** 'While I was looking idly through my family's old box of documents, I suddenly came across an official letter.' Imagine yourself as the narrator and continue this story. [25]

OR

(b) Take an old tale or myth and retell it as though it is happening in your country at this time. [25]

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