UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/33**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition **May/June 2012**

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

3319224706

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.

© UCLES 2012

Section 1: Directed Writing

1 Read the article on sport by Charity Williams, which is printed below.

Write a letter to Charity Williams, expressing your views on what you have read.

You may agree or disagree with the writer's arguments.

In your letter you should:

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

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

Begin your letter, 'Dear Charity Williams…'.

Write about 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]

The Price of Sport

In this year of the 2012 Olympic Games, I have become convinced that we take sport far too seriously. In former times, athletes came together from all parts of the world and competed against each other in a spirit of international friendliness. There was none of the razzmatazz, the over-elaborate, endless processions, the costly firework displays. There was none of the national pride or humiliation of today as each country obsessively tots up its gold medals – you will notice that silver and bronze medals have gradually been devalued. The host country, again basking in national pride, spends millions on ensuring that their games will be bigger, better, more innovative than ever before. Money that should have been spent on the environment or on culture is hived off for the sake of impressing the world's media – and for what? Just so that athletes will run faster, jump higher and break yet more world records.

What if this money were spent on things that really mattered – on countries that suffer from sudden, natural disasters, or that cannot feed or house their people? It is a matter of priority where a country decides to channel its resources, particularly in times of financial hardship.

My intention in writing this is not simply to make my readers question how international sporting events are staged. There are many other instances where, in attempts to reach the highest standards, money beyond the comprehension of most of us is poured into sport. Football is the prime example. Multimillionaire owners of clubs spend obscene amounts purchasing the best, world-class players and then pay them incredible wages just for kicking a ball about. Television companies pay increasingly ridiculous sums for the rights to screen matches, whether or not their viewers wish to watch them. With so much money involved, it only takes something to go wrong and a club is thrown into debt and bankruptcy. Football is known as 'the beautiful game' but its beauty is spoiled by money.

Money can also lead to corruption. Take betting, for instance. Many people disapprove of any sort of betting, but in some areas of professional sport it has become big business, so that players are tempted to 'fix' matches. In amateur sport, where players participate for the love of it, no such temptation exists.

© UCLES 2012

We should also be sorry about what sport does to some of our sporting celebrities. Many achieve fame through glowing reports in the media and reach a point where their country relies on them in international competition. Yet often, quite suddenly, the strain of working at the highest level is too much and, at the crucial moment, they are deemed to have let their country down. Success is followed by dismal failure and they are turned from heroes into villains.

For many, the cause of this is a sporting injury, which shortens their playing career. For others, the sudden shock of gaining so much wealth and fame turns their heads and leads them into private lives that are not in keeping with their sporting reputations. When players become so famous yet find that they cannot maintain their standard, they are vilified by the media and booed off the pitch. It is only when we, the public, take sport too seriously that we behave in this way towards people who are really just like you and me.

Sport is, at its best, an amateur activity. We do not have to pay vast sums to be entertained by those who have the natural skill to hit a ball in the middle of a bat and score a century for their cricket team. Think of the excitement of a school swimming competition – no money changes hands there. No, the real joy of sport lies in the atmosphere of the occasion and the concentration that comes with friendly rivalry. Winning, in itself, is not the proper aim of sport. For the true amateur it is what used to be called ‘playing the game’ or the ‘team spirit’. Are these old-fashioned ideas, or are they what previous generations knew all along, and then we forgot in our contemporary, greedy, materialistic society?

[Turn over for Section 2]

Section 2: Composition

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

Argumentative/Discursive Writing

2 **(a)** What do you think real friendship is? [25]

OR

(b) 'You should be proud of your country.' Discuss this statement. [25]

Descriptive Writing

3 **(a)** From your imagination, describe a warrior or a hero at the moment of victory. [25]

OR

(b) Describe the last moments before you leave a place forever. [25]

Narrative Writing

4 **(a)** Write a story entitled 'Into the Wilderness'. [25]

OR

(b) Write a story about someone who unintentionally did something which made headline news for one day. [25]

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

University of Cambridge International Examinations is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.

© UCLES 2012