Cambridge Assessment International Education
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/31**

Paper 1 Directed Writing and Composition **May/June 2019**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 50

Published

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 International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

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Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

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GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5: Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).
GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6: Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

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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 assessment objectives W1 to W5 (15 marks)

W1 articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined
W2 sequence facts, ideas and opinions
W3 use a range of appropriate vocabulary
W4 use register appropriate to audience and context
W5 make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar

and reading assessment objectives R1 to R3 (10 marks)

R1 demonstrate understanding of explicit meanings
R2 demonstrate understanding of implicit meanings and attitudes
R3 analyse, evaluate and develop facts, ideas and opinions

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Question	Answer	Marks
1	**Write a letter to the website in response to the ideas in the article.** **In your letter, you should:** • **evaluate the different arguments given in the article** • **explain how far you agree or disagree with the views in the article about the dangers and the benefits of time spent by young people in front of a screen.** **Base your letter on what you have read in the article, but be careful to use your own words. Address each of the bullet points.** **Begin your letter, 'Dear Digital Trends …'** **Write about 250 to 350 words.** **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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Question	Answer	Marks
1	Notes on task: **Responses *might* use the following ideas:** **A1** some ideas from the passage/possible evaluation points • adults are equally guilty of overusing screens / perhaps children should have a better example set • screens are vital tools of modern life, not just for entertainment / children need to learn how to use them • around 6.5 hours seems standard for modern culture / both the UK and US have similar rates • the 2 hour recommendation is 25 years old / the world has changed drastically since then • the recommendation is for entertainment on screen only / screen time for other uses is much more widespread and more necessary than it used to be • the 'square eyes' reference suggests that such concerns have been expressed for years • there are health implications for excessive screen time – obesity, sleep, language development • the 'wrong kinds of media' create serious problems / responsible adults can mitigate these, however • young people are disproportionately influenced by media / this can be exploited • some implication that 'clueless parents' should take more responsibility • media content in itself can be beneficial or harmful/adults need to monitor appropriateness and take action • occasional exposure to harmful content is not going to damage children / the dangers can be exaggerated • adults can restrict screen time if they try / only children's entertainment screen time can really be restricted which might seem unfair • parents have to limit screen time when children are very young / how realistic is it that teenagers will stick to these limits?	

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Question	Answer	Marks
1	**A2 own views which might show evaluation** • the 2 hour limit is unjust because it only limits entertainment • few adults restrict their own screen time and some health drawbacks apply to them too, e.g. obesity • the 2 hour limit is unrealistic now, most teens' entertainment is online • social interaction happens online these days, teens will miss out without it • technology can be good for maintaining contact with distant friends and relatives • hiding from technology is not a good way to learn self-control • harmful content is easily managed with technological controls and blocking devices • some candidates may agree that they spend too much time looking at screens, they may evaluate by discussing the difficulties of limiting themselves • parents can no longer control what their teens have access to, there's no point having the 2 hour limit • teaching children to avoid harmful content is better than blanket limits on screen time • today's children are mature enough to make their own decisions • today's children can multi-task and can manage their time to include both their screen time and their outdoor leisure pursuits The discriminator is the evaluation of the arguments, which requires candidates to draw inferences and make judgements about the validity of the arguments in the passage. Perceptive responses may compare different points of view and this should affect the decision. Ideas and opinions must be derived from the passage, developing its claims and assessing their implications with clear and persuasive arguments.	

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Marking criteria for Section 1, Question 1.

Table A, Writing:
Use the following table to give a mark out of 15 for Writing.

Band 7 13–15	Consistent sense of audience; authoritative and appropriate style. Fluent, varied sentences; wide range of vocabulary. Strong sense of structure, paragraphing and sequence. Spelling, punctuation and grammar almost always accurate.
Band 6 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. Spelling, punctuation and grammar generally accurate.
Band 5 7–9	Occasional sense of audience; mostly written in correctly structured sentences; vocabulary may be plain but adequate for the task; mostly quite well structured. Minor, but more frequent, errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar.
Band 4 5–6	Inconsistent style; simple or faultily constructed sentences; vocabulary simple; basic structure. Frequent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar.
Band 3 3–4	Inappropriate expression; the response is not always well sequenced. Errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar impair communication.
Band 2 1–2	Expression unclear; flawed sentence construction and order. Persistent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar impede communication.
Band 1 0	The response cannot be understood.

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Table B, Reading:
Use the following table to give a mark out of 10 for Reading.

Band 6 9–10	Gives a thorough, perceptive, convincing response. Reads effectively between the lines. Shows understanding by developing much of the reading material and assimilating it into a response to the task.
Band 5 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 from the passages.
Band 4 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 3 3–4	Selects points from the passages rather literally and/or uses the material thinly. Points should be connected.
Band 2 1–2	Parts of the response are relevant, though the material may be repeated or used inappropriately.
Band 1 0	There is very little or no relevance to the question or to the passages, or the response copies unselectively or directly from the passages.

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Section 2: Composition

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

This question tests writing assessment objectives W1 to W5 (25 marks)

W1 articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined
W2 sequence facts, ideas and opinions
W3 use a range of appropriate vocabulary
W4 use register appropriate to audience and context
W5 make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar

Question	Answer	Marks

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Question	Answer	Marks
2, 3	**Write about 350 to 450 words on <u>one</u> of the following questions.** **<u>Up to 13 marks are available for the content and structure of your answer, and up to 12 marks for the style and accuracy of your writing.</u>** **<u>Descriptive Writing</u>** **2(a) Describe a familiar place at an unusual time or from a different point of view.** **<u>OR</u>** **2(b) Describe what you see, hear and feel when you look up into the sky as day changes into night.** **<u>OR</u>** **<u>Narrative Writing</u>** **3(a) Write a story which includes the words, 'I tried to stay calm'.** **<u>OR</u>** **3(b) Write a story with the title, 'It's Now or Never'.** **Marking criteria for Section 2, Questions 2(a), 2(b), 3(a) and 3(b)** Use table A to give a mark out of 13 for content and structure, and table B to give a mark out of 12 for style and accuracy.	**25**

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Table A, Composition: Content and structure

	General criteria	Specific criteria	
		Descriptive Writing	**Narrative Writing**
Band 7 11–13	**W1:** Content is complex, sophisticated and realistic. **W2:** Overall structure is secure and the constituent parts well balanced and carefully managed.	Many well-defined and developed ideas and images create a convincing, original, overall picture with varieties of focus.	The plot is convincing with elements of fiction such as description, characterisation and climax, and with cogent detail.
Band 6 9–10	**W1:** Content develops some interesting and realistic features in parts of the writing. **W2:** Writing is orderly, and beginnings and endings are satisfactorily managed.	Frequent, well-chosen images and details give an impression of reality, although the overall picture is not consistent.	The plot incorporates some interesting features, but not consistently so: the reader may be aware of the creation of suspense and a sense of climax.
Band 5 7–8	**W1:** Content is straightforward with ideas, features and images that satisfactorily address the task; some opportunities for development are taken. **W2:** Overall structure is competent and some sentences are well sequenced.	A selection of relevant ideas, images and details addresses the task, even where there is a tendency to write a narrative.	The plot is straightforward and cohesive with some identification of features such as character and setting.
Band 4 5–6	**W1:** Content consists of relevant ideas that are briefly developed. **W2:** Overall structure is easily followed, though some constituent parts are too long or too short to be effective.	The task is addressed with a series of ordinary details, which may be more typical of a narrative.	Recording of relevant but sometimes unrealistic events outweighs other desirable elements of narrative fiction.
Band 3 3–4	**W1:** Content is simple, and the presentation of ideas and events may only be partially credible. **W2:** Overall structure is recognizable though paragraphing is inconsistent and sequences of sentences insecure.	Where a narrative is written, the recording of events may preclude the use of sufficient descriptive detail.	The plot is a simple narrative that may consist of events that are only partially credible or which are presented with partial clarity.

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	General criteria	Specific criteria	
		Descriptive Writing	**Narrative Writing**
Band 2 1–2	**W1:** Content is inconsistent in relevance, interest and clarity. **W2:** Structure is frequently unclear, revealing a limited grasp of purpose.	Some relevant facts are identified, but the overall picture is unclear and lacks development.	The plot lacks coherence and narrates events indiscriminately.
Band 1 0	**W1:** Content is rarely relevant and there is little material. **W2:** The structure is disorderly.	Individual ideas are not properly communicated and the effect is one of incoherence.	The plot is hard to follow and is only partially relevant.

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Table B, Composition: Style and accuracy

Band 7 **11–12**	Writing is consistent, stylistically fluent, linguistically strong and almost always accurate; has sense of audience. **W3:** Consistently wide range of appropriate vocabulary. **W4:** Subtle and effective sense of audience; appropriate use of varied sentence structures. **W5:** Spelling, punctuation and grammar almost always accurate.
Band 6 **9–10**	Writing is mostly fluent, sometimes linguistically effective and generally accurate; may have some sense of audience. **W3:** Obvious attempt to use range of vocabulary to interest the reader. **W4:** Partial or inferred sense of audience, with appropriate sentence structures. **W5:** Spelling, punctuation and grammar mainly accurate.
Band 5 **7–8**	Writing is clear, competent, if plain in vocabulary and grammatical structures; errors minor, but frequent. **W3:** Occasional precision and/or interest in choice of words. **W4:** Accurate if repetitive sentence structures **W5:** Minor but frequent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar.
Band 4 **5–6**	Writing is clear and accurate in places, and uses limited vocabulary and grammatical structures; errors occasionally serious. **W3:** Plain but mostly correct choice of words. **W4:** Correct use of simple sentence structures; some errors of sentence separation. **W5:** Frequent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar.
Band 3 **3–4**	Writing is simple in vocabulary and grammar; overall meaning can be followed, but errors are distracting and sometimes impair communication. **W3:** Words may sometimes communicate meaning satisfactorily. **W4:** Frequent weakness in sentence structures. **W5:** Errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar impair communication.

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Band 2 **1–2**	Writing is weak in vocabulary and grammar; persistent errors impede communication. **W3:** Insufficient language to carry intended meaning. **W4:** Faulty and/or rambling sentence structures. **W5:** Persistent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar impede communication.
Band 1 **0**	Writing is impossible to follow. Language proficiency is lacking; incorrect sentences; multiple errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

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