Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/23**

Paper 2 Directed Writing and Composition **May/June 2022**

INSERT **2 hours**

2027406807-I

INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading texts.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

DC (PQ) 302083/3
© UCLES 2022

[Turn over

Read **both** texts, and then answer **Question 1** on the question paper.

Text A: Permission to play: let's make fixing things cool again

This text is about encouraging people to repair their broken belongings.

Yellowed kitchen appliances, dust-streaked radios, unresponsive DVD players: the table was strewn with stuff that even a junk shop's discounts couldn't make enticing. Most of the electronics were broken and all of them had outlived their usefulness. Maybe our grandparents would have had a go at fixing objects but the number of children that day, screwdrivers in hand, who crowded the table just to get a look inside this stuff, made me hope we could revive old skills.

The participants of the event were a little different from those I usually cater for at iFixit, a free online repair guide for everything from cracked mobile phones to oil changes for your car. My company's mission is to teach as many people as possible how to fix the stuff they own, kids included.

And kids were just as eager to learn as we were to teach them. The venue was crowded and noisy, but once they pried up the hood of a device, the world faded as pint-sized tech explorers were let loose on intricate circuit boards and motors. One teenager spent two hours working on an obsolete video player. It was amazing to watch the old relic whirr back to life.

Kids are born tinkerers: they like to fiddle with contraptions, experiment with 'What happens if…?' All they need is someone to put a device in one hand, a screwdriver in the other, and ask, 'Do you want to take this apart?' and their eyes go wide with astonishment. After all, their parents have been telling them not to take things apart their entire lives.

As adults, we enjoy our toys and gadgets too, though ours are more expensive so we keep younger hands away. Give kids something to take apart and their faces light up with excitement. Give adults the same device, and intimidation clouds their faces. That fear comes from a lifetime of feeling like electronics are beyond us and we're not qualified to tackle them. There are all kinds of pressures on us to replace rather than fix.

Text B: Can we fix it? The repair cafes waging war on throwaway culture

The following text is about the 'repair shop cafe' movement.

A vacuum cleaner, two laptops, an e-reader, a washing machine, hair clippers, three chairs, a pair of jeans, and a remote-control helicopter. All broken.

It sounds like a pile of things that you'd stick in boxes and take to the rubbish tip. In fact, it's a list of things mended in a single afternoon by eager volunteers in just one of the many repair shop cafes springing up.

This repair cafe is part of a burgeoning international network aimed at confronting a world of 'stuff', of fridges and dishwashers littering dumps in countries far from where they were bought and the rubbish swilling through the oceans. There are now even TV programmes showing how treasured objects are restored and fixed.

The hair clippers belong to William, who describes himself as 'mechanically incompetent'. He sits down at the table of Christine who volunteers at the cafe, where people can bring household items to be fixed for free. In less than five minutes, Christine, a librarian, has unscrewed and removed the blades, cleaned inside the machine, oiled the blades, and screwed it all back together.

Today, the repairers will divert 24 kg of waste from going to landfill. Some items can't be fixed on the spot but very little needs to be thrown away.

Some volunteers are drawn to repair cafes to combat this 'throwaway culture'. The average lifespan for a piece of clothing in many countries is 3.3 years. In some countries it's less than that.

Manufacturers design products to break down after a certain amount of time, and make them difficult or expensive to fix. One repair cafe volunteer, Stuart Ward, explains, 'Fixing items is actively discouraged by many manufacturers. We believe in the right to repair. You own your equipment; you should be allowed to take a screwdriver to it and play with it.'

'Some repair cafes do the repair in front of the customer, not out in the back, not hidden,' says the lead IT technician in one repair cafe. 'It's a matter of confidence, not magic. Someone put it together, someone can take it apart.'

© UCLES 2022

BLANK PAGE

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.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

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

© UCLES 2022