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FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/22**

Paper 2 Directed Writing and Composition **May/June 2025**

INSERT **2 hours**

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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.

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

Text A

The following text is an article about ways in which cities across the world are planning to change.

More people now work from home for some or all of their working week.

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It could bring about further discrimination and inequality and territorial stigmatisation.'

Text B

The following text is a letter to a newspaper about proposals to redesign the city where the writer lives.

Dear editor,

I am writing to express my concerns about current proposals to drastically change my area of the city, where I have lived most of my life, into a so-called 'city village'. There are, of course, some benefits to the plan for residents: it's nice to be able to walk around without worrying about cars speeding through or rush-hour traffic filling the air with noxious fumes. However, the aspiration to reorganise our lives so that we rarely need to leave our neighbourhood means that we'll have to endure disruption and disputes about where these essential facilities will go for years.

And to what end? The designers making these proposals are convinced they know how we want to live, that we want to walk or cycle everywhere in all weathers and that we're prepared to accept a smaller life than we used to have. There's a vast cost involved in relocating services that work perfectly well where they are, just so that we can, so we're told, live 'happier' lives. In our region, money and resources are concentrated on the city, but how will that affect smaller towns and villages?

Communities are created by more than geography, and human beings find ways to look after each other without the help of designers. 'Community' doesn't mean just your street or your school any more. People actually like travelling to the city centre for a night out or a day visiting the grand museums with children, and many like the energy of city life. If I wanted a quiet suburban or village life, I'd have moved out of my city neighbourhood a long time ago.

Some laudable aims have informed the planners' vision, I will concede. Car ownership is killing the planet and local, small-scale businesses could, possibly, be boosted. But such a drastic change to our city needs to offer us more than a smaller life and narrower horizons.

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