UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/33**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition **October/November 2010**

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.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

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Section 1: Directed writing

1 Read the transcript of a radio interview, which is printed on the opposite page, from a programme series called 'Young Millionaires of Today'.

Imagine that you and a schoolfriend heard the broadcast. You disagree on whether you would want to become like Daniel Li.

Write the dialogue you have with your friend, in which you discuss Daniel Li's life so far and argue about the desirability of becoming successful in business at a young age.

In your dialogue you should:

- identify and comment on the personal characteristics which have made Daniel Li successful
- evaluate the sacrifices he has made and whether they are worth it.

Base what you write on the transcript you have read.

Begin the dialogue as follows:
Me: I think that Daniel Li must be an extraordinary person …

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

Up to 10 marks will be available for the content of your answer and up to 15 marks for the quality of your writing.

[25]

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Presenter: We are delighted to have with us in the studio Daniel Li, a local boy who, at the remarkable age of only 22, is now one of the world's youngest millionaire entrepreneurs. So tell us, Daniel, how you became a teen tycoon.

Daniel Li: It all started when I was 13. I wanted to be a musician in a rock band, and I needed some money to buy an instrument. I came across someone who had some scooters from a failed contract, bought the whole lot very cheap, and then sold them on. It seemed so easy to make money! I ran the business from my bedroom, sometimes staying up all night. After the scooters I reinvested the money in more stock at bargain prices. I was a millionaire by the time I was 15 – and it really bothered me that I was still too young to drive a car! It never seemed difficult. I just seemed to have a nose for a good deal, and I quickly branched out. The hardest part was being too young to have a bank account or a credit card – so I had to 'borrow' my father's so that I could start buying and selling shares.

I was still really interested in music, although I never did have time to set up my own band. But I did run some very profitable under-18 discos – I believe in giving people things they want that they can't get elsewhere. But music was also nearly my downfall. I was asked to invest in a music festival, which really appealed to me so I put a lot of money into it. It was a good business proposition and we sold thousands of tickets, but the company I was dealing with suddenly backed out. I lost more than 250,000 dollars, which was a huge blow. I had a big ego then – I thought I was invincible. My father was pretty devastated too. But I started again from scratch and learnt not to make that mistake again. Now I make sure before I invest that I can trust my partners and that my money is as safe as it can be, though there's always some risk involved, of course.

I come from a down-to-earth background – my father's a musician and my mother's a teacher – and I find it embarrassing when people keep talking about my wealth. I suppose I'm worth about 15 million dollars at the moment. Yes, I have an enviable life-style – I have houses on four continents – but I have lost out on normal life for someone my age. I have no friends, no girlfriend, I rarely see my family, and I have no qualifications; I was already running several businesses when my contemporaries went off to university. I'm constantly on the move – never in one country for more than a week at a time. Some people would say that it's a lonely and tiring existence. I spend my days either in offices or on planes, and my nights in hotel rooms. I've never had a holiday, and leisure activities are out of the question. It's definitely not a healthy life, but I wouldn't swap it for a more boring or conventional one.

My current project is an international luxury goods business which is revolutionary in its business model. The company is already worth 10 million dollars and it's still growing. Latin America has been a great growth area for us – within two years we were one of the top three luxury brands in the region. Yes, there may be the occasional economic downturn, but that's no reason why the company shouldn't continue to grow. There's plenty of opportunity to expand elsewhere, into developing regions with money to spend. Mind you, it's not always easy to do business in new places with no established international markets: some countries still have very traditional procedures and a lot of bureaucracy, so it can take up to nine months to launch a new product, and it can't be rushed. Sometimes it just doesn't work out and you have to walk away. And sometimes business competitors turn nasty and there's trouble, so I have to watch my back. In fact I've recently had to employ a bodyguard.

I'm not at all complacent. I could easily sit back now but I'm always looking for new ways to engage my talents, and new challenges to overcome. In five years I'd really like to go into politics and make a mark there. I have ideas for making the world a better place which keep me awake at night!

[Turn over for Section 2]

Section 2: Composition

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

Argumentative/discursive writing

2 **(a)** Discuss why it is easier to go to war than to achieve peace. [25]

OR

(b) Discuss an invention which changed people's lives in some way, commenting on its impact at the time and why it still plays an important role today. [25]

Descriptive writing

3 **(a)** Describe the surroundings and your emotions at a time when you felt very alone. [25]

OR

(b) Imagine that you are up in a hot air balloon. Describe what you see below and how the experience makes you feel. [25]

Narrative writing

4 **(a)** 'At last I could see a light at the end of the tunnel.' Use this sentence either to begin or end a story. [25]

OR

(b) You see an advertisement in a local newspaper which says: 'Are you brave and adventurous? Then telephone this number and change your life.' Start the story with the phone call you make. [25]

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