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FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/22**

Paper 2 Directed Writing and Composition **October/November 2024**

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: Teenage cooks: a minority?

The following passage is an article by a well-known restaurant critic.

'Within a generation we'll have forgotten how to cook,' warns celebrity chef, Jimmy Marron. His solution? His website offers 30 recipes, encouraging the youth of today to learn these 'basic cooking skills'.

'Cooking's fun and rewarding,' says Marron, who knows a bit about the rewards from cooking, having bought himself a collection of classic cars on the proceeds. 'You just need to get started.'

Is he right? About the forgetting how to cook I mean – and his additional claim that no one under 25 cooks anymore. Have our attitudes to cooking changed that much? Well, obviously in my time every teenager cooked wholesome broths to take to their sick grannies and absolutely nobody ate instant noodles or takeaway pizza!

Admittedly, I was encouraged to cook when I was a kid. We had 'domestic science' lessons at school, so from time to time I tortured my family with imaginative, if undercooked, concoctions warmed in a microwave, but these weren't real cooking skills. At university, living away from home, I was still mangling ingredients. I remember trying unsuccessfully to cook a fancy meal to impress a girlfriend. In my late 20s, I set up home with my wife and really started to learn how to cook. I bought books. I slaved away in the kitchen, in the way you do when you want to create a sense of domestic bliss.

Nowadays, in our house, our 13-year-old son must do chores each week – it gets him off the internet. Perhaps unsurprisingly, given what I do for a living, the one he chooses most regularly is preparing the family meal, under guidance from one of us. He's surprisingly good.

So, what have we learned? Well, not very much really. A study of 80 000 cookery book buyers recently reported that nearly half of them cooked once a week or more. Statistically, some of them must be young? And anecdotally I can say that all people ever want to talk to me about is cooking. So, the appetite is there for it.

Perhaps technology can be blamed (it usually can). Kids are spending too much time online to be interested in cooking. Though my suspicion is that people are heading back towards the kitchen because it's cheaper than the alternatives.

Text B: I don’t want to cook for my family, and I’m tired of feeling guilty about it

In the passage below, the writer describes visiting a friend’s house for a meal.

‘Try this,’ Lawrence said, offering me one of his creations – an artisan cracker stacked with goat cheese, topped with fresh herbs picked from his garden.

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I’m excellent at that.

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