Cambridge Assessment International Education

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FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH **0500/22**

Paper 2 Directed Writing and Composition **October/November 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: AI art

This text discusses the use of AI (artificial intelligence) such as robots to make art.

'Woman reading book, under a night sky, dreamy atmosphere,' I type in. Almost instantly, an image is returned to me showing what I've described. Welcome to the world of AI image generation, where you can create anything you'd care to imagine with a carefully worded prompt, even if in reality you can't draw more than stick figures. Want a song that sounds like it was written by your favourite musician, a romantic poem, or perhaps a script for a movie? AI can do all that too.

Of course, digital art in various forms has been around for years. The computer is a powerful tool for human artists, so powerful that some traditional artists consider it cheating. A computer provides a clean, organised workspace with the freedom to correct mistakes. Look at beautiful digital art, compare it with the things you draw with a pencil, and you can feel astonished and inadequate. If only you too could afford expensive computer software!

Traditional art isn't easy. It takes time to develop techniques and talent. Creating an image in paint or clay that people will recognise and react to in a certain way is a complicated process. Critics don't accept that it's the same with digital art. They dispute that drawing a line on paper is no different from drawing with a stylus pen or that 3D printing a sculpture is just one way to give form to artistic imagination. Now to add to their fury, AI art is taking things a step further away from the artists and seems to be everywhere.

But is it art, and will it put human artists out of a job?

The question 'What is art?' is not a new one, though most experts argue that art should reflect and interpret the world around us.

The fear is that AI will mean the end of human artists, or at least the end to paying them. Musicians, writers and artists continue to share concerns about the fairness of AI generators, which produce images, music and text, copying their styles and subjects. They argue that AI machines learn from thousands of images created by real painters and this means that AI art is nothing more sophisticated than a giant 'copy and paste', devaluing the hard work of the original artists. But should art be about reward for effort? A Picasso painting might have taken less time to complete than a house painter takes to re-do your kitchen, but that does not make your kitchen a masterpiece.

It may seem alarming, but isn't the AI engine just that: an engine, a tool? It makes no creative judgements. Someone must guide the AI, decide what changes to make, and when to stop. Think of it like this: historically, the introduction of the camera erased the need to have a portrait or landscape painting. If you wanted a realistic image, you could just take a photo.

Photography had a vast impact, just as AI is starting to, but it did not spell the end of art – instead, it opened new opportunities. Photography allowed for new ways to express artistic intent. Now the world has photographers, filmmakers, and a host of other happy creative artistic people all earning money.

It is possible that AI engines too will be an incredibly rich source of inspiration in ways yet to be discovered. Far from shutting down artistic expression, they allow anyone, with or without drawing or painting skills, to imagine new worlds, connect disparate ideas and produce engaging art.

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Text B: Young artist of the future

This text is an advertisement for a school art competition.

Is your child a talented artist – perhaps they play an instrument, paint or have a talent for drawing, writing or sculpture?

If you answered yes to that question, it's time to enter them in our 'Young artist of the future' creative arts competition!

We are asking our young people to reflect on the theme of 'Friends, families and communities' through one of the following categories: Poetry, Art, Story or Song, creating an original, personal response to show how our friends, families and communities support and inspire us all.

Rules:

- Entries are divided into four overlapping age categories to ensure children in the same school year all have an equal opportunity.
- All submissions are given a unique entry number to anonymise the judging process, ensuring fairness.
- Entrants may enter multiple categories (for example, one poem and one piece of sculpture may be entered by the same individual).

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