

Page 6	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	0500	31

Table A, Composition: Content and structure

		General criteria	Specific criteria	
			Descriptive Writing	Narrative Writing
Band 1	11–13	W1: Content is complex, sophisticated and realistic. W2: Overall structure is secure and the constituent parts well balanced and carefully managed.	Many well-defined and developed ideas and images create a convincing, original, overall picture with varieties of focus.	The plot is convincing with elements of fiction such as description, characterisation and climax, and with cogent detail.
Band 2	9–10	W1: Content develops some interesting and realistic features in parts of the writing. W2: Writing is orderly, and beginnings and endings are satisfactorily managed.	Frequent, well-chosen images and details give an impression of reality, although the overall picture is not consistent.	The plot incorporates some interesting features, but not consistently so: the reader may be aware of the creation of suspense and a sense of climax.
Band 3	7–8	W1: Content is straightforward with ideas, features and images that satisfactorily address the task; some opportunities for development are taken. W2: Overall structure is competent and some sentences are well sequenced.	A selection of relevant ideas, images and details addresses the task, even where there is a tendency to write a narrative.	The plot is straightforward and cohesive with some identification of features such as character and setting.
Band 4	5–6	W1: Content consists of relevant ideas that are briefly developed. W2: Overall structure is easily followed, though some constituent parts are too long or too short to be effective.	The task is addressed with a series of ordinary details, which may be more typical of a narrative.	Recording of relevant but sometimes unrealistic events outweighs other desirable elements of narrative fiction.

Page 7	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	0500	31

		General criteria	Specific criteria	
			Descriptive Writing	Narrative Writing
Band 5	3–4	W1: Content is simple, and the presentation of ideas and events may only be partially credible. W2: Overall structure is recognisable though paragraphing is inconsistent and sequences of sentences insecure.	Where a narrative is written, the recording of events may preclude the use of sufficient descriptive detail.	The plot is a simple narrative that may consist of events that are only partially credible or which are presented with partial clarity.
Band 6	1–2	W1: Content is inconsistent in relevance, interest and clarity. W2: Structure is frequently unclear, revealing a limited grasp of purpose.	Some relevant facts are identified, but the overall picture is unclear and lacks development.	The plot lacks coherence and narrates events indiscriminately.
Band 7	0	W1: Content is rarely relevant and there is little material. W2: The structure is disorderly.	Individual ideas are not properly communicated and the effect is one of incoherence.	The plot is hard to follow and is only partially relevant.

Page 8	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	0500	31

Table B, Composition: Style and accuracy

Band 1	11–12	<p>Writing is consistent, stylistically fluent, linguistically strong and almost always accurate; has sense of audience.</p> <p>W3: Consistently wide range of appropriate vocabulary. W4: Subtle and effective sense of audience; appropriate use of varied sentence structures. W5: Spelling, punctuation and grammar almost always accurate.</p>
Band 2	9–10	<p>Writing is mostly fluent, sometimes linguistically effective and generally accurate; may have some sense of audience.</p> <p>W3: Obvious attempt to use range of vocabulary to interest the reader. W4: Partial or inferred sense of audience, with appropriate sentence structures. W5: Spelling, punctuation and grammar mainly accurate.</p>
Band 3	7–8	<p>Writing is clear, competent, if plain in vocabulary and grammatical structures; errors minor, but frequent.</p> <p>W3: Occasional precision and/or interest in choice of words. W4: Accurate if repetitive sentence structures W5: Minor but frequent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar.</p>
Band 4	5–6	<p>Writing is clear and accurate in places, and uses limited vocabulary and grammatical structures; errors occasionally serious.</p> <p>W3: Plain but mostly correct choice of words. W4: Correct use of simple sentence structures; some errors of sentence separation. W5: Frequent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar.</p>
Band 5	3–4	<p>Writing is simple in vocabulary and grammar; overall meaning can be followed, but errors are distracting and sometimes impair communication.</p> <p>W3: Words may sometimes communicate meaning satisfactorily. W4: Frequent weakness in sentence structures. W5: Errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar impair communication.</p>
Band 6	1–2	<p>Writing is weak in vocabulary and grammar; persistent errors impede communication.</p> <p>W3: Insufficient language to carry intended meaning. W4: Faulty and/or rambling sentence structures. W5: Persistent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar impede communication.</p>
Band 7	0	<p>Writing is impossible to follow. Language proficiency is lacking; incorrect sentences; multiple errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar.</p>