

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

MARK SCHEME for the October/November 2007 question paper

0500 FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0500/03

Paper 3 (Directed Writing and Composition),
maximum raw mark 50

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began.

All Examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes must be read in conjunction with the question papers and the report on the examination.

- CIE will not enter into discussions or correspondence in connection with these mark schemes.

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Section 1: Directed Writing

Question 1

This question tests writing objectives W1-W5:

- articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined
- order and present facts, ideas and opinions
- understand and use a range of appropriate vocabulary
- use language and register appropriate to audience and context
- make accurate and effective use of paragraphs, grammatical structures, sentences, punctuation and spelling.

AND aspects of reading objectives R1-R3:

- understand and collate explicit meanings
- understand, explain and collate implicit meanings and attitudes
- select, analyse and evaluate what is relevant to specific purposes.

General notes on possible content

The aim of the letter is to persuade; therefore the case made will be analytical, using the promotional material to deduce the scope of the role. It should also be evaluative and promotional about the candidates' own suitability.

An idea of the duties, qualities and skills required of a junior leader should be selected/deduced from the promotional brochure that contains the following information:

- 1 Keep time
- 2 Be self-disciplined/keep order
- 3 Help children – ice-breaking, friendly, patient
- 4 Use experience in sport, music, cooking
- 5 Organise teams/be a team worker/do duties
- 6 Be enthusiastic, confident – help children to be so
- 7 Be organised, lead, get children to do things
- 8 Get on well with kids

Candidates will also add other minor details from the brochure to support their letter. Be careful not to credit details that are not in the brochure. The more it is tethered to the text, the higher the reading mark.

Identify Role as 'R' and Qualities as 'Q'. Mark 'Dev' where a point is extended in a manner that properly reflects the text.

Try to balance amount of reference with quality development and explanation. If in doubt, tip the balance in favour of quality interpretation, especially of the middle column in the reading material.

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The question is marked out of 15 for Writing and 10 for Reading.

Use the following table to give a mark out of 15 for Writing.

Band 1	13–15	Excellent, consistent sense of audience; persuasive/authoritative style; very fit for purpose. Fluent varied sentences/wide range of vocabulary. Strong sense of structure, paragraphing and sequence. Virtually no error.
Band 2	10–12	Sense of audience mostly secure; quite stylish and fluent; sense of overall structure; arguments occasionally well developed. Writing is mainly accurate, sentences and overall language effective in places. Occasional error.
Band 3	8–9	Recognisable sense of audience; mostly written in accurate, if fairly straightforward sentences; some persuasive development though not consistent; mostly quite well structured; errors minor; language straightforward but effective.
Band 4	5–7	Appropriate if sometimes inconsistent style; sentences mainly accurate; more factual than persuasive; basic structure: has beginning, middle and end; fairly frequent errors perhaps including sentence separation; sentences and/or vocabulary simple.
Band 5	3–4	Functional expression; largely factual with little/no persuasion; has a beginning, but main part of the letter not always sequenced; some serious errors in grammar and/or punctuation/use of vocabulary. Errors slightly intrusive.
Band 6	1–2	Language and style not clear; some blurring and lack of order; despite some serious errors, can mainly be followed. Simple or muddled.
Band 7	0–1	Serious inaccuracies and problems with language and grammar are too intrusive to gain a mark in Band 6.

Use the following table to give a mark out of 10 for Reading.

Band 1	9–10	Makes a thorough, perceptive, convincing evaluation of the role/duties/skills/qualities, and integrates material into the case made for employment. Reads effectively between the lines.
Band 2	7–8	Some good evaluation and a clear judgement of suitability for the job. Makes a case, using reading material for support. Occasionally effective development of some of the ideas in the material.
Band 3	5–6	A number of points are quoted to make a satisfactory case for employment. Candidates cover the material satisfactorily but may miss opportunities to develop it relevantly or at any length.
Band 4	3–4	Selects points from the material rather literally AND/OR uses the material thinly. Does not combine points into a good case.
Band 5	1–2	Parts of the answer are relevant, though material may be repeated injudiciously or wrongly used.
Band 7	0	Answer does not relate to question and/or too much unselective copying directly from the material to gain a mark in Band 5.

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Section 2: Composition

Questions 2 (a), 2 (b), 3 (a) 3 (b), 4 (a) and 4 (b)

Give two marks:

- the first mark is out of 13 for content and structure: see Table A
- the second mark is out of 12 for style and accuracy: see Table B.

Remember that these marks will not necessarily match and one mark may well be (much) higher than the other.

The maximum overall mark for the Composition is 25. Write the total clearly at the end as follows: (e.g.) C7 + S10 = 17 (C standing for ‘Content’, S standing for ‘Style’).

It is important that marking is not ‘bunched’: do not be reticent about awarding marks in the top and bottom bands.

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COMPOSITION TASKS: TABLE A – CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

	ARGUMENTATIVE/DISCURSIVE TASK	DESCRIPTIVE TASK	NARRATIVE TASK
Band 1 11–13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently well developed, logical stages in an overall, at times complex, argument. Each stage is linked to the preceding one, and sentences within paragraphs are soundly sequenced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are many well-defined, well-developed ideas and images, describing complex atmospheres with a range of details. Overall structure is provided through devices such as the movements of the writer, the creation of a short time span, or the creation of atmosphere or tension. There is no confusion with writing a story. Repetition is avoided and the sequence of sentences makes the picture clear to the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The narrative is complex and sophisticated and may contain devices such as sub-texts, flashbacks and time lapses. Cogent details are provided where necessary or appropriate. Different parts of the story are balanced and the climax carefully managed. Sentence sequences are sometimes arranged to produce effects such as the building up of tension or providing a sudden turn of events.
Band 2 9–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each stage of the argument is defined and developed, although the explanation may not be consistent. The stages follow in a generally cohesive progression. Paragraphs are mostly well sequenced, although some may finish less strongly than they begin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a good selection of interesting ideas and images, with a range of details. These are formed into an overall picture of some clarity, largely consistent and effective. There may be occasional repetition, and opportunities for development or the provision of detail may be missed. Sentences are often well sequenced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writing develops some interesting features, but not consistently so. Expect the use of detail and some attention to character or setting. Writing is orderly and the beginning and ending (where required) are satisfactorily managed. The reader is well aware of the climax even if it is not fully effective. Sequencing of sentences provides clarity and engages the reader in events or atmosphere.
Band 3 7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a series of relevant points and a clear attempt is made to develop some of them. These points are relevant, straightforward and logical/coherent. Repetition is avoided, but the order of the stages in the overall argument can be changed without adverse effect. The sequence of the sentences within paragraphs is satisfactory, but the linking of ideas may be insecure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a selection of relevant ideas, images, and details, which satisfactorily address the task. An attempt is made to create atmosphere. The description provides a series of points rather than a sense of their being combined to make an overall picture, but some ideas are developed successfully, albeit straightforwardly. Some sentences are well sequenced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A straightforward story (or part of story) with identification of features such as character and setting. While opportunities for appropriate development of ideas are sometimes missed, overall structure is competent, and some features of a developed narrative are evident. Sentences are usually sequenced to narrate events clearly.

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Band 4 5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly relevant points are made and they are developed partially with some brief effectiveness. The overall argument shows signs of structure but may be sounder at the beginning than at the end, or may drift away from the topic. There may be some repetition. The sequence of sentences may be occasionally insecure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some relevant ideas are provided and occasionally developed a little, perhaps as a narrative. There are some descriptive/atmospheric episodes, but the use of event may overshadow them. There is some overall structure, but the writing may lack direction and intent. There may be interruptions in the sequence of sentences and/or some lack of clarity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responds relevantly to the topic, but is largely a series of events with only occasional details of character and setting. Overall structure is sound, but there are examples where particular parts are too long or short. The climax is not effectively described or prepared. Sentence sequences narrate events and occasionally contain irrelevances.
Band 5 3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few relevant points are made and may be expanded into paragraphs, but development is very simple and not always logical. There is weakness of sequencing overall and within paragraphs. Paragraphing is inconsistent. Repetition and a failure to sustain relevant argument are obvious. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content is relevant but lacking in scope or variety. Opportunities to provide development and detail are frequently missed. The overall structure, though readily discernible, lacks form and dimension. The reliance on identifying events, objects and/or people sometimes leads to a sequence of sentences without progression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A simple narrative with a beginning, middle and end (where appropriate); it may consist of everyday happenings or fantastic, non-engaging events. Content may seem immature. Unequal or inappropriate importance is given to parts of the story. Dialogue may be used ineffectively. There is no real climax. Sentence sequences are used only to link simple series of events.
Band 6 1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few points are discernible but any attempt to develop them is very limited. Overall argument only progresses here and there and the sequence of sentences is poor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some relevant facts are identified, but the overall picture is unclear and lacks development. There are examples of sequenced sentences, but there is also repetition and muddled ordering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stories are very simple and narrate events indiscriminately. Endings are simple and lack effect. The shape of the narrative is unclear; some of the content has no relevance to the plot. Sequences of sentences are sometimes poor, leading to a lack of clarity.
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rarely relevant, little material, and presented in a disorderly structure. Not sufficient to be placed in Band 6. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rarely relevant, little material, and presented in a disorderly structure. Not sufficient to be placed in Band 6. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rarely relevant, little material, and presented in a disorderly structure. Not sufficient to be placed in Band 6.

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COMPOSITION TASKS: TABLE B: STYLE AND ACCURACY

Band 1	11–12	Writing is consistent, stylistically fluent, linguistically strong and accurate; has sense of audience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for appropriately used ambitious words Complex sentence structures where appropriate
Band 2	9–10	Writing is mostly fluent, sometimes linguistically effective and largely accurate; may have some sense of audience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for signs of a developing style Some ability to express shades of meaning
Band 3	7–8	Writing is clear, competent (if plain) in vocabulary and grammar; errors perhaps frequent, but minor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for mostly correct sentence separation Occasional precision and/or interest in choice of words.
Band 4	5–6	Writing is clear and accurate in places, and expresses general meaning in vocabulary and grammar; errors occasionally serious <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for simple sentences Errors of sentence separation
Band 5	3–4	Writing is generally simple in vocabulary and grammar; errors are distracting and sometimes serious, but general meaning can always be followed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for definite weaknesses in sentence structures First language interference
Band 6	1–2	Writing is very limited in correct vocabulary and grammar; error is persistent; meaning is sometimes blurred <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for faulty and/or rambling sentences Language insufficient to carry intended meaning
Band 7	0	Writing is difficult to follow because of inadequate language proficiency and error.