

Cambridge IGCSE™

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH**0500/02**

Paper 2 Directed Writing and Composition

For examination from 2027

SPECIMEN INSERT

2 hours

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.

Read **both** texts and then answer **Question 1(a)** and **1(b)** on the question paper.

Text A: Teamwork

Wiser employers have always known that the key to a productive business is investing time and effort in understanding what makes people happy at work. Yes, promotion opportunities and bonus pay for individual success are important, but employee happiness is dependent on so much more. Increasingly, workers place greater value on things such as wellbeing and working conditions, where flexible working, collaboration and a great team spirit are essential parts of the company culture.

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‘This is the era of the collaborative workplace,’ says Grace Chi, a lecturer in business studies. ‘The best places to work are those where colleagues help each other to complete projects and celebrate others’ success, not try to outdo each other or impress the boss at someone else’s expense.’

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‘I love having a workplace that embraces collaboration,’ agrees Ali Perez, whose small family business creates and sells personalised gifts. ‘We respect everyone’s opinion and make decisions together for the good of the company. We include all employees in new projects, whatever their skills or experience. We have opportunities to mentor colleagues who find their work challenging or difficult, developing their expertise by sharing our own. Yes, tasks may take a little longer to complete, but the end result is better when everyone has an equal say and works equally hard.’

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Many organisations are shifting to this kind of ‘flatter’, more equal, management structure. The traditional hierarchy – where a worker could expect one manager to be watching over their shoulder and another higher-paid manager watching over the first – may in the future become a thing of the past. In a collaborative model, responsibility lies with the individual worker to play their part – if there are people in the team not contributing, that leaves more work for everyone else and soon enough that person is not going to be popular.

20

Text B: Competition

Competition such as bonuses, performance management and promotion can motivate employees, making them put in more effort, and building a sense of personal pride in the results. Similarly, employees competing to find new clients or devising a way to bring a new product to market faster can result in a real commercial advantage for organisations. However, pressure to achieve can affect people in different ways, tempting some workers to follow unethical paths, including cheating or stealing someone else's ideas, with high long-term costs for everyone. 5

Some kinds of competition create fear and anxiety, because they focus employees on the threat of dismissal, losing income or being publicly humiliated. One manager described a weekly 'Cash or Cabbages Day' when, employees who missed their sales targets were given cabbages instead of cash bonuses. Other incentive schemes focus employees on winning a coveted award or public recognition, making them feel excited. Anxiety and excitement are very different emotional responses to competition. More importantly, these emotions make people behave differently. Studies show that when workers feel anxious about employment policies, they are significantly more likely to cut corners or sabotage colleagues, something former salesperson, Jaz Gupta, knows only too well. 10 15

'I'd worked for months to cultivate one prospective client,' explains Jaz. 'Everyone knew winning a big order from that client could be a deciding factor in which of us from the international sales team got promoted. Then I discover from a junior colleague that Ravi's also trying to net this wealthy individual, even though Ravi knew I was already in pursuit! I knew if I ignored the situation, he'd just seal the deal, profiting shamelessly from all my slaving away, and our boss would promote Ravi. But if I'd directly confronted Ravi, it could've made me look petty and selfish. At the time, I calculated the best way to fight back was to be just as devious as Ravi.' 20

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CANDIDATE
NAME

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0500/02

For examination from 2027

2 hours

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

- Answer **two** questions in total:
Section A: answer Question 1.
Section B: answer **one** question.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen. Do **not** use correction fluid or tape.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.
- If additional space is needed, you should use the lined pages at the end of this booklet; the question number or numbers must be clearly shown.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

- The total mark for this paper is 80.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].
- The insert contains the reading texts.

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Section A: Directed Writing

Read Text A and Text B in the insert and then answer **Section A, Question 1(a)** and **1(b)**.

Question 1(a)

Reread this extract from **Text B**:

'I'd worked for months to cultivate one prospective client,' explains Jaz. 'Everyone knew winning a big order from that client could be a deciding factor in which of us from the international sales team got promoted. Then I discover from a junior colleague that Ravi's also trying to net this wealthy individual, even though Ravi knew I was already in pursuit! I knew if I ignored the situation, he'd just seal the deal, profiting shamelessly from all my slaving away, and our boss would promote Ravi. But if I'd directly confronted Ravi, it could've made me look petty and selfish. At the time, I calculated the best way to fight back was to be just as devious as Ravi.'

Use your own words to evaluate Jaz's attitude to work. Give details from the text to justify your answer.

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..... [5]

Question 1(b)

Write an article offering advice to young people who are about to join the workplace.

Use your own words to write your article based on what you have read in both Text A and Text B.

In your article you should:

- outline the different attitudes to teamwork and competition people may have
- explain some of the challenges young people might face in different kinds of workplaces and how best to deal with them.

Write about 250 to 350 words.

Up to 10 marks are available for reading and up to 25 marks for writing.

This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It features 20 evenly spaced horizontal dashed lines across the entire width of the page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is plain white, and there are no margins or additional markings.

[Turn over

Section B: Composition

Answer **one** question from Section B.

Write about 350 to 450 words on **one** of the following questions.

Up to 16 marks are available for the content and structure of your answer and up to 24 marks for the style and accuracy of your writing.

EITHER**Descriptive writing**

- 2** Imagine you return to a street you knew well. Write a description of the street as it was in the past and as it is now. [40]

OR

- 3** Describe an object that has been broken for a long time. [40]

OR**Narrative writing**

- 4** Write a story that begins with the words, 'If only I had realised earlier that she was not the person I thought she was.' [40]

OR

- 5** Write a story with the title, 'The ball'. [40]

Please write your chosen question number here (2, 3, 4, 5):

This image shows a full page of primary-ruled paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. The paper is otherwise blank, with no margins, text, or other markings.

Additional page

If you use the following lined page to complete the answer to any question, the question number must be clearly shown.

[illegible]

Additional page

If you use the following lined page to complete the answer to any question, the question number must be clearly shown.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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