



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

8693/23

Paper 2 Composition

October/November 2012

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **2** printed pages.



Answer one question from Section A and one question from Section B.

You should write between 600 and 900 words for each composition.

Section A: Narrative/Descriptive/Imaginative Writing

- 1 Write two pieces (between 300–450 words each) that contrast with each other: the first about a member of the army at the start of her or his career, and the second about the same person at the end of this career. The person you write about can be real or imagined. In your writing create a sense of character and motivation.
- 2 Write the short opening chapter to an autobiography called *My Autumn Years*. In your writing create a sense of mood and place.
- 3 Write a descriptive piece called *The Light*. In your writing create an atmosphere of tension and suspense.
- 4 Write a short story which ends with these words:

‘... and his words confirmed what they had feared all those years ago.’

Section B: Discursive/Argumentative Writing

- 5 ‘All students should be made to do community or voluntary work as part of their education.’

What do you think – and why?
- 6 An article has appeared in your local newspaper which argues that the voting age should be substantially lowered. Two readers write letters to the newspaper, one agreeing with the article, the other disagreeing. Write the two letters (between 300–450 words each).
- 7 ‘Television talent shows do more harm than good.’

What do you think – and why?
- 8 Write a magazine article called ‘How to Make the Most of Your Time’. In it you offer guidance to teenagers on how to manage their work and leisure time, giving reasons why they should do so.

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