



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced International Certificate of Education

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (HALF CREDIT)

0396/12

Paper 1 Composition

May/June 2010

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 the opening chapter of a novel entitled *The Gangster*. In your writing create a sense of mood and place.
- 2 Write two contrasting pieces (between 300–450 words each) about two people in the same school year. The first piece describes them at the point where they are about to leave school; the second piece describes them when they meet up again at a student reunion several years later. In your writing create a sense of their physical appearances and characters.
- 3 Write a short story called *Arriving for the First Time*. In your writing convey the thoughts and feelings of a narrator moving to a new and previously unseen location.
- 4 Write a descriptive piece called *The Jungle*. In your writing create an atmosphere of mystery and the unknown.

Section B: Discursive/Argumentative Writing

- 5 ‘The internet should be subject to far more control and censorship.’ What is your view – and why do you hold this view?
- 6 Write two contrasting magazine features (between 300–450 words each) which describe an imaginary public figure (such as a politician or celebrity) – one at the height of her or his success, and the other when she or he has fallen into decline and disgrace.
- 7 ‘Technology has helped to destroy the planet.’
 ‘Technology is the only thing that can save the planet.’
 Which view are you in closer agreement with – and why?
- 8 Two students from your school have been invited to participate in a public speaking competition called ‘National Security: A Threat to Our Freedoms or Not?’ One student speaks in favour of increasing forms of national security (such as increased police powers and public surveillance). Afterwards the other student speaks against this. Write the two speeches (between 300–450 words each).

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