



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

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE (HALF CREDIT)**

**0396/11**

Paper 1 Composition

**October/November 2010**

**2 hours**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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**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.

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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 a descriptive piece called *The Lost World*. In your writing create an atmosphere of decay and isolation.
- 2 'She read the text message on her phone. She paused, gasped, and took a very deep breath...'  
  
Continue the story. In your writing bring out a sense of suspense and tension. (You do not have to complete the story.)
- 3 Write two contrasting pieces (between 300–450 words each), one about your most enjoyable experience, and the other about your least enjoyable experience.
- 4 Write the opening to a short story called *A New Romance*. In your writing create an unusual setting in which two strangers meet for the first time.

**Section B: Discursive/Argumentative Writing**

- 5 'Giving aid to less developed countries does more harm than good.'  
  
What do you think – and why?
- 6 A magazine publishes two contrasting articles (between 300–450 words each), one called 'The Future Still Looks Bright', and the other called 'It's Not Going to Get Any Better'. Write the two articles, bringing out clear differences in their viewpoints about the ways in which the world is changing.
- 7 'Education provided by the state is good enough for everyone.'  
  
'Private (paid for) education is far more beneficial for students than state-funded education.'  
  
Which view are you in closer agreement with – and why?
- 8 A product which you cannot do without is about to go out of existence: the company which makes it is about to cease its production. Write a letter to the company in which you describe the origin and history of your relationship with the product and – most of all – why it is an essential part of your life.

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