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FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0500/23

Paper 2 Directed Writing and Composition

May/June 2026

2 hours

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- 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.

INFORMATION

- 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.

This document has **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.



Read Text A and Text B in the insert and then answer **Section A, Question 1** on this question paper.

Section A: Directed Writing

Question 1

A friend has decided to apply to become a student mentor at your school or college. You have some concerns about whether this is a good idea.

Write a letter to your friend, giving your views.

In your letter, you should:

- evaluate the benefits and challenges of mentoring given in both texts
- share your concerns with your friend and the factors they need to consider before applying.

Base your letter on what you have read in **both** texts, but be careful to use your own words. Address both of the bullet points.

Write about 250 to 350 words.

Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 25 marks for the quality of your writing.

[illegible]

[illegible]



[40]

[Total: 40]





Turn over



Section B: Composition

Answer **one** question from Section B.

Write about 350 to 450 words on **one** of the following questions. Answer on this question paper.

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 Describe what you saw, heard and felt when you were transported to a different time or place.

Or

Descriptive writing

3 Describe your first impressions of someone you later came to know well.

Or

Narrative writing

4 Write a story which includes the words '... they noticed something in the background ...'.

Or

Narrative writing

5 Write a story with the title, 'A different kind of family'.





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

[illegible]



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN



Blank lined paper for writing.

[Total: 40]





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

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary school writing paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Additional page

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

[illegible]



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