CAMBRIDGE
International Education

# Cambridge O Level

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE** **1123/22**

Paper 2 Writing **May/June 2026**

**2 hours**

*1434961782*

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Answer **two** questions in total:
  - Section A: answer Question 1.
  - Section B: answer **one** question.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

**INFORMATION**

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- All questions are worth equal marks.

This document has **4** pages.


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## Section A: Directed Writing

Read **both** texts and answer **Question 1**.

**Should we make volunteering for a charity part of our school's curriculum?**

Please share your ideas below.

**Text 1: Anwar, 14**

Not only is volunteering for a charity an opportunity to give something back to your community, it's also a great chance to spend time with people who you wouldn't normally talk to. For example, I volunteer in a home for the elderly, which has given me the chance to talk to people whose lives have been very different from my own. Their stories are so interesting and I love listening to them! Also, I used to be shy and struggle in new situations, but volunteering has helped me to become more confident through talking with new people.

Volunteering can also help you learn new skills and it gives you experience that might help you get the job you want in the future. If, for example, you want to be a vet, volunteering at a zoo or animal park could help you learn how to take care of lots of different animals, and this would look good on your CV when you apply for your first job. I hope to be a nurse one day, so I know that the volunteering I did last year at the local hospital will help my CV stand out.

So, I think we should make volunteering part of our school's curriculum!

**Text 2: Mishca, 16**

My schedule is already packed; I have extra classes after school, play cricket for the school and local teams, and take piano lessons. I am already exhausted from all this by the time it gets to the weekend and I know that volunteering for a charity would make me too tired for everything else. Not only that, but I'd also have less time to spend on my studies which really worries me.

Another thing I worry about is how emotionally tiring volunteering can be. I am a sensitive person and I think that I'd find it upsetting to work with people or animals who are struggling.

When you volunteer for a charity, you work with all sorts of people, and this could cause problems if you're very different from them. Some people say that this helps you learn how to get on with everyone, but I think it would just make me anxious and I wouldn't enjoy it.

Although people often say that volunteering is good for you, you can get the same benefits from other things in school life. So I don't think that there is any need to add volunteering to our school's curriculum.

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**Question 1**

Your school is considering making volunteering for a charity part of its curriculum. You have read on the school noticeboard some students' opinions for and against this idea. Your principal has asked students to write a letter, giving their views.

Write a **letter** to your school principal.

In your letter you should:

- evaluate the ideas and opinions in **both** texts
- give your own views about whether students should have to volunteer for a charity as part of your school's curriculum, based on what you have read in the texts.

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.

Begin your letter with 'Dear Principal' and supply a suitable ending.

Write about **250** to **350** words.

**Up to 10 marks are available for the content of your answer and up to 15 marks for the quality of your writing.** [25]

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**[Turn over**

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## Section B: Composition

Answer **one** question.

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

**Up to 10 marks are available for the content and structure of your answer and up to 15 marks for the style and accuracy of your writing.**

**EITHER**

**Descriptive writing**

**2** Describe a place where you like to spend time with friends **and** a place where you go if you want to be alone. [25]

**OR**

**Descriptive writing**

**3** Describe the scene at a famous place you know well at a busy time of day. [25]

**OR**

**Narrative writing**

**4** Write a story in which a lost key unexpectedly leads to a happy ending. [25]

**OR**

**Narrative writing**

**5** Write a story which includes the sentence: 'It was the most important day of his life, and he was determined to make it go well.' [25]

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