



Cambridge O Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/02

Paper 2 Writing

For examination from 2024

SPECIMEN PAPER

2 hours



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.

Section A: Directed Writing

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

Text A

Amira, 42 years

I've never understood why people are so keen to travel to other countries when there is so much to see in their native lands. Very few of us really know our own countries, preferring instead to hop on a fuel-guzzling aeroplane and travel thousands of miles to far-flung lands for our vacations. And what greets us when we land? Paying ridiculously high prices to enter crowded tourist attractions and then getting ripped off in restaurants by paying twice as much as locals for the same food. I believe in the staycation – taking a holiday closer to home. What better way to understand your own country's history and traditions than by holidaying there and seeing them for yourself? It's eco-friendly, and even more so if you don't use a car: why not try a combination of public transport, cycling and even walking! If you're on a low budget, stay with friends and family. It's so easy for us to get bored and fail to appreciate where we live – think about all the beautiful and interesting places you haven't seen that are within easy reach. How many of us can claim that we really know where we come from? Having a holiday with trips to historical sites and landmarks of interest will allow you to gain knowledge about your own culture. So, go on! Have a great vacation and reduce your carbon footprint at the same time.

Text B

Li Ping, 23 years

It's human nature to want to see and try new things. For young people, travelling to other countries opens their eyes to how fascinating and varied the world is. Travelling is educational: you can practise a language, learn about different cultures and attitudes, try new and exotic foods. Be brave and step outside your comfort zone! I went travelling after my A Levels, and I can honestly say it changed me as a person. I had to live on a really tight budget but had opportunities to do amazing things and see places that were breathtakingly beautiful. I also made lots of new friends along the way from different countries; we learnt so much from each other, mostly that we had far more similarities than differences! Travelling made me realise I had been too caught up with owning all the right stuff when in reality my needs were very simple. I now spend my money on experiences not things. Travelling taught me that you don't have to pay to watch a sunset, enjoy great company, or hike through a forest, and you can survive with what you can carry on your back. It made me grow up and helped me become a much nicer person, as well. I'd advise all young people to get out and see the world. It's smaller than you think!

Question 1

Write a magazine article for young people about the advantages and disadvantages of travelling to other countries.

In your article you should:

- evaluate the ideas and opinions in **both** texts
- give your own views, based on what you have read in the texts about the advantages and disadvantages of travelling to other countries.

Base your article on what you have read in **both** texts but be careful to use your own words.

Address both of the bullet points.

Begin your article with a suitable headline.

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]

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 Write a description of a crowded place before **and** during a sudden burst of heavy rain. [25]

OR

Descriptive writing

- 3 Describe the feelings you experienced leading up to a challenging event **and** the feelings you experienced afterwards. (The challenging event could be sporting, academic or any other activity.) [25]

OR

Narrative writing

- 4 Write a story in which something unexpected happens at an important school event. [25]

OR

Narrative writing

- 5 Write a story that includes the sentence: 'When I saw the photograph, the memories came rushing back.' [25]

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