

CANDIDATE  
NAME

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CENTRE  
NUMBER

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CANDIDATE  
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**FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH**

**0500/31**

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition

**May/June 2019**

**2 hours**

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

Additional Materials: Reading Booklet Insert

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write your centre number, candidate number and name in the spaces provided.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

**DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.**

Answer **two** questions in the space provided: **Question 1** in **Section 1** and **one** question from **Section 2**.  
If additional space is required, you should use the lined pages at the end of this booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.

Dictionaries are **not** permitted.

The Reading Booklet Insert contains the reading passage for use with **Question 1** in **Section 1** on the Question Paper.

The Reading Booklet Insert is **not** assessed by the Examiner.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

Read carefully the passage in the Reading Booklet Insert and then answer **Section 1, Question 1** on this Question Paper.

### Section 1: Directed Writing

#### Question 1

**Write a letter** to the website in response to the ideas in the article.

In your letter, you should:

- evaluate the different arguments given in the article
- explain how far you agree or disagree with the views in the article about the dangers **and** the benefits of time spent by young people in front of a screen.

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

Begin your letter: 'Dear Digital Trends ...'

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.**

Digital Trends,

P.O. Box 19472,

Washington.

15<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Dear Digital Trends,

After reading your online article, I would like to respond to it. It was a great and informative piece, however there are some views I do not necessarily agree with. I will start with what I agree with.

It is true that there are health implications that are associated with excessive screen time like sleep deprivation, obesity and poor language development in kids. Some programmes on our

screens use varieties of English which are not standard, for example, or have language that is not so appropriate to children and they end up picking on them. There are less recreational activities hence a child will always be in the house watching cartoons and eating which leads to obesity. Adults also find it difficult to control what their children watch which might be harmful or violent content.

The article also suggests that parents should limit the time spent on screen and that they should be involved in what their children. This is unrealistic and not possible because you find in a family both parents go to work so it becomes impossible to control screen time let alone being involved in what they are watching. Things have also changed over time in that, screens are used for other purposes like education. The dangers and so called harmful content are exaggerated in terms of the damage they can cause. Parents long ago used to tell their children that they will get square eyes to keep them from watching too much TV but that has never happened.

The issue of limiting screen time is also not fair because adults themselves spend too much time on screen too so many

Children should have better role models. Another concern is that, even if you succeed in limiting screen time with children, how sure are you that they will follow when they are teenagers?

Screen time has its benefits and also is widely used nowadays but it can have its harmful effects also. Children need to be taught from a young age what is right and what is the wrong content to watch. They need to be taught that there is more to life than just screen time in addition to the social life because most of what is going on in the world nowadays can <sup>only</sup> be found online. Parents should also try and set better examples for their children. That is my two cents and it for now. I would appreciate feedback on my thoughts too.

Yours faithfully,  
Jacob James

**Section 2: Composition****Questions 2 and 3**

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

**Up to 13 marks are available for the content and structure of your answer, and up to 12 marks for the style and accuracy of your writing.**

**Descriptive Writing**

2 (a) Describe a familiar place at an unusual time or from a different point of view.

OR

2 (b) Describe what you see, hear and feel when you look up into the sky as day changes into night.

**Narrative Writing**

3 (a) Write a story which includes the words, 'I tried to stay calm'.

OR

3 (b) Write a story with the title, 'It's Now or Never'.



Please write your chosen question number here (2(a), 2(b), 3(a) or 3(b)): 3a.

It was a Tuesday morning, when I woke up at the crack of dawn happy as a king because of the event that was going to take place. It was swimming gala day at our school and also midterm was commencing that day. I was ecstatic my heart threatened to jump out of my ribcage. I could not contain my joy as I opened the curtains to let the morning sun in, whistling mindless tunes I had prepared for this day for months now and I was booked for several races that I was sure I would get medals for.

I jumped into the shower and was all done in record time. I had packed the previous night so as not to forget anything. I went downstairs to have my breakfast. I was almost hopping and jumping as I approached the dining area. The school bus would be there in half an hour but I was done having breakfast five minutes later. I was so anxious while waiting for the bus when I heard the horn and jumped up from my seat to go to the bus. I bid my parents goodbye and ran into the bus. The mood in the bus was all

mellow.

When we got to school, I went to class to wait for us to be called to the swimming pool for the function. Time could not have moved any slower. By the time it was nine o'clock my excitement had subsided a little. We all went to the swimming pool area. Parents and guests had already started to arrive. The pool area was decorated with balloons and the benches marked. I found our designated sitting position, left my things with my classmates then went to the changing rooms to change into my costume.

At exactly nine thirty the first race was up. As I went back to my seat, I spotted my parents who smiled at me and they looked so proud of me. I competed in some of the races, I won some and lost some. By the time it was noon, fatigue had started to catch up with me. The overhead sun was making the situation worse. I went in for the two hundred metre backstroke. I knew something was wrong when my heart started pounding in the middle of the race. I got to the deep end, done with the first lap, and just as I turned to go for the second lap my body refused to cooperate

with my mind. I started to feel the water pull me downwards. I fought really hard not to go down. The arms and legs were beating the water furiously as I tried to breathe so hard but all I did was swallow the chlorine filled water. I felt my lungs fill with water. I was panicking like a leaf on the wind. I remembered that this was the quickest way to drown so I tried to stay calm. I felt my life leaving me. The next thing I remember was a body slamming into mine and being on the ground being pumped on the chest. I coughed out the water and regained my consciousness. The sun was in my face. I will never forget that day in my life. I got my medals at the end of the day but that is an experience I would never wish on my worst enemy.



