



Cambridge IGCSE™

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

0500/23

Paper 2 Directed Writing and Composition

May/June 2025

INSERT

2 hours

INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading texts
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank pages for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



This document has 4 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Read **both** texts and then answer **Question 1** on the question paper.

Text A

The following text is an article written by a professional photographer.

‘Why do you take pictures?’

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

These are the images that tell your story.

Text B

The following text is an article about how photography has changed.

I wonder how famous photographers of the past would have handled the digital revolution unleashed in recent years. We are obsessed with our lives and with how others see us and with how we view others. We do not take pictures for our lives (if we did, we would not share them on social media) but to appeal to complete strangers in the vast realm of the internet. We don't even take photos of our lives but of what we aspire to be. If a photo doesn't do that – well, a click of a button erases it. Our online presence takes precedence over being present in our own lives.

Every one of us, even those like me who criticise such things, has a storehouse of images. On a recent trip to the mountains, I struggled not to take too many photos of the beautiful snowy surroundings. How about trying to record those beautiful memories with your mind's eye rather than snap one photo after another and lose that precious moment? Maybe remember your child's smile, brimming with enthusiasm on their first attempt on the slope, or how their rosy, cold cheeks felt against yours rather than trying to capture the 'perfect' moment? So, as useful as the camera's role becomes, that photographs rather than the world, have become the standard for what's beautiful. Instead of just recording reality, photographs have become the norm for the way things appear to us.

I asked a famous photojournalist, 'Are there times when you simply witness the moment without taking a picture?' He gave me this thought-provoking answer: 'There are personal moments that are magical, and I keep them for me. But images can tell important stories to the public too.'

I have often taken a moment to think before pushing the button and I sometimes hear myself saying: 'Don't spoil the moment, don't take a photo.'

Unfortunately, needing to have reality confirmed and experience enhanced by photographs is a kind of obsession to which we're all now addicted.

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of Cambridge Assessment. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is a department of the University of Cambridge.