



Cambridge O Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/21

Paper 2 Writing

May/June 2026

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 1: A teenager's view on video gaming

Status	Photo	Log in				
2 comments						
Like	Comment	Share				
I know that some parents worry about the negative impact that gaming has on teenagers, but they only look at the downsides and don't think about the benefits. Video gaming isn't just about bashing buttons; it's good for your brain. Players need to solve problems, plan their moves and make quick decisions. Some video games are even used in schools to help us learn about things like climate change. There are physical benefits too; studies have shown that playing games improves reflexes and coordination, which can be useful in lots of situations. My parents worry that playing video games means I am missing out on socialising, but when I play games online, I am connecting with my friends, not just from school, but from all over the world! So, working with teammates in multi-player online games means that you are not only getting a mental workout, but you're also developing your social skills. My parents also worry that I am spending time gaming instead of doing my homework, but after a long day at school, I need a mental break. Gaming helps me to escape from reality for a while to relax, and this helps me to study better afterwards. So, with all these benefits, parents don't need to worry!						
Like	Comment	Share				

Text 2: A parent's view on video gaming

Status	Photo	Log in				
3 comments						
Like	Comment	Share				
My daughter is a keen video gamer, but I don't allow her to play games for too long because I worry about the problems this could cause. After a long day at school, she needs to give her brain time to rest, rather than doing more hard work solving the made-up problems in games. She needs to chat to us over dinner or spend time with her sister, not shut herself away in her room, missing out on family time. Research shows that gaming for long periods of time is linked to being unfit, headaches and poor eyesight as well as other physical health problems, and I don't want these for my daughter. Research also shows that sleep can be affected by too much time looking at a screen. This could lead to her not doing so well at school because of tiredness. It isn't just physical health which is at risk. If young people spend too much time gaming on their own rather than doing real-world activities with other people, this can cause mental health problems. Playing games with content which is unsuitable for their age can also be harmful to young people's mental health. These are the reasons I limit my daughter's time gaming, and I would encourage other parents to do the same.						
Like	Comment	Share				

Question 1

You feel strongly about the impact of playing video games on young people. After reading two blog posts, you decide to write an article for your school magazine, giving your views on how video gaming impacts young people.

Write your **article** for the school magazine.

In your article, you should:

- evaluate the ideas and opinions in **both** texts
- give your own views about how video gaming impacts young people, based on what you have read in the texts.

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 heading.

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** Describe the scene on a busy street during a popular festival. [25]

OR

Descriptive writing

- 3** Describe the scene at a shopping centre in the middle of the day **and** when it is about to close. [25]

OR

Narrative writing

- 4** Write a story in which, by mistake, you open a letter addressed to someone else and get a pleasant surprise. [25]

OR

Narrative writing

- 5** Write a story which includes the sentence: 'This opportunity is too good to miss; we have to take it!' [25]

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