

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_

Centre Number

Candidate  
Number

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**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE ESOL EXAMINATIONS**

**English for Speakers of Other Languages**

**CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH**

**PAPER 2 Writing**

**SAMPLE PAPER**

Candidates answer on the question paper.  
No additional materials are required.

**TIME** 2 hours

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces at the top of this page.

Answer the Part 1 question and **one** question from Part 2.

Write your answers in the spaces provided on the question paper.

Write clearly in **pen**, not pencil. You may make alterations but make sure your work is easy to read.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Each question in this paper carries equal marks.

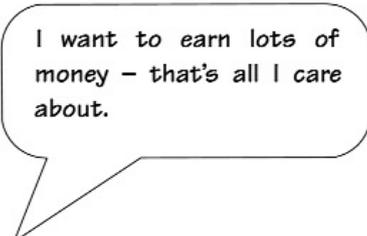
FOR EXAMINER'S USE	
<b>Part 1</b>	
<b>Part 2</b>	

## Part 1

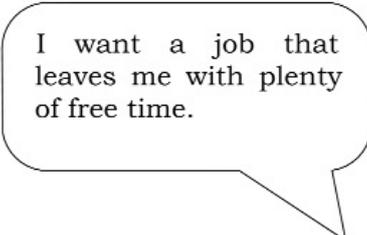
You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **300-350** words in an appropriate style on pages **3** and **4**.

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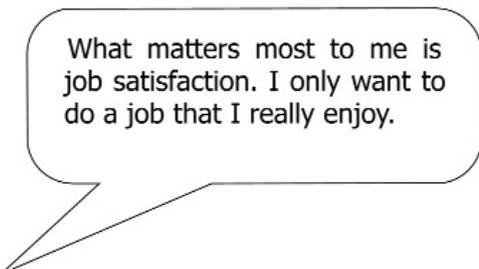
- 1 The following comments were made during a radio discussion by young people talking about different attitudes to work. Listeners to the discussion were invited to send in their views to the programme editor. You decide to write a letter responding to the points raised and giving your own opinions.



I want to *earn lots of money* – that's all I care about.



I want a job that leaves me with plenty of free time.



What matters most to me is job satisfaction. I only want to do a job that I really enjoy.

Write your **letter**. Do not write any postal addresses.

## Part 2

Write an answer to **one** of the questions **2-5** in this part. Write your answer in **300-350** words in an appropriate style on pages **7** and **8**. Put the question number in the box at the top of page **7**.

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- 2** A film magazine is running a series on international cinema. It has invited readers to send in reviews of films set in their own country. You decide to send in a review of such a film considering how effectively the film illustrates particular aspects of life and attitudes in your country.

Write your **review**.

- 3** You work for your town council. Your manager has asked you to write a report on a shopping centre which has recently opened in your area. Your report should include consideration of the design and atmosphere of the centre, transport provision and the influence that the centre appears to be having on people's shopping habits.

Write your **report**.

- 4** You have read an article in an English language newspaper which states that 'the wheel is our best invention'. The newspaper has invited readers to contribute their own articles suggesting one or two other inventions or discoveries which are as significant as the wheel. You decide to write an article, briefly describing at least one such invention or discovery, and explaining its significance to the development of civilisation.

Write your **article**.

- 5** Based on your reading of **one** of these books, write on **one** of the following:

**(a)** Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*

An international magazine has published a list called *The World's 100 Best Books*, and asked readers to comment on the titles included. *Things Fall Apart* was on the list. You decide to write a letter to the magazine explaining why you think themes such as justice, love and duty appeal to a worldwide audience. You should refer to specific episodes in the novel which support your views.

Write your **letter**. Do not write any postal addresses.

**(b)** Ann Patchett: *Bel Canto*

Your tutor has given you this quotation as the starting point for an essay on *Bel Canto*:

*'During their imprisonment some of the hostages gain a freedom which they never had in their ordinary lives.'*

Write an essay for your tutor in which you explain in what ways any **two** of the hostages are affected by their imprisonment and the extent to which the quotation applies to those two characters.

Write your **essay**.

**(c)** J.B. Priestley: *An Inspector Calls*

A literary magazine is planning a series of articles on the significance of the social settings of plays and novels. You decide to submit an article on *An Inspector Calls*. You should describe Mr Birling's views on society and examine to what extent Sheila and Eric are influenced by their family background in the way they respond to the evening's events.

Write your **article**.

# How we assess your writing for CPE

**The examiner reads each answer carefully at least twice and ticks good language and underlines any errors.**

## Content

First the examiner checks the content of your answer. In Part 1, the examiner checks that you have addressed all of the points you have to cover. If you have not addressed everything, you will lose marks. In Part 2, the examiner also checks that you have answered the question. It is important to focus on what the question requires, and you may lose marks if part of your answer is not relevant to the task.

**The examiner then assesses how good the language in your answer is.**

## Range of language

The examiner is looking for a range of vocabulary, expressions and grammatical structures: whether you use a variety of expressions or repeat language. This links to the way in which you organise your writing and develop your ideas, so spend time planning how you are going to do this before starting writing.

## Organisation of ideas

The examiner will consider how well you have organised your ideas. Well-organised writing has paragraphs, possibly with section headings, to help the reader to follow the ideas.

## Accuracy

It is important to be accurate so that the examiner can understand what you write. You will lose marks if you make serious mistakes which confuse the examiner and make your answer difficult to follow. However, if you make some minor errors which do not distract the reader, you may not lose marks. Check your work carefully to avoid careless errors with spelling, verb tenses and singular/plural agreements.

## Register

You need to think about who you are writing to. Some phrases and expressions are more suitable for particular situations: for example, a letter to your teacher or boss may require one approach, a letter to a company director may require another.

## Format

Think about how you will present your writing. For example, a report will look different from a letter: a report should have clear sections, perhaps with headings, whereas a letter should have a clear introduction, and ends in a different way from a report.

## Word length

It is important to remember the word limit. If your answer is very short, you can only get a low mark because you have not written enough. If your answer is too long, the examiner will read it all but you may lose marks for not keeping to the subject.

**If you pay attention to all of these things, your writing should make a positive impression and you will get high marks for a good performance in writing.**

# PAPER 2: WRITING

## Question 1 (sample script)

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### Sample script with examiner comments

#### QUESTION 1: CANDIDATE A

##### ■ Content

Letter must discuss attitudes to work with reference to:

- pay
- working hours/holidays
- job satisfaction.

##### ■ Range

Language for:

- explaining
- presenting and developing an argument
- comparing and contrasting ideas.

##### ■ Appropriacy of register and format

Register consistently appropriate for a letter to the editor of a radio programme.

##### ■ Organisation and cohesion

Early reference to reason for writing. Clear organisation of ideas. Suitable conclusion.

##### Target reader

Would understand the writer's own views about work.

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#### Candidate A

*Dear Editor*

*I am writing in response to a discussion, I recently listened to on the radio, regarding different attitudes to work. I would like to share my ideas with you. Some people argue that wealth is what they mostly want to achieve through their career. They commit themselves entirely to work, with a view to becoming rich. It is an undeniable fact that the financial factor has a significant impact on peoples' lives. To a certain extent, our happiness is related to our financial situation. Owing to the needs in the modern world, we have come to believe that we need to strive for affluence in order to be able to fulfil these needs. Consequently, some individuals can consider only money as the main objective in their career.*

*However, as other people pointed out, it is essential that our job allows us plenty of free time so as to be able to enjoy our personal lives and our leisure activities. Our life would be dull and uninteresting if we could not satisfy other needs such as social interaction, which helps our self-development and considerably contributes to our level of happiness. In addition, if we have not enough free time when are we going to spend our money?*

*Moreover, there are some individuals who pursue a career according to their personal interests and they gain satisfaction from work, only when it is a pleasurable experience, apart from stress and strain. For the best part of our day we are at work. To succeed in our career, first of all, we must enjoy it. Besides, professional dissatisfaction can lead to problems in our personal life. For instance, if we work in a boring or stressful environment this can result in bringing these feelings to our relationships.*

*To sum up, it appears that our incentives for work vary. We should reconsider our attitude to work so that money is not our only aim. Only when one gains satisfaction at work and free time off work, can one lead a happy life.*

*I look forward to hearing others listeners' views on this subject.*

*Yours faithfully*

#### Examiner comments

##### ■ Content

Satisfactory, all points covered

##### ■ Range

Adequate range

##### ■ Appropriacy of register and format

Appropriate

##### ■ Organisation and cohesion

Clearly organised and generally coherent

##### ■ Accuracy

Non-impeding errors

##### ■ Target reader

Would have the desired effect

# PAPER 2: WRITING

## Question 1 (sample script)

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### Sample script with examiner comments

#### QUESTION 1: CANDIDATE B

##### ■ Content

Letter must discuss attitudes to work with reference to:

- pay
- working hours/holidays
- job satisfaction.

##### ■ Range

Language for:

- explaining
- presenting and developing an argument
- comparing and contrasting ideas.

##### ■ Appropriacy of register and format

Register consistently appropriate for a letter to the editor of a radio programme.

##### ■ Organisation and cohesion

Early reference to reason for writing. Clear organisation of ideas. Suitable conclusion.

##### Target reader

Would understand the writer's own views about work.

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#### Candidate B

Dear Jo,

*I'm writing in response to yesterday's radio discussion on young people's different attitudes to work, which made me think of my own priorities in life and how they were unimaginable in the not too distant past.*

*Days are gone when you had to work purely to be able to survive and support your family in their basic needs. There was no question as to whether you liked the job or not, whether it was in line with your interests and allowed you to follow your other passions like sports, music, travelling.*

*Today's circumstances and demands of life and work are of another kind altogether so it clearly emerged from the discussion in your radio programme.*

*Nowadays more and more teenagers seem to be blinded by money which allows them to buy expensive designer clothes, luxury cars and other expensive state-of-the-art technology to gain a certain status among their friends. When listening to the first guy's answer I had to think of my young neighbour who spends most of his life working overtime in a dirty, unhealthy factory environment to show off his possessions in the few weekends he is not on duty. I feel terribly sorry for him because there should be more to life and work as well.*

*I'm more likely to agree with the other two views expressed, as the fact of being able to spend most of your day doing something you enjoy and highly value is the best you could ask for.*

*Should you not have been so lucky to find such a stimulating job you should at least make sure you have a good amount of spare time to recover from your dull and tiresome job routine.*

*Anyway, to bring this letter to an end let me pose one last fundamental question: is it too much to ask for a well-paid and stimulating part-time job? I hope not and that's why I'm still on the lookout! Thank you for always raising interesting issues and encouraging us to think!*

*Yours sincerely,*

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#### Examiner comments

##### ■ Content

Excellent development of topic

##### ■ Range

Sophisticated use of an extensive range, impressive use of collocation

##### ■ Appropriacy of register and format

Wholly appropriate

##### ■ Organisation and cohesion

Skilfully organised and coherent

##### ■ Accuracy

Minimal error

##### ■ Target reader

Impresses and has a very positive effect

# PAPER 2: WRITING

## Question 2 (sample script)

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### Sample script with examiner comments

#### QUESTION 2: CANDIDATE C

##### ■ Content

Review must:

- identify and describe the film with reference to the writer's country
- assess the film's effectiveness in illustrating life and attitudes of that country.

##### ■ Range

Language for:

- describing
- narrating
- explaining
- evaluating.

##### ■ Appropriacy of register and format

Register consistently appropriate for a review.

##### ■ Organisation and cohesion

Clear introduction.

Well-organised description/narration leading to evaluation.

Appropriate conclusion.

##### ■ Target reader

Would know:

- what the film is about
- how well the film portrays some aspects of life and attitudes in the (writer's) country.

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### Candidate C

### Examiner comments

*A film that should not be left unmentioned in your series on international cinema is the highly-acclaimed and prize-awarded German film 'Goodbye Lenin' which took German cinema by storm in 2003.*

*After its release, the film set off an avalanche of discussions in German and international media on life and attitudes in Germany, in particular in the formerly communist Eastern Germany.*

*'Goodbye Lenin' features a die-hard communist mother who witnesses her son's taking part in the famous anticommunist Monday demonstrations at the end of the 1990ies. She consequently suffers from a heart attack and is put into artificial coma. The world around her changes without her noticing: the fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of the communist era, the onset of capitalism in her beloved German Democratic Republic, DDR. The mother suddenly awakes from her coma, but must not be upset in any way due to her frail condition. Her son decided to make sure she rests completely unaware of the political and social changes.*

*He manages in a striking way: buying her old DDR brand-name products, having children in old uniforms sing ideological songs and even recording his own DDR news programme. His role plays brilliantly reflect life and attitudes in communist times. The high value of community and society versus individualism, selfishness and exploitation. The gloomy consumerable products available to everyone. The uniformity excellently presented in the fictitious news programmes. What is more important, the film and its effect convey a very honest and critical image of modern-day Germany, especially the relations between Western and Eastern Germans. What used to be joy after German reunification has now turned into hostility towards the 'new' German brothers and sisters from the East.*

*There definitely is a long way until a true reunification of Germany on all levels. Films like 'Goodbye Lenin' might help improving and facilitating mutual understanding.*

##### ■ Content

Very good development of topic

##### ■ Range

Very good use of a wide range

##### ■ Appropriacy of register and format

Entirely appropriate

##### ■ Organisation and cohesion

Very well organised and coherent

##### ■ Accuracy

Minor errors

##### ■ Target reader

Informs target reader about the film and has a positive effect

# PAPER 2: WRITING

## Question 3 (sample script)

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### Sample script with examiner comments

#### QUESTION 3: CANDIDATE D

##### ■ Content

Report must give information about new shopping centre and refer to:

- design and atmosphere
- transport provision
- influence on people's shopping habits.

##### ■ Range

Language for:

- describing
- explaining
- evaluating.

##### ■ Appropriacy of register and format

Register consistently appropriate for a report written for one's manager.

##### ■ Organisation and cohesion

Introduction.

Well-organised report, possibly with headings.

Appropriate conclusion.

##### ■ Target reader

Would:

- have clear information about the shopping centre – design, atmosphere and transport
- have some ideas of the effect the centre seems to be having on shopping habits.

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### Candidate D

A new shopping centre, 'GREEN PALMS', has opened on May 15, 2005 at the south end of the high street. This is a new building block and has large parking facilities. The centre counts a total of fifty outlets including clothing, gifts, sport, free time and food shops.

The 'Green Palms' has two floors to accommodate outlets and a third floor where mainly three restaurants can be found, additionally to storage room for the outlets. The shopping centre is designed as a 'U' shape and looks open and airy, mainly due to the abundant use of glass and steel by the architect, James Smith. Also, a large sculpture of two steel palms in the middle of the car park within the 'U' shape provides an interesting and modern look as well as the reason for the name of the shopping centre.

'Green Palms' is conveniently located in the centre of the town and can be reached by foot as well as by car. A proposal for the addition of a new bus line to service the shopping centre from the main rail station is currently being vetted by the transport department of the council. Overall, the prime location and the abundant transport facilities available should ensure the centre financial success.

Moreover, the availability of this facility could attract customers from near towns and boost tourism and businesses. In fact, if travelling by car because able to park at 'Green Palms', customers from other towns could also be attracted to the close high street and other local shops.

However, on the downside the current customer base of small independent shops could switch their loyalty to the Green Palms and push for price competition. Ultimately financial strains on local shops could cause the present identity and feel of the town to change by forcing them to close.

In conclusion, some benefits could derive from the opening of the 'Green Palms', although potentially at the expenses of the character of the town and its social profile.

### Examiner comments

##### ■ Content

Very good development of topic

##### ■ Range

Wide range

##### ■ Appropriacy of register and format

Appropriate

##### ■ Organisation and cohesion

Well organised and coherent

##### ■ Accuracy

A few errors, some of which are obtrusive

##### ■ Target reader

Generally positive effect

# PAPER 2: WRITING

## Question 4 (sample script)

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### Sample script with examiner comments

#### QUESTION 4: CANDIDATE E

##### ■ Content

Article must:

- describe at least one invention or discovery
- explain its significance to the development of civilisation.

##### ■ Range

Language for:

- describing
- explaining
- evaluating.

##### ■ Appropriacy of register and format

Register consistently appropriate for an article in an English language newspaper.

##### ■ Organisation and cohesion

Appropriate introduction.

Clearly organised ideas.

Suitable conclusion.

##### ■ Target reader

Would:

- have a clear picture of the invention/discovery
- understand why the writer thinks it is/they are so significant.

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### Candidate E

*I was greatly inspired by your very interesting and informative article about the wheel as our best invention. True, one does not realise how many things have stemmed from this single shapely object - we take them for granted. However, although the wheel may have been one of the first great inventions, but it was not the only one that has contributed to the development of our civilisation.*

*In my opinion the invention of paper has been equally significant. It does not matter that other great world civilisations, i.e. ancient China and Egypt were there first. It is the Western civilisation that has really used it fully and its current world position cannot be imagined without the invention of paper.*

*First of all, paper allowed people to record and preserve their thoughts. Human ideas were no longer elusive and temporary. They could be kept for others for a long time. This made it possible for science and culture to develop. Thanks to paper intra-cultural and international exchange of ideas could happen. Paper available to the highest strata of society stores the most important records: laws and orders, church liturgy, but also literature in many languages. People could develop a written form of the language they spoke. Every nation is proud of the earliest written records of their poets and writers' words. Paper made education possible to the scale earlier unimaginable.*

*Some may argue that print is an invention that added greatly to the invention of paper, but we should not forget which one was the first.*

*Thus, combined print and paper marked the beginning of civil society and democracy. Access to information - the Bible - and the fact that more and more people could learn to read and interpret a written word meant that everybody could judge for themselves and refused to obey orders of some higher authority that could simply be wrong. The development of printed documents is inextricably connected with modern capitalism and industrial society. Money first in the form of metal coins, soon took the shape of banknotes and other securities. We are not able to imagine the world without them now.*

*Paper is everywhere. It is something obvious and natural. It will not be replaced by any electronic devices. The vision of a workplace without paper, predicted some time ago, will never materialize. We may prefer to write an e-mail on our PC, but we will always enjoy a tactile pleasure of turning a page as we read.*

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### Examiner comments

##### ■ Content

Outstanding realisation of the task set

##### ■ Range

Impressive use of a wide range

##### ■ Appropriacy of register and format

Wholly appropriate

##### ■ Organisation and cohesion

Skilfully organised and coherent

##### ■ Accuracy

Minimal error

##### ■ Target reader

Impresses the reader and has a very positive effect

# PAPER 2: WRITING

## Question 5(b) (sample script)

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### Sample script with examiner comments

#### QUESTION 5(B): CANDIDATE F

##### ■ Content

Essay must:

- describe how imprisonment affects the lives of two of the hostages
- consider to what extent imprisonment gives them a sense of freedom.

Answer may be supported by reference to:

##### **For all hostages**

imprisonment

releases them from worry, concern for the future

exposes them to a great deal of music gives freedom to express feelings that normally remain hidden.

##### **Gen**

meets and falls in love with the girl from the jungle.

##### **Mr Hosokawa**

can form relationship with Roxane.

##### **Roxane**

her singing seems to put her in charge of the life in the house.

##### **Ruben Iglesias**

takes pleasure in 'ordinary' pursuits – cooking, gardening.

##### **Father Aguedas**

is able to help people, and is appreciated for what he does.

##### **Fyodorov**

is emboldened to express his feelings.

##### ■ Range

Language for:

- describing
- narrating
- explaining
- comparing and contrasting.

##### ■ Appropriacy of register and format

Register consistently appropriate for an essay for tutor.

##### ■ Organisation and cohesion

Clearly organised ideas.

Suitable introduction and conclusion.

##### ■ Target reader

Would know:

- something about two of the hostages
- to what extent they gained a sense of freedom.

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### Candidate F

*Contrary to one's expectation some of the hostages in "Bel Canto" are able to experience a kind of freedom they had never experienced in their lives before. This is true for more than one character (even some of the kidnappers could be put into this category), but for now we will mainly focus on two of them: Mr. Osakawa and Ruben Iglesias. Both characters used to lead a similarly dull life which was about to change when the kidnappers took over Mr Osakawa's birthday party.*

*Mr Osakawa is a notorious Japanese businessman with not much private life not love. He was extremely ambitious when he was young and let work dominate his life. He had no time for his private life and his marriage was as good as arranged. Although he now has wife and children, he hardly spends any time with them and is not sure if he really loves his wife. He definitely respects and values her, he calls her dutiful and appreciates her support, but love?*

*Ruben Iglesias, the Vice President of the country where the kidnapping takes place, also lives for his work. Although he always took his work more seriously than his superior, he always stood in the shade of the latter and*

### Examiner comments

##### ■ Content

Excellent development of topic

##### ■ Range

Impressive use of a wide range

##### ■ Appropriacy of register and format

Wholly appropriate

##### ■ Organisation and cohesion

Skilfully organised and coherent

##### ■ Accuracy

Minimal error

##### ■ Target reader

Very positive effect

## PAPER 2: WRITING

### Question 5(b) (sample script, continued)

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#### Sample script with examiner comments

#### QUESTION 5(B): CANDIDATE F (CONTINUED)

*was only second choice. Like Mr. Osakawa, he has a great sense of responsibility but makes the same mistake of preferring his job over his family. He hardly ever has any thoughts for his family although he is very fond of his kids, Marco especially.*

*For Mr. Osakawa, the key to his new freedom is brought to him through opera in the person of Miss Coss. Mr. Osakawa always loved opera, but in the big mansion there is no more space to hide his passion. Hesitant at first, he adapts to the new circumstances and is happy to be able to listen to opera daily – and what a beautiful sight Miss Coss is! Having first fallen in love with her voice, Mr. Osakawa comes to understand his feelings for her; and when the diva confesses her love to him, his metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly is complete. He no longer hides his feelings but openly shows them.*

*Also Ruben Iglesias experiences love although be it of a different kind. He realizes in what a beautiful place he lives and enjoys doing household tasks. He also often thinks of his family, especially when he spends time with Ismael, and wants to rearrange his priorities once his imprisonment has ended. He longs to get out of the trap he built around himself and wishes to keep his new freedom.*

*Only because of their imprisonment have the two characters perceived their personal captivity. It's as if they had finally regained their senses after having listened to a "bel canto".*

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