



Cambridge IGCSE™

WORLD LITERATURE

Paper 2 Unseen Poetry

0408/21

May/June 2023

1 hour 15 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- 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 30.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

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



Question 1

Read carefully the poem in which the poet describes being separated from her son when he goes to live with his father on the other side of the world.

On a Son Returned to New Zealand

He is my green branch growing in a far plantation.
He is my first invention.

No one can be in two places at once.
So we left Athens on the same morning.
I was in a hot railway carriage, crammed
between Serbian soldiers and peasant
women, on sticky seats, with nothing to
drink but warm mineral water.

5

He was
in a cabin with square windows, sailing
across the Mediterranean, fast,
to Suez.

10

Then I was back in London
in the tarnished summer, remembering,
as I folded his bed up, and sent the
television set away. Letters came
from Aden and Singapore, late.

15

He was
already in his father's house, on the
cliff-top, where the winter storms roll across
from Kapiti Island, and the flax bends
before the wind. He could go no further.

20

He is my bright sea-bird on a rocky beach.

- (a) How does the poet strikingly portray the huge distance between mother and son? [15]
- (b) In what ways does the poet movingly convey her thoughts and feelings? [15]

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