



WORLD LITERATURE

Paper 2 Unseen

0408/22

May/June 2018

1 hour 15 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes reading the question paper and planning your answer.

Both questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **5** printed pages and **3** blank pages.

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

EITHER

- 1 Read carefully the poem on the opposite page.

It describes a boy preparing for a job interview. His sister is helping him.

How does the poet create vivid impressions of the brother and sister and the life they lead?

To help you answer, you might consider:

- how the poet describes the surroundings
- how she portrays the relationship between the boy and his sister
- how her writing makes you feel about their life.

Boy With His Hair Cut Short

Sunday shuts down on this twentieth-century evening.
 The L¹ passes. Twilight and bulb define
 the brown room, the overstuffed plum sofa,
 the boy, and the girl's thin hands above his head.
 A neighbour radio sings stocks², news, serenade.

He sits at the table, head down, the young clear neck exposed,
 watching the drugstore sign from the tail of his eye;
 tattoo, neon, until the eye blears, while his
 solicitous³ tall sister, simple in blue, bending
 behind him, cuts his hair with her cheap shears.

The arrow's electric red always reaches its mark,
 successful neon! He coughs, impressed by that precision.
 His child's forehead, forever protected by his cap,
 is bleached against the lamplight as he turns head
 and steadies to let the snippets drop.

Erasing the failure of weeks with level fingers,
 she sleeks the fine hair, combing: 'You'll look fine tomorrow!
 You'll surely find something, they can't keep turning you down;
 the finest gentleman's not so trim as you!' Smiling, he raises
 the adolescent forehead wrinkling ironic now.

He sees his decent suit laid out, new-pressed,
 his carfare on the shelf. He lets his head fall, meeting
 her earnest hopeless look, seeing the sharp blades splitting,
 the darkened room, the impersonal sign, her motion,
 the blue vein, bright on her temple, pitifully beating.

¹ *The L*: Chicago's high-level railway

² *stocks*: financial investments

³ *solicitous*: caring

OR

2 Read carefully the following extract.

The writer and his family are trespassing on a private estate on their way to their holiday cottage.

How does the writer make this moment so strikingly dramatic?

To help you answer, you might consider:

- how the writer builds up to the arrival of the man in uniform
- how he describes the man and his dog
- how he creates tension in the passage as a whole.

The long distance was covered without hindrance, if not without anguish, and at last we arrived at the ultimate door, the door that would open onto the summer holidays.

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the father may easily produce a false card!

If the children give a false name,

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