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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH **9695/22**

Paper 2 Prose and Unseen **February/March 2025**

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 **one** question.
  - 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.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- All questions are worth equal marks.

This document has **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Section A: Prose

Answer **one** question from this section.

KIRAN DESAI: *The Inheritance of Loss*

1 **Either** **(a)** Discuss the presentation and significance of independence in the novel.

Or **(b)** Comment closely on ways in which Desai presents Sai and Gyan in the following passage.

Gyan and Sai.

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‘Toes?’

(*from* Chapter 20)

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Stories of Ourselves, Volume 1

2 **Either** **(a)** Discuss ways in which the writers of **two** stories make mystery important.

Or **(b)** Comment closely on the following passage from Bernard Malamud's *The Prison*, considering its effectiveness as the ending of the story.

At the same time he figured he would have to do something sure soon, or it would get harder for the girl to stop her stealing.

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The girl, like a grotesque dancer, half ran, half fell forward, but at the door she managed to turn her white face and thrust out at him her red tongue.

(*from* The Prison)

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EVELYN WAUGH: *A Handful of Dust*

3 **Either** **(a)** Discuss ways in which Waugh presents greed in the novel.

Or **(b)** Comment closely on the following passage, considering ways in which Waugh presents the work on the canoes.

They cut four trees and worked on them where they lay, clearing the bush for a few feet round them.

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The canoes would not hold all the stores and an 'emergency dump' was made a little way up the bank.

(*from* In Search of a City, Part 3)

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COLSON WHITEHEAD: *The Underground Railroad*

4 **Either** **(a)** Discuss some of the ways in which Whitehead makes the idea of a journey important in the novel.

Or **(b)** Comment closely on the following passage, considering ways in which Whitehead presents Cora's refuge in Martin's attic.

The heat was impossible most days.

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By his lights, there was nothing for him to do.

(*from* North Carolina)

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Section B: Unseen

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either

5 Discuss ways in which the writer presents work on the docks in the following passage.

In your answer, consider the writer's choice of language, structure and narrative methods.

> Graspo started them unloading bananas, great green claws of fruit as heavy as stone, of brutal weight even for the accordion maker's muscular and broad shoulders.

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> The screwmen seized the bales, stacked them high and tight, forced them into impossibly cramped spaces, odd crannies and corners, through the use of boards and their expanding jackscrews, until the ship nearly split; yet the cargo was perfectly balanced, the ship unsinkable.

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Or

6 Discuss the presentation of the weather in the following extract from a longer poem.

In your answer, consider the writer's choice of language, structure and poetic methods.

from *That Summer*

That summer it was dangerous to put wet laundry in the dryer because of flash floods that would erupt along the venting hose and occasion short circuits.

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late at night from the sky on the other side of the world.

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