GradeMax

CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH **9695/13**

Paper 1 Drama and Poetry **May/June 2026**

2 hours

8640950371

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.

PapaCambridge

This document has **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

DC (CE) 368809/1
© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

[Turn over

Section A: Drama

Answer **one** question from this section.

EDWARD ALBEE: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

1 Either (a) Discuss some of the dramatic ways in which Albee presents different attitudes to marriage in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Or (b) Comment closely on ways in which Albee creates tension in the following extract from the play. In your answer, you should pay attention to dramatic methods and their effects.

GEORGE: [*Sighing heavily*] All right. Well, Martha … I'm afraid our boy isn't coming home for his birthday.

MARTHA: Of course he is.

GEORGE: No, Martha.

MARTHA: Of course he is. I say he is!

GEORGE: He … can't.

MARTHA: He is! I say so!

GEORGE: Martha … [*Long pause*] … our son is … dead.

[*Silence*]

He was … killed … late in the afternoon …

[*Silence*]

[*A tiny chuckle*] on a country road, with his learner's permit in his pocket, he swerved, to avoid a porcupine, and drove straight into a …

MARTHA: [*Rigid fury*] YOU … CAN'T … DO … THAT!

GEORGE: … large tree.

MARTHA: YOU CANNOT DO THAT!

NICK: [*Softly*] Oh my God. [HONEY *is weeping louder.*]

GEORGE: [*Quietly, dispassionately*] I thought you should know.

NICK: Oh my God; no.

MARTHA: [*Quivering with rage and loss*] NO! NO! YOU CANNOT DO THAT! YOU CAN'T DECIDE THAT FOR YOURSELF! I WILL NOT LET YOU DO THAT!

GEORGE: We'll have to leave around noon, I suppose …

MARTHA: I WILL NOT LET YOU DECIDE THESE THINGS!

GEORGE: … because there are matters of identification, naturally, and arrangements to be made …

MARTHA: [*Leaping at* GEORGE*, but ineffectual*] YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

[NICK *rises, grabs hold of* MARTHA*, pins her arms behind her back.*]

I WON'T LET YOU DO THIS, GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

GradeMax

GEORGE: [*As* NICK *holds on; right in* MARTHA*'s face*] You don't seem to understand, Martha; I haven't done anything. Now, pull yourself together. Our son is DEAD! Can you get that into your head?

MARTHA: YOU CAN'T DECIDE THESE THINGS.

NICK: Lady, please.

MARTHA: LET ME GO!

GEORGE: Now listen, Martha; listen carefully. We got a telegram; there was a car accident, and he's dead, POUF! Just like that! Now, how do you like it?

MARTHA: [*A howl which weakens into a moan*] NOOOO-OOoooooo.

GEORGE: [*To* NICK] Let her go. [MARTHA *slumps to the floor in a sitting position.*] She'll be all right now.

MARTHA: [*Pathetic*] No; no, he is *not* dead; he is not *dead*.

GEORGE: He is dead. Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.

MARTHA: You *cannot*. You may not decide these things.

NICK: [*Leaning over her; tenderly*] He hasn't decided anything, lady. It's not his doing. He doesn't have the power …

GEORGE: That's right, Martha; I'm not a god. I don't have the power over life and death, do I?

MARTHA: YOU CAN'T KILL HIM! YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM DIE!

HONEY: Lady … please …

MARTHA: YOU CAN'T!

GEORGE: There was a telegram, Martha.

MARTHA: [*Up; facing him*] Show it to me! Show me the telegram!

GEORGE: [*Long pause; then, with a straight face*] I ate it.

(*from* Act 3 – The Exorcism)

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

GradeMax

ERROL JOHN: *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl*

2 **Either** **(a)** In what ways and with what dramatic effects does John present women's attitudes to men in *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl*?

Or **(b)** Discuss the significance of John's presentation of Epf and Esther in the following extract. In your answer, you should pay close attention to dramatic methods and their effects.

EPF: Yer know, Esther.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

GradeMax

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

He climbs into bed.]

(*from* Act 1, Scene 1)

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

GradeMax

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: *The Tempest*

3 Either (a) Discuss some of the dramatic ways in which Shakespeare presents relationships between parents and children in *The Tempest*.

Or (b) Paying close attention to dramatic methods and their effects, discuss the significance to the play of the following extract.

[*Solemn and strange music; and* PROSPERO *on the top, invisible. Enter several strange Shapes, bringing in a banquet; and dance about it with gentle actions of salutations; and inviting the* KING*, etc., to eat, they depart.*]

ALONSO: What harmony is this? My good friends, hark!

GONZALO: Marvellous sweet music!

ALONSO: Give us kind keepers, heavens! What were these?

SEBASTIAN: A living drollery. Now I will believe
That there are unicorns; that in Arabia
There is one tree, the phoenix' throne, one phoenix
At this hour reigning there.

ANTONIO: I'll believe both;
And what does else want credit, come to me,
And I'll be sworn 'tis true; travellers ne'er did lie,
Though fools at home condemn 'em.

GONZALO: If in Naples
I should report this now, would they believe me?
If I should say, I saw such islanders,
For certes these are people of the island,
Who though they are of monstrous shape yet, note,
Their manners are more gentle-kind than of
Our human generation you shall find
Many, nay, almost any.

PROSPERO: [*Aside*] Honest lord,
Thou hast said well; for some of you there present
Are worse than devils.

ALONSO: I cannot too much muse
Such shapes, such gesture, and such sound, expressing,
Although they want the use of tongue, a kind
Of excellent dumb discourse.

PROSPERO: [*Aside*] Praise in departing.

FRANCISCO: They vanish'd strangely.

SEBASTIAN: No matter, since
They have left their viands behind; for we have stomachs.
Will't please you taste of what is here?

ALONSO: Not I.

GONZALO: Faith, sir, you need not fear. When we were boys,
Who would believe that there were mountaineers,
Dewlapp'd like bulls, whose throats had hanging at 'em
Wallets of flesh? or that there were such men
Whose heads stood in their breasts? which now we find

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

GradeMax

Each putter-out of five for one will bring us
Good warrant of.

ALONSO: I will stand to, and feed,
Although my last; no matter, since I feel
The best is past. Brother, my lord the Duke,
Stand to, and do as we.

[*Thunder and lightning. Enter* ARIEL*, like a harpy; claps his wings upon the table; and, with a quaint device, the banquet vanishes.*]

ARIEL: You are three men of sin, whom Destiny,
That hath to instrument this lower world
And what is in't, the never-surfeited sea
Hath caus'd to belch up you; and on this island
Where man doth not inhabit – you 'mongst men
Being most unfit to live. I have made you mad;
And even with such-like valour men hang and drown
Their proper selves.

[ALONSO*,* SEBASTIAN *etc., draw their swords.*]

You fools! I and my fellows
Are ministers of Fate; the elements
Of whom your swords are temper'd may as well
Wound the loud winds, or with bemock'd-at stabs
Kill the still-closing waters, as diminish
One dowle that's in my plume; my fellow-ministers
Are like invulnerable.

(*from* Act 3, Scene 3)

GradeMax

JOHN WEBSTER: *The Duchess of Malfi*

4 Either (a) Discuss Webster's dramatic exploration of different attitudes to death in the play.

Or (b) Paying close attention to dramatic methods, analyse Webster's presentation of the Duchess and her relationship with her brothers in the following extract.

DUCHESS: Will you hear me?
I'll never marry.

CARDINAL: So most widows say,
But commonly that motion lasts no longer
Than the turning of an hour-glass; the funeral sermon
And it, end both together.

FERDINAND: Now hear me:
You live in a rank pasture here, i'th' court;
There is a kind of honey-dew that's deadly:
'Twill poison your fame; look to't; be not cunning,
For they whose faces do belie their hearts
Are witches, ere they arrive at twenty years;
Ay, and give the devil suck.

DUCHESS: This is terrible good counsel.

FERDINAND: Hypocrisy is woven of a fine small thread,
Subtler than Vulcan's engine; yet, believe't,
Your darkest actions, nay, your privat'st thoughts,
Will come to light.

CARDINAL: You may flatter yourself,
And take your own choice: privately be married
Under the eaves of night.

FERDINAND: Think't the best voyage
That e'er you made like the irregular crab,
Which, though't goes backward, thinks that it goes right,
Because it goes its own way. But observe,
Such weddings may more properly be said
To be executed, than celebrated.

CARDINAL: The marriage night
Is the entrance into some prison.

FERDINAND: And those joys,
Those lustful pleasures, are like heavy sleeps
Which do fore-run man's mischief.

CARDINAL: Fare you well.
Wisdom begins at the end: remember it.
[*Exit* CARDINAL.]

DUCHESS: I think this speech between you both was studied,
It came so roundly off.

FERDINAND: You are my sister,
This was my father's poniard: do you see?
I'd be loth to see't look rusty, 'cause 'twas his.
I would have you to give o'er these chargeable revels;
A visor and a mask are whispering-rooms

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

GradeMax

That were ne'er built for goodness: fare ye well:
And women like that part which, like the lamprey,
Hath ne'er a bone in't.

DUCHESS: Fie, sir!

FERDINAND: Nay,
I mean the tongue: variety of courtship.
What cannot a neat knave with a smooth tale
Make a woman believe? Farewell, lusty widow.

[*Exit* FERDINAND.]

DUCHESS: Shall this move me? If all my royal kindred
Lay in my way unto this marriage,
I'd make them my low footsteps; and even now,
Even in this hate, as men in some great battles,
By apprehending danger, have achieved
Almost impossible actions (I have heard soldiers say so)
So I, through frights, and threatenings, will assay
This dangerous venture. Let old wives report
I winked and chose a husband.

(*from* Act 1, Scene 1)

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Section B: Poetry

Answer **one** question from this section.

MAYA ANGELOU: *And Still I Rise*

5 **Either** **(a)** Discuss some of the ways in which Angelou presents the past. In your answer, you should refer to **two** poems from the selection.

Or **(b)** Comment closely on Angelou's presentation of the natural world in the following poem. You should pay close attention to poetic methods in your answer.

California Prodigal
for David P-B

The eye follows, the land

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

At their feet.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

from **WILLIAM BLAKE:** ***Songs of Innocence and of Experience***

6 **Either** **(a)** Discuss some of the ways in which Blake explores happiness in **two** poems from the selection.

Or **(b)** Paying close attention to poetic methods and effects, discuss Blake's presentation of the speaker in the following poem.

The Angel

I Dreamt a Dream! what can it mean?
And that I was a maiden Queen:
Guarded by an Angel mild;
Witless woe, was ne'er beguil'd!

And I wept both night and day
And he wip'd my tears away
And I wept both day and night
And hid from him my hearts delight

So he took his wings and fled:
Then the morn blush'd rosy red:
I dried my tears & armd my fears,
With ten thousand shields and spears.

Soon my Angel came again:
I was arm'd, he came in vain:
For the time of youth was fled
And grey hairs were on my head.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026 **[Turn over**

GradeMax

from **SYLVIA PLATH:** ***Ariel***

7 **Either** **(a)** 'Plath's poetry explores the human need to escape.'

How far and in what ways do you agree with this comment on Plath's poetry? In your answer, you should refer to **two** poems from the selection.

Or **(b)** Analyse Plath's presentation of the balloons in the following poem. In your answer, you should pay careful attention to poetic methods and effects.

Balloons

Since Christmas they have lived with us,

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

Shred in his little fist.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

from ***Songs of Ourselves, Volume 2***

8 **Either** **(a)** Discuss ways in which **two** poems from the selection present animals.

Or **(b)** Analyse ways in which John Masefield presents the knight in the following poem.

The Dead Knight

The cleanly rush of the mountain air,
And the mumbling, grumbling humble-bees,
Are the only things that wander there,
The pitiful bones are laid at ease,
The grass has grown in his tangled hair,
And a rambling bramble binds his knees.

To shrieve his soul from the pangs of hell,
The only requiem-bells that rang
Were the hare-bell and the heather-bell.
Hushed he is with the holy spell
In the gentle hymn the wind sang,
And he lies quiet, and sleeps well.
He is bleached and blanched with the summer sun;
The misty rain and cold dew
Have altered him from the kingly one
(That his lady loved, and his men knew)
And dwindled him to a skeleton.

The vetches have twined about his bones,
The straggling ivy twists and creeps
In his eye-sockets; the nettle keeps
Vigil about him while he sleeps.
Over his body the wind moans
With a dreary tune throughout the day,
In a chorus wistful, eerie, thin
As the gull's cry – as the cry in the bay,
The mournful word the seas say
When tides are wandering out or in.

(John Masefield)

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

BLANK PAGE

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

BLANK PAGE

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

GradeMax

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (Cambridge University Press & Assessment) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in our Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge International Education is the name of our awarding body and a part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, which is a department of the University of Cambridge.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026