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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH **0475/42**

Paper 4 Unseen **February/March 2024**

1 hour 15 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **one** question: **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.
- 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 25.
- All questions are worth equal marks.

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

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

Either

1 Read carefully the following poem. The poet is writing about the time when her daughter has left home in order to study.

How does the poet memorably convey her feelings about her daughter leaving home?

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how she portrays the house and her daughter's room
- how the poet conveys her feelings when her daughter returns and then leaves again
- how she conveys her feelings in the final section of the poem.

Empty Nest

Dear child, the house pines when you leave.
I research whether there is any bird who grieves
over its empty nest.

Your vacant room
is a still-life framed by the unclosed door;
read by sunlight, an open book on the floor.

I fold the laundry; hang your flower dress
in darkness. Forget-me-nots[1].

*

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Beyond the tall fence, I hear horse-chestnuts[2]
counting themselves.
Then autumn; Christmas.
You come and go, singing. Then ice; snowdrops[3].

Our home hides its face in hands of silence.

I knew mothering, but not this other thing
which hefts[4] my heart each day. Heavier.
Now I know.

*

This is the shy sorrow. It will not speak up.
I play one chord on the piano;
it vanishes, tactful,
as dusk muffles the garden; a magpie staring from its branch.
The marble girl standing by the bench.

From the local church, bells like a spelling.
And the evening star like a text.
And then what next …

[1]*forget-me-nots*: small blue flowers
[2]*horse-chestnuts*: species of tree which drops hard seed cases
[3]*snowdrops*: white flowers that bloom in winter
[4]*hefts*: heaves up

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Or

2 Read carefully the following extract from a novel. The narrator is travelling on horseback across a remote desert region. He is accompanied by a small group of men and 'the girl'. One morning, a storm approaches.

How does the writer vividly convey a sense of danger?

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how he portrays the approach of the storm
- his description of the storm and the reactions of the travellers
- how he conveys the impact that the storm has on them.

Rolling down upon us over the snowy plain is a gigantic black wave.

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My voice rasps from my throat: ‘Come, men, let us load.’

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