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LITERATURE IN ENGLISH **0475/42**

Paper 4 Unseen **May/June 2026**

1 hour 15 minutes

1590347018

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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 observes men who are bodybuilding at the gym.

How does the poet strikingly portray the men at the gym?

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how he portrays what the men look like
- the words and images which convey what seems to be happening
- how the poet conveys his thoughts and feelings about the men.

the men are weeping in the gym

The men are weeping in the gym
using the hand dryer to cover
their sobs their hearts have grown too big
for their chests their chests have grown too big
for their shirts they are dressed like kids
who have forgotten their games kit
they are crying in the toilet
and because they have built themselves
as statues this must mean that God
has entered them they are wringing
their faces like sweat towels
in the sink their veins are about
to burst their banks they are flooding
out of themselves onto the tiles
they have turned water into protein shakes
they have got too close to the mirrors

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they have got too close to the glass

and now they are laying

in the broken pools of their own faces

the lines of them! At the decline press

the bicep curl[1] waiting staring

straight ahead swearing that the wetness

on their cheeks is perspiration

that the words they mutter as they lift

are meaningless that they feel

nothing when the muscle tears itself

from itself that they don't hear

the thousands of tiny fracturings

needed to build something stronger

[1]*decline press* and *bicep curl*: gym equipment

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Or

2 Read carefully the following extract from a novel. The narrator is a teenage girl who lives with her parents ('M' is her mother). Recently she has experienced a series of particularly vivid dreams. She recounts how she went to her bedroom and saw someone who looked exactly like herself apparently asleep in her bed.

How does the narrator portray this unsettling experience?

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how she recognised the body in the bed
- how she describes what she did next
- her thoughts and feelings about what has happened.

My duvet which by daylight had a pattern of stretching cats – M's choice not mine – was a shadow mass.

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And if it was a dream, it wouldn't have been so very, very long.

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6

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