



Cambridge IGCSE™

WORLD LITERATURE

0408/23

Paper 2 Unseen

October/November 2021

1 hour 15 minutes

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.

This document has **4** pages.

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

EITHER

1 Read carefully the poem below.

How does the poet powerfully convey ideas about the impact of humans on the environment?

To help you answer, you might consider:

- the way that the poet presents ideas about the future
- the way that the poet conveys his thoughts and feelings
- the impact of the final two stanzas (from 'I'm saying ...').

Letter to Someone Living Fifty Years from Now

Most likely, you think we hated the elephant,
the golden toad, the thylacine¹ and all variations
of whale harpooned or hacked into extinction.

It must seem like we sought to leave you nothing
but benzene², mercury, the stomachs
of seagulls rippled with jet fuel and plastic.

You probably doubt that we were capable of joy,
but I assure you we were.

We still had the night sky back then,
and like our ancestors, we admired
its illuminated doodles
of scorpion outlines and upside-down ladles.

Absolutely, there were some forests left!
Absolutely, we still had some lakes!

I'm saying, it wasn't all lead paint and sulfur dioxide.
There were bees back then, and they pollinated
a euphoria of flowers so we might
contemplate the great mysteries and finally ask,
"Hey guys, what's transcendence?"

And then all the bees were dead.

¹*thylacine*: an extinct breed of wolf with tiger stripes

²*benzene*: a chemical found in crude oil

OR

- 2** Read carefully the following extract about Nanda Kaul, an old woman. She has moved to Carignano, an isolated house in the mountains, to spend her last years alone.

How does the writer create striking impressions of Nanda Kaul?

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- Nanda Kaul's thoughts and feelings about the postman
- the descriptions of where she lives
- the way the writer conveys her desire to be left alone.

Nanda Kaul paused under the pine trees to take in their scented sibilance and listen to the cicadas fiddling invisibly under the mesh of pine needles when she saw the postman slowly winding his way along the Upper Mall.

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Her nostrils pinched and whitened with disapproval.

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