



Cambridge IGCSE™

WORLD LITERATURE

Paper 2 Unseen Poetry

0408/21

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1 hour 15 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- 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 30.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

- 1 Read carefully the following poem which describes people who work hard.

To be of use

The people I love the best
 jump into work head first
 without dallying¹ in the shallows
 and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
 They seem to become natives of that element, 5
 the black sleek heads of seals
 bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a
 heavy cart,
 who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience, 10
 who strain in the mud and the muck to move things
 forward,
 who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge
 in the task, who go into the fields to harvest 15
 and work in a row and pass the bags along,
 who are not parlor generals² and field deserters
 but move in a common rhythm
 when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud. 20
 Botched³, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
 But the thing worth doing well done
 has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
 Greek amphoras⁴ for wine or oil,
 Hopi⁵ vases that held corn, are put in museums 25
 but you know they were made to be used.
 The pitcher cries for water to carry
 and a person for work that is real.

¹*dallying*: taking time

²*parlor generals*: those in charge but not involved in the work

³*botched*: a job done badly

⁴*amphoras*: tall jugs

⁵*Hopi*: a Native American tribe

- (a) How does the poet use words and images to describe work? [15]
- (b) How does the poet powerfully convey her admiration for people who work hard? [15]

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