



# Cambridge O Level

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**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**2010/13**

Paper 1 Poetry and Prose

**October/November 2022**

**1 hour 30 minutes**



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions.
- Your answers must be on **two** different set texts.
- 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 50.
- All questions are worth equal marks.

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## SECTION A: POETRY

## SONGS OF OURSELVES VOLUME 1: from Part 3

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

Either 1 Read this poem, and then answer the question that follows it:

*Little Boy Crying*

Your mouth contorting in brief spite and hurt,  
 your laughter metamorphosed into howls,  
 your frame so recently relaxed now tight  
 with three-year-old frustration, your bright eyes  
 swimming tears, splashing your bare feet, 5  
 you stand there angling for a moment's hint  
 of guilt or sorrow for the quick slap struck.

The ogre towers above you, that grim giant,  
 empty of feeling, a colossal cruel,  
 soon victim of the tale's conclusion, dead 10  
 at last. You hate him, you imagine  
 chopping clean the tree he's scrambling down  
 or plotting deeper pits to trap him in.

You cannot understand, not yet,  
 the hurt your easy tears can scald him with, 15  
 nor guess the wavering hidden behind that mask.  
 this fierce man longs to lift you, curb your sadness  
 with piggy-back or bull-fight, anything,  
 but dare not ruin the lessons you should learn.

You must not make a plaything of the rain. 20

(Mervyn Morris)

How does Morris make this such a powerful poem?

Or 2 In what ways does Dixon strikingly convey the family's poverty in *Plenty*?

*Plenty*

When I was young and there were five of us,  
all running riot to my mother's quiet despair,  
our old enamel tub, age-stained and pocked  
upon its griffin claws, was never full.

Such plenty was too dear in our expanse of drought  
where dams leaked dry and windmills stalled.  
Like Mommy's smile. Her lips stretched back  
and anchored down, in anger at some fault –

5

of mine, I thought – not knowing then  
it was a clasp to keep us all from chaos.  
She saw it always, snapping locks and straps,  
the spilling: sums and worries, shopping lists

10

for aspirin, porridge, petrol, bread.  
Even the toilet paper counted,  
and each month was weeks too long.  
Her mouth a lid clamped hard on this.

15

We thought her mean. Skipped chores,  
swiped biscuits – best of all  
when she was out of earshot  
stole another precious inch

20

up to our chests, such lovely sin,  
lolling luxuriant in secret warmth  
disgorged from fat brass taps,  
our old compliant co-conspirators.

Now bubbles lap my chin. I am a sybarite.  
The shower's a hot cascade  
and water's plentiful, to excess, almost, here.  
I leave the heating on.

25

And miss my scattered sisters,  
all those bathroom squabbles and, at last,  
my mother's smile, loosed from the bonds  
of lean, dry times and our long childhood.

30

(Isobel Dixon)

**SONGS OF OURSELVES VOLUME 2: from Part 4**

**Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.**

**Either 3** Read this poem, and then answer the question that follows it:

*Rhyme of the Dead Self*

Tonight I have taken all that I was  
and strangled him that pale lily-white lad  
I have choked him with these my hands these claws  
catching him as he lay a-dreaming in his bed.

Then chuckling I dragged out his foolish brains  
that were full of pretty love-tales heighho the holly  
and emptied them holus bolus to the drains  
those dreams of love oh what ruinous folly.

5

He is dead pale youth and he shall not rise  
on the third day or any other day  
sloughed like a snakeskin there he lies  
and he shall not trouble me again for aye.

10

(A R D Fairburn)

How does Fairburn make this such a disturbing poem?

Or 4 In what ways does Wyatt strikingly convey his despair in *I Find No Peace*?

*I Find No Peace*

I find no peace, and all my war is done.  
I fear and hope. I burn and freeze like ice.  
I fly above the wind, yet can I not arise;  
And nought I have, and all the world I season.  
That loseth nor locketh holdeth me in prison 5  
And holdeth me not—yet can I scape no wise—  
Nor letteth me live nor die at my device,  
And yet of death it giveth me occasion.  
Without eyen I see, and without tongue I plain.  
I desire to perish, and yet I ask health. 10  
I love another, and thus I hate myself.  
I feed me in sorrow and laugh in all my pain;  
Likewise displeaseth me both life and death,  
And my delight is causer of this strife.

(Sir Thomas Wyatt)

**CAROL ANN DUFFY: from *New Selected Poems***

**Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.**

**Either 5** Read this poem, and then answer the question that follows it:

*Stealing*

The most unusual thing I ever stole? A snowman.  
Midnight. He looked magnificent; a tall, white mute  
beneath the winter moon. I wanted him, a mate  
with a mind as cold as the slice of ice  
within my own brain. I started with the head. 5

Better off dead than giving in, not taking  
what you want. He weighed a ton; his torso,  
frozen stiff, hugged to my chest, a fierce chill  
piercing my gut. Part of the thrill was knowing  
that children would cry in the morning. Life's tough. 10

Sometimes I steal things I don't need. I joyride cars  
to nowhere, break into houses just to have a look.  
I'm a mucky ghost, leave a mess, maybe pinch a camera.  
I watch my gloved hand twisting the doorknob.  
A stranger's bedroom. Mirrors. I sigh like this – *Aah*. 15

It took some time. Reassembled in the yard,  
he didn't look the same. I took a run  
and booted him. Again. Again. My breath ripped out  
in rags. It seems daft now. Then I was standing  
alone amongst lumps of snow, sick of the world. 20

Boredom. Mostly I'm so bored I could eat myself.  
One time, I stole a guitar and thought I might  
learn to play. I nicked a bust of Shakespeare once,  
flogged it, but the snowman was strangest.  
You don't understand a word I'm saying, do you? 25

To what extent does Duffy's writing make you feel sympathy for the speaker in this poem?

Or 6 Explore the ways in which Duffy vividly portrays what it is like to be an outsider in *Foreign*.

*Foreign*

Imagine living in a strange, dark city for twenty years.  
There are some dismal dwellings on the east side  
and one of them is yours. On the landing, you hear  
your foreign accent echo down the stairs. You think  
in a language of your own and talk in theirs. 5

Then you are writing home. The voice in your head  
recites the letter in a local dialect; behind that  
is the sound of your mother singing to you,  
all that time ago, and now you do not know  
why your eyes are watering and what's the word for this. 10

You use the public transport. Work. Sleep. Imagine one night  
you saw a name for yourself sprayed in red  
against a brick wall. A hate name. Red like blood.  
It is snowing in the streets, under the neon lights,  
as if this place were coming to bits before your eyes. 15

And in the delicatessen, from time to time, the coins  
in your palm will not translate. Inarticulate,  
because this is not home, you point at fruit. Imagine  
that one of you says, *Me not know what these people mean.*  
*It like they only go to bed and dream.* Imagine that. 20

SECTION B: PROSE

CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE: *Purple Hibiscus*

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

**Either** 7 Read this passage, and then answer the question that follows it:

When Jaja and I sat down to have dinner that evening, I thought about Papa and Mama, sitting alone at our wide dining table.

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Obiora turned on the TV after Aunty Ifeoma said good night and went into her bedroom.

How does Adichie vividly convey the ways in which life at Aunty Ifeoma's home surprises Kambili and Jaja?

**Or**      **8**      Explore how Adichie memorably portrays Eugene's power over Kambili.

CHARLOTTE BRONTË: *Jane Eyre*

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

Either 9 Read this passage, and then answer the question that follows it:

‘Helen!’ I whispered softly; ‘are you awake?’

She stirred herself, put back the curtain, and I saw her face, pale, wasted, but quite composed; she looked so little changed that my fear was instantly dissipated.

‘Can it be you, Jane?’ she asked, in her own gentle voice. 5

‘Oh!’ I thought, ‘she is not going to die; they are mistaken: she could not speak and look so calmly if she were.’

I got on to her crib and kissed her: her forehead was cold, and her cheek both cold and thin, and so were her hand and wrist: but she smiled as of old. 10

‘Why are you come here, Jane? It is past eleven o’clock: I heard it strike some minutes since.’

‘I came to see you, Helen: I heard you were very ill, and I could not sleep till I had spoken to you.’

‘You came to bid me good-bye, then: you are just in time probably.’ 15

‘Are you going somewhere, Helen? Are you going home?’

‘Yes; to my long home – my last home.’

‘No, no, Helen!’ I stopped, distressed. While I tried to devour my tears, a fit of coughing seized Helen; it did not, however, wake the nurse. When it was over, she lay some minutes exhausted; then she whispered – 20

‘Jane, your little feet are bare; lie down and cover yourself with my quilt.’

I did so: she put her arm over me, and I nestled close to her. After a long silence, she resumed, still whispering –

‘I am very happy, Jane; and when you hear that I am dead, you must be sure and not grieve: there is nothing to grieve about. We all must die one day, and the illness which is removing me is not painful; it is gentle and gradual: my mind is at rest. I leave no one to regret me much: I have only a father; and he is lately married, and will not miss me. By dying young, I shall escape great sufferings. I had not qualities or talents to make my way very well in the world: I should have been continually at fault.’ 25

‘But where are you going to, Helen? Can you see? Do you know?’

‘I believe; I have faith: I am going to God.’

‘Where is God? What is God?’

‘My Maker and yours, who will never destroy what He created. I rely implicitly on His power, and confide wholly in His goodness: I count the hours till that eventful one arrives which shall restore me to Him, reveal Him to me.’ 35

‘You are sure, then, Helen, that there is such a place as heaven; and that our souls can get to it when we die?’ 40

‘I am sure there is a future state; I believe God is good; I can resign my immortal part to Him without any misgiving. God is my father; God is my friend: I love Him; I believe He loves me.’

‘And shall I see you again, Helen, when I die?’

‘You will come to the same region of happiness: be received by the same mighty universal Parent, no doubt, dear Jane.’ 45

Again I questioned; but this time only in thought. ‘Where is that region? Does it exist?’ And I clasped my arms closer round Helen; she

seemed dearer to me than ever; I felt as if I could not let her go; I lay with my face hidden on her neck. Presently she said in the sweetest tone –

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‘How comfortable I am! That last fit of coughing has tired me a little; I feel as if I could sleep: but don’t leave me, Jane; I like to have you near me.’

‘I’ll stay with you, *dear* Helen: no one shall take me away.’

(from Chapter 9)

How does Brontë make this such a moving and significant moment in the novel?

Or 10 Explore **two** moments where Brontë memorably depicts bullying.

**ZORA NEALE HURSTON: *Their Eyes Were Watching God***

**Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.**

**Either 11** Read this passage, and then answer the question that follows it:

The cooling palma christi leaves that Janie had bound about her grandma's head with a white rag had wilted down and become part and parcel of the woman.

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HENRY JAMES: *Washington Square*

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

Either 13 Read this passage, and then answer the question that follows it:

Morris felt it to be a considerable damage to his cause that he could not add that she had had something more besides; for it is needless to say that he had learnt the contents of Doctor Sloper's will. He was nevertheless not at a loss. 'There are worse fates than that!' he exclaimed with expression; and he might have been supposed to refer to his own unprotected situation. Then he added, with a deeper tenderness, 'Catherine, have you never forgiven me?' 5

'I forgave you years ago, but it is useless for us to attempt to be friends.'

'Not if we forget the past. We have still a future, thank God!' 10

'I can't forget – I don't forget,' said Catherine. 'You treated me too badly. I felt it very much; I felt it for years.' And then she went on, with her wish to show him that he must not come to her this way, 'I can't begin again – I can't take it up. Everything is dead and buried. It was too serious; it made a great change in my life. I never expected to see you here.' 15

'Ah, you are angry!' cried Morris, who wished immensely that he could extort some flash of passion from her mildness. In that case he might hope.

'No, I am not angry. Anger does not last, that way, for years. But there are other things. Impressions last, when they have been strong. – But I can't talk.' 20

Morris stood stroking his beard, with a clouded eye. 'Why have you never married?' he asked abruptly. 'You have had opportunities.'

'I didn't wish to marry.'

'Yes, you are rich, you are free; you had nothing to gain.'

'I had nothing to gain,' said Catherine. 25

Morris looked vaguely round him, and gave a deep sigh. 'Well, I was in hopes that we might still have been friends.'

'I meant to tell you, by my aunt, in answer to your message – if you had waited for an answer – that it was unnecessary for you to come in that hope.' 30

'Good-bye, then,' said Morris. 'Excuse my indiscretion.'

He bowed, and she turned away – standing there, averted, with her eyes on the ground, for some moments after she had heard him close the door of the room.

In the hall he found Mrs Penniman, fluttered and eager; she appeared to have been hovering there under the irreconcilable promptings of her curiosity and her dignity. 35

'That was a precious plan of yours!' said Morris, clapping on his hat.

'Is she so hard!' asked Mrs Penniman.

'She doesn't care a button for me – with her confounded little dry manner.' 40

'Was it very dry?' pursued Mrs Penniman, with solicitude.

Morris took no notice of her question; he stood musing an instant, with his hat on. 'But why the deuce, then, would she never marry?'

'Yes – why indeed?' sighed Mrs Penniman. And then, as if from a sense of the inadequacy of this explanation, 'But you will not despair – you will come back?' 45

'Come back? Damnation!' And Morris Townsend strode out of the house, leaving Mrs Penniman staring.

Catherine, meanwhile, in the parlour, picking up her morsel of fancy-work, had seated herself with it again – for life, as it were.

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(from Chapter 35)

To what extent does James make this a satisfying ending to the novel?

**Or**      **14** How far does James make it possible for you to admire Dr Sloper?

**JHUMPA LAHIRI: *The Namesake***

**Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.**

**Either 15** Read this passage, and then answer the question that follows it:

And yet to a casual observer, the Gangulis, apart from the name on their mailbox, apart from the issues of *India Abroad* and *Sangbad Bichitra* that are delivered there, appear no different from their neighbors.

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In Bengali class they read from hand-sewn primers brought back by their teacher from Calcutta, intended for five-year-olds, printed, Gogol can't help noticing, on paper that resembles the folded toilet paper he uses at school.

*(from Chapter 3)*

In what ways does Lahiri vividly capture the Gangulis' attitudes to American culture at this moment in the novel?

- Or**      **16** How does Lahiri make Moushumi's relationship with Dimitri such a powerful part of the novel?

**YANN MARTEL: *Life of Pi***

**Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.**

**Either 17** Read this passage, and then answer the question that follows it:

The sun climbed through the sky, reached its zenith, began to come down.

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The night passed, minute by slow minute.

*(from Chapter 44)*

How does Martel strikingly convey Pi's thoughts and feelings at this moment in the novel?

Or 18 In what ways does Martel make the meerkat island both mysterious and sinister?

## GEORGE ORWELL: 1984

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

Either 19 Read this passage, and then answer the question that follows it:

‘How is the Dictionary getting on?’ said Winston, raising his voice to overcome the noise.

‘Slowly,’ said Syme. ‘I’m on the adjectives. It’s fascinating.’

He had brightened up immediately at the mention of Newspeak. He pushed his pannikin aside, took up his hunk of bread in one delicate hand and his cheese in the other, and leaned across the table so as to be able to speak without shouting.

‘The Eleventh Edition is the definitive edition,’ he said. ‘We’re getting the language into its final shape – the shape it’s going to have when nobody speaks anything else. When we’ve finished with it, people like you will have to learn it all over again. You think, I dare say, that our chief job is inventing new words. But not a bit of it! We’re destroying words – scores of them, hundreds of them, every day. We’re cutting the language down to the bone. The Eleventh Edition won’t contain a single word that will become obsolete before the year 2050.’

He bit hungrily into his bread and swallowed a couple of mouthfuls, then continued speaking, with a sort of pedant’s passion. His thin dark face had become animated, his eyes had lost their mocking expression and grown almost dreamy.

‘It’s a beautiful thing, the destruction of words. Of course the great wastage is in the verbs and adjectives, but there are hundreds of nouns that can be got rid of as well. It isn’t only the synonyms; there are also the antonyms. After all, what justification is there for a word which is simply the opposite of some other word? A word contains its opposite in itself. Take “good”, for instance. If you have a word like “good”, what need is there for a word like “bad”? “Ungood” will do just as well – better, because it’s an exact opposite, which the other is not. Or again, if you want a stronger version of “good”, what sense is there in having a whole string of vague useless words like “excellent” and “splendid” and all the rest of them? “Plusgood” covers the meaning; or “doubleplusgood” if you want something stronger still. Of course we use those forms already, but in the final version of Newspeak there’ll be nothing else. In the end the whole notion of goodness and badness will be covered by only six words – in reality, only one word. Don’t you see the beauty of that, Winston? It was B.B.’s idea originally, of course,’ he added as an afterthought.

A sort of vapid eagerness flitted across Winston’s face at the mention of Big Brother. Nevertheless Syme immediately detected a certain lack of enthusiasm.

‘You haven’t a real appreciation of Newspeak, Winston,’ he said almost sadly. ‘Even when you write it you’re still thinking in Oldspeak. I’ve read some of those pieces that you write in the *Times* occasionally. They’re good enough, but they’re translations. In your heart you’d prefer to stick to Oldspeak, with all its vagueness and its useless shades of meaning. You don’t grasp the beauty of the destruction of words. Do you know that Newspeak is the only language in the world whose vocabulary gets smaller every year?’

Winston did know that, of course. He smiled, sympathetically he hoped, not trusting himself to speak. Syme bit off another fragment of the dark-coloured bread, chewed it briefly, and went on:

‘Don’t you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall make thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it. Every concept that can ever be needed will be expressed by exactly *one* word, with its meaning rigidly defined and all its subsidiary meanings rubbed out and forgotten.’

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(from Part 1 Chapter 5)

Explore how Orwell makes this conversation between Winston and Syme so disturbing.

**Or**      **20** In what ways does Orwell depict war as such a memorable part of life in Oceania?

from *STORIES OF OURSELVES VOLUME 2*

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

- Either 21 Read this passage from *Thank You M'am* (by Langston Hughes), and then answer the question that follows it:

The water dripping from his face, the boy looked at her. There was a long pause. A very long pause. After he had dried his face and not knowing what else to do, dried it again, the boy turned around, wondering what next. The door was open. He could make a dash for it down the hall. He could run, run, run, *run!* 5

The woman was sitting on the day bed. After a while she said, 'I were young once and I wanted things I could not get.'

There was another long pause. The boy's mouth opened. Then he frowned, not knowing he frowned.

The woman said, 'Um-hum! You thought I was going to say *but*, didn't you? You thought I was going to say, *but I didn't snatch people's pocketbooks*. Well, I wasn't going to say that.' Pause. Silence. 'I have done things, too, which I would not tell you, son—neither tell God, if He didn't already know. Everybody's got something in common. So you set down while I fix us something to eat. You might run that comb through your hair so you will look presentable.' 10 15

In another corner of the room behind a screen was a gas plate and an icebox. Mrs Jones got up and went behind the screen. The woman did not watch the boy to see if he was going to run now, nor did she watch her purse, which she left behind her on the day bed. But the boy took care to sit on the far side of the room, away from the purse, where he thought she could easily see him out of the corner of her eye if she wanted to. He did not trust the woman *not* to trust him. And he did not want to be mistrusted now. 20

'Do you need somebody to go to the store,' asked the boy, 'maybe to get some milk or something?' 25

'Don't believe I do,' said the woman, 'unless you just want sweet milk yourself. I was going to make cocoa out of this canned milk I got here.'

'That will be fine,' said the boy.

She heated some lima beans and ham she had in the icebox, made the cocoa, and set the table. The woman did not ask the boy anything about where he lived, or his folks, or anything else that would embarrass him. Instead, as they ate, she told him about her job in a hotel beauty shop that stayed open late, what the work was like, and how all kinds of women came in and out, blondes, redheads, and Spanish. Then she cut him a half of her ten-cent cake. 30 35

'Eat some more, son,' she said.

When they were finished eating, she got up and said, 'Now here, take this ten dollars and buy yourself some blue suede shoes. And next time, do not make the mistake of latching onto *my* pocketbook *nor nobody else's*—because shoes got by devilish ways will burn your feet. I got to get my rest now. But from here on in, son, I hope you will behave yourself.' 40

She led him down the hall to the front door and opened it. 'Good night! Behave yourself, boy!' she said, looking out into the street as he went down the steps. 45

The boy wanted to say something other than, 'Thank you, m'am,' to Mrs Luella Bates Washington Jones, but although his lips moved, he couldn't even say that as he turned at the foot of the barren stoop and looked up at the large woman in the door. Then she shut the door.

How does Hughes make this such a satisfying ending to the story?

**Or**      **22** In what ways does Hawthorne make *Dr Heidegger's Experiment* a disturbing story?





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