



Cambridge IGCSE™

LITERATURE (ENGLISH) (US)

0427/01

Paper 1 Poetry and Prose

October/November 2023

1 hour 30 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
Section A: answer **one** question.
Section B: answer **one** question.
- 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.

This document has **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

SECTION A: POETRY

Answer **one** question from this section.

from LIZ ROSENBERG and DEENA NOVEMBER eds.: *I Just Hope It's Lethal*

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

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

Always Secondary

i'll always be the dish you're stuck with when

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by default

(Deena November)

In what ways does November make this such an intriguing poem?

Or 2 Read this poem, and then answer the question that follows it:

A Glass of Water

Here is a glass of water from my well.

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After the bitter mood had gone again.

(May Sarton)

How does Sarton strikingly convey the speaker's thoughts and feelings about the water?

from Songs of Ourselves Volume 2: from Part 1

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

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

Coming Home

My mother's hug is awkward,

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it is a tune he plays faster each year.

(Owen Sheers)

How does Sheers make this such a moving poem?

Or 4 Read this poem, and then answer the question that follows it:

Sons, Departing

They walked away between tall hedges,

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their walk was one-dimensional, and final.

(John Cassidy)

Explore the ways in which Cassidy powerfully portrays the moment when the sons leave.

SECTION B: PROSE

Answer **one** question from this section.

LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON: *Chains*

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

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

I swept the hearth and fetched the fan.

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I did not move.

(from Chapter 25)

How does Anderson movingly convey Isabel's thoughts and feelings at this moment in the novel?

Or **6** Explore **two** moments in the novel which Anderson makes particularly shocking for you.

BARBARA KINGSOLVER: *The Bean Trees*

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

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

I knew right away that something had gone wrong.

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Anybody else, I thought, might have seen he had a gun, or a knife.

(from Chapter 12)

Explore the ways in which Kingsolver makes this such a disturbing moment in the novel.

Or 8 How does Kingsolver encourage you to feel sympathy for Lou Ann?

JOHN STEINBECK: *The Wayward Bus*

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

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

Norma's eyes had been caught by a series of photographs of picture stars.

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like glass, but warm and soft-feeling. The plastic was not cold,

(from Chapter 4)

How does Steinbeck vividly portray Norma at this moment in the novel?

Or 10 Explore how Steinbeck creates such memorable impressions of Mildred.

TURN OVER FOR QUESTION 11.

COLM TÓIBÍN: *Brooklyn*

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

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

Eilis slipped away, glad no one had noticed that she had not spoken once at the meal. She wondered if she could go out now, do anything rather than face her tomb of a bedroom and all the thoughts that would come when she lay awake and all the dreams that would come when she slept. She stood in the hall, and then turned upstairs, realizing that she was afraid too of the outside, and even if she were not she would have no idea where to go at this time of the evening. She hated this house, she thought, its smells, its noises, its colors. She was already crying as she went up the stairs. She knew that as long as the others were discussing their wardrobes in the kitchen below, she would be able to cry as loudly as she pleased without their hearing her. 5

That night was the worst she had ever spent. It was only as the dawn came that she remembered something Jack had said to her on the day in Liverpool before she had caught the boat, a time that now seemed like years ago. He had said that he found being away hard at first, but he did not elaborate and she did not think of asking him what it really had been like. His manner was so mild and good-humored, just as her father's had been, that he would not in any case want to complain. She considered writing to him now, asking him if he too had felt like this, as though he had been shut away somewhere and was trapped in a place where there was nothing. It was like hell, she thought, because she could see no end to it, and to the feeling that came with it, but the torment was strange, it was all in her mind, it was like the arrival of night if you knew that you would never see anything in daylight again. She did not know what she was going to do. But she knew that Jack was too far away to be able to help her. 10 15 20

None of them could help her. She had lost all of them. They would not find out about this; she would not put it into a letter. And because of this she understood that they would never know her now. Maybe, she thought, they had never known her, any of them, because if they had, then they would have had to realize what this would be like for her. 25

She lay there as the light of day began; she did not think she would be able to manage another night like this. For a while she was quietly resigned to the prospect that nothing would change, but she did not know what the consequences would be, or what form they would take. Once more, she got up early and left the house without making a sound and walked the streets for an hour before going to have a cup of coffee. She noticed the cold in the air for the first time; it seemed to her that the weather had changed. But it hardly mattered now what the weather was like. She found a place in a diner where she could have her back to everybody, and no one could comment on the expression on her face. 30 35

By the time she drank the coffee and had a bun and managed to get the waitress's attention to pay the bill, she realized that she had left herself too short a time to get to work. If she did not hurry, she was going to be late for the first time. There were crowds in the streets and she could not easily get past people. She wondered at one point if people were not deliberately blocking her way. It took a long time for the traffic lights to change. Once she was on Fulton Street, it was even harder; it was as though crowds were coming out of a football game. Even moving at a normal pace was hard. She arrived at Bartocci's with just a minute to spare. She did not know how she was going to spend the day standing on the shop floor trying to look pleasant and attentive. 40 45

(from Part Two)

How does Tóibín vividly convey Eilis's distress at this moment in the novel?

Or **12** In what ways does Tóibín portray Tony as such a likeable character?

from *Stories of Ourselves*

Remember to support your ideas with details from the writing.

- Either 13** Read this passage from *Meteor* (by John Wyndham), and then answer the question that follows it:

It was he who led the way down the newly-bored passage, and he who first set foot in the new land.

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When
it drew back, twenty of our men and women were no more than smears on the
ground.

How does Wyndham memorably depict the Fortans' experience of "the new land" in this
passage?

Or 14 What does Pritchett make you feel about the father in *The Fly in the Ointment*?

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