



# Cambridge IGCSE™

**WORLD LITERATURE**

Paper 2 Unseen Poetry

**0408/23**

**May/June 2023**

**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.

**Question 1**

Read carefully the poem in which the poet considers the value of silence.

*Keeping Quiet*

Now we will count to twelve  
and we will all keep still.

For once on the face of the earth,  
let's not speak in any language;  
let's stop for one second, 5  
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines;  
we would all be together 10  
in a sudden strangeness.

Fishermen in the cold sea  
would not harm whales  
and the man gathering salt  
would not look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars, 15  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victories with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers 20  
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused  
with total inactivity.  
Life is what it is about;  
I want no truck<sup>1</sup> with death.

If we were not so single minded 25  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness 30  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with death.  
Perhaps the earth can teach us  
as when everything seems dead  
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve 35  
and you keep quiet and I will go.

<sup>1</sup>*truck*: involvement

- (a) In what ways does the poet create striking impressions of modern life? [15]
- (b) How does the poet powerfully convey the benefits of slowing down the pace of life? [15]

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