



Cambridge IGCSE™

WORLD LITERATURE

Paper 2 Unseen Poetry

0408/22

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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.

Question 1

Read carefully the poem below about a river.

The River's Story

I remember when life was good.
 I tumbled down mountains,
 Shilly-shallied across meadows,
 I laughed and gurgled through woods,
 Stretched and yawned in a myriad of floods. 5
 Insects, weightless as sunbeams,
 Settled upon my skin to drink.
 I wore lily-pads like medals.
 Fish, lazy and battle scarred,
 Gossiped beneath them. 10
 The damselflies were my ballerinas,
 The pike¹ my ambassadors.
 Kingfishers², disguised as rainbows,
 Were my secret agents.
 It was a sweet time, a gone-time, 15
 A time before the factories grew,
 Brick by greedy brick,
 And left me cowering in monstrous shadows.
 Like drunken giants
 They vomited their poisons into me. 20
 Tonight
 A scattering of vagrant bluebells,
 Dwarfed by those same poisons,
 Toll my ending.
 Children, come and find me if you wish, 25
 I am your inheritance.
 Behind the derelict housing-estates,
 You will discover my remnants.
 Clogged with garbage and junk,
 To an open sewer I've shrunk. 30
 I, who have flowed through history,
 Who have seen hamlets become villages,
 Villages become towns, towns become cities,
 Am reduced to a trickle of filth,
 Beneath the still, burning stars. 35

¹ *pike* : a large fish

² *kingfisher* : a colourful bird

- (a) How does the poet vividly describe the river in the past in lines 1–14? [15]
- (b) In what ways does the poet powerfully convey the changes to the river in lines 15–34? [15]

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