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English A: literature – Higher level – Paper 1
Anglais A : littérature – Niveau supérieur – Épreuve 1
Inglés A: literatura – Nivel superior – Prueba 1

Thursday 7 November 2019 (afternoon)

Jeudi 7 novembre 2019 (après-midi)

Jueves 7 de noviembre de 2019 (tarde)

2 hours / 2 heures / 2 horas

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Write a literary commentary on one passage only.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[20 marks]**.

Instructions destinées aux candidats

- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Rédigez un commentaire littéraire sur un seul des passages.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est de **[20 points]**.

Instrucciones para los alumnos

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Escriba un comentario literario sobre un solo pasaje.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es **[20 puntos]**.

Write a literary commentary on **one** of the following:

1.

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2.

AUBADE¹ FOR THE PATIENT IN BED NUMBER FOUR

my aunt's not crazy but she's crazy
for the wall in the hall outside her room
 talks about it all the time
that pink paler than the palest conch shell
5 or swimming scallop

 if she cranes her neck
she can glimpse the wall through her cornered sightline
bed four to door

she can't remember how she ended up in room 110
10 or when or what went wrong

 it's been a month
the days gather odours she can no longer name

she spent last night in a ship's hold
lying on a door she said the night before
15 she taped a sign in a shop window *open for business*
she knows she's reached the bottom

the colour on the wall outside her room is not paint
or a stain
 it's a wash of light a luminescence
20 cast by the overhead fluorescent tubes

she's had a stroke her mind moves now
in unchartable directions

today she gave me her watch

she still has stories
25 but the tubes get in the way

on board the ship
men tramped beside her ear
she yanked the hem of the bosun's² trousers
asked where and how she got there
30 *the Indian Ocean* he said
 he could not tell her how

shrouded now anything could be a trick *trompe l'oeil*³
contingent on sightlines perspectives angles of uncertain faith

35 she's old liminal⁴ she lives in a space between worlds
asks for little eats next to nothing
dreams of cargo ships and talks about the wall
outside her room faint echo
a sailor's warning

“Aubade for the Patient in Bed Number Four,”
from *He Leaves His Face in The Funeral Car*
by Arleen Paré (Caitlin Press, 2015)

¹ AUBADE: a dawn serenade

² bosun: ship's officer in charge of equipment and crew

³ trompe l'oeil: a trick of the eye

⁴ liminal: relating to a transitional or initial stage of a process
