



Cambridge IGCSE™

WORLD LITERATURE

Paper 2 Unseen Poetry

0408/21

October/November 2025

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 a father remembers watching his son's first football match.

Walking Away

It is eighteen years ago, almost to the day –
 A sunny day with the leaves just turning,
 The touch-lines new-ruled – since I watched you play
 Your first game of football, then, like a satellite
 Wrenched from its orbit, go drifting away 5

Behind a scatter of boys. I can see
 You walking away from me towards the school
 With the pathos¹ of a half-fledged thing set free
 Into a wilderness, the gait² of one
 Who finds no path where the path should be. 10

That hesitant figure, eddying away
 Like a winged seed loosened from its parent stem,
 Has something I never quite grasp to convey
 About nature's give-and-take – the small, the scorching
 Ordeals which fire one's irresolute³ clay. 15

I have had worse partings, but none that so
 Gnaws at my mind still. Perhaps it is roughly
 Saying what God alone could perfectly show –
 How selfhood begins with a walking away,
 And love is proved in the letting go. 20

¹*pathos*: causing a feeling of sadness

²*gait*: style of walking

³*irresolute*: undecided

- (a) How does the poet use words and images to vividly portray growing up? [15]
- (b) How does the poet powerfully convey the father's thoughts and feelings? [15]

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