



# Cambridge IGCSE™

**WORLD LITERATURE**

Paper 2 Unseen Poetry

**0408/22**

**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 pathos<sup>1</sup> of a half-fledged thing set free  
 Into a wilderness, the gait<sup>2</sup> 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 irresolute<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup>*pathos*: causing a feeling of sadness

<sup>2</sup>*gait*: style of walking

<sup>3</sup>*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]

**BLANK PAGE**

**BLANK PAGE**

---

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at [www.cambridgeinternational.org](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org) after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of Cambridge Assessment. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is a department of the University of Cambridge.