



# Cambridge IGCSE™

**WORLD LITERATURE**

Paper 2 Unseen Poetry

**0408/23**

**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 the poet explores her relationship with her grandmother.

*My Grandmother*

She kept an antique shop<sup>1</sup> – or it kept her.  
 Among Apostle spoons and Bristol glass,  
 The faded silks, the heavy furniture,  
 She watched her own reflection in the brass  
 Salvers and silver bowls, as if to prove  
 Polish was all, there was no need of love. 5

And I remember how I once refused  
 To go out with her, since I was afraid.  
 It was perhaps a wish not to be used  
 Like antique objects. Though she never said  
 That she was hurt, I still could feel the guilt  
 Of that refusal, guessing how she felt. 10

Later, too frail to keep a shop, she put  
 All her best things in one long narrow room.  
 The place smelt old, of things too long kept shut,  
 The smell of absences where shadows come  
 That can't be polished. There was nothing then  
 To give her own reflection back again. 15

And when she died I felt no grief at all,  
 Only the guilt of what I once refused. 20  
 I walked into her room among the tall  
 Sideboards and cupboards – things she never used  
 But needed: and no finger-marks were there,  
 Only the new dust falling through the air.

<sup>1</sup>*antique shop*: a place selling old, and sometimes valuable, items

(a) How does the poet create memorable impressions of her grandmother? [15]

(b) How does the poet strikingly convey her thoughts and feelings? [15]

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