



# Cambridge IGCSE™

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## WORLD LITERATURE

Paper 2 Unseen Poetry

0408/21

May/June 2025

1 hour 15 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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### 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 [ ].

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This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

**Question 1**

Read carefully the poem in which the poet describes seeing a group of horses in Berlin, the capital city of Germany.

*Horses*

From the window I saw the horses.

I was in Berlin, in winter. The light  
was without light, the sky skyless.

The air white like a moistened loaf.

From my window, I could see a deserted arena, 5  
a circle bitten out by the teeth of winter.

All at once, led out by a single man,  
ten horses were stepping, stepping into the snow.

Scarcely had they rippled into existence  
like flame, than they filled the whole world of my eyes, 10  
empty till now. Faultless, flaming,  
they stepped like ten gods on broad, clean hoofs,  
their manes recalling a dream of salt spray.

Their rumps were globes, were oranges.

Their colour was amber and honey, was on fire. 15

Their necks were towers  
carved from the stone of pride,  
and in their furious eyes, sheer energy  
showed itself, a prisoner inside them.

And there, in the silence, at the mid- 20  
point of the day, in a dirty, disgruntled winter,  
the horses' intense presence was blood,  
was rhythm, was the beckoning light of all being.

I saw, I saw, and seeing, I came to life. 25  
There was the unwitting fountain, the dance of gold, the sky,  
the fire that sprang to life in beautiful things.

I have obliterated that gloomy Berlin winter.

I shall not forget the light from these horses.

(a) In what ways does the poet vividly describe the horses? [15]

(b) How does the poet strikingly convey the impact that seeing the horses has on him? [15]

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