



Cambridge IGCSE™

WORLD LITERATURE

Paper 2 Unseen Poetry

0408/23

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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 below. It describes a boy leaving his country, Nepal, and arriving to live in the UK.

When I came from Nepal

As I clutched my suitcase
 thick hot sweat built up
 in the slits of my palms, which
 shook holding its cool
 metal brace. We walked 5
 into day-winds, thick
 as dried out paint
 on unwashed brown canvases.
 The sky was painted daffodil yellow.
 The floor was a dirty grey. 10
 There was a metal bird:
 an array of fearful,
 forgotten
 paint.

**

I smell the iron rust 15
 of the Municipal Gardens¹.
 The sour tang of home still
 sits on the tip of my tongue
 like the zest of sweet citrus
 fizzing. 20

**

I did not know
 of grey, gravel roads,
 or the bright buzzing,
 of scarlet cars. 25
 I did not know
 of lonely red-bricked houses,
 gazing strangers,
 standing next to next,
 military officers, in endless rows.
 I did not know, 30
 of silence in the streets,
 or the secret whispers on the buses,
 or the sly gestures of restaurants.

In this place,
where I did not know,
the things I did not know
embrace me in ways
I didn't know.

35

¹ *Municipal Gardens*: a city park

- (a) How does the poet movingly portray his feelings about leaving his country in lines 1–20? [15]
- (b) Explore how the poet creates striking impressions of living in an unfamiliar place in lines 21–38. [15]

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