



Cambridge IGCSE™

WORLD LITERATURE

0408/23

Paper 2 Unseen Poetry

May/June 2022

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.



- 1 Read carefully the following poem in which a mother describes opening a flower-press with her young daughter.

The Flower-Press

We bend over my old flower-press,
 mother and young daughter,
 you full of excitement and chatter,
 me nervous as I open it
 after its years of dust-gathering 5
 on the shelf.
 In here we discover
 the fastened flowers,
 the originals I remember placing
 carefully between the sheets 10
 of green blotting paper,
 fragments to me now,
 ghosts of flowers,
 the pressure has been too great
 for their lives to bear. 15
 Dry, frail, faded,
 each leaf, petal and frond;
 I lay them one by one
 on your own hand.
 Gathered and preserved from the years 20
 before you were born,
 to me these flowers are flawed.
 For me their place has been taken by you,
 my own flower, ever-growing, changing.
 Am I right to warn you of their imperfections? 25
 Should I try to show you how lives may be grasped,
 and like these flowers shut in, immobilized?
 Or am I bringing you too soon word of corruption,
 too much stillness?
 No matter, for you are not listening. 30
 With bright eyes you say,
 'aren't they beautiful, can I press some too?'
 Seeing only the beauty.
 So like pure air reaching into areas
 long since sealed off, now reclaimable, 35
 you lead me forward without fear.
 Deeper and deeper you draw me into life,
 you make the dead come alive again
 by sensing how even the shadow of a flower
 may be perfect and so suffice. 40

- (a) How does the poet strikingly convey her thoughts about the pressed flowers? [15]
- (b) How does the poet vividly convey her feelings about her daughter? [15]

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