



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 in which the poet considers the value of silence.

Keeping Quiet

Now we will count to twelve and we will all keep still.	
For once on the face of the earth, let's not speak in any language; let's stop for one second, and not move our arms so much.	5
It would be an exotic moment without rush, without engines; we would all be together in a sudden strangeness.	10
Fishermen in the cold sea would not harm whales and the man gathering salt would not look at his hurt hands.	
Those who prepare green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire, victories with no survivors, would put on clean clothes and walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing.	15 20
What I want should not be confused with total inactivity. Life is what it is about; I want no truck ¹ with death.	
If we were not so single minded about keeping our lives moving, and for once could do nothing, perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness of never understanding ourselves and of threatening ourselves with death. Perhaps the earth can teach us as when everything seems dead and later proves to be alive.	25 30
Now I'll count up to twelve and you keep quiet and I will go.	35

¹*truck*: involvement

- (a)** In what ways does the poet create striking impressions of modern life? [15]
- (b)** How does the poet powerfully convey the benefits of slowing down the pace of life? [15]

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