



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 of the Municipal Gardens ¹ . The sour tang of home still sits on the tip of my tongue like the zest of sweet citrus fizzing.	15
	20

**

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

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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