



Cambridge IGCSE™

WORLD LITERATURE

Paper 2 Unseen Poetry

0408/21

October/November 2025

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 a father remembers watching his son's first football match.

Walking Away

It is eighteen years ago, almost to the day – A sunny day with the leaves just turning, The touch-lines new-ruled – since I watched you play Your first game of football, then, like a satellite Wrenched from its orbit, go drifting away	5
Behind a scatter of boys. I can see You walking away from me towards the school With the pathos ¹ of a half-fledged thing set free Into a wilderness, the gait ² of one Who finds no path where the path should be.	10
That hesitant figure, eddying away Like a winged seed loosened from its parent stem, Has something I never quite grasp to convey About nature's give-and-take – the small, the scorching Ordeals which fire one's irresolute ³ clay.	15
I have had worse partings, but none that so Gnaws at my mind still. Perhaps it is roughly Saying what God alone could perfectly show – How selfhood begins with a walking away, And love is proved in the letting go.	20

¹*pathos*: causing a feeling of sadness

²*gait*: style of walking

³*irresolute*: undecided

- | | |
|---|------|
| (a) How does the poet use words and images to vividly portray growing up? | [15] |
| (b) How does the poet powerfully convey the father's thoughts and feelings? | [15] |

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