



# Cambridge IGCSE™

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**WORLD LITERATURE**

Paper 2 Unseen Poetry

**0408/22**

**May/June 2022**

**1 hour 15 minutes**

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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## 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 [ ].

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This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.



### Question 1

Read carefully the poem which describes birds flying across the sky at the beginning of spring.

#### *Starlings*

Starlings at dusk pour across  
the dull beacon<sup>1</sup> of the distant sun.

A high crying, cold as winter  
In the day's dark metal, they spin,  
eddy<sup>2</sup> and spill towards 5  
the horizon's walking throng<sup>3</sup> of trees.

This fist of birds, flashing black  
against the sky's red warning,  
batters through the wooden veins 10  
and tells the buds of coming summer.

The slow sap<sup>4</sup>, thick with a season's sleep,  
quickens with the clashing song

of the driven starlings, stirs  
the sluggish branches to tell

the buried roots of spring ... 15  
And yet time hangs like a dead fruit.

Who knows this cycled secret  
of spinning birds and sensing trees?

Who hears the signals sounding there?  
Only blind eyes see the breaking year! 20

The soundless voice that tells the trees,  
the wheeling arm that swings

this black fist of starlings, is rooted  
in the ten million years that hover here.

<sup>1</sup> *beacon*: guiding light

<sup>2</sup> *eddy*: fly in circles

<sup>3</sup> *throng*: crowd

<sup>4</sup> *sap*: the liquid inside a tree

(a) How does the poet vividly describe the starlings? [15]

(b) How does the poet dramatically explore the link between the starlings and the changing seasons? [15]

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