



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

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**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**9695/72**

Paper 7 Comment and Appreciation

**October/November 2013**

**2 hours**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **two** questions.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

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This document consists of **5** printed pages and **3** blank pages.



- 1 Write a critical commentary on the following extract from the novel *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver (1998).

The narrator, Leah, is one of an American family living in the African Congo. In this extract she describes the moment when her young sister, Ruth May, is bitten and killed by a snake. Nelson is their Congolese servant.

I only remember hearing a gulp and a sob and a scream all at once, the strangest cry,

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The sentence would have started somewhere just above her heart.

## 2 Write a critical commentary on the following poem by A. R. D. Fairburn (1904–1957).

*Winter Night*

The candles gutter and burn out,  
 and warm and snug we take our ease,  
 and faintly comes the wind's great shout  
 as he assails the frozen trees.

The vague walls of this little room  
 contract and close upon the soul;  
 deep silence hangs amid the gloom;  
 no sound but the small voice of the coal.

5

Here in this sheltered firelit place  
 we know not wind nor shivering tree;  
 we two alone inhabit space,  
 locked in our small infinity.

10

This is our world, where love enfolds  
 all images of joy, all strife  
 resolves in peace: this moment holds  
 within its span the sum of life.

15

For Time's a ghost: these reddening coals  
 were forest once ere he'd begun,  
 and now from dark and timeless boles<sup>1</sup>  
 we take the harvest of the sun;

20

and still the flower-lit solitudes  
 are radiant with the springs he stole  
 where violets in those buried woods  
 wake little blue flames in the coal.

Great stars may shine above this thatch;  
 beyond these walls perchance are men  
 with laws and dreams: but our thin latch  
 holds all such things beyond our ken<sup>2</sup>.

25

The fire now lights our cloudy walls,  
 now fails beneath the singing pot,  
 and as the last flame leaps and falls  
 the far wall is and then is not.

30

Now lovelier than firelight is the gleam  
 of dying embers, and your face  
 shines through the pathways of my dream  
 like young leaves in a forest place.

35

<sup>1</sup>*boles*: tree trunks

<sup>2</sup>*beyond our ken*: beyond our knowledge

- 3 Write a critical commentary on the following extract from *Stand Before Your God* (1993) by Paul Watkins. The narrator describes his first half-hour at his new boarding school.

I swear, I thought I was going to a party.

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measure out in front of me the space of three months.





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Question 2 © A R D Fairburn; *Winter Night*; Reprinted by permission of the Estate of A R D Fairburn and Richards Literary Agency; in *An Anthology of New Zealand Poetry*; Oxford University Press New Zealand; 1997.

Question 3 © Paul Watkins; *Stand Before Your God*; Faber and Faber Ltd; 1993.

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