



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

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**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**9695/73**

Paper 7 Comment and Appreciation

**May/June 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 poem, written by Christina Walsh (1750–1800).

*A Woman to her Lover*

Do you come to me to bend me to your will  
 as conqueror to the vanquished  
 to make of me a bondslave  
 to bear you children, wearing out my life  
 in drudgery<sup>1</sup> and silence 5  
 no servant will I be  
 if that be what you ask. O lover I refuse you!

Or if you think to wed with one from heaven sent  
 whose every deed and word and wish is golden 10  
 a wingless angel who can do no wrong  
 go! – I am no doll to dress and sit for feeble worship  
 if that be what you ask, fool, I refuse you!

Or if you think in me to find  
 a creature who will have no greater joy  
 than gratify your clamorous desire, 15  
 my skin soft only for your fond caresses  
 my body supple only for your sense delight  
 Oh shame, and pity and abasement<sup>2</sup>.  
 Not for you the hand of any wakened woman of our time.

But lover, if you ask of me 20  
 that I shall be your comrade, friend, and mate,  
 to live and work, to love and die with you,  
 that so together we may know the purity and height  
 of passion, and of joy and sorrow,  
 then o husband, I am yours forever 25  
 and our co-equal love will make the stars to laugh with joy  
 and to its circling fugue pass, hand holding hand  
 until we reach the very heart of god.

<sup>1</sup> drudgery – hard and tedious work

<sup>2</sup> abasement – humiliation

## 2 Write a critical commentary on the following poem by Zulfikar Ghose (born 1935).

*The Picnic in Jammu*

Uncle Ayub swung me round and round  
 till the horizon became a rail  
 banked high upon the Himalayas.  
 The trees signalled me past. I whistled,  
 shut my eyes through tunnels of the air. 5  
 The family laughed, watching me puff  
 out my muscles, healthily aggressive.

This was late summer, before the snows  
 come to Kashmir, this was picnic time.

Then, uncoupling me from the sky, he 10  
 plunged me into the river, himself  
 a bough with me dangling at its end.  
 I went purple as a plum. He reared  
 back and lowered the branch of his arm  
 to grandma who swallowed me with a kiss. 15  
 Laughter peeled away my goosepimples.

This was late summer, before the snows  
 come to Kashmir, this was picnic time.

After we'd eaten, he aimed grapes at  
 my mouth. I flung at him the shells of 20  
 pomegranates and ran off. He tracked  
 me down the river-bank. We battled,  
 melon-rind and apple-core our arms.  
 'You two!' grandma cried. 'Stop fighting, you'll  
 tire yourselves to death!' We didn't listen. 25

This was late summer, before the snows  
 come to Kashmir and end children's games.

**3 Write a critical commentary on the following extract from *My Brilliant Career* by Miles Franklin (1879–1954). The narrator is a girl of fifteen, growing up in Australia.**

On this afternoon we had six cows to lift. We struggled manfully, and got five on their feet, and then proceeded to where the last one was lying, back downwards, on a shadeless stony spot on the side of a hill. The men slewed her round by the tail, while mother and I fixed the dog-leg and adjusted the ropes. We got the cow up, but the poor beast was so weak and knocked about that she immediately fell down again. We resolved to let her have a few minutes' spell before making another attempt at lifting. There was not a blade of grass to be seen, and the ground was too dusty to sit on. We were too overdone to make more than one-worded utterances, so waited silently in the blazing sun, closing our eyes against the dust. 5

Weariness! Weariness! 10

A few light wind-smitten clouds made wan streaks across the white sky, haggard with the fierce relentless glare of the afternoon sun. Weariness was written across my mother's delicate careworn features, and found expression in my father's knitted brows and dusty face. Blackshaw was weary, and said so, as he wiped the dust, made mud with perspiration, off his cheeks. I was weary – my limbs ached with the heat and work. The poor beast stretched at our feet was weary. All nature was weary, and seemed to sing a dirge to that effect in the furnace-breath wind which roared among the trees on the low ranges at our back and smote the parched and thirsty ground. All were weary, all but the sun. He seemed to glory in his power, relentless and untiring, as he swung boldly in the sky, triumphantly leering down upon his helpless victims. 15 20

Weariness! Weariness!

This was life – my life – my career, my brilliant career! I was fifteen – fifteen! A few fleeting hours and I would be old as those around me. I looked at them as they stood there, weary, and turning down the other side of the hill of life. When young, no doubt they had hoped for, and dreamed of, better things – had even known them. But here they were. This had been their life; this was their career. It was, and in all probability would be, mine too. My life – my career – my brilliant career! 25

Weariness! Weariness!

The summer sun danced on. Summer is fiendish, and life is a curse, I said in my heart. What a great dull hard rock the world was! On it were a few barren narrow ledges, and on these, by exerting ourselves so that the force wears off our finger-nails, it allows us to hang for a year or two, and then hurls us off into outer darkness and oblivion, perhaps to endure worse torture than this. 30

The poor beast moaned. The lifting had strained her, and there were patches of hide worn off her the size of breakfast-plates, sore and most harrowing to look upon. 35

It takes great suffering to wring a moan from the patience of a cow. I turned my head away, and with the impatience and one-sided reasoning common to fifteen, asked God what He meant by this. It is well enough to heap suffering on human beings, seeing it is supposed to be merely a probation for a better world, but animals – poor, innocent animals – why are they tortured so? 40

“Come now, we’ll lift her once more,” said my father. At it we went again; it is surprising what weight there is in the poorest cow. With great struggling we got her to her feet once more, and were careful this time to hold her till she got steady on her legs. Father and mother at the tail and Blackshaw and I at the horns, we marched her home and gave her a bran mash. Then we turned to our work in the house while the men sat and smoked and spat on the veranda, discussing the drought for an hour, at the end of which time they went to help someone else with their stock. I made up the fire and we continued our ironing, which had been interrupted some hours before. It was hot unpleasant work on such a day. We were forced to keep the doors and windows closed on account of the wind and dust. We were hot and tired, and our feet ached so that we could scarcely stand on them. 45

Weariness! Weariness!

Summer is fiendish and life is a curse, I said in my heart.

Day after day the drought continued. Now and again there would be a few days of the raging wind before mentioned, which carried the dry grass off the paddocks and piled it against the fences, darkened the air with dust, and seemed to promise rain, but ever it dispersed whence it came, taking with it the few clouds it had gathered up; and for weeks and weeks at a stretch, from horizon to horizon, was never a speck to mar the cruel dazzling brilliance of the metal sky. 55

Weariness! Weariness!

I said the one thing many times but, ah, it was a weary thing which took much repetition that familiarity might wear away a little of its bitterness! 60





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