

**International General Certificate of Secondary Education
CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS**

LITERATURE

0486/3

PAPER 3 Alternative to Coursework

MAY/JUNE SESSION 2002

1 hour

Additional materials:
Answer paper

TIME 1 hour

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, Centre number and candidate number on the answer paper/answer booklet.

Answer the question.

Write your answer on the separate answer paper provided.

If you use more than one sheet of paper, fasten the sheets together.

This question paper consists of 2 printed pages.

Read the following passage in which Mark Twain describes his visit to Niagara, one of the largest waterfalls in the world, situated on the border between Canada and the United States of America.

Describe what he experiences, showing how his words help us to share some of the emotions he felt. What impression do you get of Mark Twain from reading the passage?

When you have examined the stupendous Horseshoe Fall till you are satisfied you cannot improve on it, you return to America by the new Suspension Bridge, and follow up the bank to where they exhibit the Cave of the Winds.

Here I followed instructions, and divested myself of all my clothing, and put on a waterproof jacket and overalls. This costume is picturesque, but not beautiful. A guide, similarly dressed, led the way down a flight of winding stairs, which wound and wound, and still kept on winding long after the thing ceased to be a novelty, and then terminated long before it had begun to be a pleasure. We were then well down under the precipice, but still considerably above the level of the river.

We now began to creep along flimsy bridges of a single plank, our persons shielded from destruction by a crazy wooden railing, to which I clung with both hands – not because I was afraid, but because I wanted to. Presently the descent became steeper, and the bridge flimsier, and sprays from the American Fall began to rain down on us in fast increasing sheets that soon became blinding, and after that our progress was mostly in the nature of groping. Now a furious wind began to rush out from behind the waterfall, which seemed determined to sweep us from the bridge, and scatter us on the rocks and among the torrents below. I remarked that I wanted to go home; but it was too late. We were almost under the monstrous wall of water thundering down from above, and speech was in vain in the midst of such a pitiless crash of sound.

In another moment the guide disappeared behind the deluge, and, bewildered by the thunder, driven helplessly by the wind, and smitten by the arrowy tempest of rain, I followed. All was darkness. Such a mad storming, roaring, and bellowing of warring wind and water never crazed my ears before. I bent my head, and seemed to receive the Atlantic on my back. The world seemed going to destruction. I could not see anything, the flood poured down so savagely. I raised my head, with open mouth, and most of the American cataract went down my throat. If I had sprung a leak now I had been lost. And at this moment I discovered that the bridge had ceased, and we must trust for a foothold to the slippery and precipitous rocks. I never was so scared before and survived it. But we got through at last, and emerged into the open day, where we could stand in front of the laced and frothy and seething world of descending water, and look at it. When I saw how much of it there was, and how fearfully in earnest it was, I was sorry I had gone behind it.

cataract: large waterfall

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Page 2. Extract from 'Niagara' by Mark Twain. This version from Penguin Classics. 1993.

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