



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

WORLD LITERATURE

0408/23

Paper 2 Unseen

October/November 2018

1 hour 15 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes reading the question paper and planning your answer.

Both questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **4** printed pages and **4** blank pages.



Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

EITHER

- 1 Read carefully the poem on the opposite page. It describes a person finding a moth in their kitchen.

How does the poet strikingly convey to you the person's thoughts and feelings about this experience?

To help you answer, you might consider:

- the description of the moth
- the language used to describe the person's reaction to the moth
- how the poem is organised.

Very Large Moth

Your first thought when the light snaps on and the black wings
 clatter about the kitchen is a bat

the clear part of your mind considers rabies¹ the other part
 does not consider knows only to startle

and cower away from the slap of its wings though it is soon
 clearly not a bat but a moth and harmless

still you are shy of it it clings to the hood of the stove
 not black but brown its orange eyes sparkle

like televisions its leg joints are large enough to count
 how could you kill it where would you hide the body

a creature so solid must have room for a soul
 and if this is so why not in a creature

half its size or half its size again and so on
 down to the ants clearly it must be saved

caught in a shopping bag and rushed to the front door
 afraid to crush it feeling the plastic rattle

loosened into the night air it batters the porch light
 throwing fitful shadows around the landing

That was a really big moth is all you can say to the doorman
 who has watched your whole performance with a smile

the half-compassion and half-horror we feel for the creatures
 we want not to hurt and prefer not to touch

¹*rabies*: a fatal disease spread by some animals

OR

2 Read carefully the following passage.

Romola is an Indian woman on holiday in America. She is visiting a fast food restaurant for the first time.

How does the writer vividly convey Romola's thoughts and feelings in this passage?

To help you answer, you might consider:

- Romola's actions before she enters the restaurant
- the words and phrases used to describe the restaurant and its customers
- how the writing conveys Romola's impressions of her surroundings.

Romola stood on the street clutching her handbag. Then she glanced around her and took a deep breath and pulled at the door. Nothing happened. She stepped back, the first wrinkle of uncertainty clouding her adventure. A young boy, maybe twelve or thirteen, came running up casually behind her, pushed the door and loped inside. She smiled. The sign said quite clearly PUSH. She caught the door before it shut fully and with a movement that was both deliberate and steady, pushed it open.

Immediately she felt like she was really, finally, in America.

Everything started to spin around her but at the same time it seemed to all be moving extremely slowly. The restaurant rushed at her in a crazy plastic whirl of reds and yellows and then receded into the walls of pale muted pinks and greens. Rising up on all sides around her, Formica¹ and plastic were bathed in cheerful music as if soaked in sunny syrup. Someone had left their tray on the table and she watched a lonely matchstick of a fry sitting in a smear of ketchup. She heard children yelling and disembodied voices calling out numbers in Mexican accents. Two women unwrapped their burgers in front of her. One had a young girl who carefully ate a fry, dipping its head into a little white container of ketchup, as thick as blood. She could smell it all – a dense low-hanging smell of deep frying that left her both nauseous and ravenous at the same time.

She looked at the confusing array of options on the menu board. Holy trinities of fries, burger and soda beckoned to her. Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva,² she thought and chuckled to herself at the blasphemy. \$4.89 for a combo. \$5.29 for a combo. That was a lot of money, she said to herself. I thought these places were cheap. It took her a while to figure out the difference between the chicken sandwich and the chicken sandwich meal. She hovered at the edges reading everything, squinting at all her options. She wished it explained what a McDougle was.

The kitchen was a hum of activity. It moved briskly like a conveyor belt as people picked up their packets or trays of food and walked away. Giant baskets of fries emerged from vats of oil, plump and golden. Women with white gloves slapped dark brown patties on buns and smeared white mayonnaise with a rat-a-tat-tat rhythm as if they had done this all their lives. Red digital numbers flickered and changed over, always going up, up and up.

¹*Formica*: shiny plastic surface
²*Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva*: Hindu Gods

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