

Cambridge IGCSE™ (9–1)

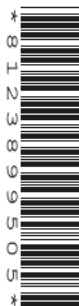
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Paper 4 Unseen

0992/42

May/June 2026

1 hour 15 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **one** question: **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.
- 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 25.
- All questions are worth equal marks.

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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

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

Either

- 1 Read carefully the following poem. The poet observes men who are bodybuilding at the gym.

How does the poet strikingly portray the men at the gym?

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how he portrays what the men look like
- the words and images which convey what seems to be happening
- how the poet conveys his thoughts and feelings about the men.

the men are weeping in the gym

The men are weeping in the gym
 using the hand dryer to cover
 their sobs their hearts have grown too big
 for their chests their chests have grown too big
 for their shirts they are dressed like kids
 who have forgotten their games kit
 they are crying in the toilet
 and because they have built themselves
 as statues this must mean that God
 has entered them they are wringing
 their faces like sweat towels
 in the sink their veins are about
 to burst their banks they are flooding
 out of themselves onto the tiles
 they have turned water into protein shakes
 they have got too close to the mirrors

they have got too close to the glass
and now they are laying
in the broken pools of their own faces
the lines of them! At the decline press
the bicep curl¹ waiting staring
straight ahead swearing that the wetness
on their cheeks is perspiration
that the words they mutter as they lift
are meaningless that they feel
nothing when the muscle tears itself
from itself that they don't hear
the thousands of tiny fracturings
needed to build something stronger

¹*decline press* and *bicep curl*: gym equipment

Or

- 2 Read carefully the following extract from a novel. The narrator is a teenage girl who lives with her parents ('M' is her mother). Recently she has experienced a series of particularly vivid dreams. She recounts how she went to her bedroom and saw someone who looked exactly like herself apparently asleep in her bed.

How does the narrator portray this unsettling experience?

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how she recognised the body in the bed
- how she describes what she did next
- her thoughts and feelings about what has happened.

My duvet which by daylight had a pattern of stretching cats – M's choice not mine – was a shadow mass.

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was a dream, it wouldn't have been so very, very long.

And if it

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