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# INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

## Paper 2A Poetry and Unseen Texts

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Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an Oxford International AQA Examinations 16-page answer book
- a clean copy of the Oxford International AQA Poetry Anthology *People and Places*.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Do **not** use pencil.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book.
- Answer **one** question from **Section A**.
- Answer the question in **Section B** and the question in **Section C**.
- For **Section A**, you must have a clean copy of the Oxford International AQA Poetry Anthology *People and Places* in the examination room.
- The text must **not** be annotated and must **not** contain additional notes or materials.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 30 marks available for each section.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.

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**Section A: Poetry Anthology: People and Places**Answer **one** question from **Section A**.

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**Either**

0	1
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Read the poem below.

Answer the question that follows.

**Winter Swans**

The clouds had given their all -  
two days of rain and then a break  
in which we walked,

the waterlogged earth  
gulping for breath at our feet  
as we skirted the lake, silent and apart,

until the swans came and stopped us  
with a show of tipping in unison.  
As if rolling weights down their bodies to their heads

they halved themselves in the dark water,  
icebergs of white feather, paused before returning again  
like boats righting in rough weather.

'They mate for life' you said as they left,  
porcelain over the stilling water. I didn't reply  
but as we moved on through the afternoon light,

slow-stepping in the lake's shingle and sand,  
I noticed our hands, that had, somehow,  
swum the distance between us

and folded, one over the other,  
like a pair of wings settling after flight.

**Owen Sheers**

Write about the ways that poets present emotions in *Winter Swans* and **one** other poem from *People and Places*.

**[30 marks]****or**

0	2
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Some of the poems in *People and Places* show nature threatening people. Write about how poets present this happening in **one or more** poems from *People and Places*.

**[30 marks]**

**Section B: Unseen poetry****Answer Question 3.**

0	3
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Read the poem below and answer the question that follows.

**When I Dance**

When I dance it isn't merely  
That music absorbs my shyness,  
My laughter settles in my eyes,  
My swings of arms convert my frills  
As timing tunes my feet with floor  
As if I never just looked on.

It is that when I dance  
O music expands my hearing  
And it wants no mathematics,  
It wants no thinking, no speaking,  
It only wants all my feeling  
In with animation of place.

When I dance it isn't merely  
That surprises dictate movements,  
Other rhythms move my rhythms,  
I uncradle rocking-memory  
And skipping, hopping and running  
All mix movements I balance in.

It is that when I dance  
I'm costumed in a rainbow mood,  
I'm okay at any angle,  
Outfit of drums crowds madness round,  
Talking winds and plucked strings conspire  
Beat after beat warms me like sun.

When I dance it isn't merely  
I shift bodyweight balances  
As movement amasses my show,  
I celebrate each dancer here,  
No sleep invades me here at all  
And I see how I am tireless.

It is that when I dance  
I gather up all my senses  
Well into hearing and feeling,  
With body's flexible postures  
Telling their poetry in movement  
And I celebrate all rhythms.

**James Berry**

What does the speaker of the poem feel about dancing? How does the poet present these feelings?

**[30 marks]****Turn over ►**

**Section C: Unseen prose****Answer Question 4.****0****4**

This extract is from *No Great Mischief* by Alistair MacLeod.

Answer the question that follows.

We were in the kitchen and had just finished eating when my oldest brother went to the window, “Look,” he said excitedly, “the blackfish, the pilot whales.”

Out of the stillness of the calm, blue ocean, they rose and rolled in glistening elegance. One after the other their black, arching backs broke the flatness of the sea, sending geysers of white water before them as they shattered the glass-like surface, the still, blue water being transformed into jets and fountains of streaming white – almost as if it were another element. There were, perhaps, twenty in all, although it was difficult to count them as they appeared and disappeared, now here and now there in the waters off the *Calum Ruadh’s* Point. All of us put everything aside and hurried the three quarters of a mile down to the shore to watch them. Standing on the extreme edge of the point, we shouted to them and offered our applause as they spouted and sported and turned and flipped, so near and yet so far in the splendour of their exuberant happiness.

Sometimes, said my brothers, the blackfish would follow their boat, and they loved applause and appreciated singing. If they vanished beneath the surface, my brothers would clap their hands in rhythmic unison like fans at a sporting event, and soon they would break the surface, sometimes so close to the boat as to be almost dangerous, drawn by the sound and the perceived good fellowship. They would leap and arch and then vanish again, although my brothers knew they were never far away but seemed like children involved in games of hide and seek, hoping to startle and surprise by their unexpected nearness.

How does the writer describe the behaviour of the pilot whales, and the reactions of the people watching?

**[30 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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