

# Cambridge IGCSE™

---

**WORLD LITERATURE****0408/02**

Paper 2 Poetry

**For examination from 2028**

SPECIMEN PAPER

**1 hour 30 minutes**

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

---

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Answer **all** questions.
- 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 50.
- Each question is worth 25 marks.

---

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Answer **all** questions.

**1 Set text poem**

In what ways does the poet strikingly convey the panther's captive world?

Support your ideas with details from the text.

*The Panther*  
*Jardin des Plantes, Paris*

Scanning the bars, his gaze is grown so numb  
that there is nothing left that it can hold.  
Behind the thousand bars these bars become  
to him, it seems as if there is no world.

The padding pace that threatens lope or canter,  
turning in circles ever-smaller-sized,  
is like a dance of strength around some center  
in which a great will stands still, paralyzed.

5

Only, the pupils' curtain lifts sometimes,  
in silence, and an image rushes past,  
then down the tensing stillness of the limbs,  
and dies deep in the heart made fast.

10

(Rainer Maria Rilke; Len Krisak (translator))

## 2 Unseen poem

Read the following poem about jumping from an aeroplane with a parachute.

How does the poet dramatically convey the experience of jumping from an aeroplane with a parachute?

Support your ideas with details from the text.

To help you answer, you might consider:

- the ways in which the poet describes the fall
- the ways in which the poet describes the landing
- the impact of the final stanza.

### *Parachute Men*

Parachute Men say The first jump Takes the breath away Feet in the air disturbs Till you get used to it.	5
Solid ground Is not where you left it As you plunge down Perhaps head first	
As you listen to Your arteries talking You learn to sustain hope	10
Suddenly you are only Holding an open umbrella In a windy place As the warm earth Reaches out to you Reassures you The vibrating interim <sup>1</sup> is over	15
You try to land Where green grass yields And carry your pack Across the fields.	20
The violent arrival Puts out the joint Earth has nowhere to go You are at the starting point	25
Jumping across worlds In condensed time After the awkward fall We are always at the starting point.	30

<sup>1</sup>*interim*: moment

## BLANK PAGE

---

Copyright acknowledgements

Question 1 © 'The Panther' by Rainer Maria Rilke, translated by Len Kriask in *New Poems*, Camden House, permission conveyed through Copyright Clearance Center, Inc.; *from Songs of Ourselves, Volume 3*

Question 2 © Lenrie Peters; *Parachute Men* in *The Penguin Book of Modern African Poetry*; Penguin Books; 1998

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (Cambridge University Press & Assessment) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

Cambridge International Education is the name of our awarding body and a part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, which is a department of the University of Cambridge.