

**Paper Reference(s) 4ET1/01**  
**Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1)**

**English Literature**  
**PAPER 1: Poetry and Modern Prose**

**Time: 1 hour 20 minutes plus your additional time allowance**

**Question Booklet**

**DO NOT RETURN THIS QUESTION BOOKLET  
WITH YOUR ANSWER BOOKLET.**

**Answer TWO questions:**

**Answer the question in Section A  
and ONE question from Section B.**

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<b>SECTION B: Modern Prose</b>	
<b>To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee</b>	<b>6</b>
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## SECTION A: Unseen Poetry

Answer the question in this section.

You should spend 35 minutes plus some of your additional time allowance on this question.

Read the following poem.

### ‘On Turning Ten’

The whole idea of it makes me feel  
like I’m coming down with something,  
something worse than any stomach ache  
or the headaches I get from reading in bad light –  
a kind of measles of the spirit,  
a mumps of the psyche\*,  
a disfiguring chicken pox of the soul.

5

You tell me it is too early to be looking back,  
but that is because you have forgotten  
the perfect simplicity of being one  
and the beautiful complexity introduced by two.  
But I can lie on my bed and remember every digit.  
At four I was an Arabian wizard.  
I could make myself invisible  
by drinking a glass of milk a certain way.  
At seven I was a soldier, at nine a prince.

10

15

(continued on the next page)

Turn over

But now I am mostly at the window  
 watching the late afternoon light.  
 Back then it never felt so solemnly  
 against the side of my tree house, 20  
 and my bicycle never leaned against the garage  
 as it does today,  
 all the dark blue speed drained out of it.

This is the beginning of sadness, I say to myself,  
 as I walk through the universe in my sneakers\*. 25  
 It is time to say good-bye to my imaginary friends,  
 time to turn the first big number.

It seems only yesterday I used to believe  
 there was nothing under my skin but light.  
 If you cut me I would shine. 30  
 But now if I fall upon the sidewalks of life,  
 I skin my knees. I bleed.

**Billy Collins (1995)**

## **Glossary**

**\*psyche** – the human mind, soul or spirit

**\*sneakers** – trainers

- 1 Explore how the writer presents reaching the age of ten in this poem.

In your answer, you should consider the writer's:

- descriptive skills
- choice of language
- use of form and structure.

Support your answer with examples from the poem.

(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

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**TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 20 MARKS**

## **SECTION B: Modern Prose**

**Answer ONE question on ONE text from this section.**

**You should spend 45 minutes plus some of your additional time allowance on this section.**

**To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee**

**EITHER**

- 2 Explore the character of Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.**

**You must consider the context of the novel in your answer.**

**(Total for Question 2 = 40 marks)**

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**OR**

- 3 Discuss the theme of isolation in the novel.**

**You must consider the context of the novel in your answer.**

**(Total for Question 3 = 40 marks)**

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## **Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck**

### **EITHER**

- 4 In what ways is anger significant in *Of Mice and Men*?**

**You must consider the context of the novel in your answer.**

**(Total for Question 4 = 40 marks)**

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### **OR**

- 5 Explore ONE character who you consider to be important in the novel.**

**You must consider the context of the novel in your answer.**

**(Total for Question 5 = 40 marks)**

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## **The Whale Rider, Witi Ihimaera**

### **EITHER**

**6 'Koro Apirana is a successful tribal leader.'**

**How far do you agree with this statement?**

**You must consider the context of the novel in your answer.**

**(Total for Question 6 = 40 marks)**

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### **OR**

**7 Discuss the importance of family in The Whale Rider.**

**You must consider the context of the novel in your answer.**

**(Total for Question 7 = 40 marks)**

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## **The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan**

### **EITHER**

- 8 In what ways is the theme of misunderstanding significant in the novel?**

**You must consider the context of the novel in your answer.**

**(Total for Question 8 = 40 marks)**

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### **OR**

- 9 Explore the character of Rose Hsu Jordan in *The Joy Luck Club*.**

**You must consider the context of the novel in your answer.**

**(Total for Question 9 = 40 marks)**

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## **Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe**

### **EITHER**

**10 Explore the theme of conflict in *Things Fall Apart*.**

**You must consider the context of the novel in your answer.**

**(Total for Question 10 = 40 marks)**

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### **OR**

**11 Which ONE character do you have most sympathy for in the novel?**

**You must consider the context of the novel in your answer.**

**(Total for Question 11 = 40 marks)**

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**TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 40 MARKS**

**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 60 MARKS**

**END OF PAPER**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

**'On Turning Ten' taken from 'The Art of Drowning'  
By Billy Collins © University of Pittsburgh Press,  
30 June 1995**