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English A: literature - Higher level - Paper 1

Anglais A : littérature – Niveau supérieur – Épreuve 1

Inglés A: literatura – Nivel superior – Prueba 1

Thursday 7 November 2019 (afternoon) Jeudi 7 novembre 2019 (après-midi) Jueves 7 de noviembre de 2019 (tarde)

2 hours / 2 heures / 2 horas

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Write a literary commentary on one passage only.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is [20 marks].

Instructions destinées aux candidats

- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Rédigez un commentaire littéraire sur un seul des passages.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est de [20 points].

Instrucciones para los alumnos

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Escriba un comentario literario sobre un solo pasaje.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es [20 puntos].

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Write a literary commentary on **one** of the following:

1.

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AUBADE¹ FOR THE PATIENT IN BED NUMBER FOUR

my aunt's not crazy but she's crazy
for the wall in the hall outside her room
talks about it all the time
that pink paler than the palest conch shell
or swimming scallop

if she cranes her neck she can glimpse the wall through her cornered sightline bed four to door

she can't remember how she ended up in room 110 or when or what went wrong

it's been a month the days gather odours she can no longer name

she spent last night in a ship's hold
lying on a door she said the night before

she taped a sign in a shop window open for business
she knows she's reached the bottom

the colour on the wall outside her room is not paint or a stain

it's a wash of light a luminescence 20 cast by the overhead fluorescent tubes

she's had a stroke her mind moves now in unchartable directions

today she gave me her watch

she still has stories 25 but the tubes get in the way

on board the ship
men tramped beside her ear
she yanked the hem of the bosun's² trousers
asked where and how she got there
30 the Indian Ocean he said
he could not tell her how

shrouded now anything could be a trick trompe l'oeil³ contingent on sightlines perspectives angles of uncertain faith

she's old liminal⁴ she lives in a space between worlds
35 asks for little eats next to nothing
dreams of cargo ships and talks about the wall
outside her room faint echo
a sailor's warning

"Aubade for the Patient in Bed Number Four," from He Leaves His Face in The Funeral Car by Arleen Paré (Caitlin Press, 2015)

AUBADE: a dawn serenade

bosun: ship's officer in charge of equipment and crew

3 trompe l'oeil: a trick of the eye

⁴ liminal: relating to a transitional or initial stage of a process