

## UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

#### LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

9695/71

Paper 7 Comment and Appreciation

October/November 2013

2 hours

Additional Materials:

Answer Booklet/Paper

#### **READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **two** questions.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.



International Examinations

1	Write a critical commentary on the following extract from the novel The Poisonwood Bible
	by Barbara Kingsolver (1998).

The narrator, Leah, is one of an American family living in the African Congo. In this extract she describes the moment when her young sister, Ruth May, is bitten and killed by a snake. Nelson is their Congolese servant.

I only remember hearing a gulp and a sob and a scream all at once, the strangest cry,

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The sentence would have started somewhere just above her heart.

### 2 Write a critical commentary on the following poem by A. R. D. Fairburn (1904–1957).

### Winter Night

The candles gutter and burn out, and warm and snug we take our ease, and faintly comes the wind's great shout as he assails the frozen trees.

The vague walls of this little room 5 contract and close upon the soul; deep silence hangs amid the gloom; no sound but the small voice of the coal.

Here in this sheltered firelit place
we know not wind nor shivering tree;
we two alone inhabit space,
locked in our small infinity.

This is our world, where love enfolds
all images of joy, all strife
resolves in peace: this moment holds
within its span the sum of life.

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For Time's a ghost: these reddening coals were forest once ere he'd begun, and now from dark and timeless boles<sup>1</sup> we take the harvest of the sun;

and still the flower-lit solitudes are radiant with the springs he stole where violets in those buried woods wake little blue flames in the coal.

Great stars may shine above this thatch; beyond these walls perchance are men with laws and dreams: but our thin latch holds all such things beyond our ken<sup>2</sup>.

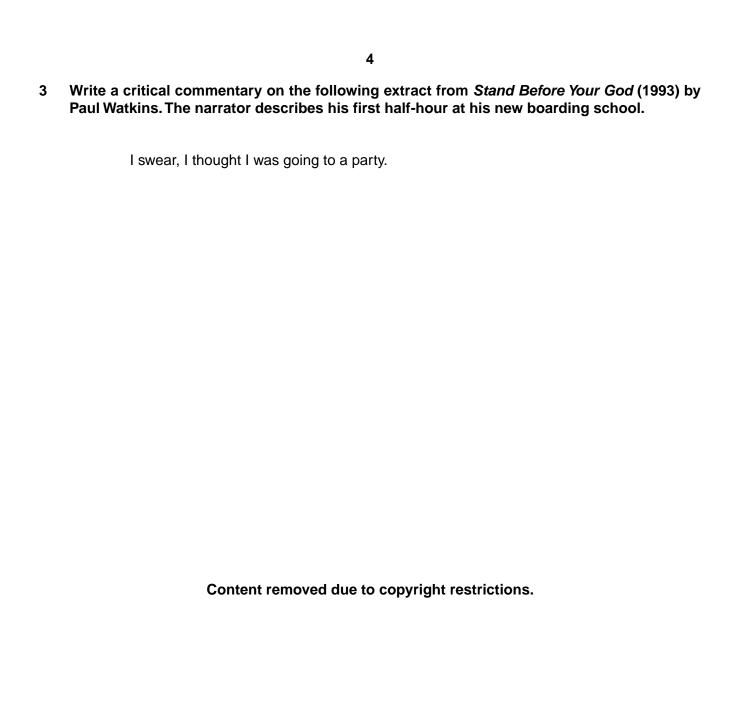
The fire now lights our cloudy walls, now fails beneath the singing pot, and as the last flame leaps and falls the far wall is and then is not.

Now lovelier than firelight is the gleam
of dying embers, and your face
shines through the pathways of my dream
like young leaves in a forest place.

35

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>boles: tree trunks

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>beyond our ken: beyond our knowledge



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measure out in front of me the space of three months.

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Question 2 © A R D Fairburn; Winter Night, Reprinted by permission of the Estate of A R D Fairburn and Richards Literary Agency; in An Anthology of New Zealand Poetry; Oxford University Press New Zealand; 1997.

Question 3 © Paul Watkins; Stand Before Your God; Faber and Faber Ltd; 1993.

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