

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

International General Certificate of Secondary Education

MARK SCHEME for the June 2005 question paper

0486 LITERATURE (ENGLISH)

0486/03

Paper 3 (Alternative to Coursework), maximum mark 20

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were initially instructed to award marks. They do not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began. Any substantial changes to the mark scheme that arose from these discussions will be recorded in the published *Report on the Examination*.

All Examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes must be read in conjunction with the question papers and the *Report on the Examination*.

- CIE will not enter into discussion or correspondence in connection with these mark schemes.

CIE is publishing the mark schemes for the June 2005 question papers for most IGCSE and GCE Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary Level syllabuses and some Ordinary Level syllabuses.



Grade thresholds for Syllabus 0486 (Literature (English)) in the June 2005 examination.

	maximum mark available	minimum mark required for grade:			
		A	C	E	F
Component 3	20	16	12	8	6

The threshold (minimum mark) for B is set halfway between those for Grades A and C.
The threshold (minimum mark) for D is set halfway between those for Grades C and E.
The threshold (minimum mark) for G is set as many marks below the F threshold as the E threshold is above it.

Grade A* does not exist at the level of an individual component.



June 2005

IGCSE

MARK SCHEME

MAXIMUM MARK: 20

SYLLABUS/COMPONENT: 0486/03

LITERATURE (ENGLISH)

Paper 3 (Alternative to Coursework)



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

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Marking Notes

This is a working document; it is not exhaustive; it does not provide ‘correct’ answers. The Marking Notes can only provide ‘best guesses’ about how the question will work out, and it is subject to revision after a wide range of scripts have been looked at. The comments on the individual grades are intended to add flesh to the descriptors in the generic mark scheme.

General notes on the task

We must be generous in our assessment of candidates if they have responded to Olds’ evocation of the anxious strangeness of the experience of early motherhood and genuinely tried to engage with the poem with its endearingly gentle and idiosyncratic imagery.

The bullet points are intended purely to help the candidate organise her/his response. We should not regard them as a ‘tick-list’, nor should we penalise candidates who omit some aspects of the writing altogether. Phrases like the ‘the puckered moiré sacs’ are very difficult and we should not be upset if candidates, in whatever mark range, just quietly ignore them. There are plenty of other more accessible phrases for them to explore.

We should also be ready to reward answers which struggle to express the inexpressible. The poem, after all, is trying to do just that. The meanings behind the paradoxes like ‘gently flung’ and ‘some sky an inch above the mattress’ will be reduced by over precise elucidation. Yet one hopes that an awareness of their power will be apparent in many essays.

Marks 2-3

Candidates will show a very little awareness of what the poem is about, although there will be no response to the writing.

Marks 4-5

Candidates will make a few straightforward points about the baby, for example, perhaps commenting that she is very small. They might describe broadly how the mother picked her up, relying heavily on the words of the original. There will be a little overall understanding demonstrated. Answers may be very brief.

Marks 6-8

Answers will show an elementary broad understanding of the poem. There might be a few straightforward points about the smallness and/or limpness of the baby. There may be some recognition of the carefulness of the mother’s handling of the baby. In this mark-range, there might be a lack of engagement with the writing, perhaps unnecessary paraphrase and/or serious errors of understanding.

Marks 9-11

There will be signs that the candidate has begun to develop his/her own response to the writing. It will probably be an awareness of the mother’s feelings about the smallness and /or limpness of the baby and a quotation or reference or two which reveals contact with the writing. The way the mother handles the baby will normally also be appreciated, but we should not in this mark-range expect any explicit commentary on how Olds has achieved her effects. Instead we might expect selective paraphrase, or reasonably chosen detail, woven into the candidate’s narrative. There may be flaws in the understanding of detail.

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Marks 12-14

The basic understanding of the poem should be secure, although we should not be too fussy about the candidate's grasp of some of the more obscure details. There may be a rudimentary response to some of the more striking images, like the "dryer" simile or the poet's choice of words. We might expect some awareness of the mother's anxiety in her handling of the baby, the concern for supporting her neck, the feeling of heavy responsibility implied in the words, "it was in my care". We will not expect reference to the more subtle thoughts of the poet in this mark-range.

Marks 15-17

There should be a clear and reasonably subtle, extended response to the poem. We should see evidence of how Sharon Olds has described the baby as so small and fragile. There might be some evidence of how she has depicted the almost alien nature of the baby, without developed human characteristics. The candidate might have appreciated the struggle of the mother to make some contact with the creature, which eventually she does, not by looking into her eyes to see some sort of feeling there, but by her reaction to her breast,

We might not expect in this range a clear, analytical response to some of these features, but we should see a willingness to engage with various details in the writing.

Marks 18-20

I suspect that the main differentiating quality of scripts in this range will be the candidate's ability to see the poem as a whole. There will be a willingness to engage with some of the more difficult concepts of the poem, such as the sense that the history of the vertebrate has been placed into her hands – although we might find candidates in the 18-19 range who have not taken that fully on board. There will, I hope be some who have responded to the gentle quietness of the poem, the feeling of intimacy between baby and mother. We must be ready to detect evidence that the candidate has both engaged perceptively with the atmosphere of the poem and appreciated some of the intellectual content. While we are not to treat the bullet points as a check-list, we might expect an answer at this level to examine all the aspects defined there at some point.

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Summary of band descriptions

Band 9	0-1	The answer does not meet the criteria for Band 8
Band 8	2-3	Candidates will – Show just a very little awareness of
Band 7	4-5	Candidates will – make a few straightforward points about....
Band 6	6-8	Candidates will – make some straightforward points about... show a little understanding of
Band 5	9-11	Candidates will – begin to develop a response..... show some understanding of....
Band 4	12-14	Candidates will – make a sensible response.... show reasonable understanding of.... show a little awareness of the way language works.
Band 3	15-17	Candidates will – make a considered, sustained response. show clear understanding of show some awareness of the way language works....
Bands 1 and 2	18-20	Candidates will – sustain a perceptive, convincing response show extensive understanding respond sensitively to the way language works