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**ENGLISH A1 – HIGHER LEVEL – PAPER 1**  
**ANGLAIS A1 – NIVEAU SUPÉRIEUR – ÉPREUVE 1**  
**INGLÉS A1 – NIVEL SUPERIOR – PRUEBA 1**

Monday 5 November 2012 (morning)  
Lundi 5 novembre 2012 (matin)  
Lunes 5 de noviembre de 2012 (mañana)

2 hours / 2 heures / 2 horas

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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Write a commentary on one passage only.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is *[25 marks]*.

INSTRUCTIONS DESTINÉES AUX CANDIDATS

- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Rédigez un commentaire sur un seul des passages.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est *[25 points]*.

INSTRUCCIONES PARA LOS ALUMNOS

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Escriba un comentario sobre un solo fragmento.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es *[25 puntos]*.

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

1.

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2.

**The Last of the Books**

Is it too strange to think  
That, when all life at last from earth is gone,  
And round the sun's pale blink  
Our desolate planet wheels its ice and stone,  
5 Housed among storm-proof walls there yet may abide,  
Defying long the venoms of decay,  
A still dark throng of books, dumb books of song  
And tenderest fancies born of youth and May?

A quiet remembering host,  
10 Outliving the poor dust that gave them birth,  
Unvisited by even a wandering ghost,  
But treasuring still the music of our earth,  
In little fading hieroglyphs they shall bear  
Through death and night, the legend of our spring,  
15 And how the lilac scented the bright air  
When hearts throbbed warm, and lips could kiss and sing.

And, ere that record fail,  
Strange voyagers from a mightier planet come  
On wingèd ships that through the void can sail  
20 And gently alight upon our ancient home;  
Strange voices echo, and strange flares explore,  
Strange hands, with curious weapons, burst these bars,  
Lift the brown volumes to the light once more,  
And bear their stranger secrets through the stars.

Alfred Noyes, *Collected Poems Vol 4* (1927)

The Society of Authors as the Literary Representative of the Estate of Alfred Noyes.

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