

A UNSEEN POEM (20 marks)

Read the following poem by Peter Sirr, and answer **either** Question 1 or Question 2 which follow.

Peter Street

I'd grown almost to love this street,
each time I passed looking up
to pin my father's face to a window, feel myself

held in his gaze. Today there's a building site
where the hospital stood and I stop and stare
stupidly at the empty air, looking for him.

I'd almost pray some ache remain
like a flaw in the structure, something unappeasable
waiting in the fabric, between floors, in some

obstinate, secret room. A crane moves
delicately in the sky, in its own language.
Forget all that, I think as I pass, make it

a marvelous house; music should roam the corridors,
joy readily occur, St Valentine's
stubborn heart comes floating from Whitefriar Street*

to prevail, to undo injury, to lift my father from his bed,
let him climb down the dull red brick, effortlessly,
and run off with his life in his hands.

Peter Sirr

**A relic of St Valentine is kept at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Whitefriar St., Dublin*

1. (a) What do you believe is the central message of this poem?
Support your answer with reference to the poem. (10)
- (b) Identify two images that you find interesting in this poem.
Explain your choices, supporting your answer with reference to the poem. (10)

OR

2. Based on your reading of the above poem, identify the emotions expressed by the poet and explain how these emotions are conveyed in the poem. (20)

