

A UNSEEN POEM (20 marks)

Read the following poem by Czesław Miłosz and answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2 which follow.

And Yet the Books

And yet the books will be there on the shelves, separate beings,
That appeared once, still wet
As shining chestnuts under a tree in autumn,
And, touched, cuddled, began to live
In spite of fires on the horizon, castles blown up,
Tribes on the march, planets in motion.
“We are,” they said, even as their pages
Were being torn out, or a buzzing flame
Licked away their letters. So much more durable
Than we are, whose frail warmth
Cools down with memory, disperses, perishes.
I imagine the earth when I am no more:
Nothing happens, no loss, it’s still a strange pageant,
Women’s dresses, dewy lilacs, a song in the valley.
Yet the books will be there on the shelves, well born,
Derived from people, but also from radiance, heights.

Czesław Miłosz

1. (a) Outline the ideas expressed by the poet in this poem.
Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
- (b) Select two images from the poem that you think best convey the poet’s ideas.
Explain your choice. (10)
- OR**
2. Discuss the language used by the poet throughout this poem. Refer closely
to the text in your answer. (20)

