

## Epreuve écrite

**Examen de fin d'études secondaires 2015**

**Section: A**

**Branche: Anglais, texte inconnu**

**Numéro d'ordre du candidat**

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### **WATER**

1 Your last word was *water*,  
which I poured in a hospice plastic cup, held  
to your lips – your small sip, half-smile, sigh –  
then, in the chair beside you,  
5 fell asleep.

Fell asleep for three lost hours,  
only to waken, thirsty, hear then see  
a magpie warn in a bush outside –  
dawn so soon – and swallow from your still-full cup.

10 *Water*. The times I'd call as a child  
for a drink, till you'd come, sit on the edge  
of the bed in the dark, holding my hand,  
just as we held hands now and you died.

A good last word.

15 Nights since I've cried, but gone  
to my own child's side with a drink, watched  
her gulp it down then sleep. *Water*.  
What a mother brings

20 through darkness still  
to her parched daughter.

Carol Ann Duffy, 2011  
Poet Laureate

Answer the following questions:

- 1) To whom does the poet pay tribute? Analyse the closeness of the relationship portrayed. (10m)
- 2) How do the present and the past interact in the poem? (10m)
- 3) In what ways is water the vital link that binds the different personae in the poem? (12m)
- 4) Analyse style, diction and the use of poetic devices to emphasise meaning. (12m)
- 5) All writing, especially poetry, is necessarily autobiographical. Do you agree? (16m)