A-level
ENGLISH LITERATURE B
(7717/1A)

Paper 1A: Literary Genres: Aspects of Tragedy

2015 Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials
For this paper you must have:
• an AQA 12-page answer booklet.

Instructions
• Use black ink or black ball point pen.
• Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The Examining Body for this paper is AQA. The Paper Reference is 7717/1A.
• Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.
• Answer one question from Section A, one question from Section B and one question from Section C.
• You may answer on the same Shakespeare play in Sections A and B.
• For Section C, you must write about two texts: one drama text and one further text, one of which must be written pre-1900.

Information
• The maximum mark for this paper is 75.
• The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
• You will be marked on your ability to:
  – use good English
  – organise information clearly
  – use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
• In your response you need to:
  – analyse carefully the writers’ methods
  – explore the contexts of the texts you are writing about
  – explore connections across the texts you have studied
  – explore different interpretations of your texts.
Explore the significance of this extract in relation to the tragedy of the play as a whole. Remember to include in your answer relevant analysis of Shakespeare's dramatic methods.

[25 marks]
Put into circumscription and confine
For the seas' worth. But look what lights come yond!

IAGO
Those are the raisèd father and his friends:
You were best go in.

OTHELLO Not I: I must be found.
My parts, my title, and my perfect soul
Shall manifest me rightly. Is it they?

IAGO
By Janus, I think no.

Enter Cassio, with men bearing torches

OTHELLO
The servants of the Duke and my Lieutenant!
The goodness of the night upon you, friends.
What is the news?

CASSIO
The Duke does greet you, General,
And he requires your haste-post-haste appearance
Even on the instant.

OTHELLO
What is the matter, think you?

CASSIO
Something from Cyprus, as I may divine:
It is a business of some heat. The galleys
Have sent a dozen sequent messengers
This very night at one another’s heels;
And many of the consuls, raised and met,
Are at the Duke’s already. You have been hotly called for,
When being not at your lodging to be found.
The senate hath sent about three several quests
To search you out.

OTHELLO
'Tis well I am found by you:
I will but spend a word here in the house
And go with you.

(Act 1, Scene 2)
Explore the significance of this extract in relation to the tragedy of the play as a whole. Remember to include in your answer relevant analysis of Shakespeare's dramatic methods.

[25 marks]

**Before Gloucester’s castle**

*Kent still in the stocks*

*Enter Lear, the Fool and a Gentleman*

**LEAR**

'Tis strange that they should so depart from home
And not send back my messengers.

**GENTLEMAN**

As I learned,
The night before there was no purpose in them
Of this remove.

**KENT**

Hail to thee, noble master!

**LEAR**

Ha!
Makest thou this shame thy pastime?

**KENT**

No, my lord.

**FOOL**

Ha, ha! He wears cruel garters. Horses are tied by
the heads, dogs and bears by the neck, monkeys by the
loins, and men by the legs. When a man’s over-lusty at
legs, then he wears wooden nether-stocks.

**LEAR**

What’s he that hath so much thy place mistook
To set thee here?

**KENT**

It is both he and she;
Your son and daughter.

**LEAR**

No. **KENT**
Yes.

**LEAR**

No, I say.

**KENT**
I say yea.

**LEAR**

No, no, they would not.

**KENT**
Yes, they have.

**LEAR**

By Jupiter, I swear no!

**KENT**

By Juno, I swear ay!
LEAR

They durst not do 't;

They could not, would not do 't; 'tis worse than murder
To do upon respect such violent outrage.
Resolve me with all modest haste which way
Thou mightst deserve or they impose this usage,
Coming from us.

KENT

My Lord, when at their home
I did commend your highness' letters to them,
Ere I was risen from the place that showed
My duty kneeling, came there a reeking post,
Stewed in his haste, half breathless, panting forth
From Gonerill his mistress salutations;
Delivered letters, spite of intermission,
Which presently they read; on whose contents
They summoned up their meiny, straight took horse,
Commanded me to follow and attend
The leisure of their answer, gave me cold looks;
And meeting here the other messenger,
Whose welcome I perceived had poisoned mine –
Being the very fellow which of late
Displayed so saucily against your highness –
Having more man than wit about me, drew.
He raised the house with loud and coward cries.
Your son and daughter found this trespass worth
The shame which here it suffers.

FOOL

Winter’s not gone yet if the wild geese fly that way.

(Act 2, Scene 4)
**Section B**

**Answer one question in this section.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Either</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 0 3 | **Othello** – William Shakespeare  
‘Othello’s virtue and valour ultimately make him admirable.’  
To what extent do you agree with this view?  
Remember to include in your answer relevant comment on Shakespeare’s dramatic methods.  
[25 marks] |
| 0 4 | **Othello** – William Shakespeare  
‘Othello is more about the absurdity of jealousy than its destructive power.’  
To what extent do you agree with this view?  
Remember to include in your answer relevant comment on Shakespeare’s dramatic methods.  
[25 marks] |
| 0 5 | **King Lear** – William Shakespeare  
‘Edgar’s buoyancy of spirit makes him ultimately a comforting force in the tragedy.’  
To what extent do you agree with this view?  
Remember to include in your answer relevant comment on Shakespeare’s dramatic methods.  
[25 marks] |
| 0 6 | **King Lear** – William Shakespeare  
‘Cordelia’s death is the shocking climax of cruelty in Shakespeare’s exploration of evil.’  
To what extent do you agree with this view?  
Remember to include in your answer relevant comment on Shakespeare’s dramatic methods.  
[25 marks] |
Section C

Answer one question in this section.

In this section you must write about two texts. One text must be a drama text. One text must be written pre-1900.

You can write about the following texts:

- Richard II (pre-1900 drama)
- Death of a Salesman (drama)
- Tess of the D'Urbervilles (pre-1900)
- The Great Gatsby
- Keats Poetry Selection (pre-1900)
- Poetry Anthology: Tragedy (at least two poems must be covered).

Either

07 ‘Tragedies leave readers and audiences with a final sense of emptiness and disillusion.’

To what extent do you agree with this view in relation to two texts you have studied?

Remember to include in your answer relevant comment on the ways the writers have shaped meanings.

[25 marks]

or

08 ‘At the heart of the tragic experience is an overwhelming sense of shame.’

To what extent do you agree with this view in relation to two texts you have studied?

Remember to include in your answer relevant comment on the ways the writers have shaped meanings.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS
There are no questions printed on this page