A-level
ENGLISH LITERATURE A
Paper 2A  Texts in shared contexts: WW1 and its aftermath

Thursday 22 June 2017  Morning  Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials
For this paper you must have:
• an AQA 12-page answer book
• a copy of the insert for use with Section B (enclosed)
• a copy of each of the set texts you have studied for this paper. These texts must not be annotated and must not contain additional notes or materials.

Instructions
• Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
• Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The Paper Reference is 7712/2A.
• Read all of the questions. Then choose either Option 1 or Option 2 or Option 3. Answer one question from Section A and both questions from Section B from your chosen option. You must answer questions from only one option.
• Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information
• The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
• The maximum mark for this paper is 75.
• 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.
Option 1

Section A: Poetry Set Text

Answer one question in this section.

*Up the Line to Death* – ed. Brian Gardner

Either

01 Examine the significance of mental suffering as an aspect of war in *Up the Line to Death*.

You must write about at least two poems in your answer. [25 marks]

or

02 Look again at the section called ‘Death’s Kingdom’. Examine the significance of death in battle as presented in this section.

You must write about at least two poems from this section. [25 marks]

*Scars Upon My Heart* – ed. Catherine Reilly

or

03 ‘The poems in *Scars Upon My Heart* show that women are always damaged by war.’

Examine this view.

You must write about at least two poems in your answer. [25 marks]

or

04 Examine the significance of grieving for the dead in at least two poems in this collection. [25 marks]
Option 1

Section B: Drama and Prose Contextual Linking

Read the insert. Answer both questions in this section.

Read the insert carefully. It is taken from *We that Were Young*, a semi-autobiographical novel by Irene Rathbone published in 1932. Joan is a voluntary nurse, or VAD, who has been caring for wounded soldiers who have been brought to London. In this extract, set in 1916, she is faced with the challenge of nursing the seriously wounded from the battle of the Somme.

Answer both questions.

Explore the significance of duty in this extract.

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Rathbone shapes meanings.

[25 marks]

and

‘War can only be endured through having a sense of duty.’

Compare the significance of duty in two other texts you have studied. Remember to include in your answer reference to how meanings are shaped in the texts you are comparing.

You must use one drama text and one prose text in your response, at least one of which must be a text written post-2000.

[25 marks]
Option 2

Section A: Drama Set Text

Answer one question in this section.

_Oh! What a Lovely War_ – Joan Littlewood

Either

07 Examine the view that _Oh! What a Lovely War_ is an attack primarily on the officer class who led the army. [25 marks]

or

08 Examine the significance of the songs in the play. [25 marks]

_Journey’s End_ – R. C. Sherriff

or

09 Sherriff said “I have not written this play as propaganda and certainly not as propaganda for peace.”

Examine the view that _Journey’s End_ is not an anti-war play. [25 marks]

or

10 ‘Raleigh’s only function in the play is to show the hopeless inexperience of youth.’

Examine the significance of Raleigh in the play in the light of this view. [25 marks]
Option 2

Section B: Prose and Poetry Contextual Linking

Read the insert. Answer both questions in this section.

Read the insert carefully. It is taken from *We that Were Young*, a semi-autobiographical novel by Irene Rathbone published in 1932. Joan is a voluntary nurse, or VAD, who has been caring for wounded soldiers who have been brought to London. In this extract, set in 1916, she is faced with the challenge of nursing the seriously wounded from the battle of the Somme.

Answer both questions.

1. Explore the significance of duty in this extract.
   
   Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Rathbone shapes meanings.

   [25 marks]

   and

2. ‘War can only be endured through having a sense of duty.’

   Compare the significance of duty in two other texts you have studied. Remember to include in your answer reference to how meanings are shaped in the texts you are comparing.

   You must use one prose text written post-2000 and one poetry text in your response.

   [25 marks]

Turn over for the next section
Option 3

Section A: Prose Set Text

Answer one question in this section.

**Regeneration** – Pat Barker

Either

1 3 Examine the view that Barker’s presentation of war is limited because *Regeneration* is set away from the front line. [25 marks]

or

1 4 Examine the significance of Burns in the novel. [25 marks]

**Birdsong** – Sebastian Faulks

or

1 5 Faulks said of *Birdsong* that he wanted to explore how much suffering human beings could endure.

Examine the significance of human suffering in the novel in the light of this view. [25 marks]

or

1 6 ‘Stephen Wraysford is a cold, detached character.’

Examine the significance of Stephen Wraysford in *Birdsong* in the light of this comment. [25 marks]
Read the insert carefully. It is taken from *We that Were Young*, a semi-autobiographical novel by Irene Rathbone published in 1932. Joan is a voluntary nurse, or VAD, who has been caring for wounded soldiers who have been brought to London. In this extract, set in 1916, she is faced with the challenge of nursing the seriously wounded from the battle of the Somme.

Answer *both* questions.

1. **Explore the significance of duty in this extract.**
   
   Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Rathbone shapes meanings.

   [25 marks]

and

2. **‘War can only be endured through having a sense of duty.’**

   Compare the significance of duty in *two* other texts you have studied. Remember to include in your answer reference to how meanings are shaped in the texts you are comparing.

   You must use the drama text written post-2000 (*My Boy Jack*) and *one* poetry text in your response.

   [25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS