

**AQA** 

**A-level**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE A**

**Paper 2B Texts in shared contexts:  
Modern times: Literature  
from 1945 to the present day**

**7712/2B**

**Tuesday 12 June 2018                      Afternoon**

**Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes**

**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.**

**[Turn over]**

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

- **Use black ink or black ball-point pen.**
- **Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The PAPER REFERENCE is 7712/2B.**
- **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.**

**DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO**

**OPTION 1**

**SECTION A: Poetry Set Text**

**Answer ONE question in this section.**

**‘Feminine Gospels’ – Carol Ann Duffy**

**EITHER**

**0 1** Examine the view that Duffy presents women as dangerous and destructive in the collection.

**You must refer to AT LEAST TWO poems in your answer.  
[25 marks]**

**OR**

**0 2** Examine the view that in  
**‘Feminine Gospels’** women are  
**presented as lonely individuals**  
**cut off from mainstream society.**

**You must refer to AT LEAST**  
**TWO poems in your answer.**  
**[25 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

**‘Skirrid Hill’ – Owen Sheers**

**OR**

**0 3** “In ‘Skirrid Hill’ Sheers is more concerned with continuity than with change.”

**Examine this view of the collection.**

**You must refer to AT LEAST TWO poems in your answer.  
[25 marks]**

**OR**

**0 4**

**“Sheers presents relationships between men and women as more painful than pleasurable in ‘Skirrid Hill’.”**

**Examine this view of the collection.**

**You must refer to AT LEAST TWO poems in your answer.  
[25 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

**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 ‘White Teeth’, a novel by Zadie Smith published in 2000. Muslim waiter Samad Iqbal has just collected two 9-year-olds from their primary school in a multi-ethnic area of London. The children are Samad’s son Magid and Irie, the mixed-race daughter of Samad’s best friend Archie. The angry children have begun a silent protest because their fathers have refused to let them take part in the school’s Christian Harvest Festival celebration. The extract begins with Samad speaking.**



**Answer BOTH questions.**

**0 5** Explore the significance of conflict in this extract.

**Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Smith shapes meanings. [25 marks]**

**AND**

**0 6** Compare the significance of conflict 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. [25 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

**OPTION 2**

**SECTION A: Drama Set Text**

**Answer ONE question in this section.**

**‘A Streetcar Named Desire’ –  
Tennessee Williams**

**EITHER**

**0 7** **Examine the significance of Belle Reve in ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’. [25 marks]**

**OR**

**0 8** **“Blanche is no tragic heroine, just an infuriating, self-pitying snob.”**

**Examine this view of Blanche DuBois in ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’. [25 marks]**

**‘Top Girls’ – Caryl Churchill**

**OR**

**0 9** “ ‘Top Girls’ is a dated play stuck in the 1980s.”

**Examine this view. [25 marks]**

**OR**

**1 0** **Examine the significance of the relationship between Marlene and Joyce in the play. [25 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

**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 ‘White Teeth’, a novel by Zadie Smith published in 2000. Muslim waiter Samad Iqbal has just collected two 9-year-olds from their primary school in a multi-ethnic area of London. The children are Samad’s son Magid and Irie, the mixed-race daughter of Samad’s best friend Archie. The angry children have begun a silent protest because their fathers have refused to let them take part in the school’s Christian Harvest Festival celebration. The extract begins with Samad speaking.**

**Answer BOTH questions.**

**1 1 Explore the significance of conflict in this extract.**

**Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Smith shapes meanings. [25 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

**BLANK PAGE**

**AND**

**1 2** Compare the significance of conflict 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 and ONE poetry text in your response, at least ONE of which must be a text written post-2000.**

**You must write about AT LEAST TWO poems. [25 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

**OPTION 3**

**SECTION A: Prose Set Text**

**Answer ONE question in this section.**

**‘Waterland’ – Graham Swift**

**EITHER**

**1 3** Examine the view that in ‘Waterland’ Swift presents the young as ignorant fools rather than innocent victims. [25 marks]

**OR**

**1 4** “A disturbing story dominated by suffering and horror.”

**Examine this view of ‘Waterland’.  
[25 marks]**



**‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ – Margaret Atwood**

**OR**

**1 | 5** “The Commander should be pitied. He is a victim of the Gileadean system too.”

**Examine this view of Atwood’s presentation of the Commander.  
[25 marks]**

**OR**

**1 | 6** **Examine the significance of rebellion in ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’.  
[25 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

**OPTION 3****SECTION B: Drama and Poetry  
Contextual Linking**

**Read the Insert. Answer BOTH questions in this section.**

**Read the insert carefully. It is taken from ‘White Teeth’, a novel by Zadie Smith published in 2000. Muslim waiter Samad Iqbal has just collected two 9-year-olds from their primary school in a multi-ethnic area of London. The children are Samad’s son Magid and Irie, the mixed-race daughter of Samad’s best friend Archie. The angry children have begun a silent protest because their fathers have refused to let them take part in the school’s Christian Harvest Festival celebration. The extract begins with Samad speaking.**

**Answer BOTH questions.**

**1 7** Explore the significance of conflict in this extract.

**Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Smith shapes meanings. [25 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

**BLANK PAGE**

**AND**

**1 8** Compare the significance of conflict 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 poetry text in your response, at least ONE of which must be a text written post-2000.**

**You must write about AT LEAST TWO poems. [25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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**IB/M/Jun18/LO/7712/2B/E2**

