



A-level

ENGLISH LITERATURE A

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

7712/2B

Monday 1 June 2020

Morning

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

“A collection dominated by the all-powerful figure of the mother.”

Examine this view of ‘Feminine Gospels’.

You must write about AT LEAST TWO poems in your answer. [25 marks]

OR

0 2

Examine the view that, in ‘Feminine Gospels’, women are presented as failing to bring about change.

You must write about AT LEAST TWO poems in your answer. [25 marks]

[Turn over]

‘Skirrid Hill’ – Owen Sheers

OR

03

Examine the view that ‘Skirrid Hill’ is a positive celebration of Welsh culture and traditions.

You must write about AT LEAST TWO poems in your answer. [25 marks]

OR

0 4

“In ‘Skirrid Hill’ Sheers presents women as far stronger than men.”

Examine this view.

You must write about 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 ‘Everything I Never Told You’, a novel by Celeste Ng published in 2014. The extract, which is set in the USA in 1952, begins with Marilyn Walker asking her college tutor if she can enrol on a physics course. Marilyn’s mother teaches Home Economics at the high school Marilyn attended before she went to college.

Answer BOTH questions.

0	5
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Explore the significance of inequality in this extract.

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

AND

0	6
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Compare the significance of inequality 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

07

“Williams presents Stanley Kowalski as no more than a brutal thug.”

Examine this view. [25 marks]

OR

0 8

**Examine the significance of the American South in 'A Streetcar Named Desire'.
[25 marks]**

[Turn over]

'Top Girls' – Caryl Churchill

OR

09

Examine the view that, in 'Top Girls', Churchill presents women as haunted by the past. [25 marks]

OR

10

Examine the significance of the role of Angie in 'Top Girls'. [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 ‘Everything I Never Told You’, a novel by Celeste Ng published in 2014. The extract, which is set in the USA in 1952, begins with Marilyn Walker asking her college tutor if she can enrol on a physics course. Marilyn’s mother teaches Home Economics at the high school Marilyn attended before she went to college.

Answer BOTH questions.

[Turn over]

1	1
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Explore the significance of inequality in this extract.

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

AND

1 2

Compare the significance of inequality 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 significance of the role of Dick Crick in ‘Waterland’. [25 marks]

OR

1 4

Examine the significance of education in 'Waterland'. [25 marks]

[Turn over]

‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ – Margaret Atwood

OR

1 5

“It is impossible to feel any sympathy for Serena Joy.”

Examine Atwood’s presentation of Serena Joy in the light of this view. [25 marks]

OR

1 | 6

“I made that up. It didn’t happen that way. Here is what happened,” declares Offred.

Examine the significance of storytelling in ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ in the light of this quotation. [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 ‘Everything I Never Told You’, a novel by Celeste Ng published in 2014. The extract, which is set in the USA in 1952, begins with Marilyn Walker asking her college tutor if she can enrol on a physics course. Marilyn’s mother teaches Home Economics at the high school Marilyn attended before she went to college.

Answer BOTH questions.

1	7
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Explore the significance of inequality in this extract.

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

[Turn over]

AND

1 | 8

Compare the significance of inequality 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

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