



A-level

ENGLISH LITERATURE A

Paper 2A Texts in shared contexts: WW1 and its aftermath

7712/2A

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 7712/2A.**
- **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.**

DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO

OPTION 1**SECTION A: Poetry Set Text**

Answer ONE question in this section.

‘Up the Line to Death’ – ed. Brian Gardner

EITHER

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 1 |
|---|---|

Examine the view that the poems in this anthology always present home as a source of support and inspiration for soldiers on the front line.

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

OR

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 2 |
|---|---|

Examine the view that the poems in this anthology celebrate going to war as a glorious ideal.

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

‘Scars Upon My Heart’ – ed. Catherine Reilly

OR

03

“Women are presented as passive observers of the war.”

Examine this view of the anthology.

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

OR

04

Examine the significance of the natural world in this anthology.

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 ‘How Many Miles to Babylon?’, a novel by Jennifer Johnston published in 1974. Alec Moore, who is Irish, is a junior officer on the front line. In this extract, his commanding officer tells him that Private Crowe, whom Alec has known from childhood, is to be executed for desertion.

Answer BOTH questions.

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 5 |
|---|---|

Explore the significance of conflict with authority in this extract.

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

AND

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 6 |
|---|---|

Compare the significance of conflict with authority 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]

[Turn over]

OPTION 2**SECTION A: Drama Set Text**

Answer ONE question in this section.

‘Oh! What a Lovely War’ – Joan Littlewood

EITHER

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 7 |
|---|---|

“This is a play about villains rather than heroes.”

Examine this view of ‘Oh! What a Lovely War’. [25 marks]

OR

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 8 |
|---|---|

Examine the view that the comedy in the play distances us from the horrors of war. [25 marks]

‘Journey’s End’ – R C Sherriff

OR

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 9 |
|---|---|

“Memories of home are a comfort to the soldiers in the play.”

Examine this view of ‘Journey’s End’. [25 marks]

OR

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 0 |
|---|---|

Examine the significance of the play’s title. [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 ‘How Many Miles to Babylon?’, a novel by Jennifer Johnston published in 1974. Alec Moore, who is Irish, is a junior officer on the front line. In this extract, his commanding officer tells him that Private Crowe, whom Alec has known from childhood, is to be executed for desertion.

Answer BOTH questions.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1 |
|---|---|

Explore the significance of conflict with authority in this extract.

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

AND

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|

Compare the significance of conflict with authority 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.

**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.

‘Regeneration’ – Pat Barker

Either

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 3 |
|---|---|

“In ‘Regeneration’, Barker suggests that damaged soldiers are never healed.”

Examine this view of ‘Regeneration’. [25 marks]

OR

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 4 |
|---|---|

Examine the significance of finding your voice in ‘Regeneration’. [25 marks]

‘Birdsong’ – Sebastian Faulks

OR

1 5

“In ‘Birdsong’, Faulks shows that friendships in war never last.”

**Examine this view of male friendship in ‘Birdsong’.
[25 marks]**

OR

1 6

Examine the significance of the birth of Elizabeth’s son to the novel as a whole. [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 ‘How Many Miles to Babylon?’, a novel by Jennifer Johnston published in 1974. Alec Moore, who is Irish, is a junior officer on the front line. In this extract, his commanding officer tells him that Private Crowe, whom Alec has known from childhood, is to be executed for desertion.

Answer BOTH questions.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 7 |
|---|---|

Explore the significance of conflict with authority in this extract.

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

AND

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8 |
|---|---|

Compare the significance of conflict with authority 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.

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

END OF QUESTIONS

BLANK PAGE**Copyright information**

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk.

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2021 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

IB/M/NC/Jun21/7712/2A/E1

2 1 6 A 7 7 1 2 / 2 A