



A-level

ENGLISH LITERATURE A

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

7712/2B

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 Duffy’s presentation of female suffering across time.

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

OR

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

“In, ‘Feminine Gospels’, relationships between women are presented as fragile and damaged.”

Examine this view.

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

‘Skirrid Hill’ – Owen Sheers**OR**

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 3 |
|---|---|

“In ‘Skirrid Hill’, male family relationships are dark and complex.”

Examine Sheers’ presentation of relationships involving sons, fathers and grandfathers in the light of this view.

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

OR

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 4 |
|---|---|

Examine the significance of conflict in ‘Skirrid Hill’.

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 ‘Nice Work’, a novel by David Lodge published in 1988. Robyn Penrose, a temporary lecturer at a large university in the Midlands, is taking part in an ‘Industry Shadow Scheme’ during which she will spend one day a week observing the work of a local business. Robyn is meeting her industry partner Vic Wilcox, the manager of a small engineering firm, for the first time. The extract begins with Vic speaking.

Answer BOTH questions.

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

Explore the significance of opposing ideas and values in this extract.

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

AND

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

Compare the significance of opposing ideas and values 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

Examine the significance of the relationship between Blanche and Mitch in the play. [25 marks]

OR

08

Examine the significance of places in ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’. [25 marks]

‘Top Girls’ – Caryl Churchill

OR

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

Examine the significance of the office-based scenes in ‘Top Girls’. [25 marks]

OR

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

“The play is too incoherent and confusing to present its ideas effectively.”

Examine this view of ‘Top Girls’. [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 ‘Nice Work’, a novel by David Lodge published in 1988. Robyn Penrose, a temporary lecturer at a large university in the Midlands, is taking part in an ‘Industry Shadow Scheme’ during which she will spend one day a week observing the work of a local business. Robyn is meeting her industry partner Vic Wilcox, the manager of a small engineering firm, for the first time. The extract begins with Vic speaking.

Answer BOTH questions.

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

Explore the significance of opposing ideas and values in this extract.

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

AND

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

Compare the significance of opposing ideas and values 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 Mary Crick in the novel.
[25 marks]**

OR

1 4

“For all their faults, fathers are presented as loving figures in the novel.”

Examine this view. [25 marks]

‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ – Margaret Atwood

OR

1 5

Examine the significance of the role of Nick in the novel. [25 marks]

OR

1 6

“Moira is recaptured. Ofglen disappears. Offred is arrested. In Gilead, resistance is always futile.”

Examine the significance of resistance in ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ in the light of this view. [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 ‘Nice Work’, a novel by David Lodge published in 1988. Robyn Penrose, a temporary lecturer at a large university in the Midlands, is taking part in an ‘Industry Shadow Scheme’ during which she will spend one day a week observing the work of a local business. Robyn is meeting her industry partner Vic Wilcox, the manager of a small engineering firm, for the first time. The extract begins with Vic speaking.

Answer BOTH questions.

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

Explore the significance of opposing ideas and values in this extract.

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

AND

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

Compare the significance of opposing ideas and values 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

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/SB/Jun21/7712/2B/E2

2 1 6 A 7 7 1 2 / 2 B