

A-level ENGLISH LITERATURE A

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

Monday 7 June 2021

Afternoon

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 7712/2B.
- 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.

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
---	---

'Relationships between women are presented as fragile and damaged in *Feminine Gospels*.'

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]

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 for the next section

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 the relationship between Blanche and Mitch in the play.

[25 marks]**or**

0	8
---	---

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]

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 for the next section

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]

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

There are no questions printed on this 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.

