



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
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Examine the significance of men within the collection.

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

OR

0 2

“Poems full of anger and bitterness.”

Examine this view of the collection.

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

[Turn over]

‘Skirrid Hill’ – Owen Sheers**OR**

0	3
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“ ‘Skirrid Hill’ is a joyous celebration of the human capacity for love.”

Examine this view of the collection.

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

OR

0	4
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Examine Sheers' presentation of the power of women 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 ‘Peyton Place’, a novel by Grace Metalious published in 1956. In this extract, which is set in a small American town in the late 1940s, teenagers Allison MacKenzie and Norman Page have gone out together in the late afternoon, and Allison’s mother Constance is awaiting their return. The extract begins with Constance speaking to her husband, Allison’s stepfather Tom Makris, the principal of the local high school.

Answer BOTH questions.

0	5
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Explore the significance of changing social attitudes in this extract.

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

AND

0	6
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Compare the significance of changing social attitudes 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
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Examine the significance of the friendship between Stanley and Mitch in the play. [25 marks]

OR

0 8

“In painting a romantic and nostalgic picture of the Old South, Williams fails to acknowledge its dark side.”

**Examine this view of the play.
[25 marks]**

[Turn over]

‘Top Girls’ – Caryl Churchill

OR

09

Examine the significance of Joyce in the play. [25 marks]

OR

10

“ ‘Top Girls’ is nothing more than an attack upon the political ideas of Margaret Thatcher.”

Examine this view. [25 marks]

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[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 ‘Peyton Place’, a novel by Grace Metalious published in 1956. In this extract, which is set in a small American town in the late 1940s, teenagers Allison MacKenzie and Norman Page have gone out together in the late afternoon, and Allison’s mother Constance is awaiting their return. The extract begins with Constance speaking to her husband, Allison’s stepfather Tom Makris, the principal of the local high school.

Answer BOTH questions.

1	1
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Explore the significance of changing social attitudes in this extract.

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Metalious shapes meanings.

[25 marks]

[Turn over]

AND

1 2

Compare the significance of changing social attitudes 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]

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[Turn over]

OPTION 3

SECTION A: Prose Set Text

Answer ONE question in this section.

‘Waterland’ – Graham Swift

EITHER

1 3

“It is Swift’s interweaving of a wide variety of strands which makes ‘Waterland’ so interesting and enjoyable.”

Examine this view. [25 marks]

OR

1 4

Examine the significance of family in the novel. [25 marks]

[Turn over]

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

OR

1 | 5

Examine the significance of Gilead’s rituals and ceremonies in ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’. [25 marks]

OR

1 | 6

“And so I step up, into the darkness within; or else the light.”

Examine the significance of the final words of Offred’s narrative to the novel as a whole. [25 marks]

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[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 ‘Peyton Place’, a novel by Grace Metalious published in 1956. In this extract, which is set in a small American town in the late 1940s, teenagers Allison MacKenzie and Norman Page have gone out together in the late afternoon, and Allison’s mother Constance is awaiting their return. The extract begins with Constance speaking to her husband, Allison’s stepfather Tom Makris, the principal of the local high school.

Answer BOTH questions.

1 | 7

Explore the significance of changing social attitudes in this extract.

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Metalious shapes meanings.

[25 marks]

[Turn over]

AND

1 | 8

Compare the significance of changing social attitudes 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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