



**A-level**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE B**

**Paper 2B Texts and genres: Elements of  
political and social protest  
writing**

**7717/2B**

**Time allowed: 3 hours**

**For this paper you must have:**

- **an AQA 12-page answer book**
- **a copy of the set text(s) you have studied for Section B and Section C. 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 7717/2B.**
- **You must answer the question in Section A, ONE question from Section B and ONE question from Section C. Over Section B and Section C you must write about THREE texts: ONE poetry text, ONE post-2000 prose text and ONE further text. At least ONE of your texts must be written pre-1900.**
- **Do all rough work in the 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**

## SECTION A

**Answer the question in this section.**

0	1
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**Explore the significance of the elements of political and social protest writing in this extract.**

**Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways the author has shaped meanings. [25 marks]**

**The following verses are from a dramatic poem about peaceful protest, titled ‘The Mask of Anarchy’. It was written by Percy Bysshe Shelley in 1819.**

**The poem was inspired by a peaceful protest in favour of greater democracy. The protest was violently attacked by armed soldiers who charged into the unarmed crowd, killing six and wounding many more.**

**These verses come from the end of the poem and are spoken by an optimistic character named Hope, who addresses the people of England. Hope praises their resistance, urging them to stay true to their belief in peaceful protest.**

**[Turn over]**

**“Stand ye calm and resolute,  
Like a forest close and mute,  
With folded arms and looks which are  
Weapons of unvanquished war,**

**Let the laws of your own land,  
Good or ill, between ye stand  
Hand to hand, and foot to foot,  
Arbiters of the dispute,**

**The old laws of England – they  
Whose reverend heads with age are gray,  
Children of a wiser day;  
And whose solemn voice must be  
Thine own echo – Liberty!**

**On those who first should violate  
Such sacred heralds in their state  
Rest the blood that must ensue,  
And it will not rest on you.**

**And if then the tyrants dare  
Let them ride among you there,**

**Slash, and stab, and maim, and hew, –  
What they like, that let them do.**

**With folded arms and steady eyes,  
And little fear, and less surprise,  
Look upon them as they slay  
Till their rage has died away.**

**Then they will return with shame  
To the place from which they came,  
And the blood thus shed will speak  
In hot blushes on their cheek.**

**Every woman in the land  
Will point at them as they stand –  
They will hardly dare to greet  
Their acquaintance on the street.**

**And the bold, true warriors  
Who have hugged Danger in wars  
Will turn to those who would be free,  
Ashamed of such base company.**

**[Turn over]**

**And that slaughter to the Nation  
Shall steam up like inspiration,  
Eloquent, oracular;  
A volcano heard afar.**

**And these words shall then become  
Like Oppression's thundered doom  
Ringing through each heart and brain,  
Heard again – again – again –**

**Rise like Lions after slumber  
In unvanquishable number –  
Shake your chains to earth like dew  
Which in sleep had fallen on you –  
Ye are many – they are few.”**



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**[Turn over]**

**Over SECTION B and SECTION C, you must write about THREE texts from the following list:**

**‘Songs of Innocence and of Experience’  
(pre-1900)**

**Tony Harrison: ‘Selected Poems’**

**‘The Kite Runner’ (post-2000 prose)**

**‘Harvest’ (post-2000 prose)**

**‘Hard Times’ (pre-1900)**

**‘Henry IV Part I’ (pre-1900)**

**‘A Doll’s House’ (pre-1900)**

**‘The Handmaid’s Tale’**

**SECTION B**

**Answer ONE question in this section.**

**EITHER**

0	2
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**‘Songs of Innocence and of Experience’  
– William Blake**

**“In Blake’s poetry, personal  
relationships are liberating and  
empowering.”**

**To what extent do you agree with this  
view?**

**Remember to include in your answer  
relevant detailed exploration of Blake’s  
authorial methods. [25 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

**OR**

<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
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**‘Selected Poems’ – Tony Harrison**

**“Harrison presents work as cruel and degrading.”**

**To what extent do you agree with this view?**

**Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Harrison’s authorial methods.  
[25 marks]**

OR

0	4
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**‘The Kite Runner’ – Khaled Hosseini**

**“Rahim Khan is presented as simply a kind-hearted and honourable rescuer of others.”**

**To what extent do you agree with this view?**

**Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Hosseini’s authorial methods.  
[25 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

OR

0	5
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**‘Harvest’ – Jim Crace**

**“Walter Thirsk is sympathetic to victims and despises persecutors.”**

**To what extent do you agree with this view?**

**Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Crace’s authorial methods. [25 marks]**

OR

0	6
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**‘Hard Times’ – Charles Dickens**

**“In ‘Hard Times’, those who have power use it irresponsibly.”**

**To what extent do you agree with this view?**

**Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Dickens’ authorial methods. [25 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

OR

0	7
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**‘Henry IV Part I’ – William Shakespeare**

**“When the personal and the political clash, the personal always loses.”**

**To what extent do you agree with this view of ‘Henry IV Part I’?**

**Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Shakespeare’s dramatic methods.  
[25 marks]**



**OR**

<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
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**‘A Doll’s House’ – Henrik Ibsen  
(translated by Michael Meyer)**

**“Secrets and lies always result in misery  
and hardship.”**

**To what extent do you agree with this  
view of ‘A Doll’s House’?**

**Remember to include in your answer  
relevant detailed exploration of Ibsen’s  
dramatic methods. [25 marks]**

**[Turn over]**

**OR**

<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
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**‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ – Margaret Atwood**

**“In Gilead, religion is used as the most effective method of control.”**

**To what extent do you agree with this view of ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’?**

**Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Atwood’s authorial methods. [25 marks]**

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**[Turn over]**

## **SECTION C**

**Answer ONE question in this section.**

**In your answer you must write about TWO texts that you have NOT used in SECTION B.**

**EITHER**

1	0
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**Explore the significance of freedom as presented in TWO political and social protest texts you have studied.**

**Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of authorial methods. [25 marks]**

**OR**

1	1
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**Explore the significance of gender as presented in TWO political and social protest texts you have studied.**

**Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of authorial methods. [25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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