



**A-level**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE A**

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

**7712/2A**

**Thursday 8 June 2023**

**Morning**

**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.**

**[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
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**“In ‘Up the Line to Death’ comradeship makes the horrors of war bearable.”**

**Examine the presentation of comradeship in this anthology in the light of this view.**

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

**OR**

0	2
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**Look again at the section called ‘To Unknown Lands’.**

**Examine the significance of the title chosen for this section.**

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

**‘Scars Upon My Heart’ – ed. Catherine Reilly**

**OR**

0	3
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**“We dare not weep who must be brave in battle.” (From the untitled poem by Iris Tree)**

**Examine the presentation of bravery in ‘Scars Upon My Heart’ in the light of this quotation.**

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

**OR**

0	4
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**Examine the significance of the representation of religion in the 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 ‘The Forbidden Zone’ by Mary Borden (1886–1968) published in 1929. The extract describes a French regiment returning from the front line trenches.**

**Answer BOTH questions.**

0	5
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**Explore the significance of how people are changed by their experience of war in this extract.**

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

**AND**

0	6
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**Compare the significance of how people are changed by their experience of war 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
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**“Littlewood suggests that, in war, individuals don’t matter.”**

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

**OR**

0	8
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**Examine the significance of “the ever popular War Game” in ‘Oh! What a Lovely War’. [25 marks]**



**‘Journey’s End’ – R C Sherriff**

**OR**

0	9
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**Examine the significance of the dugout as the setting of the play. [25 marks]**

**OR**

1	0
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**“Hibbert’s fear is condemned by other characters, but understood by the audience.”**

**Examine the presentation of Hibbert in the light of this view. [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 ‘The Forbidden Zone’ by Mary Borden (1886–1968) published in 1929. The extract describes a French regiment returning from the front line trenches.**

**Answer BOTH questions.**

1	1
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**Explore the significance of how people are changed by their experience of war in this extract.**

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

**AND**

1	2
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**Compare the significance of how people are changed by their experience of war 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**

**“For Sarah Lumb, the war is liberating.”**

**Examine the presentation of Sarah Lumb in ‘Regeneration’ in the light of this view. [25 marks]**

**OR**

**1 4**

**“If we cannot remember, we can never understand who we are.”**

**Examine the presentation of memory in ‘Regeneration’ in the light of this view. [25 marks]**

**‘Birdsong’ – Sebastian Faulks**

**OR**

**1 5**

**Examine the significance of tunnelling in ‘Birdsong’.  
[25 marks]**

**OR**

**1 6**

**“Michael Weir is an innocent in war.”**

**Examine the significance of Michael Weir 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 ‘The Forbidden Zone’ by Mary Borden (1886–1968) published in 1929. The extract describes a French regiment returning from the front line trenches.**

**Answer BOTH questions.**

1	7
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**Explore the significance of how people are changed by their experience of war in this extract.**

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

**AND**

1	8
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**Compare the significance of how people are changed by their experience of war 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 ('The Wipers Times') and ONE poetry text in your response.**

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

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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