



A-level

ENGLISH LITERATURE A

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

Thursday 22 May 2025 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.

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.

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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‘The most powerful poems focus on passive endurance rather than active combat.’

Examine this view of the anthology.

You must write about **at least two** poems in your answer.

[25 marks]

or

0	2
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Examine the significance of fate and chance in *Up the Line to Death*.

You must write about **at least two** poems in your answer.

[25 marks]

Scars Upon My Heart* – ed. Catherine Reilly*or**

0	3
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Examine the view that the poets in this anthology present men as victims rather than heroes.

You must write about **at least two** poems in your answer.

[25 marks]

or

0	4
---	---

Examine the view that, in this anthology, women never challenge male authority.

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 *Covenant with Death*, a novel by John Harris (1916–1991), published in 1961. In the extract, Mark Fenner and his friend Murray, who both volunteered to fight in 1914, are part of an unplanned concert before the Battle of the Somme.

Answer **both** questions.

0	5
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Explore the significance of team spirit and shared values in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

0	6
---	---

Compare the significance of team spirit and shared 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, at least **one** of which must be a text written post-2000.

[25 marks]

Turn over for the next section

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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‘This is a play about politics rather than the war itself.’

Examine this view of *Oh! What a Lovely War*.

[25 marks]

or

0	8
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‘*Oh! What a Lovely War* conveys its anti-war message more powerfully through props, images and slides than through spoken language.’

Examine this view.

[25 marks]

Journey's End* – R C Sherriff*or**

0	9
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‘Osborne can never stop being the teacher.’

In the light of this view, examine the presentation of Osborne in *Journey's End*.

[25 marks]

or

1	0
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Examine the significance of loyalty in *Journey's End*.

[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 *Covenant with Death*, a novel by John Harris (1916–1991), published in 1961. In the extract, Mark Fenner and his friend Murray, who both volunteered to fight in 1914, are part of an unplanned concert before the Battle of the Somme.

Answer **both** questions.

1	1
---	---

Explore the significance of team spirit and shared values in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	2
---	---

Compare the significance of team spirit and shared 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 written post-2000 and **one** poetry text in your response.

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.

Regeneration* – Pat Barker*Either**

1	3
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Examine the significance of Craiglockhart Hospital as a setting in *Regeneration*.

[25 marks]

or

1	4
---	---

'In *Regeneration*, trauma is never cured or overcome.'

Examine this view.

[25 marks]

Birdsong* – Sebastian Faulks*or**

1	5
---	---

Examine the significance of Faulks' representation of the Somme in *Birdsong*.

[25 marks]

or

1	6
---	---

'The women in *Birdsong* are crucial to Faulks' representation of war.'

Examine 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 *Covenant with Death*, a novel by John Harris (1916–1991), published in 1961. In the extract, Mark Fenner and his friend Murray, who both volunteered to fight in 1914, are part of an unplanned concert before the Battle of the Somme.

Answer **both** questions.

1	7
---	---

Explore the significance of team spirit and shared values in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	8
---	---

Compare the significance of team spirit and shared 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 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

There are no questions printed on this page

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