

A-level ENGLISH LITERATURE A

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

Thursday 22 June 2017

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
---	---

 Examine the significance of mental suffering as an aspect of war in *Up the Line to Death*.

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

[25 marks]**or**

0	2
---	---

 Look again at the section called 'Death's Kingdom'. Examine the significance of death in battle as presented in 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
---	---

 'The poems in *Scars Upon My Heart* show that women are always damaged by war.'

Examine this view.

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

[25 marks]**or**

0	4
---	---

 Examine the significance of grieving for the dead in **at least two** poems in this collection.**[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 *We that Were Young*, a semi-autobiographical novel by Irene Rathbone published in 1932. Joan is a voluntary nurse, or VAD, who has been caring for wounded soldiers who have been brought to London. In this extract, set in 1916, she is faced with the challenge of nursing the seriously wounded from the battle of the Somme.

Answer **both** questions.

0 5 Explore the significance of duty in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

0 6 'War can only be endured through having a sense of duty.'

Compare the significance of duty 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

Option 2**Section A: Drama Set Text**

Answer **one** question in this section.

Oh! What a Lovely War* – Joan Littlewood*Either**

0	7
---	---

Examine the view that *Oh! What a Lovely War* is an attack primarily on the officer class who led the army.

[25 marks]**or**

0	8
---	---

Examine the significance of the songs in the play.

[25 marks]***Journey's End* – R. C. Sherriff****or**

0	9
---	---

Sherriff said "I have not written this play as propaganda and certainly not as propaganda for peace."

Examine the view that *Journey's End* is not an anti-war play.

[25 marks]**or**

1	0
---	---

'Raleigh's only function in the play is to show the hopeless inexperience of youth.'

Examine the significance of Raleigh in the play in the light of this view.

[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 *We that Were Young*, a semi-autobiographical novel by Irene Rathbone published in 1932. Joan is a voluntary nurse, or VAD, who has been caring for wounded soldiers who have been brought to London. In this extract, set in 1916, she is faced with the challenge of nursing the seriously wounded from the battle of the Somme.

Answer **both** questions.

1	1
---	---

 Explore the significance of duty in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	2
---	---

 'War can only be endured through having a sense of duty.'

Compare the significance of duty 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.

[25 marks]

Turn over for the next section

Option 3**Section A: Prose Set Text**

Answer **one** question in this section.

Regeneration* – Pat Barker*Either**

1	3
---	---

Examine the view that Barker's presentation of war is limited because *Regeneration* is set away from the front line.

[25 marks]**or**

1	4
---	---

Examine the significance of Burns in the novel.

[25 marks]***Birdsong* – Sebastian Faulks****or**

1	5
---	---

Faulks said of *Birdsong* that he wanted to explore how much suffering human beings could endure.

Examine the significance of human suffering in the novel in the light of this view.

[25 marks]**or**

1	6
---	---

'Stephen Wraysford is a cold, detached character.'

Examine the significance of Stephen Wraysford in *Birdsong* in the light of this comment.

[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 *We that Were Young*, a semi-autobiographical novel by Irene Rathbone published in 1932. Joan is a voluntary nurse, or VAD, who has been caring for wounded soldiers who have been brought to London. In this extract, set in 1916, she is faced with the challenge of nursing the seriously wounded from the battle of the Somme.

Answer **both** questions.

1 **7** Explore the significance of duty in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1 **8** 'War can only be endured through having a sense of duty.'

Compare the significance of duty 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 (*My Boy Jack*) and **one** poetry text in your response.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, from the November 2015 examination series, acknowledgements of third party copyright material will be published in a separate booklet rather than including them on the examination paper or support materials. This booklet is published after each examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk after the live examination series.

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, AQA, Stag Hill House, Guildford, GU2 7XJ.

Copyright © 2017 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

