

A-level

ENGLISH LITERATURE A

Paper 2B Texts in shared contexts: Modern times: Literature from 1945 to the present day

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 7712/2B.
- 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.

Option 1**Section A: Poetry Set Text**

Answer **one** question in this section.

Feminine Gospels* – Carol Ann Duffy*Either**

0	1
---	---

'By dedicating *Feminine Gospels* to her four brothers, Duffy makes it clear that her poems are aimed just as much at educating men as they are at empowering women.'

Examine this view. You should refer to **at least two** poems in your answer.

[25 marks]**or**

0	2
---	---

Examine the view that the collection 'fails because it falls apart into three totally separate sections that have nothing in common with each other'.

You should refer to **at least two** poems in your answer.

[25 marks]***Skirrid Hill* – Owen Sheers****or**

0	3
---	---

'In *Skirrid Hill* men are shown to be either failures or bullies.'

Examine this view of Sheers' presentation of men in the collection.

You should refer to **at least two** poems in your answer.

[25 marks]**or**

0	4
---	---

Owen Sheers notes that the word 'Skirrid' is derived from a Welsh word meaning 'divorce or separation'.

Examine the view that the collection is dominated by the theme of separation.

You should refer to **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 *I Am Charlotte Simmons*, a novel by Tom Wolfe published in 2004. Charlotte, a poor but highly gifted teenager from a small town in rural Alabama, USA, has just arrived at elite Dupont University to start her freshman (first) year of undergraduate study. Her mother and father have driven her to Dupont in their pickup truck.

Answer **both** questions.

0 5 Explore the significance of insecurity in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

0 6 'In modern literature insecurity is shown to be a condition that profoundly affects the lives of ordinary people.'

Compare the significance of insecurity 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.

[25 marks]

Turn over for the next section

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

Answer **one** question in this section.

A Streetcar Named Desire* – Tennessee Williams*Either**

0	7
---	---

‘At its heart, this play is a hymn of praise to the American Dream.’

Examine this view of *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

[25 marks]**or**

0	8
---	---

Examine the significance of Steve and Eunice Hubbel in the play.

[25 marks]***Top Girls* – Caryl Churchill****or**

0	9
---	---

‘Marlene should be admired for fighting her way to the top, not harshly condemned for the difficult choices she had to make in order to get there.’

Examine this view.

[25 marks]**or**

1	0
---	---

Examine the view that the dinner party scene in *Top Girls* is an irrelevant distraction that has nothing in common with the rest of the play.

[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 *I Am Charlotte Simmons*, a novel by Tom Wolfe published in 2004. Charlotte, a poor but highly gifted teenager from a small town in rural Alabama, USA, has just arrived at elite Dupont University to start her freshman (first) year of undergraduate study. Her mother and father have driven her to Dupont in their pickup truck.

Answer **both** questions.

1	1
---	---

 Explore the significance of insecurity in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	2
---	---

 'In modern literature insecurity is shown to be a condition that profoundly affects the lives of ordinary people.'

Compare the significance of insecurity 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.

[25 marks]

Turn over for the next section

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

Answer **one** question in this section.

Waterland* – Graham Swift*Either**

1	3
---	---

 “Man is the storytelling animal,” says Tom Crick.

Examine the view that *Waterland* is, above all, a novel about telling stories.

[25 marks]**or**

1	4
---	---

 Examine the significance of Martha Clay in the novel.**[25 marks]*****The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood****or**

1	5
---	---

 ‘Gilead’s women are powerless because they are utterly divided and unsupportive of each other.’

Examine this view of Atwood’s presentation of the female characters in *The Handmaid’s Tale*.

[25 marks]**or**

1	6
---	---

 Examine the significance of Janine in the novel.**[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 *I Am Charlotte Simmons*, a novel by Tom Wolfe published in 2004. Charlotte, a poor but highly gifted teenager from a small town in rural Alabama, USA, has just arrived at elite Dupont University to start her freshman (first) year of undergraduate study. Her mother and father have driven her to Dupont in their pickup truck.

Answer **both** questions.

1	7
---	---

 Explore the significance of insecurity in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	8
---	---

 'In modern literature insecurity is shown to be a condition that profoundly affects the lives of ordinary people.'

Compare the significance of insecurity 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.

[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.

