

A-level ENGLISH LITERATURE A

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

Monday 3 June 2019

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
---	---

'Duffy celebrates the fact that modern women now enjoy advantages and opportunities that women in the past never had.'

Examine this view.

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

[25 marks]

or

0	2
---	---

Examine the view that the poems that follow 'The Laughter of Stafford Girls' High' in the collection have nothing to say about the position of women in society.

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

[25 marks]

Skirrid Hill – Owen Sheers**or**

0	3
---	---

Examine the significance of Sheers' presentation of women in the collection.

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

[25 marks]

or

0	4
---	---

'Sheers is more interested in exploring characters than exploring settings in *Skirrid Hill*.'

Examine this view of the collection.

You must 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 *Digging to America*, a novel by Anne Tyler published in 2006. In this extract, Iranian-born widow Maryam Yazdan has just arrived at the home of her son Sami and daughter-in-law Ziba. Unlike Maryam, who left Iran in her late teens, Sami and Ziba have been born and raised in America. At a party the evening before, Maryam accepted a marriage proposal from Dave Donaldson, a close family friend. The extract begins with Maryam commenting on her decision to marry Dave.

Answer **both** questions.

0	5
---	---

Explore the significance of cultural differences in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

0	6
---	---

Compare the significance of cultural differences 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.

[25 marks]

Turn over for the next section

Turn over ►

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

Answer **one** question in this section.

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

0	7
---	---

Examine the significance of the unseen characters Allan Grey and Shep Huntleigh in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

[25 marks]**or**

0	8
---	---

'In *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Stella's final betrayal of her sister is impossible to forgive.'

Examine this view.

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

0	9
---	---

'We've all come a long way,' says Marlene to her dinner party guests.

Examine the view that *Top Girls* is a triumphant celebration of female empowerment.

[25 marks]**or**

1	0
---	---

Examine the significance of social class in 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 *Digging to America*, a novel by Anne Tyler published in 2006. In this extract, Iranian-born widow Maryam Yazdan has just arrived at the home of her son Sami and daughter-in-law Ziba. Unlike Maryam, who left Iran in her late teens, Sami and Ziba have been born and raised in America. At a party the evening before, Maryam accepted a marriage proposal from Dave Donaldson, a close family friend. The extract begins with Maryam commenting on her decision to marry Dave.

Answer **both** questions.

1	1
---	---

 Explore the significance of cultural differences in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	2
---	---

 Compare the significance of cultural differences 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 and **one** poetry text in your response, at least **one** of which must be a text written post-2000.

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.

Waterland* – Graham Swift*Either**

1	3
---	---

Examine the view that Swift presents the Fens as a strange and hostile environment in *Waterland*.

[25 marks]**or**

1	4
---	---

Examine the significance of the relationship between Tom Crick and Price in *Waterland*.

[25 marks]***The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood****or**

1	5
---	---

Examine the significance of Moira in the novel.

[25 marks]**or**

1	6
---	---

Examine the view that the 'Historical Notes' section is a confusing and irrelevant addition to *The Handmaid's Tale*.

[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 *Digging to America*, a novel by Anne Tyler published in 2006. In this extract, Iranian-born widow Maryam Yazdan has just arrived at the home of her son Sami and daughter-in-law Ziba. Unlike Maryam, who left Iran in her late teens, Sami and Ziba have been born and raised in America. At a party the evening before, Maryam accepted a marriage proposal from Dave Donaldson, a close family friend. The extract begins with Maryam commenting on her decision to marry Dave.

Answer **both** questions.

1	7
---	---

 Explore the significance of cultural differences in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	8
---	---

 Compare the significance of cultural differences 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** poetry text in your response, at least **one** of which must be a text written post-2000.

You must write about **at least two** poems.

[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 © 2019 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

