

A-level ENGLISH LITERATURE A

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

Monday 1 June 2020

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
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'A collection dominated by the all-powerful figure of the mother.'

Examine this view of *Feminine Gospels*.

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

[25 marks]

or

0	2
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Examine the view that, in *Feminine Gospels*, women are presented as failing to bring about change.

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

[25 marks]

Skirrid Hill* – Owen Sheers*or**

0	3
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Examine the view that *Skirrid Hill* is a positive celebration of Welsh culture and traditions.

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

[25 marks]

or

0	4
---	---

'Sheers presents women as far stronger than men in *Skirrid Hill*.'

Examine this view.

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 *Everything I Never Told You*, a novel by Celeste Ng published in 2014. The extract, which is set in the USA in 1952, begins with Marilyn Walker asking her college tutor if she can enrol on a physics course. Marilyn's mother teaches Home Economics at the high school Marilyn attended before she went to college.

Answer **both** questions.

0	5
---	---

Explore the significance of inequality in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

0	6
---	---

Compare the significance of inequality 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
---	---

'Williams presents Stanley Kowalski as no more than a brutal thug.'

Examine this view.

[25 marks]**or**

0	8
---	---

Examine the significance of the American South in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

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

0	9
---	---

Examine the view that, in *Top Girls*, Churchill presents women as haunted by the past.

[25 marks]**or**

1	0
---	---

Examine the significance of the role of Angie in *Top Girls*.

[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 *Everything I Never Told You*, a novel by Celeste Ng published in 2014. The extract, which is set in the USA in 1952, begins with Marilyn Walker asking her college tutor if she can enrol on a physics course. Marilyn's mother teaches Home Economics at the high school Marilyn attended before she went to college.

Answer **both** questions.

1	1
---	---

 Explore the significance of inequality in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	2
---	---

 Compare the significance of inequality 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
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Examine the significance of the role of Dick Crick in *Waterland*.

[25 marks]**or**

1	4
---	---

Examine the significance of education in *Waterland*.

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

1	5
---	---

'It is impossible to feel any sympathy for Serena Joy.'

Examine Atwood's presentation of Serena Joy in the light of this view.

[25 marks]**or**

1	6
---	---

'I made that up. It didn't happen that way. Here is what happened,' declares Offred.

Examine the significance of storytelling in *The Handmaid's Tale* in the light of this quotation.

[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 *Everything I Never Told You*, a novel by Celeste Ng published in 2014. The extract, which is set in the USA in 1952, begins with Marilyn Walker asking her college tutor if she can enrol on a physics course. Marilyn's mother teaches Home Economics at the high school Marilyn attended before she went to college.

Answer **both** questions.

1	7
---	---

 Explore the significance of inequality in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	8
---	---

 Compare the significance of inequality 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

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