

## A-level ENGLISH LITERATURE A

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

---

Monday 7 June 2021

Afternoon

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
---	---

Examine Duffy's presentation of female suffering across time.

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

**[25 marks]****or**

0	2
---	---

'Relationships between women are presented as fragile and damaged in *Feminine Gospels*.'

Examine this view.

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

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

0	3
---	---

'In *Skirrid Hill*, male family relationships are dark and complex.'

Examine Sheers' presentation of relationships involving sons, fathers and grandfathers in the light of this view.

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

**[25 marks]****or**

0	4
---	---

Examine the significance of conflict in *Skirrid Hill*.

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 *Nice Work*, a novel by David Lodge published in 1988. Robyn Penrose, a temporary lecturer at a large university in the Midlands, is taking part in an 'Industry Shadow Scheme' during which she will spend one day a week observing the work of a local business. Robyn is meeting her industry partner Vic Wilcox, the manager of a small engineering firm, for the first time. The extract begins with Vic speaking.

Answer **both** questions.

**0 5** Explore the significance of opposing ideas and values in this extract.

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

**[25 marks]**

**and**

**0 6** Compare the significance of opposing ideas and 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.

**[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 relationship between Blanche and Mitch in the play.

**[25 marks]****or**

0	8
---	---

Examine the significance of places in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

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

0	9
---	---

Examine the significance of the office-based scenes in *Top Girls*.

**[25 marks]****or**

1	0
---	---

‘The play is too incoherent and confusing to present its ideas effectively.’

Examine this view of *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 *Nice Work*, a novel by David Lodge published in 1988. Robyn Penrose, a temporary lecturer at a large university in the Midlands, is taking part in an 'Industry Shadow Scheme' during which she will spend one day a week observing the work of a local business. Robyn is meeting her industry partner Vic Wilcox, the manager of a small engineering firm, for the first time. The extract begins with Vic speaking.

Answer **both** questions.

1	1
---	---

Explore the significance of opposing ideas and values in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	2
---	---

Compare the significance of opposing ideas and 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 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 significance of Mary Crick in the novel.

**[25 marks]****or**

1	4
---	---

'For all their faults, fathers are presented as loving figures in the novel.'

Examine this view.

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

1	5
---	---

Examine the significance of the role of Nick in the novel.

**[25 marks]****or**

1	6
---	---

'Moira is recaptured. Ofglen disappears. Offred is arrested. In Gilead, resistance is always futile.'

Examine the significance of resistance in *The Handmaid's Tale* in the light of 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 *Nice Work*, a novel by David Lodge published in 1988. Robyn Penrose, a temporary lecturer at a large university in the Midlands, is taking part in an 'Industry Shadow Scheme' during which she will spend one day a week observing the work of a local business. Robyn is meeting her industry partner Vic Wilcox, the manager of a small engineering firm, for the first time. The extract begins with Vic speaking.

Answer **both** questions.

1	7
---	---

 Explore the significance of opposing ideas and values in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	8
---	---

 Compare the significance of opposing ideas and 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** 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, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk).

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.

Copyright © 2021 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

