

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Thursday 23 May 2019

Afternoon (Time: 2 hours)

Paper Reference **WET03/01**

English Literature

Unit 3: Poetry and Prose

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Pearson

Section A: Post-1900 Unseen Poetry

Question 1

Writing

After what felt like a lifetime of rent
I bought somewhere my own. But at once,
in less than a week, he was writing:
Dear Madam, I hope you won't mind –

*we met when I sold you the house.
It was mine. I gave you the china tea.
I showed you the room where you told me
yes, you could write in that room.*

*In the home I have now they are cruel.
There are traitors – and spies. I am hoping
my doctor is kind, but what is he doing
to bring me my wife, or give me her news?*

*Please, if this reaches you, tell her. Say –
if a visit is difficult, letters are fine.*
Think of me reading this through at my desk,
throwing it down on my typewriter*, frowning,

and wondering was this the room where she died?
Then think of my whisper to answer him:
*Dearest heart. Forgive me. I'm ill
and dictating this. But I long for you always,*

and when I'm recovered, I'll visit you.
Lazily spinning the phrases out, and finally
writing them, telling myself it was
kindness, and might even turn into love.

Andrew Motion

Glossary

* *typewriter* – keyboard

Source information

Writing by Andrew Motion from *British Poetry* (Penguin Poetry)