



## GCE A LEVEL

1720U30-1



S24-1720U30-1

**WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE 2024 – MORNING**

### **ENGLISH LITERATURE – A2 unit 3**

**Poetry Pre-1900 and Unseen Poetry**

**2 hours**

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#### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet and clean copies (no annotation) of your set texts for this paper.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **one** question in Section A and **one** question in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

#### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Both Section A and Section B carry 60 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are advised to spend an hour on each section. In Section A, you are advised to spend approximately 20 minutes on part (i) and 40 minutes on part (ii).

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

### Section A: Poetry pre-1900 (open book)

Answer **one** question in this section.

You must have a clean copy (no annotation) of the poetry text which you have studied. Only the prescribed edition must be used.

Each question is in **two** parts. In both **part (i)** and **part (ii)** you are required to analyse how meanings are shaped.

In **part (ii)** you are **also** required to demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.

**Either,**

#### **Geoffrey Chaucer: *The Merchant's Prologue and Tale* (Cambridge)**

1. (i) Re-read lines 163–186 from “Ther nis no thing...” to “...th'effect of his entente”. Examine Chaucer's presentation of marriage in these lines. (For line 186, some may have a version which reads “th'effeet of his entente”.) [15]
- (ii) With close reference to relevant contexts, examine some of the ways in which Chaucer presents selfishness and self-delusion in *The Merchant's Prologue and Tale*. [45]

**Or,**

#### **John Donne: *Selected Poems* (Penguin Classics)**

2. (i) Re-read ‘Twicknam Garden’ on pages 20–21. How does Donne present the effects of love in this poem? [15]
- (ii) With close reference to relevant contexts, consider some of the ways in which Donne presents disappointment and loss in his poetry. [45]

**Or,**

#### **John Milton: *Paradise Lost Book IX* (Oxford)**

3. (i) Re-read lines 226–250 from “To whom mild answer...” to “...urges sweet return”. How does Milton present Adam in these lines? [15]
- (ii) With close reference to relevant contexts, consider some of the ways in which Milton presents male superiority and patriarchy in *Paradise Lost Book IX*. [45]

Or,

**William Blake: *Poems selected by Patti Smith* (Vintage)**

4. (i) Re-read 'The School Boy' on pages 127-128. How does Blake present the boy in this poem? [15]

(ii) With close reference to relevant contexts, consider some of the ways Blake makes use of the natural world in his poetry. [45]

Or,

**Christina Rossetti: *Selected Poems* (Penguin Classics)**

5. (i) Re-read 'Whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive' on page 50. How does Rossetti write about life after death in this poem? [15]

(ii) With close reference to relevant contexts, examine some of the ways in which Rossetti presents the relationship between this life and the afterlife in her poetry. [45]

## Section B: Unseen Poetry

### Answer Question 6.

In your response, you are required to:

- analyse how meanings are shaped
- explore connections across poems.

6. Compare the presentation of snow in Poem A: 'Snow-flakes' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and in **one** other poem from the list below:

Poem B: 'Snow' by Leslie Norris

Poem C: 'Blizzard' by Ruth Bidgood

Poem D: 'A March Snow' by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

[60]

### Poem A: 'Snow-flakes' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Out of the bosom of the Air,  
 Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken,  
 Over the woodlands brown and bare,  
 Over the harvest-fields forsaken,  
 Silent, and soft, and slow  
 Descends the snow.

Even as our cloudy fancies take  
 Suddenly shape in some divine expression,  
 Even as the troubled heart doth make  
 In the white countenance confession,  
 The troubled sky reveals  
 The grief it feels.

This is the poem of the air,  
 Slowly in silent syllables recorded;  
 This is the secret of despair,  
 Long in its cloudy bosom hoarded,  
 Now whispered and revealed  
 To wood and field.

**Poem B: ‘Snow’ by Leslie Norris**

The snow surprised us, coming  
 When it did,  
 A sudden white swarm, humming  
 Out of the long cloud.  
 Winter, with a cold, deciduous voice,  
 Came briskly and purposefully upon us,  
  
 And our secure horizon  
 Retracted  
 To a warm room’s bounds. But children  
 Swanked into the yard,  
 Their warm laughter twirling the prodigal snow  
 Into peaks, columns, ghosts – the afternoon glow  
  
 Was evergreen memory for them.  
 So we all,  
 Warmed, went to the window, away from  
 The surly fire. The tall  
 Snow fell, and thicket, hedge and fence,  
 Familiar limits all, burned so with snow’s radiance  
  
 As to delight, renew us.  
 And we saw,  
 Thirty years clearer our eyes,  
 Ourselves, puffed round with scarves,  
 Like rainbow robins bounce on the stiff-legged snow,  
 Innocently singing with voices lost long ago.

**Poem C: ‘Blizzard’ by Ruth Bidgood**

“What is it like up here in snow?”  
 we wondered, shivering at dusk  
 on the boggy plateau. Answerless,  
 we stared along the ruts  
 of an obscure track. There was  
 the hint of a wind. Our thoughts  
 momentarily touched a sleeping fear.

That fear has woken up tonight  
 with a white scream. Even the valley  
 suffers the storm’s answer  
 that we so lightly sought –  
 the truth from the heights  
 come shrieking down in darkness  
 to batter at our safety.

In the morning, when the wind drops,  
 we will climb again, perhaps,  
 and in the high white silence find  
 another answer growing from the first.  
 Because that was, this is – sun, sun and snow,  
 and all tracks gone but those  
 our seeking footsteps make upon the hill.

**Poem D: 'A March Snow' by Ella Wheeler Wilcox**

Let the old snow be covered with the new:  
The trampled snow, so soiled, and stained, and sodden.  
Let it be hidden wholly from our view  
By pure white flakes, all trackless and untrodden.  
When Winter dies, low at the sweet Spring's feet  
Let him be mantled in a clean, white sheet.

Let the old life be covered by the new:  
The old past life so full of sad mistakes,  
Let it be wholly hidden from the view  
By deeds as white and silent as snow-flakes.

Ere this earth life melts in the eternal Spring  
Let the white mantle of repentance fling  
Soft drapery about it, fold on fold,  
Even as the new snow covers up the old.

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