

GCSE - NEW

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ENGLISH LITERATURE

UNIT 2a

(Literary heritage drama and contemporary prose) **FOUNDATION TIER**

FRIDAY, 26 MAY 2017 - MORNING

2 hours

SECTION A

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Othello	2 - 3
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ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use pencil or gel pen. Do not use correction fluid.

Answer **both** Section A and Section B. Answer on **one** text in each section.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left hand margin at the start of each answer,

e.g. |

Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets after each question or part-question.

You are reminded that the accuracy and organisation of your writing will be assessed.

SECTION A

Answer questions on one text.

Othello Answer 0	1 and either 0 2 or 0 3.
You are adv	vised to spend about 20 minutes on 0 1 , and about 40 minutes on 0 2 .
0 1	Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question: What do you think of the way Othello and lago speak and behave here? Give reasons for what you say and remember to support your answer with words and phrases from the extract. [10]
Either,	'The play <i>Othello</i> is about jealousy.' Write about one or two characters who you think show jealousy in <i>Othello</i> . In your answer you should refer to events in the play and its social, cultural and historical context. [20]
Or, 0 3	What do you think about Desdemona and the way she speaks and behaves at different points in the play? In your answer you should refer to events in the play and its social, cultural and historical context. [20]

PMT

IAGO My noble lord—

OTHELLO What dost thou say, lago?

lago Did Michael Cassio,

When you woo'd my lady, know of your love?

OTHELLO He did from first to last. Why dost thou ask?

lago But for a satisfaction of my thought;

No further harm.

OTHELLO Why of thy thought, lago?

lago I did not think he had been acquainted with her.

OTHELLO O yes, and went between us very oft.

lago Indeed?

OTHELLO Indeed? Ay, indeed. Discern'st thou aught in that?

Is he not honest?

IAGO Honest, my lord?

OTHELLO Honest? Ay, honest.

lago My lord, for aught I know.

OTHELLO What dost thou think?

lago Think, my lord?

OTHELLO Think, my lord! By heaven, he echoes me,

As if there were some monster in his thought

Too hideous to be shown. Thou dost mean something.

I heard thee say even now thou lik'st not that, When Cassio left my wife. What didst not like? And when I told thee he was of my counsel

In my whole course of wooing, thou cried'st 'Indeed?' And didst contract and purse thy brow together,

As if thou then hadst shut up in thy brain Some horrible conceit. If thou dost love me,

Show me thy thought.

lago My lord, you know I love you.

OTHELLO I think thou dost;

And for I know thou'rt full of love and honesty,

And weigh'st thy words before thou giv'st them breath, Therefore these stops of thine fright me the more;

For such things in a false disloyal knave Are tricks of custom; but in a man that's just, They're close dilations, working from the heart,

That passion cannot rule.

IAGO For Michael Cassio,

I dare be sworn I think that he is honest.

OTHELLO I think so too.

lago Men should be what they seem;

Or those that be not, would they might seem none!

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Much Add	About Nothing
Answer	1 1 and either 1 2 or 1 3.
You are ad	lvised to spend about 20 minutes on 1 1 , and about 40 minutes on 1 2.
1 1	Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question:
	What do you think of the way Beatrice and Benedick speak and behave here? Give reasons for what you say and remember to support your answer with words and phrases from the extract. [10]
Either,	For which character in <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> do you have the greatest sympathy? Write about your chosen character and give reasons for what you say. In your answer you should refer to events in the play and its social, cultural and historical context. [20]
Or, 1 3	What do you think about Benedick and the way he speaks and behaves at different points in the play? In your answer you should refer to events in the play and its social cultural and historical context.

PMT

Benedick Lady Beatrice, have you wept all this while?

BEATRICE Yea, and I will weep a while longer.

BENEDICK I will not desire that.

BEATRICE You have no reason; I do it freely.

Benedick Surely I do believe your fair cousin is wronged.

BEATRICE Ah, how much might the man deserve of me that would right her!

Benedick Is there any way to show such friendship?

BEATRICE A very even way, but no such friend.

BENEDICK May a man do it?

BEATRICE It is a man's office, but not yours.

Benedick I do love nothing in the world so well as you. Is not that strange?

BEATRICE As strange as the thing I know not. It were as possible for me to say I loved nothing so

well as you. But believe me not, and yet I lie not. I confess nothing nor I deny nothing; I

am sorry for my cousin.

Benedick By my sword, Beatrice, thou lovest me.

BEATRICE Do not swear and eat it.

Benedick I will swear by it that you love me, and I will make him eat it that says I love not you.

BEATRICE Will you not eat your word?

Benedick With no sauce that can be devised to it. I protest I love thee.

BEATRICE Why then, God forgive me.

Benedick What offence, sweet Beatrice?

BEATRICE You have stayed me in a happy hour. I was about to protest I loved you.

Benedick And do it with all thy heart.

BEATRICE I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest.

Benedick Come, bid me do anything for thee.

BEATRICE Kill Claudio.

Benedick Ha! Not for the wide world.

BEATRICE You kill me to deny it. Farewell.

An Inspector Calls

Answer 2 1 and either 2 2 or 2 3.

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes on 2 1, and about 40 minutes on 2 2 or 2 3.

2 1 Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question:

How do you think an audience would respond to this part of the play? Give reasons for what you say, and remember to support your answer with words and phrases from the extract. [10]

Either,

Write about the character you think is most to blame for the death of Eva Smith. In your answer you should refer to events in the play and its social, cultural and historical context.

Or,

What do you think about Eric and the way he speaks and behaves at different points in the play? In your answer you should refer to events in the play and its social, cultural and historical context.

Mrs B. (smiling, social) Good evening, Inspector.

INSPECTOR Good evening, madam.

MRS B. (same easy tone) I'm Mrs Birling, y'know. My husband has just explained why you're

here, and while we'll be glad to tell you anything you want to know, I don't think we can

help you much.

Sheila No, Mother — please!

MRS B. (affecting great surprise) What's the matter, Sheila?

Sheila (hesitantly) I know it sounds silly—

MRS B. What does?

Sheila You see, I feel you're beginning all wrong. And I'm afraid you'll say something or do

something that you'll be sorry for afterwards.

MRS B. I don't know what you're talking about, Sheila.

Shella We all started like that — so confident, so pleased with ourselves until he began

asking us questions.

MRS BIRLING looks from Sheila to the Inspector.

MRs B. You seem to have made a great impression on this child, Inspector.

INSPECTOR (coolly) We often do on the young ones. They're more impressionable.

He and Mrs Birling look at each other for a moment. Then Mrs Birling turns to Sheila

again.

MRs B. You're looking tired, dear. I think you ought to go to bed — and forget about this absurd

business. You'll feel better in the morning.

Sheila Mother, I couldn't possibly go. Nothing could be worse for me. We've settled all that.

I'm staying here until I know why that girl killed herself.

MRS B. Nothing but morbid curiosity.

SHEILA No it isn't.

MRS B. Please don't contradict me like that. And in any case I don't suppose for a moment that

we can understand why the girl committed suicide. Girls of that class—

Sheila (urgently, cutting in) Mother, don't — please don't. For your own sake, as well as ours,

you mustn't-

Mrs B. (annoyed) Mustn't – what? Really, Sheila!

Sheila (slowly, carefully now) You mustn't try to build up a kind of wall between us and that

girl. If you do, then the Inspector will just break it down. And it'll be all the worse when

he does.

Mrs B. I don't understand you. (To Inspector.) Do you?

INSPECTOR Yes. And she's right.

MRS B. (haughtily) I beg your pardon!

INSPECTOR (very plainly) I said Yes — I do understand her. And she's right.

MRs B. That — I consider — is a trifle impertinent, Inspector.

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Answer 3 1 and either 3 2 or 3 3.

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes on 3 1, and about 40 minutes on 3 2 or 3 3.

3 1 Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question:

What do you think of the way Maggie and Hobson speak and behave here? Give reasons for what you say and remember to support your answer with words and phrases from the extract. [10]

Either,

What do you think about Willie Mossop and the way he speaks and behaves at different points in the play? In your answer you should refer to events in the play and its social, cultural and historical context. [20]

Or,

Write about the character you think changes the most in *Hobson's Choice*. In your answer you should refer to events in the play and its social, cultural and historical context. [20]

PMT

Maggie Now about this accident of yours.

Hobson Yes, Maggie.

Maggie It's the publicity that you're afraid of most.

Hobson It's being dragged into a court of law at all, me that's voted right all through my life and

been a sound supporter of the Queen and Constitution.

Maggie Then we must try to keep it out of court.

HOBSON If there are lawyers in Heaven, Maggie, which I doubt, they may keep cases out of

courts there. On earth a lawyer's job's to squeeze a man and squeeze him where his

squirming's seen the most — in court.

Maggie I've heard of cases being settled out of court, in private.

HOBSON In private? Yes, I dare say, and all the worse for that. It's done amongst themselves

in lawyers' offices behind closed doors so no one can see they're squeezing twice as hard in private as they'd dare to do in public. There's some restraint demanded by a

public place, but privately! It'll cost a fortune to settle this in private, Maggie.

Maggie I make no doubt it's going to cost you something, but you'd rather do it privately than

publicly?

Hobson If only it were not a lawyer's office.

Maggie You can settle it with the lawyer out of his office. You can settle with him here.

She goes and opens door.

Maggie Albert!

Enter Albert, who leaves door open.

Maggie This is Mr Prosser, of Prosser, Pilkington, and Prosser.

Hobson (amazed): He is!

Maggie Yes.

Hobson (incredulously, rising): You're a lawyer?

ALBERT Yes, I'm a lawyer.

Hobson (with disgust almost too deep for words): At your age!

Maggie (going up to door): Come out, all of you.

There is reluctance inside, then Vickey, Alice and Freddie enter and stand in a row.

Hobson Alice! Vickey!

Maggie Family gathering. This is Mr Beenstock, of Beenstock & Co.

FREDDIE How do you do?
HOBSON What! Here!

The situation is plainly beyond his mused brain's capacity.

MAGGIE When you've got a thing to settle, you need all the parties to be present.

HOBSON But there are so many of them. Where have they all come from?

MAGGIE My bedroom.

Hobson Your-? Maggie, I wish you'd explain before my brain gives way.

Maggie It's quite simple. I got them here because I expected you.

Hobson You expected me?

Maggie Yes. You're in trouble.

A	Taste	of	Honey	/
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Answer 4 1 and either 4 2 or 4 3.

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes on 4 1, and about 40 minutes on 4 2 or 4 3.

4 1 Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question:

What do you think of the way Helen and Jo speak and behave here? Give reasons for what you say and remember to support your answer with words and phrases from the extract. [10]

Either,

4 2 What do you think about Jo and the way she speaks and behaves at different points in the play? In your answer you should refer to events in the play and its social, cultural and historical context. [20]

Or,

Write about **one** or **two** characters who you think have troubled relationships in *A Taste of Honey.* In your answer you should refer to events in the play and its social, cultural and historical context.

PMT

The stage represents a comfortless flat in Manchester and the street outside. Jazz music. Enter Helen, a semi-whore, and her daughter, Jo. They are loaded with baggage.

HELEN: Well! This is the place.

Jo: And I don't like it.

HELEN: When I find somewhere for us to live I have to consider something far more important

than your feelings... the rent. It's all I can afford.

Jo: You can afford something better than this old ruin.

HELEN: When you start earning you can start moaning.

Jo: Can't be soon enough for me. I'm cold and my shoes let water ... what a place ... and

we're supposed to be living off her immoral earnings.

HELEN: I'm careful. Anyway, what's wrong with this place? Everything in it's falling apart, it's true,

and we've no heating — but there's a lovely view of the gasworks, we share a bathroom with the community and this wallpaper's contemporary. What more do you want? Anyway

it'll do for us. Pass me a glass, Jo.

Jo: Where are they?

HELEN: I don't know.

Jo: You packed 'em. She'd lose her head if it was loose.

HELEN: Here they are. I put 'em in my bag for safety. Pass me that bottle — it's in the carrier.

Jo: Why should I run round after you? [Takes whisky bottle from bag.]

HELEN: Children owe their parents these little attentions.

Jo: I don't owe you a thing.

HELEN: Except respect, and I don't seem to get any of that.

Jo: Drink, drink, drink, that's all you're fit for. You make me sick.

HELEN: Others may pray for their daily bread, I pray for...

Jo: Is that the bedroom?

HELEN: It is. Your health, Jo.

Jo: We're sharing a bed again, I see.

HELEN: Of course, you know I can't bear to be parted from you.

Jo: What I wouldn't give for a room of my own! God! It's freezing! Isn't there any sort of fire

anywhere, Helen?

HELEN: Yes, there's a gas-propelled thing somewhere.

Jo: Where?

HELEN: Where? What were you given eyes for? Do you want me to carry you about? Don't stand

there shivering; have some of this if you're so cold.

Jo: You know I don't like it.

SECTION B

Answer questions on one text.

Paddy Clark	ke Ha Ha Ha
Answer 5	1 and either 5 2 or 5 3.
You are advis	sed to spend about 20 minutes on 5 1 , and about 40 minutes on 5 2 .
5 1	Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question:
\	What thoughts and feelings do you have as you read this extract? Give reasons for what you say and remember to support your answer with words and phrases from the extract.
	Write about the relationship between Paddy and his parents. Think about: Paddy's relationship with his Ma at different points in the novel Paddy's relationship with his Pa at different points in the novel
	 the end of the novel anything else you think important [20]
	Write about some of the times in <i>Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha</i> that you find sad or funny. Give reasons for what you say. [20]

The front room was not for going into. It was the drawing room. Nobody else had a drawing room although all the houses were the same, all the houses before the Corporation ones. Our drawing room was Kevin's ma's and da's living room, and Ian McEvoy's television room. Ours was the drawing room because my ma said it was.

-What does it mean? I asked her.

I'd known it was the drawing room since I could remember but today the name seemed funny for the first time. We were outside. Whenever there was even a bit of blue in the sky my ma opened the back door and brought the whole house out. She thought about the answer but with a nice look on her face. The babies were asleep. Sinbad was putting grass in a jar.

- —The good room, she said.
- —Does Drawing mean Good?
- —Yes, she said. —Only when you put it with Room.

That was fair enough; I understood.

- —Why don't we call it just the good room? I asked. —People prob'ly think we draw in it, or paint pictures.
 - —No, they don't.
 - —They might, I said.

I wasn't just saying it for the sake of saying it, like I said some things.

- —Especially if they're stupid, I said.
- —They'd want to be very stupid.
- —There's lots of stupid people, I told her. —There's a whole class of them in our school.
- —Stop that, she said.
- —A class in every year, I said.
- —That's not nice, she said. —Stop it.
- —Why not just the good room? I said.
- —It doesn't sound right, she said.

That made no sense: it sounded exactly right. We were never allowed into that room so it would stay good.

- —Why doesn't it? I asked.
- —It sounds cheap, she said.

She started smiling.

- —It —I don't know Drawing room is a nicer name than good room. It sounds nicer. Unusual.
- -Are unusual names nice?
- —Yes.
- —Then why am I called Patrick?

She laughed but only for a little bit. She smiled at me, I think to make sure that I knew she wasn't laughing at me.

—Because your daddy's called Patrick, she said.

I liked that, being called after my da.

- —There are five Patricks in our class, I said.
- —Is that right?
- —Patrick Clarke. That's me. Patrick O'Neill. Patrick Redmond. Patrick Genocci. Patrick Flynn.
- —That's a lot, she said. —It's a nice name. Very dignified.
- —Three of them are called Paddy, I told her. —One Pat and one Patrick.
- —Is that right? she said. —Which are you?

I stopped for a minute.

—Paddy, I said.

She didn't mind. I was Patrick at home.

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Answer 6 1 and either 6 2 or 6 3

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes on 6 1 , and about 40 minutes on 6 2 or 6 3 .

6 1 Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question:

What thoughts and feelings do you have as you read this extract? Give reasons for what you say and remember to support your answer with words and phrases from the extract.

[10]

Either,

6 2 Write about the relationship between Francis and Larry LaSalle.

Think about:

- · when Larry first comes to Frenchtown
- · when Larry returns from the war
- · the last time Francis and Larry meet
- anything else you think important

[20]

Or,

6 3 Write about **one** or **two** characters in *Heroes* and how you think the war changes them. Give reasons for what you say. [20]

'I couldn't imagine who my visitor was,' Nicole says, walking past me to the floor-to-ceiling glass door that looks out over a tennis court and green fields beyond. Maybe it was foolish of me to think that we would hug or even shake hands. 'You've come a long way,' she says.

'So have you.'

She frowns and her eyes show concern. 'How are you, Francis? Your face ...'

'This is nothing,' I say, gesturing to the bandage and the scarf. 'It's not as bad as it looks. My skin is healing. There's a doctor who took care of me overseas. He's going to fix my face up — they call it cosmetic surgery — when he gets back from the service.' Still lying, but this time not to a nun.

'I heard about your Silver Star. Jumping on that grenade and saving all those lives. Remember Marie LaCroix? She writes me now and then, sends me news about Frenchtown.'

'How about you, Nicole? How are you doing?' I don't want to talk about that grenade.

'Fine,' she says, but the softness is gone from her face and her voice is sharp and brittle. 'The girls here are very nice. Nuns are nuns, of course, but at least they don't use rulers for discipline here. So I'm fine.'

You don't sound fine.

'I'm sorry about one thing,' she says. 'What I did to you that day.'

'Did to me?' What day?

'I shouldn't have said those things to you that day on the piazza. You weren't to blame for what happened. I realized that later and went to your Uncle Louis' place but found out that you'd enlisted.'

We fall silent and she returns to the window, looking out as if something very interesting is going on out there. I join her and watch two girls in white blouses and shorts playing tennis. The ball when it lands doesn't have the sharp sound of a ping-pong ball on a table. Or a gunshot.

'He's dead, you know.' It's easy to say the words because I'm not looking at her.

'I know.'

'He was...'

'Don't say it, Francis. I know what he was. For a while there he made me feel special. Made us all feel special. Made me think I was a ballerina. Now I'm starting to find out what I am, who I really am ...'

'Who are you, Nicole?'

'I told you — I'm just finding out.' As if impatient with the question. Then: 'How about you, Francis? How are you? What are you going to do now that you're back?'

I had prepared my answer while riding on the train. 'Go to high school. College later. The GI Bill pays for college for veterans.' The words sound flat and false to my ears.

'Are you going to write? I always thought you'd be a writer.'

'I don't know.' Which is the truth, for a change.

Silence falls between us, broken only by the swish of the tennis rackets and the plopping of the ball outside and the distant laughter of a girl in a corridor somewhere.

Never Let Me Go Answer 7 1 and either 7 2 or 7 3.
You are advised to spend about 20 minutes on 7 1 , and about 40 minutes on 7 2 or 7 3 .
7 1 Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question: What thoughts and feelings do you have as you read this extract? Give reasons for what you say and remember to support your answer with words and phrases from the extract [10]
Either, 7 2 What do you think about Ruth? Think about:
 Ruth's relationships with Kathy and Tommy when they are children Ruth's relationships with Kathy and Tommy when they are adults the way Ruth speaks and behaves at different times in the novel anything else you think important
Or, 7 3 'Friendship is very important in <i>Never Let Me Go.</i> ' Write about one or two friendships that you think are important in the novel. [20]

Then the boys had stopped kicking the ball about, and were standing in a pack in the mud, their chests gently rising and falling as they waited for the team picking to start. The two captains who emerged were from Senior 3, though everyone knew Tommy was a better player than any of that year. They tossed for first pick, then the one who'd won stared at the group.

'Look at him,' someone behind me said. 'He's completely convinced he's going to be first pick. Just look at him!'

There was something comical about Tommy at that moment, something that made you think, well, yes, if he's going to be that daft, he deserves what's coming. The other boys were all pretending to ignore the picking process, pretending they didn't care where they came in the order. Some were talking quietly to each other, some re-tying their laces, others just staring down at their feet as they trammelled the mud. But Tommy was looking eagerly at the Senior 3 boy, as though his name had already been called.

Laura kept up her performance all through the team-picking, doing all the different expressions that went across Tommy's face: the bright eager one at the start; the puzzled concern when four picks had gone by and he still hadn't been chosen; the hurt and panic as it began to dawn on him what was really going on. I didn't keep glancing round at Laura, though, because I was watching Tommy; I only knew what she was doing because the others kept laughing and egging her on. Then when Tommy was left standing alone, and the boys all began sniggering, I heard Ruth say:

'It's coming. Hold it. Seven seconds. Seven, six, five...'

She never got there. Tommy burst into thunderous bellowing, and the boys, now laughing openly, started to run off towards the South Playing Field. Tommy took a few strides after them – it was hard to say whether his instinct was to give angry chase or if he was panicked at being left behind. In any case he soon stopped and stood there, glaring after them, his face scarlet. Then he began to scream and shout, a nonsensical jumble of swear words and insults.

Ab	out	A	Boy
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Answer 8 1 and either 8 2 or 8 3

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes on 8 1 , and about 40 minutes on 8 2 or 8 3 .

8 1 Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question:

What are your thoughts and feelings about Marcus as you read this extract? Give reasons for what you say and remember to support your answer with words and phrases from the extract. [10]

Either,

8 2 What do you think about Will?

Think about:

- · Will at the beginning of the novel
- · Will's friendship with Marcus
- · Will's relationship with Rachel
- · anything else you think important

[20]

Or,

8 | 3 | Write about some important times in the relationship between Marcus and his mother, Fiona. [20]

'Do people give you a hard time?'

Marcus looked at Will. How did he know that? Things must be worse than he thought, if people knew even before he had said anything.

'Not really. Just a couple of kids.'

'What do they give you a hard time about?'

'Nothing really. Just, you know, my hair and glasses. And singing and stuff.'

'What about singing?'

'Oh, just ... sometimes I sing without noticing.'

Will laughed.

'It's not funny.'

'I'm sorry.'

'I can't help it.'

'You could do something about the hair.'

'Like what?'

'Get it cut.'

'Like who?'

'Like who! Like how you want it.'

'This is how I want it.'

'You'll have to put up with the other kids, then. Why do you want your hair like that?'

'Cos that's how it grows, and I hate going to the hairdresser.'

'I can see that. How often do you go?'

'Never. My mum cuts it.'

'Your mum? Jesus. How old are you? Twelve? I would have thought you're old enough to get your own hair cut.'

Marcus was interested in that 'old enough'. It wasn't something he was told very often. 'D'you think?'

'Course. Twelve? You could get married in four years' time. Are you going to get your mum to cut your hair then?'

Marcus didn't think he'd be getting married in four years' time, but he could see what Will was telling him.

'She wouldn't like it, would she?' he said.

'Who?'

'My wife. If I had a wife, but I don't think I will. Not in four years.'

'I wasn't really thinking of that. I was thinking that you might feel a bit of a wally if your mum had to come round and do everything like that. Cut your hair and cut your toenails and scrub your back—'

'Oh, right. Yeah, I see what you mean.'

And yes, he saw what Will meant, and yes, Will was right. In those circumstances he would feel like a wally. But there was another way of looking at it: if his mum was coming round in four years' time to cut his hair, then that would mean nothing terrible had happened in the meantime. The way he was feeling at the moment, he'd settle for looking like a bit of a wally once every couple of months.



Answer 9 1 and either 9 2 or 9 3.

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes on 9 1, and about 40 minutes on 9 2 or 9 3.

9 1 Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question:

What thoughts and feelings do you have as you read this extract? Give reasons for what you say and remember to support your answer with words and phrases from the extract.

[10]

Either,

9 2 What do you think of Maggie?

Think about:

- · Maggie's relationship with Sarah
- · Maggie's relationship with the Germans
- · the way Maggie speaks and behaves at different times in the novel
- anything else you think important

[20]

Or,

9 3 Write about **one** or **two** relationships in *Resistance* that interest you. Give reasons for what you say.

When Sarah had got back from looking for Tom on the hill she'd found Maggie waiting for her in the cobblestoned yard. The dogs had got to her first and were sniffing round her legs. Maggie ruffled their heads, shielding her eyes with one hand as she looked up at Sarah.

'Hello, Maggie,' Sarah had said, trying to sound as natural as possible but still unable to prevent her relief at seeing Maggie tinge her greeting.

'William's gone too.'

She hadn't even said hello.

'What d'you mean?'

'He's not at the farm. Or in the fields. He's gone. Like Tom.'

Sarah laughed. 'Tom hasn't gone anywhere.'

Maggie laid a hand on Sarah's arm, just as she had again now with Menna. 'Hasn't he, bach?'

Standing there in the bright, rain-polished yard, the two women had suddenly felt their ages upon them. Sarah felt like a girl again, that one word sending her back to her mother and her childhood. Back to when her brothers had left, when she never seemed to know the whole story and there was always something left to explain. Maggie, meanwhile, saw her own age reflected in Sarah's younger face, in the deep furrow of confusion between her eyebrows, in all the unworry and unspent hope that was so evidently still welling within her. Why had Maggie felt none of that? Just the knowing, the dull, certain knowing of experience. She envied Sarah then, standing in that yard. But she pitied her too. She'd had hardly any distance to fall herself, but this young girl, she had the whole height of her hope. Maggie could still remember what that felt like. Just last year when her eldest was declared missing. When the telegram finally came confirming he was dead she'd cursed herself for not coming down off that pillar of hope sooner. Of not waking up earlier.

'Why don't we have a sit inside?'

Sarah was still looking at her with an uncertain smile on her face. 'Are you all right, Maggie?'

'I'm fine, Sarah. It's just I heard you calling. Just now. For Tom.'

'Yes. I can't find him. I don't know where he's got to.'

'I know. That's why I've come up. Let's go inside is it?'

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