

## A-level

# ENGLISH LITERATURE A

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

---

Wednesday 5 June 2024

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
---	---

Examine the view that this collection is dominated by conflict between women and men.

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

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

0	2
---	---

‘In the collection, Duffy presents women as always showing great personal courage.’

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*, Sheers presents masculinity as being always toxic.’

Examine this view of the collection.

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

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

0	4
---	---

Examine the significance of pain 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 *A Trick I Learned from Dead Men*, a novel by Kitty Aldridge, published in 2012. Lee Hart lives in a remote cottage with his younger brother, Ned, who is deaf, and their widowed stepfather, Lester. Their mother has been dead for seven years. Lee, who is in his mid-twenties, works as a trainee undertaker alongside an older colleague, Derek. The extract begins as the local florist, Lorelle, arrives at the funeral home with a delivery of flowers.

Answer **both** questions.

0	5
---	---

Explore the significance of loneliness and social isolation in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

0	6
---	---

Compare the significance of loneliness and social isolation 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 Stella in the play.

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

0	8
---	---

Examine the significance of music and songs in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

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

0	9
---	---

'In *Top Girls*, Churchill presents a world in which there is no hope for the powerless.'

Examine this view.

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

1	0
---	---

Examine the significance of resistance 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 *A Trick I Learned from Dead Men*, a novel by Kitty Aldridge, published in 2012. Lee Hart lives in a remote cottage with his younger brother, Ned, who is deaf, and their widowed stepfather, Lester. Their mother has been dead for seven years. Lee, who is in his mid-twenties, works as a trainee undertaker alongside an older colleague, Derek. The extract begins as the local florist, Lorelle, arrives at the funeral home with a delivery of flowers.

Answer **both** questions.

1	1
---	---

Explore the significance of loneliness and social isolation in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	2
---	---

Compare the significance of loneliness and social isolation 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 the novel's Fenland setting.

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

1	4
---	---

Examine the view that men are presented as brutal oppressors of women in *Waterland*.**[25 marks]*****The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood****or**

1	5
---	---

Examine the significance of the Aunts in the novel.

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

1	6
---	---

Examine the significance of mothers and motherhood in *The Handmaid's Tale*.**[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 *A Trick I Learned from Dead Men*, a novel by Kitty Aldridge, published in 2012. Lee Hart lives in a remote cottage with his younger brother, Ned, who is deaf, and their widowed stepfather, Lester. Their mother has been dead for seven years. Lee, who is in his mid-twenties, works as a trainee undertaker alongside an older colleague, Derek. The extract begins as the local florist, Lorelle, arrives at the funeral home with a delivery of flowers.

Answer **both** questions.

1	7
---	---

 Explore the significance of loneliness and social isolation in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	8
---	---

 Compare the significance of loneliness and social isolation 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 © 2024 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

