

# AS

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

### (SPECIFICATION A)

Unit 1     Texts in Context  
Option A: Victorian Literature

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Friday 20 May 2016

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours

#### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

#### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is LTA1A.
- Answer **two** questions.
- You must answer:
  - the **compulsory** question in **Section A**: Contextual Linking
  - **one** question from **Section B**: Poetry.
- 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 90.
- The poetry texts prescribed for this paper **may** be taken into the examination room. Texts taken into the examination must be clean: that is, free from annotation.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

#### Advice

- You are advised to spend about 1 hour on each question.

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**Section A: Contextual Linking****Answer Question 1.**

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In your response to this section of the paper you must refer to your wider reading across all **three** genres (prose, poetry and drama). You may also refer to your AS coursework texts.

**Question 1**

- 0 1** Read the following extract carefully. It is taken from *In the Slums* by the Reverend D. Rice-Jones, first published in 1884. The extract concerns the writer's experience of working with the London poor. At this point in the writer's account he has come across a landlord's agent and a policeman discussing the eviction of a family from a one-room slum.

How does the writer present his thoughts and feelings about aspects of Victorian life?

How far is the extract similar to and different from your wider reading in Victorian literature? You should consider the writers' choices of form, structure and language.

**[45 marks]**

Having wished them both a good evening, I at once told them my business and asked the agent for an explanation of his summary proceedings with respect to the man Hardup and his large family.

"Well, guv'nor," replied the agent, "that is soon explained. First of all, the man hasn't paid a farden of rent for the last three weeks, and I have, accordin' to law, seized his goods, although the whole lot ain't worth tuppence-ha'penny. Secondly, they keep the room so filthy dirty that it made even me sick to go into it, and if I was to let them stay, we should all soon be dead of fever. Thirdly, I gave him due notice to quit three weeks ago; and as they wouldn't go nohow, there was nothing left for me to do but to bring away their furniture and turn 'em out. But they may have the dirty rubbish back if they promise to go to-night, for it is no good to me or anybody else; it is only a nuisance."

"But the man is a steady man, and has, I believe, for many years been a teetotaller. I can't at all understand how he and his family can be living in such degradation, or why he should be so badly off."

"Well, guv'nor," said the agent, "as far as the man's steadiness is concerned, I have nothing to say against it, for I believe he is himself a strict teetotaller. But you just go and look at his wife, if you haven't already seen her. She is the dirtiest, raggedest, slovenliest-looking woman I ever clapped eyes on, and I've seen a tidyish lot of the worstest specimens in all London, as you must know, since you live here. Why, that woman never gets up till

twelve or one o'clock, and then she never thinks of washing the children. As for dressin' 'em, they've scarce got anything to put on; and they're allowed to run about the place like a lot o' little savages. And what is more, the law only allows two persons to live in that there little room; and when I let the room to 'em, they said there was only two children; but there's eight on 'em altogether there, and if I was to let 'em stay, I should get myself into trouble; for there's a great outcry just at present about overcrowdin' of poor people, and all that sort o' thing; and quite right too, especially when they don't pay their rent."

At this point the man Hardup is called forward, and asked by me what he has to say in answer to the charges made against him of overcrowding, not keeping his room clean, and refusing to quit after due notice had been given.

With respect to the first charge, he tries to make out that there are only seven of the family living in the room at present, as the eldest daughter has some kind of engagement away from home.

But the rent-collector stoutly maintains, that although the girl may be out all day, she still sleeps at home every night.

Regarding the dirty state of the room, Hardup has very little to say, except that he has himself on more than one occasion carried away an orange-box full of rubbish from under the bed.

As to refusing to go, he declares that he has been trying to get another room every day for the last three weeks, but failed. Nobody will take them in. Where, then, is he to go to with his large family? Can they live in the street?

The upshot of the conference is that, backed by the authoritative suggestions of the kind-hearted constable, I at last succeed in persuading the rent-collector to let the family have their few bits of broken furniture back, and remain in the room another week, on the understanding that Hardup will find another lodging by the end of that time.

**Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B: Poetry**

Answer **one** question from this section.

In your response to this section of the paper you should consider the form, structure and language of the poems you choose to write about, as well as their subject matter.

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***Selected Poems – John Clare***

**Either**

**Question 2**

**0 2** How far do you agree that Clare's poetry shows more sympathy for wild creatures than for human beings?

In your answer you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection.

**[45 marks]**

**or**

**Question 3**

**0 3** To what extent do you agree that the sonnet 'I found a ball of grass among the hay' is typical of Clare's poetry?

**[45 marks]**

***Selected Poems – The Brontës***

**or**

**Question 4**

**0 4** It has been said that in the Brontës' poetry "All is doom and gloom! There is little room for hope".

To what extent do you agree that there is an absence of hope in the Brontës' poetry?

In your answer you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection.

**[45 marks]**

**or**

**Question 5**

**0 5** How far do you agree that 'Love is like the wild rose briar' is a poem of central importance to this anthology?

**[45 marks]**

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***Selected Poems – Alfred, Lord Tennyson***

**or**

**Question 6**

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 How far do you agree that in his poems Tennyson presents isolation as a wholly undesirable state?

In your answer you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection.

**[45 marks]**

**or**

**Question 7**

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 To what extent do you agree that 'The Lady of Shalott' presents interests and concerns that are typical of Tennyson's poems in this selection?

**[45 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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