

A-level

ENGLISH LITERATURE A

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

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
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Examine the significance of men within the collection.

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

[25 marks]**or**

0	2
---	---

‘Poems full of anger and bitterness.’

Examine this view of the collection.

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

[25 marks]***Skirrid Hill* – Owen Sheers****or**

0	3
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‘*Skirrid Hill* is a joyous celebration of the human capacity for love.’

Examine this view of the collection.

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

[25 marks]**or**

0	4
---	---

Examine Sheers’ presentation of the power of women 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 *Peyton Place*, a novel by Grace Metalious published in 1956. In this extract, which is set in a small American town in the late 1940s, teenagers Allison MacKenzie and Norman Page have gone out together in the late afternoon, and Allison's mother Constance is awaiting their return. The extract begins with Constance speaking to her husband, Allison's stepfather Tom Makris, the principal of the local high school.

Answer **both** questions.

0	5
---	---

Explore the significance of changing social attitudes in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

0	6
---	---

Compare the significance of changing social attitudes 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 friendship between Stanley and Mitch in the play.

[25 marks]**or**

0	8
---	---

‘In painting a romantic and nostalgic picture of the Old South, Williams fails to acknowledge its dark side.’

Examine this view of the play.

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

0	9
---	---

Examine the significance of Joyce in the play.

[25 marks]**or**

1	0
---	---

‘*Top Girls* is nothing more than an attack upon the political ideas of Margaret Thatcher.’

Examine this view.

[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 *Peyton Place*, a novel by Grace Metalious published in 1956. In this extract, which is set in a small American town in the late 1940s, teenagers Allison MacKenzie and Norman Page have gone out together in the late afternoon, and Allison's mother Constance is awaiting their return. The extract begins with Constance speaking to her husband, Allison's stepfather Tom Makris, the principal of the local high school.

Answer **both** questions.

1	1
---	---

Explore the significance of changing social attitudes in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	2
---	---

Compare the significance of changing social attitudes 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
---	---

'It is Swift's interweaving of a wide variety of strands which makes *Waterland* so interesting and enjoyable.'

Examine this view.

[25 marks]

or

1	4
---	---

Examine the significance of family in the novel.

[25 marks]

The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood*or**

1	5
---	---

Examine the significance of Gilead's rituals and ceremonies in *The Handmaid's Tale*.

[25 marks]

or

1	6
---	---

'And so I step up, into the darkness within; or else the light.'

Examine the significance of the final words of Offred's narrative to the novel as a whole.

[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 *Peyton Place*, a novel by Grace Metalious published in 1956. In this extract, which is set in a small American town in the late 1940s, teenagers Allison MacKenzie and Norman Page have gone out together in the late afternoon, and Allison's mother Constance is awaiting their return. The extract begins with Constance speaking to her husband, Allison's stepfather Tom Makris, the principal of the local high school.

Answer **both** questions.

1	7
---	---

Explore the significance of changing social attitudes in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	8
---	---

Compare the significance of changing social attitudes 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

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