



A-level

ENGLISH LITERATURE A

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

Thursday 22 May 2025 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
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Examine the significance of the collection's title, *Feminine Gospels*.

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

[25 marks]

or

0	2
---	---

'A collection dominated by grief and mourning.'

Examine this view.

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

[25 marks]

Skirrid Hill* – Owen Sheers*or**

0	3
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Examine the significance of Sheers' representation of Wales in *Skirrid Hill*.

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

[25 marks]

or

0	4
---	---

Examine the significance of time in the collection.

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 *Restless*, a novel by William Boyd, published in 2006. The extract is set in London during World War II, when German air raids were frequent and devastating. Eva Delectorskaya, a young Russian-born woman working as a spy for the British, has discovered that her boss, Romer, is a traitor. Now living in hiding, Eva knows that Romer will kill her to prevent her revealing his betrayal. The extract begins with Eva planning how to escape from Romer permanently.

Answer **both** questions.

0	5
---	---

Explore the significance of the struggle for identity in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

0	6
---	---

Compare the significance of the struggle for identity 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 play's title, *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

[25 marks]**or**

0	8
---	---

'I am the king around here, so don't forget it,' Stanley declares to Stella and Blanche.

Examine the view that Williams presents Stanley's confidence and self-belief as admirable.

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

0	9
---	---

Examine the significance of the relationship between Marlene, Joyce and Angie.

[25 marks]**or**

1	0
---	---

Examine the significance of marriage 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 *Restless*, a novel by William Boyd, published in 2006. The extract is set in London during World War II, when German air raids were frequent and devastating. Eva Delectorskaya, a young Russian-born woman working as a spy for the British, has discovered that her boss, Romer, is a traitor. Now living in hiding, Eva knows that Romer will kill her to prevent her revealing his betrayal. The extract begins with Eva planning how to escape from Romer permanently.

Answer **both** questions.

1	1
---	---

Explore the significance of the struggle for identity in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	2
---	---

Compare the significance of the struggle for identity 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 relationship between Tom and Mary Crick.

[25 marks]**or**

1	4
---	---

Examine the significance of teachers and teaching in *Waterland*.

[25 marks]***The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood****or**

1	5
---	---

Examine the significance of the novel's title, *The Handmaid's Tale*.

[25 marks]**or**

1	6
---	---

'In the days of anarchy, it was freedom to. Now you are being given freedom from. Don't underrate it', says Aunt Lydia to the trainee Handmaids at the Red Centre.

Examine the significance of freedom 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 *Restless*, a novel by William Boyd, published in 2006. The extract is set in London during World War II, when German air raids were frequent and devastating. Eva Delectorskaya, a young Russian-born woman working as a spy for the British, has discovered that her boss, Romer, is a traitor. Now living in hiding, Eva knows that Romer will kill her to prevent her revealing his betrayal. The extract begins with Eva planning how to escape from Romer permanently.

Answer **both** questions.

1	7
---	---

Explore the significance of the struggle for identity in this extract.

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

[25 marks]

and

1	8
---	---

Compare the significance of the struggle for identity 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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