



GCE AS

B710U10-1



THURSDAY, 15 MAY 2025 – MORNING

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
AS component 1

Comparative Analysis and Creative Writing

2 hours

B710U101
01

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **Question 1** in Section A and **Question 2** in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Both Section A and Section B carry 40 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are advised to spend one hour on each section.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

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Section A: Comparative analysis of poetry and unseen text

Answer the following compulsory question.

Your response must include:

- detailed analysis of **Text A**, a poem taken from the *WJEC Eduqas AS/A Level English Language and Literature Poetry Pre-1914 Anthology*
- close reference to **one** of the two unseen extracts which appear on the following pages.

Text A: the poem '**To My Dear and Loving Husband**' by Anne Bradstreet (1612–1672).

Text B: the opening of the short story *The Row* by Penelope Lively (2016).

Text C: an extract from '**4 habits of ALL successful relationships**', a TED talk. The speakers are Dr Jonathan and Dr Andrea Taylor-Cummings, a married couple (2019).

1. Compare and contrast how marriage is presented in Text A 'To My Dear and Loving Husband' and either Text B or Text C. [40]

In your response, you are required to:

- apply concepts and methods from integrated linguistic and literary study
- analyse ways in which meanings are shaped
- explore connections between **Text A** and your chosen text.

Text A: ‘To My Dear and Loving Husband’ by Anne Bradstreet (1612–1672)

If ever two were one, then surely we.
 If ever man were lov'd by wife, then thee.
 If ever wife was happy in a man,
 Compare with me, ye women, if you can.
 I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold
 Or all the riches that the East doth hold.
 My love is such that rivers cannot quench,
 Nor ought but love from thee give recompense.
 Thy love is such I can no way repay.
 The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.
 Then while we live, in love let's so persevere
 That when we live no more, we may live ever.

Text B: the opening of the short story *The Row* by Penelope Lively (2016)

They had had a row. A long-drawn-out, well-nurtured Sunday row. It began in the kitchen, over breakfast, a slow simmer coming to the boil and then it flamed further, up in the bedroom, she making the bed, he looking for a clean shirt. It subsided, sank to embers, but then, downstairs, later, they blew on these and up it came again nicely, flaring here and there, words muttered, spat out, hurled from room to room: ‘You always ...’ ‘Don’t tell me you ...’ ‘And another thing ...’

She couldn’t think why she was married to him. What had possessed her? The world is full of men – men of every size, shape, persuasion, clever men, funny men, charming devoted men, men who would put the rubbish out without being asked, men who would fix a dripping tap, ravishingly handsome men who would send you weak at the knees, calm authoritative men you could rely on in a crisis, men destined to become prime minister who would attribute all their achievements to one’s support and sacrifice, men who would forgo anything in order to foster one’s own glittering career, men who didn’t sing out of tune in the shower, men who picked up their socks, men who cooked and washed up.

Some of the men she had missed out on gleamed at her – a smile of invitation, conspiratorial glances.

All those . . . Any of those . . . And she had *him*.

Text C: an extract from the TED talk '4 habits of ALL successful relationships' (2019)

Jonathan: Have you ever stopped to think why only very few people have an amazing relationship? Did they just get lucky? Are they the chosen ones? I think most of us would agree, wouldn't we, that great relationships take work. Over twenty plus years now working with countless couples, we've observed that all successful relationships – every one of them – exhibit four simple yet fundamental habits which we want to share with you over the next fifteen minutes. The great news is that these are habits we can all learn and develop.

Let me share some stats with you. With divorce rates around 40% in the developed world and co-habiting couples breaking up at rates of 60 to 70%, around 50% of long-term couples are simply not going the distance. Now this emotional trauma is also spilling over and impacting our mental health. In 2016, the Mental Health Foundation issued this stark warning: the absence of quality relationships is – get this – is killing us faster than obesity and lack of exercise. And this is having an impact on the next generation as well. Research from the Marriage Foundation shows that the single biggest threat to teenagers' mental health is – guess what – family breakdown. Where parents separate, their children are 10 to 15% more likely to have mental health problems. These are big numbers and family breakdown is costing us, the UK taxpayers a whopping £51 billion a year – almost half of what it costs to run the entire NHS. Relationship breakdown is a huge huge problem.

Andrea: It is. And to solve a problem on this scale, borrowing a phrase from medical science, what we need are better fences at the top of the cliffs, rather than just more ambulances at the bottom. And in Relationshipland these four habits are strong fences.

Section B: Creative writing and commentary

Answer Question 2. It is divided into **three parts**, (a), (b) and (c). You may draw inspiration from Texts A–C in Section A to help you answer **all parts** of the question. You may introduce material of your own to help you in your responses.

In **part (a)** and **part (b)**, you are required to:

- demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways.

In **part (c)**, you are required to:

- apply concepts and methods from integrated linguistic and literary study
- analyse how meanings are shaped
- explore connections across texts.

2. (a) Write an **extract from a promotional leaflet** advertising a venue which hosts weddings. You should include some details of the location and facilities. Aim to write approximately 200 words. [10]

In the **extract** you should:

- identify and describe the venue
- consider which details of the location to promote
- show awareness of audience and purpose
- use an appropriate tone and style.

- (b) Write **the opening of a best man's speech** to be given at a friend or relative's wedding. Aim to write approximately 200 words. [10]

While this is a text written to be spoken, it should **not** be presented as a transcript.

For your **speech** you should:

- choose a real or fictional couple to talk about
- engage the audience's attention
- show awareness of audience and purpose
- use an appropriate style and tone.

- (c) Write an **analytical commentary** that compares and contrasts your choices of style, form and content in **both** the leaflet and the speech. Aim to write approximately 400 words. [20]

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