



GCE A LEVEL

A720U10-1



**WEDNESDAY, 24 MAY 2023 – AFTERNOON**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE – A level component 1**

**Poetry**

2 hours

A720U101  
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### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet and clean copies (no annotation) of your set texts for this paper.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **one** question in Section A and **one** question in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Both Section A and Section B carry 60 marks.

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

You are advised to spend an hour on each section. In Section A, you are advised to spend approximately 20 minutes on part (i) and 40 minutes on part (ii).

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

### Section A: Poetry pre-1900 (open book)

Answer **one** question in this section.

You must have a clean copy (no annotation) of the set text which you have studied. Only the prescribed edition must be used.

Each question is in **two parts**. In both **part (i)** and **part (ii)** you are required to analyse how meanings are shaped.

In **part (ii)** you are **also** required to:

- demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received
- show how different interpretations have informed your reading.

**Either,**

#### **Geoffrey Chaucer: *The Merchant's Prologue and Tale* (Cambridge)**

- Re-read lines 33–54 from “Whilom ther was dwellinge...” to “...that was so wis.” Analyse the ways in which Chaucer suggests the Merchant’s attitudes in these lines. [20]
  - “Chaucer points the finger critically but always humorously at a full range of human failings.” In the light of this comment and with close reference to relevant contexts, show how far you agree that *The Merchant's Prologue and Tale* is fundamentally comic. [40]

**Or,**

#### **John Donne: *Selected Poems* (Penguin Classics)**

- Re-read ‘Twicknam Garden’ on pages 20–21. Analyse Donne’s use of imagery in this poem. [20]
  - “As Donne explores his passions, both sacred and secular, we are always made aware of his disappointment and frustration.” With close reference to relevant contexts, explore Donne’s presentation of passionate feelings in the light of this comment. [40]

**Or,**

#### **John Milton: *Paradise Lost Book IX* (Oxford)**

- Re-read lines 1017–1045 from “Eve, now I see thou art exact...” to “...wearied with their amorous play.” Examine Milton’s presentation of sensuality in these lines. [20]
  - “Adam and Eve are skilfully reduced from idealised figures to recognisable humans.” In the light of this comment and with close reference to relevant contexts, explore the ways in which Milton develops the characters of Adam and Eve in *Paradise Lost Book IX*. [40]

Or,

**William Blake: *Poems selected by Patti Smith* (Vintage)**

4. (i) Re-read 'A Poison Tree' on page 122. Analyse Blake's use of imagery in this poem. [20]
- (ii) "The natural world provides the key to Blake's view of life." In the light of this comment and with close reference to relevant contexts, explore the ways in which Blake makes use of nature. [40]

Or,

**Christina Rossetti: *Selected Poems* (Penguin Classics)**

5. (i) Re-read 'Sweet Death' on page 14. Analyse Rossetti's use of imagery in this poem. [20]
- (ii) "Her deeply spiritual perspective is often achieved through a sensitive engagement with the physical world." With close reference to relevant contexts, show how far you agree with this comment on Rossetti's poetry. [40]

### Section B: Poetry post-1900 (open book)

Answer **one** question in this section.

You must have a clean copy (no annotation) of the set texts which you have studied. Only the prescribed editions must be used.

Where prescribed sections of the texts are indicated in brackets, **only poems from these sections** can be included in your response.

In your response you are required to:

- analyse how meanings are shaped
- demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received
- explore connections across the set texts
- show how different interpretations have informed your reading.

#### **Thomas Hardy: *Poems selected by Tom Paulin (Faber)***

*(Poems of the Past and Present, Poems of 1912–13, Moments of Vision)*

#### **T. S. Eliot: *Selected Poems (Faber)***

*(Prufrock and Other Observations, The Waste Land, The Hollow Men, Ariel Poems)*

**Either,**

6. “Above all else, poets understand the power and importance of detailed observation.” In the light of this comment and with close reference to relevant contexts, explore connections between the ways in which Hardy and Eliot make use of detail. You must analyse in detail **at least two** poems from **each** of your set texts. [60]

**Or,**

7. “Both poets seem preoccupied by the challenges of change.” In the light of this comment and with close reference to relevant contexts, examine connections between the ways in which Hardy and Eliot present change. You must analyse in detail **at least two** poems from **each** of your set texts. [60]

**W.B. Yeats: *Poems Selected by Seamus Heaney (Faber)***

*(In the Seven Woods, The Green Helmet and Other Poems, Responsibilities, The Wild Swans at Coole, Michael Robartes and the Dancer, The Tower)*

**Dannie Abse: *Welsh Retrospective (Seren)*****Either,**

8. “Loss of one kind or another is so often at the core of poetry.” In the light of this comment and with close reference to relevant contexts, examine connections between the ways in which Yeats and Abse present ideas about loss. You must analyse in detail **at least two** poems from **each** of your set texts. [60]

**Or,**

9. “Patriots though they are, neither Yeats nor Abse is blind to the faults in their respective cultures.” In the light of this comment and with close reference to relevant contexts, explore connections between the ways in which Yeats and Abse present their national cultures. You must analyse in detail **at least two** poems from **each** of your set texts. [60]

**Ted Hughes: *Poems selected by Simon Armitage (Faber)***

*(Prescribed section: all poems up to and including ‘Rain’ on pages 68–69)*

**Sylvia Plath: *Poems selected by Ted Hughes (Faber)*****Either,**

10. “In both poets’ work the forces of nature seem hostile and comfortless.” In the light of this view and with close reference to relevant contexts, examine connections between the ways in which Hughes and Plath present the natural world. You must analyse in detail **at least two** poems from **each** of your set texts. [60]

**Or,**

11. “Whatever the choice of subject matter, poets themselves are the primary focus of their own work.” In the light of this comment and with close reference to relevant contexts, examine connections between the ways in which Hughes and Plath explore themselves through their poetry. You must analyse in detail **at least two** poems from **each** of your set texts. [60]

**Philip Larkin: *The Whitsun Weddings* (Faber)**

**Carol Ann Duffy: *Mean Time* (Picador)**

**Either,**

12. “Exploration of the past shapes our understanding of the present.” In the light of this comment and with close reference to relevant contexts, examine connections between the ways in which Larkin and Duffy make use of the past. You must analyse in detail **at least two** poems from **each** of your set texts. [60]

**Or,**

13. “Rigorously honest but lacking compassion.” In the light of this comment and with close reference to relevant contexts, examine connections between the ways in which Larkin and Duffy present their fellow humans. You must analyse in detail **at least two** poems from **each** of your set texts. [60]

**Seamus Heaney: *Field Work* (Faber)**

**Owen Sheers: *Skirrid Hill* (Seren)**

**Either,**

14. “An honest observation and celebration of real life.” In the light of this comment and with close reference to relevant contexts, examine connections between the ways in which Heaney and Sheers present human experience. You must analyse in detail **at least two** poems from **each** of your set texts. [60]

**Or,**

15. “Rather than nature, the exploration of relationships is at the heart of their poetry.” In the light of this comment and with close reference to relevant contexts, examine connections between the ways in which Heaney and Sheers present different kinds of relationships. You must analyse in detail **at least two** poems from **each** of your set texts. [60]

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