

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Level Examination



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
(SPECIFICATION B)
Unit 6 Critical Approaches**

NTB6

Tuesday 19 June 2007 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book;
- your copy of the pre-release material.

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes
(including 30 minutes' reading time)

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is NTB6.
- Answer **both** questions.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 70 which will be scaled to give a mark out of 40.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Answer **both** questions.

You will be allowed 30 minutes in which to read the unseen Texts 7 and 8 printed on pages 3, 4 and 5 of this question paper.

1 Compare the ways in which ideas about mirrors and reflections are presented.

In your answer you **must** refer in detail to Texts 7 and 8 and to at least **two** other texts from the pre-release material.

In your answer you should:

- focus on how mirrors and reflections are presented
- make explicit comparisons between your chosen texts
- identify the attitudes and values expressed and implied
- support your claims by reference to relevant aspects of context and genre
- provide precise analysis of relevant language use.

(50 marks)

2 Explain the methods that you chose to compare the texts, and show how useful these were in contributing to your understanding of and response to the texts.

(20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

TEXT 7

An extract from the fable of *Echo and Narcissus*

The fable of Echo and Narcissus is a story re-told from Greek mythology. The original tale was written by Thomas Bulfinch (1796–1867) and was then printed in Age of Fable: Vols. I & II: Stories of Gods and Heroes (1913).

After Narcissus' cruel treatment of Echo's advances, a goddess granted her prayer that he might also feel what it was to love and to meet no return of affection.

There was a clear fountain, with water like silver, to which the shepherds never drove their flocks, nor the mountain goats resorted, nor any of the beasts of the forests; neither was it defaced with fallen leaves or branches; but the grass grew fresh around it, and the rocks sheltered it from the sun. Hither came one day the youth, fatigued with hunting, heated and thirsty. He stooped down to drink, and saw his own image in the water; he thought it was some beautiful water-spirit living in the fountain. He stood gazing with admiration at those bright eyes, those locks curled like the locks of Bacchus or Apollo, the rounded cheeks, the ivory neck, the parted lips, and the glow of health and exercise over all. He fell in love with himself. He brought his lips near to take a kiss; he plunged his arms in to embrace the beloved object. It fled at the touch, but returned again after a moment and renewed the fascination. He could not tear himself away; he lost all thought of food or rest while he hovered over the brink of the fountain gazing upon his own image. He talked with the supposed spirit: "Why, beautiful being, do you shun me? Surely my face is not one to repel you. The nymphs love me, and you yourself look not indifferent upon me. When I stretch forth my arms you do the same; and you smile upon me and answer my beckonings with the like." His tears fell into the water and disturbed the image. As he saw it depart, he exclaimed, "Stay, I entreat you! Let me at least gaze upon you, if I may not touch you." With this, and much more of the same kind, he cherished the flame that consumed him, so that by degrees he lost his colour, his vigour, and the beauty which formerly had so charmed the nymph Echo.

She kept near him, however, and when he exclaimed, "Alas! alas!" she answered him with the same words. He pined away and died; and when his shade passed the Stygian river, it leaned over the boat to catch a look of itself in the waters. The nymphs mourned for him, especially the water-nymphs; and when they smote their breasts Echo smote hers also. They prepared a funeral pile and would have burned the body, but it was nowhere to be found; but in its place a flower, purple within, and surrounded with white leaves, which bears the name and preserves the memory of Narcissus.

Turn over ►

TEXT 8

A transcript of part of a conversation recorded by two friends

- Ali:** erm if there's a mirror near by or a mirror in my field of vision I will always look in it I'll try and stop looking [at my reflection
- Perry:** [can I just say every time you talk the red light flashes
- Ali:** oooh that's 'cos I'm special
- Perry:** look
- Ali:** I like it um yeah every time a mirror's around I stare in it and people often catch me doing this they think I'm really vain and narcissistic probably 'cos I am
- Perry:** but do ye you know when you're walking down the street and [like
- Ali:** [and you see the shiny window like on [Waitrose
- Perry:** [Waitrose [both laugh]
- Ali:** yeah Waitrose
- Perry:** I I can't I can't [walk past it
- Ali:** [you've got to not look in it but then if I don't (.) if I walk past it and don't look in it I feel like I'm being really strange when I walk past it I feel like I'm ignoring it everyone looks in it everyone looks in it
- Perry:** everyone looks in it yeah totally
- Ali:** me and Cat used to have a thing we said "don't look in it" because that always makes you look bad looking in the mirror and and your reflection was always a little bit like unfffhh
- Perry:** sometimes like if I'm in a you know sometimes if you're in in a bit of a daydream and you're walking along the road and you walk past it and sometimes I find myself stopping and [both laugh] re-arranging myself
- Ali:** packing your bits away [both laugh]
- Perry:** no m' badly packed kebab [both laugh] stop it this is serious shit man (1.0) anyway no sometimes I find myself just looking and just going hmmm why did I wear this ensemble [laughs]
- Ali:** hmmm for what purpose does this serve
- Perry:** Ali I think sometimes you actually forget to look in the mirror [speaks into microphone] Ali Ali came to work and she was wearing denim hotpant shorts with knee-high black fishnet stockings [and football boots
- Ali:** [a skirt a [skirt
- Perry:** [excuse me sorry with the studs with the studs and what happened to your mirror that day
- Ali:** um
- Perry:** huh
- Ali:** um "I only dress for myself" what crap is that (.) you know what I mean people go "oh I don't care what other people think of me" like that "oh really"
- Perry:** d'you know what
- Ali:** what
- Perry:** I I I really care what other people think I look like and you don't care what other people think you look like do you (2.0) I I can tell this by the way your feet are black [both laugh] so um yeah sometimes I feel that Ali does forget to look in the mirror but I think that she does all the time because [um
- Ali:** [because you catch me
- Perry:** er yeah I always catch you (.) as you say you dress mainly for yourself you don't dress for anyone else whereas I dress to please (.) mainly men occasionally some girls
- Ali:** yeah that old thing do you dress for me or do you dress for other women

Key

[overlapping speech
(.)	short pause
(1.0)	longer pause in seconds
<i>italics</i>	non-verbal sounds

Some words are spelled to reflect their pronunciation.

END OF TEXTS

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Text 7: an extract from the fable of *Echo and Narcissus*, www.thanasis.com/echo.htm

Text 8: an extract from a transcript recorded by two friends.

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