

General Certificate of Education  
June 2007  
Advanced Level Examination



**ENGLISH LITERATURE (SPECIFICATION A)**  
**Unit 4 Texts in Time**

**LTA4**

Tuesday 19 June 2007 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book

Time allowed: 2 hours

**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 LTA4.
- There are **two** sections:  
**Section A:** Drama Pre-1770  
**Section B:** Poetry Pre-1900  
You must answer two questions, **one** chosen from **each** section.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

**Information**

- The texts prescribed for this paper **may not** be taken into the examination room.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 40.
- There are 20 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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**SECTION A – Drama Pre-1770**

Answer **one** question from this section.

In this section, you must ensure that you consider in your answer:

- different interpretations of texts by other readers
  - your own informed, independent opinions.
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**EITHER***Hamlet* – William Shakespeare

- 1 “The Queen’s act of lawful remarriage to Claudius cannot be condemned.”

“Gertrude is an incestuous traitor and part of the corruption in Elsinore.”

What evidence is in the text to support both of these statements?

How do **you** see the presentation of Queen Gertrude in the play?

**OR**

- 2 “The hero keeps our sympathy from the beginning to the end of the play.”

“Prince Hamlet loses audience sympathy as he commits several unnecessary murders and insults the women he loves.”

What justification is in the text to support these two views?

What is **your** response to the presentation of Hamlet?

**OR***Measure for Measure* – William Shakespeare

- 3 “The fault of Isabella is that she is excessively pious and too proud.”

“Isabella is a symbol for virtue and chastity and a champion of mercy.”

How do **you** respond to these different views of Isabella?

What is **your** opinion of the way Shakespeare presents Isabella in the play?

**OR**

- 4 “The central concern in *Measure for Measure* is religious and personal morality.”

“The play is mainly concerned with the world of government and how to rule.”

How does the text support these different views of the play?

What do **you** see as Shakespeare’s central concern in the play?

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**OR**

*The Winter's Tale* – William Shakespeare

- 5 “The play revolves around the presence of Hermione. She dominates the climax to each half of the play, first in the trial and then in the statue scene.”

“Hermione’s lack of power and long absence from the action make her little more than a pawn in the play.”

How can these views be justified in the text?

What is **your** opinion of the importance of Hermione in the play?

**OR**

- 6 “Shakespeare presents the idea that nature and fate, as determined at birth and told by oracles, is responsible for the outcomes to *The Winter's Tale*.”

“Shakespeare shows us how accident, human fears and wishes lead to the outcomes of this play.”

How can both these critical views be supported in the text?

How do **you** think Shakespeare presents the outcomes of the play?

**OR**

*Edward II* – Christopher Marlowe

- 7 “The barons are petty, corrupt hypocrites fighting for their own positions in the hierarchy.”

“The barons are defenders of the realm, loyal to England and the royal line.”

How can the text support each of these opinions?

How do **you** respond to Marlowe’s presentation of Edward’s enemies?

**OR**

- 8 “The audience feels that the manner of King Edward’s murder is justified.”

“At the end of the play, the audience can only feel sympathy for the victimised Edward.”

What evidence is in the text to support both these views?

How do **you** respond to the presentation of Edward’s downfall in the play?

**Turn over ►**

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**OR**

*The White Devil* – John Webster

9 “Brachiano is the hero of *The White Devil*. The play is clearly his tragedy.”

“Webster presents Brachiano as a corrupt and powerful villain.”

How can each of these views be justified by the text?

How do **you** think Webster presents Brachiano in the play?

**OR**

10 “By the end of the play, the audience feels that, despite the number of deaths, justice has been done.”

“The ending of the play is unsatisfying; the violence and murder carried out in the play seem cruel and unjust.”

What evidence is there in the text to support both these views of the play?

How do **you** see justice in this play?

**OR**

*The Alchemist* – Ben Jonson

11 “When Face says in Act Five, ‘I am caught’ the audience is disappointed that he goes unpunished for his part in the deceit.”

“Face wins over the audience and we are glad that he escapes so lightly.”

How can the text support both of these views?

How do **you** respond to Jonson’s presentation of Face?

**OR**

12 “Tribulation and Ananias are presented as ridiculous and their role in the play is to amuse the audience.”

“Jonson uses Tribulation and Ananias to point out religious corruption and hypocrisy.”

What evidence is there for each of these opinions?

How do **you** see the presentation of Tribulation and Ananias in the play?

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**SECTION B – Poetry Pre-1900 The Romantic Period**

Answer **one** question from this section.

You are reminded that in this section of the paper you must demonstrate:

- your understanding of the contexts that have shaped the writing and study of your chosen poetry
  - how that poetry was received at the time it was written
  - your grasp of the poetry and how it is presented.
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**EITHER**

*The Prelude, Books 9 and 10* – William Wordsworth

- 13** Explore how Wordsworth presents his thoughts and feelings on God and religion with reference to **either** or **both** of *Books 9 and 10*.

**OR**

- 14** “Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,  
But to be young was very heaven;”

How do *Books 9 and 10* show Wordsworth’s joyful feelings about this time in history and the events he experienced?

**OR**

*Songs of Innocence and of Experience* – William Blake

- 15** How are Blake’s ideas about revolution revealed in the *Songs*?

**OR**

- 16** How do the *Songs* show us Blake’s thoughts and feelings about nature?

**OR**

*Don Juan (Cantos 1-4)* – Lord Byron

- 17** In what ways does Byron present a typically Romantic view of the natural world through *Cantos 1-4*?

**OR**

- 18** Explore how these *Cantos* reveal Byron’s thoughts and feelings about national independence movements of his time.

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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