

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



ENGLISH LITERATURE (SPECIFICATION A)
Unit 1 The Modern Novel

LTA1

Wednesday 21 May 2008 9.00 am to 10.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 LTA1.
- Answer **one** question.
- 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 20.
- 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.

Answer **one** question.

EITHER

The Spire – William Golding

- 1 Explore the presentation and importance of Pangall in the novel.

OR

- 2 Using the following extract as a **starting point**, explore the ways Golding presents ideas about change and transformation in the novel.

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OR

Cold Mountain – Charles Frazier

- 3 Explore the ways Frazier presents the America of Inman's time in the novel.

OR

- 4 How appropriate is the following extract as the opening of the novel?

At the first gesture of morning, flies began stirring. Inman's eyes and the long wound at his neck drew them, and the sound of their wings and the touch of their feet were soon more potent than a yardful of roosters in rousing a man to wake. So he came to yet one more day in the hospital ward. He flapped the flies away with his hands and looked across the foot of his bed to an open triple-hung window. Ordinarily he could see to the red road and the oak tree and the low brick wall. And beyond them to a sweep of fields and flat piney woods that stretched to the western horizon. The view was a long one for the flatlands, the hospital having been built on the only swell within eyeshot. But it was too early yet for a vista. The window might as well have been painted grey.

OR

Wise Children – Angela Carter

- 5 How does Carter use and explore the theme of parenthood in the novel?

OR

- 6 Using the following extract as a **starting point**, explore the importance and presentation of ‘popular entertainment’ in the novel.

We were eighteen years old, hair like patent leather, legs up to our ears. We sported bellhop costumes for our *Hamlet* skit; should, we pondered in unison and song, the package be delivered to, I kid you not, ‘2b or not 2b’. We performed a syncopated Highland fling in tasselled sporrans after, as weird sisters, we burst out of a giant haggis in a number based on the banquet scene; in abbreviated togas, led the chorus during the ‘Roman Scandals’ number; I sang my solo ‘O Mistress Mine’ in fifteenth-century drag to a mutely mutinous Nora on a balcony – she got the last laugh when she poured a bucket of water over me, and I didn’t have much of a voice, anyway, but Mr Piano Man was besotted; we did a Morris dance with bells upon our ankles, then sang ‘It was a lover and his lass’ in harmony and parts (‘Hey nonny bloody no’); and went through a spirited version of the Egyptian sand dance on the deck of a large gilded barge that glided slowly from one side of the stage to the other in the spectacular conclusion of the first part of the show.

OR

Possession – A. S. Byatt

- 7 In what ways is *Possession* an appropriate title for the novel?

OR

- 8 Using the following extract as a **starting point**, explore the ways Byatt uses the theme of ‘hunter’ in the novel.

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Turn over ►

OR

Spies – Michael Frayn

- 9 Explore the ways Frayn presents fathers and fatherhood in the novel.

OR

- 10 Using the following extract as a **starting point**, consider the ways Frayn presents the theme of isolation in the novel.

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END OF QUESTIONS

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