



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2012

English Literature (Specification A)

LTA1A

Unit 1 Texts in Context

Option A: Victorian Literature

Thursday 12 January 2012 9.00 am to 11.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

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 LTA1A.
- Answer **two** questions.
- You must answer:
 - the **compulsory** question in **Section A**: Contextual Linking
 - **one** question from **Section B**: Poetry.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- The poetry texts prescribed for this paper **may** be taken into the examination room. Texts taken into the examination must be clean: that is, free from annotation.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 1 hour on each question.

Section A: Contextual Linking**Answer Question 1.**

In your response to this section of the paper you must refer to your wider reading across all three genres (prose, poetry and drama). You may also refer to your AS coursework texts.

Question 1

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Read the following extract carefully. It is taken from *Confession of Faith*, an autobiography drafted by Cecil Rhodes in 1877 but not published until after his death. Rhodes (1853–1902) was a leading promoter of Britain's imperial interests in southern Africa: he was Prime Minister of the Cape Colony; he was responsible for the Empire's expansion into the vast territory that became known as Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe and Zambia) and his mining company controlled 90% of world diamond production. Here Rhodes declares his belief in the British Empire as a force for progress and world peace.

How does the writer present his thoughts and feelings about aspects of Victorian life?

How far is the extract similar to and different from your wider reading in Victorian literature? You should consider the writers' choices of form, structure and language, as well as subject matter.

(45 marks)

I contend that we are the finest race in the world, and that the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race. I contend that every acre added to our territory means the birth of more of the English race who otherwise would not be brought into existence. Added to this, the absorption of the greater part of the world under our rule simply means the end of all wars. The objects one should work for are the furtherance of the British Empire, the bringing of the whole uncivilised world under British rule, the recovery of the United States, the making of the Anglo-Saxon race but one Empire.

What a dream! but yet it is probable. It is possible.

What is the highest thing in the world? Is it not the idea of Justice? I know none higher. Justice between man and man – equal, absolute, impartial, fair play to all; that surely must be the first note of a perfect society. But, secondly, there must be liberty, for without freedom there can be no justice. Slavery in any form which denies a man a right to be himself and to use all his faculties to their best advantage is, and must always be, unjust. And the third note of the ultimate towards which our race is bending must surely be that of peace, of the industrial commonwealth as opposed to the military clan or fighting Empire.

Therefore, if there be a God – and I believe there is a fifty per cent chance of the existence of God Almighty – and He cares anything about what I do, I think it is clear that He would like me to do what He is doing Himself. And as He is manifestly fashioning the English-speaking race as the chosen instrument by which He will bring in a state of society based on Justice, Liberty and Peace, He must obviously wish me to do what I can to give as much scope and power to that race as possible.

Hence if there be a God, I think that what He would like me to do is to paint as much of the map of Africa British red as possible, and to do what I can elsewhere to promote the unity and extend the influence of the English-speaking race.

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►

Section B: Poetry

Answer **one** question from this section.

In your response to this section of the paper you should consider the form, structure and language of the poems you choose to write about, as well as their subject matter.

Selected Poems – John Clare**EITHER****Question 2**

0 2 A critic has described Clare's writing as "the poetry of loss".

How far do you agree with this view?

In your answer you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection. *(45 marks)*

OR**Question 3**

0 3 Remind yourself of 'December' from 'The Shepherd's Calendar', the first poem in this selection.

To what extent do you feel that this poem provides an effective introduction to the selection? *(45 marks)*

Selected Poems – The Brontës**OR****Question 4**

0 4 A study of Emily Brontë's writing has found that she uses the word "drear" thirty-six times in her poetry.

To what extent do you feel that the Brontës' poetry is dismal and gloomy?

In your answer, you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection.

You may use the poems of **one**, **two** or **three** of the Brontës in your answer. *(45 marks)*

OR**Question 5**

0 5 Remind yourself of 'Epistle From a Father to a Child in Her Grave' by Branwell Brontë.

How far do you agree with the view that this poem is the key to the whole selection? *(45 marks)*

Selected Poems – Thomas Hardy

OR

Question 6

0 6

“Hardy’s women are typically Victorian: he always presents them as weak, helpless victims.”

How far do you agree with this view of the ways Hardy presents women in his poetry?

In your answer you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection. *(45 marks)*

OR

Question 7

0 7

Remind yourself of the poem ‘Afterwards’.

To what extent do you feel that this poem would provide an effective conclusion to the selection of Hardy’s poetry you have studied? *(45 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

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