



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2012

English Literature (Specification A)

LTA1A

Unit 1 Texts in Context

Option A: Victorian Literature

Wednesday 16 May 2012 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

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 a letter written to a friend in 1864 by Jane Welsh Carlyle, the wife of the cultural commentator Thomas Carlyle. After “all the china or crockery in the house either disappeared or cracked” during her long illness, Jane Carlyle had decided to sack Helen, one of her two servants. Here she reports a conversation with a neighbour who was helping out while the other servant, Mary, was taking time off to visit relatives.

How does the writer present her 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)

‘Well, ma’m,’ said the woman, ‘it is known to all the neighbours round here – you will be told some day, and if I don’t tell you now, you will blame me for having let you be so deceived. Mary is the worst of girls! She had an illegitimate child in your house on the 29th of last July. It was her second child – and all the things you have been missing have been spent on her man and her friends. There has been constant company kept in your kitchen since there was no fear of your seeing it; and whenever Helen threatened to tell you, she frightened her into silence by threats of poisoning her and cutting her own throat!!’

Now, my Dear, if you had seen the creature Mary you would just as soon have suspected the Virgin Mary of such things! But I have investigated, and find it all true. For two years I have been cheated and made a fool of, and laughed at for my softness by this half-idiotic-looking woman; and while she was crying in my room, moaning out: ‘What would become of her if I died?’ and witnessing in me as sad a spectacle of human agony as could have been anywhere seen; she was giving suppers to men and women downstairs; laughing and swearing – oh I can’t go on. It is too disgusting!

I shall only say that while she was in labour in the small room at the end of the dining room, Mr Carlyle was taking tea in the dining room with Miss Jewsbury talking to him!!! Just a thin small door between them! The child was not born till two in the morning when Mr C. was still reading in the Drawingroom.

By that time Helen had fetched two women – one of whom took the child to be nursed – Need one ask where all my fine napkins went, when it is known that the Creature had not prepared a rag of clothing for the child?

Imagine coming to the knowledge of all this when I was retching at any rate!

Of course the wretch on her return in a cab last Tuesday, bringing the wretched Boy-Father along with her, in broad daylight, to have his dinner, was met by a small packet containing her wages and the news 'it was all found out'. She hurried the Papa into the cab again and they drove off together!

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 “John Clare offers the reader the voices of those who are usually silent or ignored.”

To what extent do you agree with this view of Clare’s 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 3**

0 3 Remind yourself of ‘The Flitting’.

To what extent do you agree with the view that this poem is the key to the whole selection? (45 marks)

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

0 4 To what extent do you agree with the view of the critic who claimed that “a longing for home and security pervades the Brontës’ 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 5**

0 5 Remind yourself of ‘On the Death of Anne Brontë’ by Charlotte Brontë.

How far do you feel that this poem would form an effective conclusion to the whole selection? (45 marks)

Selected Poems – Thomas Hardy

OR

Question 6

0 6 “All of Hardy’s later poetry is haunted by the ghost of his wife.”

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 7

0 7 Remind yourself of ‘Hap’, the first poem in this selection.

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

END OF QUESTIONS

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