



ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2009

English Literature

Assessment Unit A2 2a

assessing

Module 5: the Study of
Twentieth-Century Prose

[A2L21]



WEDNESDAY 20 MAY, MORNING

TIME

1 hour 10 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.
Answer **one** question.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 30.
Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions.
You should have with you your copies of the prescribed texts for this examination.

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Read all of this page first – carefully

In this paper you will be marked on your ability to

- communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to literary study, using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression (AO1)
- articulate independent opinions and judgements, informed by different interpretations of literary texts by different readers (AO4)
- evaluate the significance of cultural, historical and other contextual influences on literary texts and study (AO5ii).

This means that

in your answers, you must

- express your ideas in a clear and well-organised way, paying careful attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar **and** using appropriate literary terms
- develop an argument in response to a statement about the text given at the beginning of the question
- provide information from outside the text, **relevant to the question**, about the context; this could be
 - historical, social, cultural circumstances in which the text was written
 - literary context concerned with the type of text – e.g. satirical novel, short story – or with a particular literary notion such as the hero.

1 Conrad: *The Secret Agent*

Answer either (a) or (b)

(a) *The Secret Agent* has all the ingredients of a good popular thriller.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

*

The extract begins about four pages from the end of Chapter 11 with the words,

Her face was no longer stony.

It goes on to the end of the chapter.

N.B.

1. You must include in your answer external contextual material on the nature of the popular thriller that is relevant to the question.
2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the extract.

(b) *The Secret Agent* reflects a view of family life that is not at all typical of what we would expect to find in Victorian England.

Using all of Chapter 1 as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

N.B.

1. You must include in your answer contextual material from outside the text and relevant to the question.
2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the extract.

2 Gibbons: *Cold Comfort Farm*

Answer either (a) or (b)

(a) *Cold Comfort Farm* is a novel without an heroic figure.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

*

The extract begins about four pages into Chapter 7 with the words,

At four o'clock she came downstairs to look for some tea.

It goes on to the end of the chapter.

N.B.

- 1. You must include in your answer external contextual material on the nature of the hero or heroine that is relevant to the question.**
- 2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your use of the extract.**

(b) *Cold Comfort Farm* has no interest for the twenty-first-century reader as the lifestyle and culture of the 1930s are so remote from those of today.

Using all of Chapter 18 as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

N.B.

- 1. You must include in your answer contextual material from outside the text and relevant to the question.**
- 2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the extract.**

3 Hemingway: *A Farewell to Arms*

Answer either (a) or (b)

- (a) *A Farewell to Arms* accurately reflects the moral and spiritual emptiness of the period in which it was written. (The novel was first published in 1929.)

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

*

The extract begins about five or six pages from the end of Chapter 41 with the words,

I sat down on the chair in front of a table where there were
nurses' reports...

It goes on to the end of the novel.

N.B.

1. You must include in your answer contextual material from outside the text and relevant to the question.
2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the extract.

- (b) *A Farewell to Arms* is less a War Novel than a work of Romantic Fiction.

Using Chapter 18 as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

N.B.

1. You must include in your answer external contextual material on the nature of the War Novel and Romantic Fiction that is relevant to the question.
2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the extract.

4 Ishiguro: *The Remains of the Day*

Answer either (a) or (b)

- (a) The attitudes displayed in *The Remains of the Day* are so English that it can have only a narrow appeal.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

* The extract begins about twenty-six pages into “Day Two – Morning” with the words,

Herr Bremann first visited Darlington Hall very shortly after the war while still in his officer’s uniform...

It ends about seven pages further on with,

That is to say, for that memorable March of 1923.

N.B.

- 1. You must include in your answer contextual material from outside the text and relevant to the question.**
- 2. One quarter of the marks for this question are given for your treatment of the extract.**

- (b) As a savagely satirical novel, *The Remains of the Day* exaggerates British values and attitudes in the years before the outbreak of the Second World War.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

* The extract begins about twenty-four pages from the end of “Day Two – Morning” with the words,

It was around this point, in the midst of dealing with the many demands being made on my attention...

It ends about seven pages later with,

I thanked the doctor again and showed him out.

N.B.

- 1. You must include in your answer external contextual material on the nature of satire that is relevant to the question.**
- 2. One quarter of the marks for this question are given for your treatment of the extract.**

5 McGahern: *That They May Face the Rising Sun*

Answer either (a) or (b)

- (a) In order to appreciate *That They May Face the Rising Sun* fully, a knowledge of what life was like in isolated, rural communities in the border counties of Ireland in the late twentieth century is essential.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

*

The extract begins on page 43 of the hardback edition or page 45 of the paperback edition with the words,

They continued looking for a long time at the evening sparkle on the lake...

It ends on page 47 of the hardback edition or page 50 of the paperback edition with,

... but they formed a semblance of company and solidarity against those who lay alone and unvisited.

N.B.

- 1. You must include in your answer contextual material from outside the text and relevant to the question.**
- 2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the extract.**

- (b) Like many Regionalist Novels, *That They May Face the Rising Sun* is rooted in a particular time and place and is, therefore, unlikely to appeal to a wide readership.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriate selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

*

The extract begins on page 281 of the hardback edition or page 296 of the paperback edition with the words,

Suddenly the steel spade hit the rock. They could dig no further.

It ends on page 286 of the hardback edition or page 301 of the paperback edition with,

‘I like the Shah. He doesn’t support us very much but he doesn’t stand in our way either. He takes life easy.’

N.B.

- 1. You must include in your answer external contextual material on the nature of the Regionalist Novel that is relevant to the question.**
- 2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the extract.**

6 Madden: *Authenticity*

Answer either (a) or (b)

- (a) *Authenticity* shows too much sympathy for male characters to be considered a Feminist Novel.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

* The extract begins two pages into Chapter 36 with the words,
“It’s to do with William, isn’t it?”
It ends about three pages later with,
“... I told him that he was wrong but now I understand.”

N.B.

1. You must include in your answer external contextual material on the nature of the Feminist Novel that is relevant to the text.
2. One quarter of the marks for this question are given for your treatment of the extract.

- (b) In its portrayal of soulless characters who lead damaged, empty lives, *Authenticity* accurately reflects twenty-first-century society.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

* The extract begins just less than two pages into Chapter 2 with the words,
So what had gone wrong this morning?
It ends just over three pages later with,
He thought of the weekend: he saw a blank; he said nothing.

N.B.

1. You must include in your answer contextual material from outside the text and relevant to the question.
2. One quarter of the marks for this question are given for your treatment of the extract.

7 O'Connor: *Classic Irish Short Stories*

Answer either (a) or (b)

- (a) The Irish short story is at its most characteristic when it is melancholic in tone.

By close examination of "Guests of the Nation" by Frank O'Connor, give your response to the above view.

N.B. You must include in your answer external contextual material on the nature of the short story that is relevant to the question.

- (b) The stories provide an unusually critical view of the Catholic Church for the time in which they were written, that is, early-to-mid-twentieth century.

By close examination of "A Wet Day" by Mary Lavin, and with reference to one other appropriately selected story, give your response to the above view.

N.B.

- 1. You must include in your answer contextual material from outside the text and relevant to the question.**
- 2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the story which you select for reference.**

8 Salinger: *The Catcher in the Rye*

Answer either (a) or (b)

- (a) *The Catcher in the Rye* fails as an Historical Novel because it exaggerates the flaws of American society in the 1940s.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

* The extract begins about seven pages into Chapter 17 with the words,
“Well, I hate it...”
It ends about three pages further on with,
“... You don’t see what I mean at all.”

N.B.

1. You must include in your answer external contextual material on the nature of the Historical Novel that is relevant to the question.
2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the extract.

- (b) *The Catcher in the Rye* presents Holden’s rebellion against the popular culture of 1940s America and can, therefore, be judged as a Social Protest Novel.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

* The extract begins just over four pages into Chapter 10 with the words,
“Wudga say?” she said. She wasn’t listening to me, even.
It goes on to the end of the chapter.

N.B.

1. You must include in your answer external contextual material on the nature of the Social Protest Novel that is relevant to the question.
2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the given extract.

9 Trevor: *Collected Short Stories*

Answer either (a) or (b)

- (a) The short story is a limited form and can, therefore, have little lasting impact on the reader.

By close examination of “Mr M^cNamara”, and with reference to one other appropriately selected short story, give your response to the above view.

N.B.

- 1. You must include in your answer external contextual material on the nature of the short story that is relevant to the question.**
- 2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the story which you select for reference.**

- (b) Trevor’s stories do not accurately reflect social attitudes in Ireland.

By close examination of “An Evening with Joe Dempsey”, and with reference to one other appropriately selected short story, give your response to the above view.

N.B.

- 1. You must include in your answer contextual material from outside the text and relevant to the question.**
- 2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the story which you select for reference.**

10 Walker: *The Color Purple*

Answer either (a) or (b)

- (a) As a Feminist Novel, *The Color Purple* glorifies the lesbian relationship between Celie and Shug.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

* The extract is all of letter 47, which begins with the words,

Dear God,
Mr. _____ and Grady gone off in the car together.

N.B.

1. You must include in your answer external contextual material on the nature of the Feminist Novel that is relevant to the question.
2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the extract.

- (b) *The Color Purple* gives an historically reliable account of both colonisation in the early twentieth century and the native African response.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, discuss your response to the above view.

* The extract is all of letter 65, which begins with the words,

Dearest Celie,
I meant to write you in time for Easter, but it was not a good time for me and I did not want to burden you with any distressing news.

N.B.

1. You must include in your answer contextual material from outside the text and relevant to the question.
2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the extract.

11 Wharton: *The Age of Innocence*

Answer either (a) or (b)

- (a) *The Age of Innocence* gives only a very limited view of American social realities in the later years of the nineteenth century.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point, and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

*

The extract begins with the opening words of the novel,

On a January evening of the early seventies...

and ends about four or five pages later with,

He instinctively felt that in this respect it would be troublesome – and also rather bad form – to strike out for himself.

N.B.

1. You must include in your answer contextual material from outside the text and relevant to the question.
2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the extract.

- (b) Julius Beaufort is an anti-hero, but the reader finds him attractive and interesting.

Using the given extract* as a starting-point and with reference to other appropriately selected parts of the novel, give your response to the above view.

*

The extract begins at the start of Chapter 3 with the words,

It invariably happened in the same way.

It ends about four pages later with,

... Archer found Mrs Welland and her daughter standing near the ball-room door.

N.B.

1. You must include in your answer external contextual material about the anti-hero that is relevant to the question.
2. One quarter of the marks for this question are available for your treatment of the extract.

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