

This unit targets the following Assessment Objectives: AO1 and AO4 and also assesses AO3 and AO5ii.

Answer ONE question.

1. de BERNIÈRES: *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* (Minerva or Vintage)

Either:

- (a) Pelagia writes to Mandras, '... I have had to unpick the bedcover again because it was coming out even worse than before. I don't know what's wrong with me.'

A critic has commented: 'Despite the apparent security of the initial love between Mandras and Pelagia, there are also early hints of what is to come.'

Explore de Bernières's varied presentation of the relationship between Mandras and Pelagia, in the light of this quotation and critical remark. You should include in your answer an examination of Chapter 16, 'Letters to Mandras at the Front', and **at least one other** appropriate passage of your choice.

Or:

- (b) 'Despite the horrifying visions of war presented by a variety of narrative voices and techniques, *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* leaves the reader with an optimistic, if sentimentalised, view of human nature.'

How far do you agree with this comment? You should include in your answer an examination of **two or more** appropriate passages of your choice.

(Total 50 marks)

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Q1



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2. **ATWOOD:** *Alias Grace* (Virago)

Either:

- (a) ‘“This is a fully scientific procedure,” says Dr. DuPont.’

What is your response to Atwood’s presentation of scientific procedures in the novel as a whole, in the light of this statement? You should include in your answer an examination of Chapter 48 and **at least one other** appropriate passage of your choice.

Or:

- (b) ‘In *Alias Grace*, Atwood creates situations in which women, burdened by the rules and inequalities of nineteenth-century society, discover that they must reconstruct themselves as brave and self-reliant in order to survive.’

How far do you agree with this assessment of how women are presented in the novel? You should include in your answer an examination of **two or more** appropriate passages of your choice.

Q2

(Total 50 marks)

3. **MURDOCH:** *The Bell* (Vintage)

Either:

- (a) James says: ‘The more I think of it, Michael, the more I’m sure we made a mistake when we took him in.’

A critic has commented that: ‘*The Bell* provides considerable justification of James’s moral code by its presentation of the damage done to Imber by Nick.’

In the light of the quotation and comment, what is your response to Murdoch’s presentation of Nick’s role in the Imber community? You should include in your answer an examination of the latter part of Chapter 4 (from ‘“Will you take him down?”’ said Michael’ on page 49, to the end of the chapter) and **at least one other** passage of your choice.

Or:

- (b) ‘Although Michael knows that “he was what the world calls perverted”, he is nevertheless presented more sympathetically than the married couples, the Greenfields and the Straffords.’

What is your response to Murdoch’s exploration of sexual morality, in the light of this comment? You should include in your answer an examination of **two or more** appropriate passages of your choice.

Q3

(Total 50 marks)



<p>4. FORSTER: <i>Howards End</i> (Penguin)</p> <p>Either:</p> <p>(a) ‘The Wilcoxes, at their best, are industrious, neat and decisive; at their worst, and we almost invariably see them at their worst in <i>Howards End</i>, they are hypocritical and emotionally dishonest.’</p> <p>How far do you agree with this assessment of Forster’s presentation of the Wilcoxes? You should include in your answer an examination of Chapters XXI, XXII and at least one other passage of your choice.</p> <p>Or:</p> <p>(b) ‘Margaret and Helen finally destroy all the men with whom they come into contact so that, in spite of the superficially happy ending, the fusion of masculine and feminine values remains an unfulfilled dream.’</p> <p>How far do you agree with this assessment of the novel? You should include in your answer an examination of two or more appropriate passages of your choice.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Total 50 marks)</p>	<p>Leave blank</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q4</p>
<p>5. ACHEBE: <i>Things Fall Apart</i> (Heinemann)</p> <p>Either:</p> <p>(a) ‘<i>Things Fall Apart</i> is both a testament to the vitality of a traditional African way of life and a lament for its inevitable destruction by contact with a foreign culture.’</p> <p>In the light of the above comment, what is your response to the ways in which Achebe presents Igbo culture? You should include in your answer an examination of the latter part of Chapter Nineteen, from ‘Okonkwo never did things by halves.’ (page 145), the whole of Chapter Twenty, and at least one other appropriate passage of your choice.</p> <p>Or:</p> <p>(b) ‘Communal activities and values are most important to the Igbo people; individualism brings isolation, separation and catastrophe.’</p> <p>What is your response to the ways in which Achebe presents and contrasts ‘communal activities’ and ‘individualism’ in <i>Things Fall Apart</i>? You should include in your answer an examination of two or more appropriate passages of your choice.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Total 50 marks)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Q5</p>





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TOTAL FOR PAPER: 50 MARKS

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Assessment Objectives for Unit 4b (6394/02): Modern Prose:

- AO1** communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to literary study, using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression
- AO4** articulate independent opinions and judgements, informed by different interpretations of literary texts by other readers
- AO3** show detailed understanding of the ways in which writers' choices of form, structure and language shape meanings
- AO5ii** evaluate the significance of cultural, historical and other contextual influences on literary texts and study.

