

General Certificate of Education  
June 2006  
Advanced Level Examination



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
(SPECIFICATION A)  
Unit 4 Comparative Literary Studies**

**NTA4**

Monday 12 June 2006 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or 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 NTA4.
- Answer **one** question on two linked texts.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

**Information**

- The texts prescribed for this paper **may** be taken into the examination room.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 150.
- All questions carry 150 marks.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

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Answer **one** question.

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*The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale* – Geoffrey Chaucer  
**and**  
*Death of a Salesman* – Arthur Miller

**EITHER**

- 1 Compare Chaucer's narrative techniques in *The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale* with the dramatic techniques used by Miller in *Death of a Salesman*.

**OR**

- 2 Compare the ways in which both the Pardoner and Willy are presented as 'salesmen'.

You should write in detail about **one** or **two** sections from *The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale* and **one** or **two** sections from *Death of a Salesman*.

*The Dead Sea Poems* – Simon Armitage  
**and**  
*Mean Time* – Carol Ann Duffy

**OR**

- 3 Compare the ways in which Armitage and Duffy explore ideas about language in their poems.

You should write in detail about **one** or **two** poems by each poet.

**OR**

- 4 Compare the presentation of religion in Armitage's 'From the Middle Distance' and Duffy's 'Confession'.

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*King Lear* – William Shakespeare  
**and**  
*A Thousand Acres* – Jane Smiley

**OR**

- 5 Compare Shakespeare’s presentation of Regan with Smiley’s presentation of Rose.

**OR**

- 6 Compare the ways in which Shakespeare and Smiley create a sense of place in *King Lear* and *A Thousand Acres*.

You should write in detail about **one** or **two** sections from each text.

*The Shipping News* – E. Annie Proulx  
**and**  
*Snow Falling on Cedars* – David Guterson

**OR**

- 7 Compare the ways in which Proulx and Guterson use descriptions of nature in *The Shipping News* and *Snow Falling on Cedars*.

**OR**

- 8 Compare the ways in which Proulx and Guterson use dialogue.

You should refer in detail to:

the section of *The Shipping News* beginning ‘There was nothing to say’ and ending ‘“It endured more than that,” said Billy.’ (Chapter 20 ‘Gaze Island’, pages 160 – 163 in the recommended edition).

**and**

the section of *Snow Falling on Cedars* beginning ‘Alvin Hooks began his cross-examination...’ and ending ‘“I’m at a loss with all of this, I really am.”’ (pages 324 – 327 in the recommended edition).

**Turn over ►**

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*Wuthering Heights* – Emily Brontë  
**and**  
*The French Lieutenant's Woman* – John Fowles

**OR**

- 9 Compare Brontë's presentation of Nelly Dean with Fowles's presentation of Sam Farrow.

**OR**

- 10 Compare the ways in which Brontë and Fowles use descriptive detail.

You should refer in detail to:

the section of *Wuthering Heights* beginning 'Cathy stayed at Thrushcross Grange five weeks...' and ending ' "...have you forgotten me?"' (Chapter VII, pages 53 – 54 in the recommended edition).

**and**

the section of *The French Lieutenant's Woman* beginning 'Ernestina had exactly the right face for her age...' and ending '...for the rest of the world as well.' (pages 31 – 32 in the recommended edition).

*The Woman in White* – Wilkie Collins  
**and**  
*An Evil Cradling* – Brian Keenan

**OR**

- 11 Compare the ways in which Collins and Keenan use descriptive detail.

You should refer in detail to:

the section of *The Woman in White* beginning 'The water-colour drawing that I made...' and ending '...dwells in mine.' (pages 39 – 41 in the recommended edition).

**and**

the section of *An Evil Cradling* beginning 'Each day became another day...' and ending '...a failed escape attempt.' (pages 41 – 42 in the recommended edition).

**OR**

- 12 Compare the ways in which Collins and Keenan convey the experience of suffering.

You should write in detail about **one** or **two** sections from each narrative.

*The Whitsun Weddings* – Philip Larkin  
**and**  
*Ariel* – Sylvia Plath

**OR**

- 13 Compare the ways in which Larkin and Plath explore ideas about death in their poetry.

**OR**

- 14 Compare Larkin's 'Love Songs in Age' with Plath's 'Letter in November'.

*The Perfect Storm* – Sebastian Junger  
**and**  
*Life of Pi* – Yann Martel

**OR**

- 15 Compare the ways in which Junger and Martel explore ideas about human endurance in *The Perfect Storm* and *Life of Pi*.

**OR**

- 16 Compare the ways in which Junger and Martel open their narratives.

You should refer in detail to:

the opening section of *The Perfect Storm* from 'ONE mid-winter day...' and ending '...and then heads out the door.' (pages 3 – 9 in the recommended edition).

**and**

Chapter 1 of *Life of Pi*.

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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