



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2009

## English Literature (Specification A)

## LTA1C

Unit 1 Texts in Context

Option C: The Struggle for Identity in Modern Literature

Wednesday 14 January 2009 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 LTA1C.
- 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.

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**SECTION A: CONTEXTUAL LINKING****Answer Question 1.**

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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.

- 1** Read the following extract carefully. It is taken from *It's a Long Way from Penny Apples* (2001) by Bill Cullen, an autobiographical account of growing up in an inner city slum in Dublin in the 1940s and 50s. In this extract the young Bill (called Liam by his family) is asking his mother and Molly Darcy, his grandmother, about 'Maggies' who work in a laundry run by nuns.

How does the writer present his thoughts and feelings about the struggle for identity?

How far is the extract similar to and different from your wider reading about the struggle for identity in modern literature? You should consider the writers' choices of form, structure and language. (45 marks)

Extract is not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

**Turn over for Section B**

**Turn over ►**

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**SECTION B: POETRY**

Answer **one** question from this section.

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**EITHER***And Still I Rise – Maya Angelou*

- 2 “Angelou always breaks through the barriers of race and class.”

How far do you agree that this view applies to the collection *And Still I Rise*?

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

**OR**

- 3 How far do you agree that ‘Phenomenal Woman’ is of central importance to the collection as a whole?

In your answer you should consider form, structure and language, as well as subject matter. (45 marks)

**OR***The World’s Wife – Carol Ann Duffy*

- 4 *The World’s Wife* has been criticised for using simplistic language and overstated imagery.

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 across the collection as a whole. (45 marks)

**OR**

- 5 Duffy has said that ‘Anne Hathaway’ is one of her favourite poems.

How far do you feel that this poem is typical of the way Duffy presents relationships between men and women in the collection as a whole?

In your answer you should consider form, structure and language, as well as subject matter. (45 marks)

**OR**

*Skirrid Hill – Owen Sheers*

- 6 “It is Sheers’ use of striking and unusual imagery which produces the most powerful effects.”

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 across the collection as a whole. *(45 marks)*

**OR**

- 7 How far do you agree with the view that ‘Border Country’ is the key to this collection?

In your answer you should consider form, structure and language, as well as subject matter. *(45 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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Source: Cullen, B. (2001) *It's a Long Way from Penny Apples*, Mercier Press.

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