



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2011

## English Literature (Specification A)

## LTA1B

Unit 1 Texts in Context

Option B: World War One Literature

Monday 17 January 2011 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 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 LTA1B.
- 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.

**Question 1**

0	1
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Read the following extract carefully. It is taken from the autobiography of Bertrand Russell (1876–1970) which was published in 1967–1969. Russell was a prominent philosopher and mathematician as well as an anti-war activist. As a result of his pacifist protests he was dismissed from his post at Cambridge University in 1916 and later imprisoned. In this account he explains how he became a pacifist.

How does the writer present his thoughts and feelings about World War One?

How far is the extract similar to and different from your wider reading in the literature of World War One? You should consider the writers' choices of form, structure and language, as well as subject matter. (45 marks)

I became filled with despairing tenderness towards the young men who were to be slaughtered, and with rage against all the statesmen of Europe. For several weeks I felt that if I should happen to meet Asquith or Grey I should be unable to refrain from murder. Gradually, however, these personal feelings disappeared. They were swallowed up by the magnitude of the tragedy, and by the realisation of the popular forces which the statesmen merely let loose.

In the midst of this, I was myself tortured by patriotism. The successes of the Germans before the Battle of the Marne were horrible to me. I desired the defeat of Germany as ardently as any retired colonel. Love of England is very nearly the strongest emotion I possess, and in appearing to set it aside at such a moment, I was making a very difficult renunciation. Nevertheless, I never had a moment's doubt as to what I must do. I have at times been paralysed by scepticism, at times I have been cynical, at other times indifferent, but when the War came I felt as if I heard the voice of God. I knew that it was my business to protest, however futile protest might be. My whole nature was involved. As a lover of truth, the national propaganda of all the belligerent nations sickened me. As a lover of civilisation, the return to barbarism appalled me. As a man of thwarted parental feeling, the massacre of the young wrung my heart. I hardly supposed that much good would come of opposing the War, but I felt that for the honour of human nature those who were not swept off their feet should show that they stood firm. After seeing troop trains departing from Waterloo, I used to have strange visions of London as a place of unreality. I used in imagination to see the bridges collapse and sink, and the whole great city vanish like a morning mist. Its inhabitants began to seem like hallucinations, and I would wonder whether the world in which I thought I had lived was a mere product of my own febrile nightmares. Such moods, however, were brief, and were put an end to by the need of work.

from Volume II of Bertrand Russell's *Autobiography*

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**Section B: Poetry**

Answer **one** question from this section.

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***Up the Line to Death* – ed. Brian Gardner****EITHER****Question 2**

0	2
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 In his introduction Brian Gardner describes the Home Front view of a soldier's experience as no more than "Lice, cold, hunger, fear, wet and misery".

To what extent do you agree that *Up the Line to Death* presents a narrow range of experience?

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

**OR****Question 3**

0	3
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 Remind yourself of 'Rendezvous' by Alan Seeger.

How far do you agree that this poem presents attitudes to conflict that are typical of this anthology?

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

***Scars Upon My Heart* – ed. Catherine Reilly****OR****Question 4**

0	4
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 "The representation of male views and male voices in these poems is unconvincing and lacks authenticity."

To what extent do you agree with this assessment of the ways in which female poets present male views and male voices in *Scars Upon My Heart*?

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

**OR****Question 5**

0	5
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 How far do you agree that 'He Went for a Soldier' by Ruth Comfort Mitchell is typical of the anthology in the ways in which it presents the victims of warfare?

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

**Turn over ►**

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*The Oxford Book of War Poetry* – ed. Jon Stallworthy

OR

**Question 6**

**0 6**

“The most moving and effective poetry is written by young men who were killed in World War One.”

How far do you agree with this view of the poems in the Stallworthy selection?

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

OR

**Question 7**

**0 7**

“‘my sweet old etcetera’ by E.E. Cummings is unlike any other poem in this selection.”

How far do you agree with this view?

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

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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