



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2011

English Literature (Specification A)

LTA1C

Unit 1 Texts in Context

Option C: The Struggle for Identity in Modern 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 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.

Section A: Contextual Linking

Answer Question 1.

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. Written in March 1963, it is from A.R. Taysom, an officer of the Australian Trade Commissioner Service, to his director. The minute paper outlines nine reasons why the writer believes women should not be appointed as trade commissioners.

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 writer's choices of form, structure and language, as well as subject matter. (45 marks)

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

MINUTE PAPER

THE DIRECTOR:

WOMEN TRADE COMMISSIONERS?

Even after some deliberation, it is difficult to find reasons to support the appointment of women Trade Commissioners.

In countries where publicity media is well developed, such as North America and England and where there are no other major drawbacks, such as the Islamic attitude towards women, a relatively young attractive woman could operate with some effectiveness, in a subordinate capacity. As she would probably be the only woman Assistant Trade Commissioner in the whole area, as other countries employ women in this capacity hardly at all, she could attract a measure of interest and publicity.

If we had an important trade in women's clothing and accessories a woman might promote this more effectively than a man.

Even conceding these points, such an appointee would not stay young and attractive for ever and later on could well become a problem.

It is much easier to find difficulties, some of which spring to mind are:

- (i) Women are not employed, except to an extremely minor degree, as career Trade Commissioners in any known service;
- (ii) It is difficult to visualize them as Trade Commissioners, firstly because they could not mix nearly as freely with businessmen as men do. Most men's clubs, for instance, do not allow women members;

- (iii) Relationships with businessmen would tend to be somewhat formal and guarded on both sides. This would make it more difficult for a woman to obtain information;
- (iv) It is extremely doubtful if a woman could, year after year, under a variety of conditions, stand the fairly severe strains and stresses, mentally and physically, which are part of the life of a Trade Commissioner;
- (v) A man normally has his household run efficiently by his wife, who also looks after much of the entertaining. A woman Trade Commissioner would have all this on top of her normal work;
- (vi) If we engaged single graduates as trainees, most of them would probably marry within five years;
- (vii) If we recruited from the business world, we would have a much smaller field from which to recruit, as the number of women executives in business is quite small;
- (viii) A spinster lady can, and very often does, turn into something of a battleaxe with the passing years. A man usually mellows;
- (ix) A woman would take the place of a man and preclude us from giving practical experience to one male officer. She could marry at any time and be lost to us. She could not be regarded as a long term investment in the same sense as we regard a man.

CONCLUSION

It would seem that the noes have it.

Signature
(A.R. Taysom)

13th MARCH, 1963

P.S. I have since ascertained the following, which, it would seem, only serves to support the foregoing views –

MR. H. PARKINSON, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:

Since their recruitments of trainees are made under the Public Service Act, there is no way of precluding women from applying and, in fact, many more applications are received from women than from men. Some are chosen and all appointments are made on the basis of the quality of their educational achievements. About one woman is appointed to every twelve men. This year one out of sixteen, last year one out of twelve and the previous year, none.

They have to be trained for 18 months before going to their first post. The average marries within five years.

It is a very expensive process, but External Affairs lack courage to slam the door because of parliamentary opinion, pressure groups and so on.

Signature
(A.R. Taysom)

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►

Section B: Poetry

Answer **one** question from this section.

And Still I Rise – Maya Angelou**EITHER****Question 2**

0	2
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 “Angelou’s poetry is haunted by memories of childhood.”

To what extent do you agree with this view?

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

OR**Question 3**

0	3
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 Remind yourself of the poem ‘Just like Job’.

To what extent do you feel that this poem sums up Angelou’s themes and ideas in the collection?

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

The World’s Wife – Carol Ann Duffy**OR****Question 4**

0	4
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 “Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.”

How far do you agree that Duffy presents only angry women in the collection?

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

OR

Question 5

0 5

A critic has said, “The articulate and witty voices heard in ‘The Kray Sisters’ reveal strong women at the height of their power.”

To what extent do you agree that this poem presents the strongest women in the collection?

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

Skirrid Hill – Owen Sheers

OR

Question 6

0 6

A critic has written that Sheers’ techniques are “as clinical as a forensic scientist’s”.

How far do you agree with this view of Sheers’ poetry?

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

Question 7

0 7

Remind yourself of the poem ‘History’.

To what extent do you agree with the view that this poem is the key to the whole 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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