



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2012

# English Literature (Specification A)

# LTA1C

Unit 1 Texts in Context

Option C: The Struggle for Identity in Modern Literature

Thursday 12 January 2012 9.00 am to 11.00 am

**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.

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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 the concluding part of a speech given by Harvey Milk at a dinner for the gay members of the California Democratic Caucus in March 1978. Milk was the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California.

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 in literature about the struggle for identity? You should consider the writers' choices of form, structure and language. (45 marks)

You see there is a major difference – and it remains a vital difference – between a friend and a gay person, a friend in office and a gay person in office. Gay people have been slandered nationwide. We've been tarred and we've been brushed with the picture of pornography. In Dade County, we were accused of child molestation. It's not enough anymore just to have friends represent us. No matter how good that friend may be.

Like every other group, we must be judged by our leaders and by those who are themselves gay, those who are visible. For invisible, we remain in limbo – a myth, a person with no parents, no brothers, no sisters, no friends who are straight, no important positions in employment. A gay person in office can set a tone, can command respect not only from the larger community, but from the young people in our own community who need both examples and hope.

The first gay people we elect must be strong. They must not be content to sit in the back of the bus. They must not be content to accept pabulum<sup>1</sup>. They must be above wheeling and dealing. They must be – for the good of all of us – independent, unbought. The anger and the frustrations that some of us feel is because we are misunderstood, and friends can't feel that anger and frustration. They can sense it in us, but they can't feel it. Because a friend has never gone through what is known as coming out. I will never forget what it was like coming out and having nobody to look up toward. I remember the lack of hope – and our friends can't fulfil that.

And the young gay people in the Altoona, Pennsylvanias and the Richmond, Minnesotas who are coming out and hear Anita Bryant<sup>2</sup> on television and her story. The only thing they have to look forward to is hope. And you have to give them hope. Hope for a better world, hope for a better tomorrow, hope for a better place to come to if the pressures at home are too great. Hope that all will be all right. Without hope, not only gays, but the blacks, the seniors,

the handicapped, the us'es, the us'es will give up. And if you help elect to the central committee and more offices, more gay people, that gives a green light to all who feel disenfranchised, a green light to move forward. It means hope to a nation that has given up, because if a gay person makes it, the doors are open to everyone.

So if there is a message I have to give, it is that if I've found one overriding thing about my personal election, it's the fact that if a gay person can be elected, it's a green light. And you and you and you, you have to give people hope. Thank you very much.

<sup>1</sup> pabulum – material that is unsatisfying or worthless

<sup>2</sup> Anita Bryant – an American singer, former beauty queen and gay rights opponent

**Turn over for Section B**

**Turn over ►**

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**Section B: Poetry**

Answer **one** question from this section.

In your response to this section of the paper you should consider the form, structure and language of the poems you choose to write about, as well as their subject matter.

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

0	2
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In her dedication to the collection, Angelou acknowledges the importance of laughing and crying to “make life bearable”.

To what extent are laughter and tears balanced in Angelou’s poetry?

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

**OR****Question 3**

0	3
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‘Thank You, Lord’ is the last poem of the collection.

How far do you feel that this poem forms an appropriate conclusion to *And Still I Rise*? (45 marks)

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

0	4
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“Change is the most important theme in Duffy’s poetry.”

How far do you agree with this view in relation to *The World’s Wife*?

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

**OR****Question 5**

0	5
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Mrs Beast’s confident boast, “I had the language, girls”, suggests this poem should be the triumphant conclusion to the collection.

To what extent do you agree? (45 marks)

**Skirrid Hill – Owen Sheers**

OR

**Question 6**

0	6
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Sheers has been described as “a poet fascinated by strong women”.

How far do you agree with this claim?

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

OR

**Question 7**

0	7
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In addition to the forty-one poems in this collection, Sheers has given his reader the poem ‘Last Act’ as a preface.

To what extent does ‘Last Act’ provide an appropriate introduction to the collection? *(45 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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