

AS ENGLISH LITERATURE B

Paper 2A Literary genres: Prose and Poetry: Aspects of tragedy

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book
- a copy of the set text(s) you have studied. These texts must **not** be annotated and must **not** contain additional notes or materials.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7716/2A.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- In your response you need to:
 - analyse carefully the writers' methods
 - explore the contexts of the texts you are writing about
 - explore the connections across the texts you have studied
 - explore different interpretations of your texts.

Section A

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either

0	1
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John Keats selection

Explore the view that ‘in Keats’ tragic stories women can be admired regardless of whether they are villains or victims’.

You must refer to *Lamia* and **at least one** other poem.

In your answer you need to analyse closely Keats’ authorial methods and include comments on the extract below.

[25 marks]

From *Lamia*

She was a gordian shape of dazzling hue,
Vermilion-spotted, golden, green, and blue;
Striped like a zebra, freckled like a pard,
Eyed like a peacock, and all crimson barred;
And full of silver moons, that, as she breathed,
Dissolved, or brighter shone, or interwreathed
Their lustres with the gloomier tapestries –
So rainbow-sided, touched with miseries,
She seemed, at once, some penanced lady elf,
Some demon’s mistress, or the demon’s self.
Upon her crest she wore a wannish fire
Sprinkled with stars, like Ariadne’s tiar;
Her head was serpent, but ah, bitter-sweet!
She had a woman’s mouth with all its pearls complete;
And for her eyes – what could such eyes do there
But weep, and weep, that they were born so fair,
As Proserpine still weeps for her Sicilian air?
Her throat was serpent, but the words she spake
Came, as through bubbling honey, for Love’s sake,
And thus – while Hermes on his pinions lay,
Like a stooped falcon ere he takes his prey –

or

0	2
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Thomas Hardy selection

Explore the view that 'in Hardy's poetry, it is women who cause suffering and unhappiness'.

You must refer to *The Newcomer's Wife* and **at least one** other poem.

In your answer you need to analyse closely Hardy's authorial methods and include comments on the poem below.

[25 marks]

The Newcomer's Wife

He paused on the sill of a door ajar
That screened a lively liquor-bar,
For the name had reached him through the door
Of her he had married the week before.

'We called her the Hack of the Parade;
But she was discreet in the games she played;
If slightly worn, she's pretty yet,
And gossips, after all, forget:

'And he knows nothing of her past;
I am glad the girl's in luck at last;
Such ones, though stale to native eyes,
Newcomers snatch at as a prize.'

'Yes, being a stranger he sees her blent
Of all that's fresh and innocent,
Nor dreams how many a love-campaign
She had enjoyed before his reign!'

That night there was the splash of a fall
Over the slimy harbour-wall:
They searched, and at the deepest place
Found him with crabs upon his face.

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

or

0	3
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Poetry Anthology: Tragedy

Explore the view that in the *Poetry Anthology: Tragedy* the tragic figures are ordinary, unexceptional people.

You must refer to *Miss Gee* and **at least one** other poem.

In your answer you need to analyse closely the poets' authorial methods and include comments on the extract below.

[25 marks]

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Section B

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either

0 4 *The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald

Explore the view that 'George Wilson is not a victim: he is weak, deceiving and vengeful'.

Remember to include in your answer relevant analysis of Fitzgerald's authorial methods.
[25 marks]

or

0 5 *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* – Thomas Hardy

Explore the view that journeys undertaken by Tess and those close to her always intensify her suffering.

Remember to include in your answer relevant analysis of Hardy's authorial methods.
[25 marks]

or

0 6 *The Remains of the Day* – Kazuo Ishiguro

Explore the view that Stevens is a tragic victim whom readers pity.

Remember to include in your answer relevant analysis of Ishiguro's authorial methods.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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