

General Certificate of Education
January 2004
Advanced Level Examination



ENGLISH LITERATURE (SPECIFICATION B)
Unit 6 Exploring Texts

LTB6

Thursday 29 January 2004 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm

In addition to this paper you will require:

- a 12-page answer book;
- your copy of the Pre-Release Material.

Time allowed: 3 hours (including 30 minutes' reading time)

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or 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 LTB6.
- Answer **both** questions.

Information

- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- Both questions carry 40 marks.

Advice

- You should divide your time equally between both questions.

The Gothic in Literature

Answer **both** questions.

30 minutes are allocated in the examination to the reading and consideration of the material for this paper.

You may make notes during this time if you wish.

In Question 1 you will be tested on your ability to:

- respond with knowledge and understanding to literary texts of different types and periods, exploring and commenting on relationships and comparisons between literary texts;
- show detailed understanding of the ways in which writers' choices of form, structure and language shape meanings.

- 1 Compare and contrast the ways in which Mervyn Peake, in the extract from *Titus Groan*, and Edgar Allan Poe, in *The Masque of the Red Death*, present their imagined worlds.

(40 marks)

In Question 2 you will be tested on your ability to:

- communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to literary study, using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression;
- articulate independent opinions and judgements, informed by different interpretations of literary texts by other readers;
- evaluate the significance of cultural, historical and other contextual influences on literary texts and study.

- 2 Items Two, Three and Four are concerned with aspects of The Gothic. In the light of your reading of this material, write about:

- the critical viewpoints on Edgar Allan Poe (Item Two) and how far you find them applicable to *The Masque of the Red Death*;
- the characteristics of The Gothic described in Item Three and how far they can usefully be applied to the extract from *Titus Groan* and to *The Masque of the Red Death*;
- any connections you can find between the way of life described in “Look black in anger” (Item Four) and the worlds depicted in the extract from *Titus Groan* and in *The Masque of the Red Death*.

(40 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

The following extract is taken from *Titus Groan*, a novel by Mervyn Peake (1911–1968). It is preceded by some background information about *Titus Groan*.

- The novel was published in 1946; it became the first of a trilogy with the publication of *Gormenghast* (1950) and *Titus Alone* (1959).
- The trilogy is a Gothic Fantasy about the life of the 77th Earl of Groan, Titus, who lives in the decaying castle of Gormenghast.
- Anthony Burgess, in his introduction to the King Penguin Edition of *Titus Groan*, described the novel as ‘closer to ancient pagan romance than to traditional British Fiction’. He went on to write of it as ‘a work of the closed imagination, in which a world parallel to our own is presented in almost paranoiac denseness of detail’.
- ‘The Dwellers’ are the peasants who live outside the walls of Gormenghast.
- Nannie Slagg is an old nurse who takes over the care of the newly-born Titus.
- Swelter is the chef at Gormenghast.
- The novel contains many grotesque characters; one of the oddest is Steerpike. He starts off as a kitchen boy but has revolutionary ideas, believing that ‘equality is everything’.
- Just before this extract, Steerpike has escaped imprisonment by Flay, the Earl’s servant, and has climbed to the rooftops.

TURN OVER FOR EXTRACT

Turn over ►

Extract from *Titus Groan* by Mervyn Peake, Vintage/Ebury (A Division of Random House Group) 1946 – not reproduced here, due to third-party copyright constraints.

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE

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Source: MERVYN PEAKE, *Titus Groan* (Random House)

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