

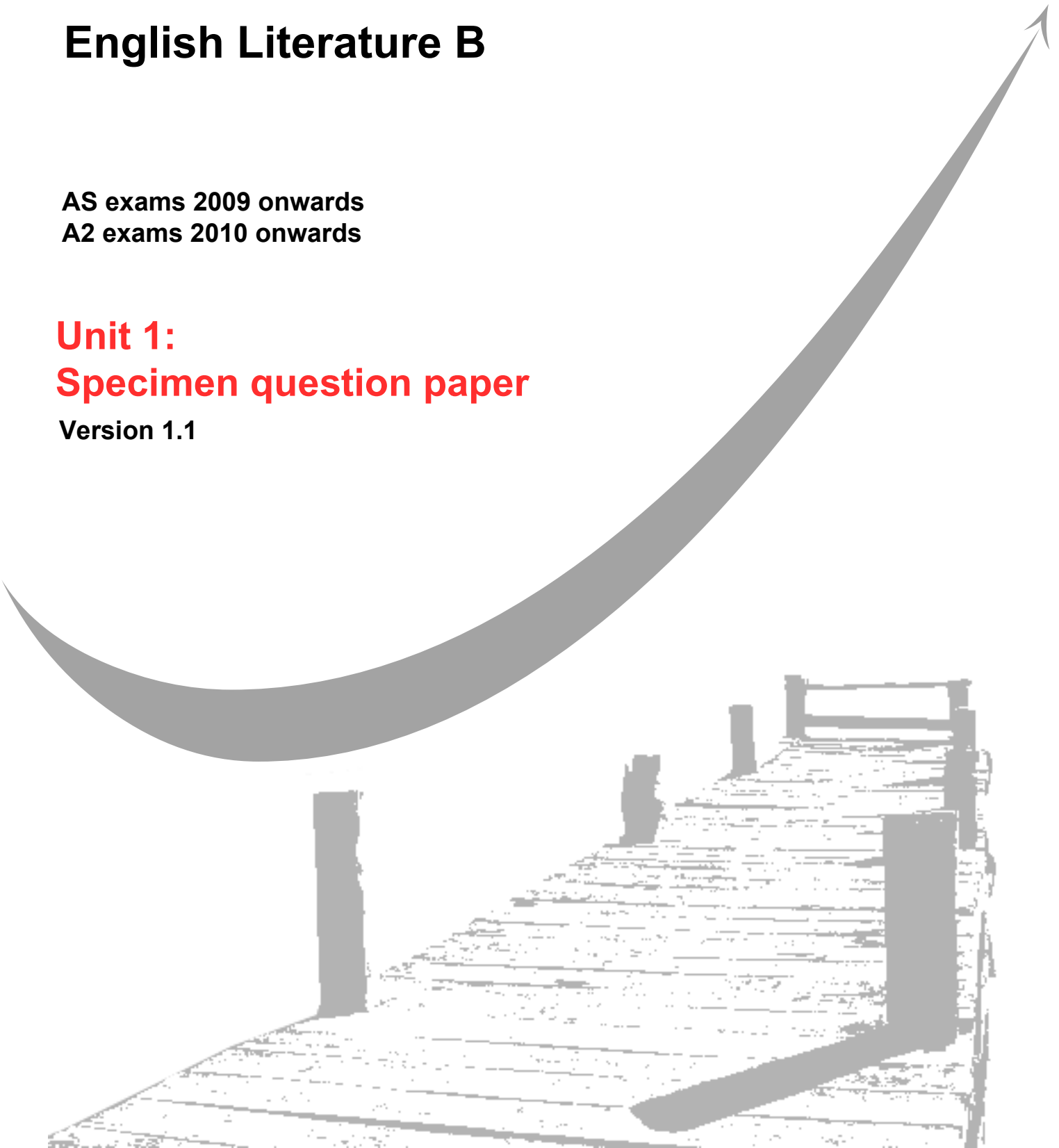
GCE
AS and A Level

English Literature B

AS exams 2009 onwards
A2 exams 2010 onwards

Unit 1: **Specimen question paper**

Version 1.1



ENGLISH LITERATURE (SPECIFICATION B)
Unit 1 Aspects of Narrative

LITB1

Version 1.1

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 2 hours

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.
- Answer **two** questions. Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- In your response to this paper you must write about **four** different texts, **two** prose and **two** poetry tests. At least **one** of the prose texts you write about must have been written after 1990.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The texts prescribed for this paper **may** be taken into the examination room.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 84.
- There are 42 marks for each question.
- In your response to this paper you must write about 4 different texts.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

Advice

- You are advised to spend **one** hour on Section A and **one** hour on Section B.

SECTION A

Answer one question from this Section. You must answer **both** parts of the question.

EITHER

(named poems) – W. H. Auden

- 1 (a) Write about Auden's poetic method in '1st September 1939'.
(21 marks)
- (b) How do you respond to the idea that Auden's poems are about 'despair illuminated by a few sparks of hope'?
(21 marks)

OR

(named poems) - Robert Browning

- 2 (a) Write about the ways Browning tells the story of 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' in Section VII (7) of the poem.
(21 marks)
- (b) 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' is subtitled *A Child's Story*. Is it simply a child's story?
(21 marks)

OR

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner - Samuel Taylor Coleridge

- 3 (a) How does Coleridge tell the ancient mariner's tale in Part III of the poem?
(21 marks)
- (b) 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' is an exploration of the unconscious mind. How do you respond to this reading of the poem?
(21 marks)

OR

(named poems) - Thomas Hardy

- 4 (a) What methods does Hardy use to create settings in 'The Darkling Thrush' and 'At Castle Boterel'?

(21 marks)

- (b) 'Hardy's poems reveal a morbid fascination with death.' Write about this view.

(21 marks)

OR

(named poems) - John Keats

- 5 (a) Look again at the first 46 lines of 'Lamia' and write about how Keats creates reader interest in the opening to his narrative.

(21 marks)

- (b) 'Beauty and evil are never far apart in Keats's poetry.' How far do you agree with this view?

(21 marks)

OR

(named poems) - Christina Rossetti

- 6 (a) Write about the ways Rossetti tells the story in 'Winter: My Secret'.

(21 marks)

- (b) 'Rossetti's poems are an odd mixture of revelation and secrecy.' Write about 'Winter: My Secret' and 'Maude Clare' in the light of this comment.

(21 marks)

OR

(named poems) - Alfred Tennyson

7 (a) Look again at 'Ulysses' and write about Tennyson's narrative methods.

(21 marks)

(b) How far do you agree with the view that the character of Ulysses is far from heroic?

(21 marks)

OR

Birdsong - Sebastian Faulks

8 (a) Write about how Faulks tells the story in the first section of Part 5 (pages 393-398 Vintage Edition).

(21 marks)

(b) How far do you agree with the view that 'what is important about *Birdsong* is the way Faulks places his war story in history'?

(21 marks)

OR

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time - Mark Haddon

9 (a) Write about Haddon's method of telling the story in Chapter 107.

(21 marks)

(b) What uses does Haddon make of animals in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*?

(21 marks)

OR

Small Island - Andrea Levy

10 (a) How does Levy tell the story in Chapter 14?

(21 marks)

(b) How do you respond to the view that the presentation of Americans in *Small Island* is far from flattering?

(21 marks)

OR

The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini

11 (a) Write about the ways Hosseini opens the story in Chapter 1.

(21 marks)

(b) Some readers see the title *The Kite Runner* as representing a journey. What meanings can you find in the title of the text?

(21 marks)

OR

Enduring Love - Ian McEwan

12 (a) Compare the narrative of Appendix I with the narrative of Appendix II.

(21 marks)

(b) How do you respond to the claim that ultimately *Enduring Love* is too contrived?

(21 marks)

OR

The God of Small Things - Arundhati Roy

13 (a) How does Roy tell the story in Chapter 10?

(21 marks)

(b) ‘The perspectives of children heighten the tragedy and pain of *The God of Small Things*.’ What do you think of this view?

(21 marks)

OR

Digging to America - Anne Tyler

14 (a) Write about the ways Tyler tells the story in Chapter 10.

(21 marks)

(b) Some readers think that children are important to the structural design of *Digging to America*. What do you think is important about the way Tyler uses children in the novel?

(21 marks)

OR

The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald

15 (a) Write about the ways that Fitzgerald tells the story in Chapter 7.

(21 marks)

(b) ‘*The Great Gatsby* is a sordid tale of deception, adultery and murder.’ How do you respond to this view of the novel?

(21 marks)

OR

Dubliners – James Joyce

16 (a) Write about the ways that Joyce tells the story in ‘The Sisters’.

(21 marks)

(b) To what extent are family relationships in *Dubliners* unhappy? Refer to ‘The Sisters’ and **one** other story in your answer.

(21 marks)

OR

Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen

17 (a) How does Austen tell the story in Chapter 19?

(21 marks)

(b) What importance does Mr Collins have in the whole of *Pride and Prejudice*?

(21 marks)

OR

Great Expectations – Charles Dickens

18 (a) How does Dickens tell the story in Chapter 4?

(21 marks)

(b) Some readers value Mrs Joe as an eccentric comic creation; others see her role as more complex. What do you think of Mrs Joe’s character and role in the whole of *Great Expectations*?

(21 marks)

END OF SECTION A

TURN OVER FOR SECTION B

Turn Over ►

SECTION B

Answer one question from this Section.

EITHER

19 Write about the importance of places in the telling of the narratives in three texts that you have studied.

(42 marks)

OR

20 Write about the ways that writers aim to make the beginnings of their texts exciting. Refer to three texts you have studied.

(42 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions on this page

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