

This unit targets the following Assessment Objectives: AO1 and AO4 and also assesses AO3 and AO5ii.

Answer ONE question.

1. DE BERNIÈRES: *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* (Minerva)

Either:

- (a) 'Mandras's personal tragedy is summed up by his account of the experiences he recalls in Chapter 22: "I have been to war, and it has created a chasm between me and those who have not;"'

How far do you agree with this assessment of de Bernières's presentation of Mandras as a tragic character in the novel as a whole?

In your answer you should include an examination of Chapter 22, 'Mandras Behind the Veil' and **at least one other** appropriate passage of your choice.

Or:

- (b) 'The epic quality of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* derives from de Bernières's success in presenting the fates of individuals on the grandest of scales.'

Do you agree that de Bernières succeeds in achieving this epic scale in his novel?

In your answer you should include an examination of **two or more** appropriate passages of your choice.

Q1

(Total 50 marks)



2. **ATWOOD:** *Alias Grace* (Virago)

Either:

- (a) ‘At the end of the novel, Dr Jordan’s fate is ironically contrasted with Grace’s reversal of fortune. Her moral and intellectual victory over him seems complete.’

What is your response to Atwood’s presentation of the nature of Grace’s relationship with Simon, in the light of this critical comment?

In your answer you should include an examination of Chapter 53 and **at least one other** appropriate passage of your choice.

Or:

- (b) ‘Grace’s assessments of the men who represent authority are presented in order to remind the reader of nineteenth-century gender and class inequalities, rather than to evoke sympathy for Grace herself.’

In the light of this comment, what is your response to the ways in which Atwood uses Grace’s voice to present authority in the novel as a whole?

In your answer you should include an examination of **two or more** appropriate passages of your choice.

(Total 50 marks)

Q2

3. **MURDOCH:** *The Bell* (Vintage)

Either:

- (a) ‘The peacefulness of both the natural world and that of the humans is threatened by undercurrents of conflict and even violence.’

How far do you agree with this view of Murdoch’s presentation of life in the country?

You should include in your answer an examination of the latter part of Chapter 8, starting at page 122: “Disembarked, they began to trail along to the right across the grass”, and **at least one other** appropriate passage of your choice.

Or:

- (b) ‘As twenty-first century readers, we see the characters of *The Bell* through the minds of Michael, Dora and Toby. This inevitably influences our responses to Paul, Nick and Catherine.’

How far do you agree?

In your answer you should include an examination of **two or more** appropriate passages of your choice.

(Total 50 marks)

Q3



4. **FORSTER:** *Howards End* (Penguin)

Either:

- (a) ‘Leonard’s aspirational longing, “Oh, to acquire culture! ... But it would take one years.” is a clear demonstration of how culture brings the middle class together and divides it.’

In the light of this view, what is your response to the varied ways in which Forster presents culture in *Howards End*?

In your answer you should include an examination of the opening of Chapter V (up to ‘I do hope that you’ll come in and have some tea.’ pages 44–53) and **at least one other** appropriate passage of your choice.

Or:

- (b) ‘Forster’s presentation of relationships between women and men in *Howards End* is only successful when the connections go badly wrong.’

What is your response to this critical assessment?

In your answer you should include an examination of **two or more** appropriate passages of your choice.

Q4

(Total 50 marks)

5. **ACHEBE:** *Things Fall Apart* (Heinemann)

Either:

- (a) ‘Central to Achebe’s presentation of Ibo culture is the assumption that the most important relationship is that between father and son.’

How far do you agree?

In your answer you should include an examination of CHAPTER EIGHT and **at least one other** appropriate passage of your choice.

Or:

- (b) ‘Okonkwo insists that the law of the land must be obeyed whilst Obierika asserts, “But if the Oracle said that my son should be killed I would neither dispute it nor be the one to do it.”’

What is your response to Achebe’s varied presentation of different attitudes to laws and the ways in which they are enforced in *Things Fall Apart*?

In your answer you should include an examination of **at least two** appropriate passages of your choice.

Q5

(Total 50 marks)



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TOTAL FOR PAPER: 50 MARKS

END

Assessment Objectives for Unit 4b (6394/02): Modern Prose:

- AO1** communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to literary study, using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression
- AO4** articulate independent opinions and judgements, informed by different interpretations of literary texts by other readers
- AO3** show detailed understanding of the ways in which writers' choices of form, structure and language shape meanings
- AO5ii** evaluate the significance of cultural, historical and other contextual influences on literary texts and study.

