



# English Literature 12

## Resource Exam A

### Exam Booklet



## PART A: MULTIPLE CHOICE

23 multiple-choice questions

Value: 25%

Suggested Time: 20

**INSTRUCTIONS:** For each multiple-choice question, select the **best** answer.

### Literary Selections

1. In *Beowulf*, the Danes try various ways to rid the kingdom of the threat of Grendel. Which of the Danes' tactics does the speaker condemn?
  - A. sleeping elsewhere
  - B. sacrificing to stone gods
  - C. setting a trap for Grendel
  - D. abandoning the mead hall
  
2. In "The Prologue" to *The Canterbury Tales*, why is the speaker critical of the Summoner?
  - A. He blackmails young men.
  - B. He begs from poor widows.
  - C. He keeps a fine stable of horses.
  - D. He sells indulgences to gullible peasants.

3. "Since in a net I seek to hold the wind."

In this line from "Whoso List to Hunt," which device is used?

- A. pun
- B. proverb
- C. epigram
- D. metaphor

4. In "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd," what qualities of the shepherd are suggested by a "honey tongue, a heart of gall"?

- A. He is loving but cruel-hearted.
- B. He is sweet-talking but irritating.
- C. He is persuasive but untrustworthy.
- D. He is romantic but mean-spirited.

5. In Sonnet 130 ("My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun"), why does the speaker think his love "as rare / as any she belied with false compare"?

- A. He favours a real woman over an idealized woman.
- B. He realizes that his love increases with passing age.
- C. He knows that love has the power to soothe all wounds.
- D. He realizes that it is wrong to compare his love with other women.

6. "Then be not coy, but use your time;  
And while ye may, go marry"

Which tradition is evident in these lines from "To the Virgins"?

- A. Romantic
- B. Petrarchan
- C. carpe diem
- D. metaphysical

7. In *Paradise Lost*, what do we learn about Beelzebub?
- A. He acknowledges the supremacy of God.
  - B. He regrets the absence of the other angels.
  - C. He feels the fallen angels should try again to overthrow God.
  - D. He believes the fallen angels can still keep their glory and happiness.

8. What is Swift's real purpose in "A Modest Proposal"?
- A. to protest the oppression of the Irish
  - B. to satirize the habits of the Irish poor
  - C. to poke fun at the English aristocracy
  - D. to object to the number of Catholics in Ireland

9. "Swift to the lock a thousand sprites repair,  
A thousand wings, by turn, blow back the hair"

In these lines from *The Rape of the Lock*, which epic convention is parodied?

- A. epic battle
- B. epic simile
- C. invocation to the muse
- D. supernatural intervention

10. "Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,  
Their homely joys and destiny obscure;  
Nor Grandeur hear, with a disdainful smile,  
The short and simple annals of the poor."

Which device is used in these lines from "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"?

- A. irony
- B. proverb
- C. allegory
- D. personification

11. In "Ode to the West Wind," why does the speaker identify so closely with the west wind?
- A. He knows that both can lift "a wave, a leaf, a cloud".
  - B. He believes both are "tameless, and swift, and proud".
  - C. He laments that they have both fallen "upon the thorns of life".
  - D. He recognizes that both cause others to "tremble and despoil themselves".

12. "When I have fears that I may cease to be  
Before my pen has gleaned my teeming brain"

Which device is contained in these lines from "When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be"?

- A. caesura
  - B. tetrameter
  - C. assonance
  - D. internal rhyme
13. "Most blameless is he, centered in the sphere  
Of common duties, decent not to fail  
In offices of tenderness ... "

In these lines from "Ulysses," what does Ulysses suggest about Telemachus?

- A. He shows heroic qualities.
- B. He is patient and selfless.
- C. He is very much like his father.
- D. He may be too tender-hearted to be king.

14. Which word best describes the attitude of the speaker in “Song”?
- A. hurt
  - B. angry
  - C. relieved
  - D. reverent
15. At the end of “*Dulce et Decorum Est*,” for what does the speaker criticize his audience?
- A. glorifying war
  - B. lacking patriotism
  - C. behaving cowardly
  - D. supporting pacifism
16. Which phrase best describes the poet’s likely purpose in “Pretty”?
- A. to criticize the cruelty of nature
  - B. to celebrate the beauty of nature
  - C. to celebrate humanity’s kinship with nature
  - D. to criticize superficial human responses to nature

## Recognition of Authors and Titles

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Select the author of the quotation or the title of the selection from which the quotation is taken.

17. “How long in that same fit I lay,  
I have not to declare;  
But ere my living life returned,  
I heard, and in my soul discerned,  
Two voices in the air.”
- A. “Ode to a Nightingale”
  - B. “The Darkling Thrush”
  - C. “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
  - D. “Because I Could Not Stop for Death”
18. “On some fond breast the parting soul relies,  
Some pious drops the closing eye requires”
- A. Pope
  - B. Gray
  - C. Brontë
  - D. Wordsworth
19. “But when to mischief mortals bend their will,  
How soon they find fit instruments of ill!”
- A. *Paradise Lost*
  - B. *The Rape of the Lock*
  - C. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
  - D. “The Prologue” to *The Canterbury Tales*
20. “The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned”
- A. Yeats
  - B. Owen
  - C. Arnold
  - D. Coleridge



21. "From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,  
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow"
- A. Gray
  - B. Donne
  - C. Thomas
  - D. Shakespeare
22. "At once a voice arose among  
The bleak twigs overhead  
In a fullhearted evensong  
Of joy illimited"
- A. Keats
  - B. Hardy
  - C. Brontë
  - D. Wordsworth
23. "Not many better men have walked  
This earth, been worth as much—like a pearl  
To a pea, compared to other knights."
- A. *Beowulf*
  - B. "Ulysses"
  - C. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
  - D. "The Prologue" to *The Canterbury Tales*

PART B: SIGHT PASSAGE

7 multiple-choice questions

1 written-response question

Value: 25%

Suggested Time: 35 minutes

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Read **both** the following selections by Alfred Lord Tennyson. For questions 24 to 30, choose the **best** answer.

*Tennyson's poem In Memoriam, which consists of a series of short numbered sections, laments the death of his friend, Arthur Henry Hallam.*

**from In Memoriam**

54.

O, yet we trust that somehow good  
Will be the final goal of ill,  
To pangs of nature, sins of will,  
Defects of doubt, and taints of blood;

5 That nothing walks with aimless feet;  
That not one life shall be destroy'd,  
Or cast as rubbish to the void,  
When God hath made the pile complete;

10 That not a worm is cloven in vain;  
That not a moth with vain desire  
Is shrivell'd in a fruitless fire,  
Or but subserves another's gain.

15 Behold, we know not anything;  
I can but trust that good shall fall  
At last—far off—at least, to all,  
And every winter change to spring.

20 So runs my dream: but what am I?  
An infant crying in the night:  
An infant crying for the light:  
And with no language but a cry.

124.

That which we dare invoke to bless;  
Our dearest faith; our ghastliest doubt;  
He, They, One, All; within, without;  
The Power in darkness whom we guess;

5 I found Him not in world or sun,  
Or eagle's wing, or insect's eye;  
Nor thro' the questions men may try,  
The petty cobwebs we have spun:

10 If e'er when faith had fall'n asleep,  
I heard a voice 'believe no more'  
And heard an ever-breaking shore  
That tumbled in the Godless deep;

15 A warmth within the breast would melt  
The freezing reason's colder part,  
And like a man in wrath the heart  
Stood up and answer'd 'I have felt.'

20 No, like a child in doubt and fear:  
But that blind clamour made me wise;  
Then was I as a child that cries,  
But, crying, knows his father near;

And what I am beheld again  
What is, and no man understands;  
And out of darkness came the hands  
That reach thro' nature, moulding men.

Alfred Lord Tennyson

24. How does the form of *In Memoriam* 54 differ from that of a ballad stanza?
- A. in its verse form
  - B. in its rhyme scheme
  - C. in its use of iambic tetrameter
  - D. in its use of iambic pentameter

25. In *In Memoriam* 54, what is suggested by line 9, "That not a worm is cloven in vain"?
- A. God saves even the lowliest creature.
  - B. No living creature dies without a purpose.
  - C. It is futile to attempt to destroy living creatures.
  - D. Human pride allows us to destroy other creatures callously.

26. "An infant crying in the night;  
An infant crying for the light"

In the overall context of the poem *In Memoriam* 54, what feeling is emphasized by the repetition in the above lines?

- A. fear
  - B. rage
  - C. resentment
  - D. helplessness
27. In *In Memoriam* 124, how does the speaker say he found God?
- A. through doubt
  - B. through reason
  - C. through feeling
  - D. through Nature

28. In *In Memoriam* 124, which literary device is used in the phrase “the heart / Stood up and answer’ d” (lines 15–16)?
- A. allusion
  - B. hyperbole
  - C. metonymy
  - D. apostrophe
29. Which poem expresses ideas most similar to those in stanza 3 of *In Memoriam* 124?
- A. “Dover Beach”
  - B. “Ode to the West Wind”
  - C. “Apostrophe to the Ocean”
  - D. “When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be”
30. Which is the most important contrast in **both** *In Memoriam* 54 and 124?
- A. life and death
  - B. doubt and faith
  - C. God and nature
  - D. hope and despair

**This is the end of the multiple-choice section.  
Answer the remaining questions directly in the Response Booklet.**

from *In Memoriam*  
(page 8 in the **Examination Booklet**)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** With specific reference to the passage, respond to the following statement in approximately **200 words** in paragraph form. Write your answer in **ink** in the **Response Booklet**.

1. Sections 54 and 124 of *In Memoriam* represent different stages in the speaker's coming to terms with his loss. Support this statement with reference to **both** sections.

**Organization and Planning**

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the **Response Booklet**.

**WRITING ON THIS PAGE WILL NOT BE MARKED**

**Organization and Planning**

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the **Response Booklet**.

**WRITING ON THIS PAGE WILL NOT BE MARKED**

**PART C: SHAKESPEAREAN DRAMA**

**1 written-response question**

**Value: 20%**

**Suggested Time: 25**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose **one** of the three passages on pages 14 to 17 in the **Examination Booklet**. With specific reference to the drama, respond to one of the following statements in at least **200 words** in paragraph form. Write your answer in **ink** in the **Response Booklet**.

**Hamlet** (*See passage on page 14.*)

2. Ophelia has an impact on Hamlet's behaviour. Discuss this statement with reference to the passage and to the rest of the play.

**OR**

**The Tempest** (*See passage on page 15.*)

3. Ferdinand and Caliban may be considered character foils. Discuss this statement with reference to the attitudes exhibited in the two excerpts given and elsewhere in the play.

**OR**

**King Lear** (*See passage on page 17.*)

4. In this passage, Kent's loyalty is revealed. Show how this quality is revealed both here and elsewhere in the play.

2. *Hamlet* (1600–1601)

Ophelia: O my lord, my lord, I have been so affrighted! 75

Polonius: With what, i' th' name of God?

Ophelia: My lord, as I was sewing in my closet,<sup>1</sup>  
 Lord Hamlet, with his doublet all unbraced,<sup>2</sup>  
 No hat upon his head, his stockings fouled,  
 Ungartered, and down-gyvèd<sup>3</sup> to his ankle, 80  
 Pale as his shirt, his knees knocking each other,  
 And with a look so piteous in purport,<sup>4</sup>  
 As if he had been loosèd out of hell  
 To speak of horrors—he comes before me.

Polonius: Mad for thy love?

Ophelia: My lord, I do not know, 85  
 But truly I do fear it.

Polonius: What said he?

Ophelia: He took me by the wrist and held me hard;  
 Then goes he to the length of all his arm,  
 And with his other hand thus o'er his brow  
 He falls to such perusal of my face 90  
 As 'a would draw it. Long stayed he so.  
 At last, a little shaking of mine arm,  
 And thrice his head thus waving up and down,  
 He raised a sigh so piteous and profound  
 As it did seem to shatter all his bulk 95  
 And end his being. That done, he lets me go,  
 And, with his head over his shoulder turned,  
 He seemed to find his way without his eyes,  
 For out o' doors he went without their helps,  
 And to the last bended their light on me. 100

Polonius: Come, go with me. I will go seek the King.  
 This is the very ecstasy<sup>5</sup> of love,  
 Whose violent property fordoes<sup>6</sup> itself  
 And leads the will to desperate undertakings  
 As oft as any passions under heaven 105  
 That does afflict our natures. I am sorry.  
 What, have you given him any hard words of late?

Ophelia: No, my good lord; but as you did command,  
 I did repel his letters and denied  
 His access to me. 110

(II. i. 75–110)

<sup>1</sup> *closet*: private room  
<sup>2</sup> *doublet all unbraced*: jacket entirely unlaced  
<sup>3</sup> *down-gyvèd*: hanging down like fetters  
<sup>4</sup> *purport*: expression  
<sup>5</sup> *ecstasy*: madness  
<sup>6</sup> *property fordoes*: quality destroys





THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK



**Organization and Planning**

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the **Response Booklet**.

**WRITING ON THIS PAGE WILL NOT BE MARKED**

**PART D: GENERAL ESSAY**

**1 written-response question**

**Value: 30%**

**Suggested Time: 40 min**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose **one** of the following topics. Write a multi-paragraph essay (at least three paragraphs) of approximately **400 words**. Develop a **concise, focused** answer to show your knowledge and understanding of the topic. Include specific references to the works you discuss. You may not need all the space provided for your answer. You must refer to at least **one** work from the Specified Readings List (see page 20 in the Exam Booklet). The only translated works you may use are those from Anglo-Saxon and Medieval English. Write your answer in **ink** in the **Response Booklet**.

**Topic 5** Writers are often influenced by the social and political events of their times. Support this statement with reference to at least three literary works.

**OR**

**Topic 6** Literary works often celebrate the value of behaving with integrity or honour. Support this statement with reference to at least three literary works.

**OR**

**Topic 7** Works of literature often present characters or speakers whose motives are self-serving. Support this statement with reference to at least three literary works.

**END OF EXAM**

## Specified Readings List

### Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- from *Beowulf*
- Geoffrey Chaucer, from *The Canterbury Tales*, “The Prologue”
- “Bonny Barbara Allan”
- from *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

### Renaissance and 17<sup>th</sup> Century

- Sir Thomas Wyatt, “Whoso List to Hunt”
- Christopher Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”
- Sir Walter Raleigh, “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd”
- William Shakespeare, Sonnet 29 (“When in disgrace with fortune and men’s eyes”)  
Sonnet 116 (“Let me not to the marriage of true minds”)  
Sonnet 130 (“My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun”)  
*Hamlet, King Lear or The Tempest*
- John Donne, “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”; “Death, Be Not Proud”
- Robert Herrick, “To the Virgins”
- John Milton, “On His Blindness”; from *Paradise Lost*
- from *The Diary of Samuel Pepys*

### 18<sup>th</sup> Century and Romantic

- Lady Mary Chudleigh, “To the Ladies”
- Alexander Pope, from *The Rape of the Lock*
- Jonathan Swift, “A Modest Proposal”
- Robert Burns, “To a Mouse”
- William Blake, “The Tiger”; “The Lamb”

- Thomas Gray, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”
- William Wordsworth, “My Heart Leaps Up”; “The World Is Too Much with Us”
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
- George Gordon, Lord Byron, “Apostrophe to the Ocean”
- Percy Bysshe Shelley, “Ode to the West Wind”
- John Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale”; “When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be”

### Victorian and 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “Ulysses”
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Sonnet 43 (“How do I love thee? Let me count the ways”)
- Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess”
- Emily Brontë, “Song”
- Matthew Arnold, “Dover Beach”
- Thomas Hardy, “The Darkling Thrush”
- Emily Dickinson, “Because I Could Not Stop for Death”
- Wilfred Owen, “*Dulce et Decorum Est*”
- William Butler Yeats, “The Second Coming”
- T.S. Eliot, “The Hollow Men”
- Dylan Thomas, “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night”
- Stevie Smith, “Pretty”
- Margaret Atwood, “Disembarking at Quebec”