



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2014

English Literature (Specification A)

LTA1A

Unit 1 **Texts in Context**

Option A: **Victorian Literature**

Friday 16 May 2014 9.00 am to 11.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is LTA1A.
- Answer **two** questions.
- You must answer:
 - the **compulsory** question in **Section A**: Contextual Linking
 - **one** question from **Section B**: Poetry.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- The poetry texts prescribed for this paper **may** be taken into the examination room. Texts taken into the examination must be clean: that is, free from annotation.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 1 hour on each question.

Section A: Contextual Linking**Answer Question 1.**

In your response to this section of the paper you must refer to your wider reading across all **three** genres (prose, poetry and drama). You may also refer to your AS coursework texts.

Question 1

0	1
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Read the following extract carefully. It is taken from a letter written to *The Times* newspaper by the cultural commentator John Ruskin in 1854. Ruskin wrote in praise of the controversial picture *The Awakening Conscience* by the Pre-Raphaelite artist William Holman Hunt. This picture of a rich man and his mistress, sitting together at the piano in a luxuriously furnished parlour, shows the moment when she realises guiltily the sinful nature of her relationship with her lover. Here Ruskin analyses the powerful effects created by the painter's use of detail.

How does the writer present his thoughts and feelings about aspects of Victorian life?

How far is the extract similar to and different from your wider reading in Victorian literature? You should consider the writers' choices of form, structure and language.

[45 marks]

The poor girl has been singing with her seducer; some chance words of the song "Oft in the stilly night" have struck upon the numbed places of her heart; she has started up in agony; he, not seeing her face, goes on singing, striking the keys carelessly with his gloved hand.

I suppose that no one possessing the slightest knowledge of expression could remain untouched by the countenance of the lost girl, rent from its beauty into sudden horror; the lips half open, indistinct in their purple quivering, the teeth set hard, the eyes filled with the fearful light of futurity, and with tears of ancient days. Nothing is more notable than the way in which even the most trivial objects force themselves upon the attention of a mind which has been fevered by violent and distressful excitement. They thrust themselves forward with a ghastly and unendurable distinctness, as if they would compel the sufferer to count, or measure, or learn them by heart. Even to the mere spectator, a strange interest exalts the accessories of a scene in which he bears witness to human sorrow.

There is not a single object in all that room, common, modern, vulgar, but it became tragical, if rightly read. That furniture, so carefully painted, even to the last vein of the rosewood—is there nothing to be learned from that terrible lustre of it, from its fatal newness; nothing there that has the old thoughts of home upon it, or that is ever to become a part of home? Those embossed books, vain and useless—they also new—marked with no happy wearing of beloved leaves; the torn and dying bird upon the floor; the gilded tapestry, with the fowls of the air feeding on the ripened corn; the picture above the fireplace with its single drooping figure—the woman taken in adultery; nay, the very hem of the poor girl’s dress, which the painter has laboured so closely, thread by thread, has story in it, if we think how soon the pure whiteness may be soiled with dust and rain, her outcast foot failing in the street; and the fair garden flower, seen in the reflected sunshine of the mirror—these also have their language.

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►

Section B: Poetry

Answer **one** question from this section.

In your response to this section of the paper you should consider the form, structure and language of the poems you choose to write about, as well as their subject matter.

Selected Poems – John Clare**Either****Question 2**

0	2
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“Clare’s most moving poems reflect his preoccupation with his own fragile mental state.”

How far do you agree with this view?

In your answer you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection.

[45 marks]**or****Question 3**

0	3
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Remind yourself of ‘The Peasant Poet’, one of John Clare’s last poems.

To what extent do you feel that ‘The Peasant Poet’ would form an effective conclusion to this selection?

[45 marks]***Selected Poems – The Brontës*****or****Question 4**

0	4
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“Freedom is the most important theme in the poetry of the Brontës.”

How far do you agree with this view?

In your answer you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection.

[45 marks]**or****Question 5**

0	5
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Remind yourself of ‘Penmaenmawr’ by Branwell Brontë.

To what extent do you agree with the view that this poem is the key to the whole selection?

[45 marks]

Selected Poems – Alfred, Lord Tennyson

or

Question 6

0	6
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 “Tennyson’s most compelling poems are his dramatic monologues.”

How far do you agree with this view?

In your answer you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection.

You may wish to use the poem ‘Ulysses’ as the starting point for your answer.

[45 marks]

or

Question 7

0	7
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 ‘Break, Break, Break...’ is one of Tennyson’s earliest poems.

To what extent do you feel that ‘Break, Break, Break...’ would provide an effective introduction to Tennyson’s poetry?

[45 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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Extract: Letter from John Ruskin to *The Times*. Published in 1854.

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