



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2014

## English Literature (Specification A)

## LTA1C

**Unit 1**      **Texts in Context**

**Option C:      The Struggle for Identity in Modern 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 LTA1C.
- 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.

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

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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**

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Read the following extract carefully. It is taken from the diary of a young girl, Mary Berg, published in the USA in 1945. Mary wrote her diary while living in the Warsaw Ghetto where she, her family and thousands of Jews were imprisoned by the Nazi forces occupying Poland. Mary's mother was American, which allowed the family to be exchanged for German prisoners and eventually to make their way to America in March 1944.

How does the writer present her thoughts and feelings about the struggle for identity?

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

**[45 marks]**

***August, 1942***

Behind the Pawiak gate we are experiencing all the terror that is abroad in the ghetto. For the last few nights we have been unable to sleep. The noise of the shooting, the cries of despair, are driving us crazy. I have to summon all my strength to write these notes. I have lost count of the days, and I do not know what day it is. But what does it matter? We are here as on a little island amidst an ocean of blood. The whole ghetto is drowning in blood. We literally see fresh human blood, we can smell it. Does the outside world know anything about it? Why does no one come to our aid? I cannot go on living; my strength is exhausted. How long are we going to be kept here to witness all this?

A few days ago, a group of neutrals was taken out of the Pawiak. Apparently the Germans were unable to use them for exchange. I saw from my window several trucks filled with people, and I tried to distinguish familiar faces among them. Some time later, the prison guard came panting to us, and told us that the Jewish citizens of neutral European countries had just been taken to the *Umschlagplatz* to be deported. So our turn may come soon, too. I hope it will be very soon. This waiting is worse than death.

Dr. Janusz Korczak's children's home is empty now. A few days ago we all stood at the window and watched the Germans surround the houses. Rows of children, holding each other by their little hands, began to walk out of the doorway. There were tiny tots of two or three years among them, while the oldest ones were perhaps thirteen. Each child carried a little bundle in his hand. All of them wore white aprons. They walked in ranks of two, calm, and even smiling. They had not the slightest foreboding of their fate. At the end

of the procession marched Dr. Korczak, who saw to it that the children did not walk on the sidewalk. Now and then, with fatherly solicitude, he stroked a child on the head or arm, and straightened out the ranks. He wore high boots, with his trousers stuck in them, an alpaca coat, and a navy-blue cap, the so-called Maciejowka cap. He walked with a firm step, and was accompanied by one of the doctors of the children's home, who wore his white smock. This sad procession vanished at the corner of Dzielna and Smocza Streets. They went in the direction of Gesia Street, to the cemetery. At the cemetery all the children were shot. We were also told by our informants that Dr. Korczak was forced to witness the executions, and that he himself was shot afterward.

Thus died one of the purest and noblest men who ever lived. He was the pride of the ghetto. His children's home gave us courage, and all of us gladly gave part of our own scanty means to support the model home organized by this great idealist. He devoted all his life, all his creative work as an educator and writer, to the poor children of Warsaw. Even at the last moment he refused to be separated from them.

The house is empty now, except for the guards who are still cleaning up the rooms of the murdered children.

**Turn over for Section B**

**Turn over ►**

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**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.

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***And Still I Rise – Maya Angelou*****Either****Question 2**

**0 2** Angelou said, “Bitterness is like cancer. It eats upon the host. But anger is like fire. It burns it all clear.”

To what extent is anger shown to be a positive emotion in *And Still I Rise*?

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** Remind yourself of ‘Momma Welfare Roll’.

How far does the presentation of the woman in this poem reflect the depiction of women elsewhere in the selection?

**[45 marks]*****Feminine Gospels – Carol Ann Duffy***

or

**Question 4**

**0 4** A critic has said of *Feminine Gospels* that it is “all sound and fury that deafens rather than delights”.

How far do you agree with this view of *Feminine Gospels*?

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** Remind yourself of the poem ‘Sub’.

To what extent do you feel this poem would be a suitable introduction to the collection?

**[45 marks]**

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**Skirrid Hill – Owen Sheers**

or

**Question 6**

0	6
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“The main divide or separation in the collection is that shown between male and female.”

How far do you agree with this view of *Skirrid Hill*?

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 7**

0	7
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Remind yourself of the poem ‘Border Country’.

To what extent do you feel this poem would provide a suitable introduction to the collection?

**[45 marks]****END OF QUESTIONS**

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Extract: Diary entry by Mary Berg. Taken from *Children in the Holocaust and World War II – Their Secret Diaries*, by Laurel Holliday. Published by Washington Square Press, 1995.

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