

ENGLISH LITERATURE A (7712/2B)

Paper 2B: Texts in shared contexts: Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the present day
Insert

Instructions to candidates

The material in this insert is for use with Section B of the question paper.

Section B: Answer both Question 1 and Question 2.

Recommended time for Section B: approximately 100 minutes.

Total marks for Section B: 50 marks (25 marks per question).

All That Remains

David Farquhar

First published 2011 by Stonemill Books

Extract context: *This extract is taken from the second section of the novel. The narrator, Martin, is a man in his early forties working in a local government office. The novel follows a single working week in his life.*

He had been in love with her for so long that he had stopped thinking of it as something that might change. It was simply a feature of his interior landscape, the way certain hills are always visible from certain windows, so familiar that you stop seeing them and only notice when they are gone.

She arrived at the office every morning at twenty past eight. He knew this without having tracked it, the way you know the habits of weather when you have lived somewhere long enough. She kept her lunch in a blue bag that had at some point lost its zip and been replaced with a rubber band she wound three times around the clasp. He knew about the rubber band. He had never mentioned it. There seemed to be a great many things he knew about her that he had never mentioned, a whole private archive of observation that he carried without thinking, the way you carry the particular angle of winter light in a city you once lived in.

She was engaged. She had told them all at once, in the kitchen, while the kettle boiled, holding out her hand in a way that was both proud and slightly embarrassed. He had said the correct things. He believed he had said them with conviction. He had gone back to his desk and sat for a moment looking at the spreadsheet he had been working on, its columns and rows, its small reliable quantities, and felt -- not grief, exactly, not surprise, not even disappointment in the usual sense -- but something more like the quiet that follows when a sound you had stopped noticing finally ceases, and you understand only then how long you had been listening.

He bought her a card. He signed it with everyone else. He had spent eleven minutes choosing it, had stood in the shop holding two cards that were almost identical, reading them repeatedly, as though the difference between them mattered. The one he chose said something warm and general

and meant nothing and said nothing and was entirely correct.

He put the archive away. He had become very good at this. He put it away the way you put away things you are keeping but do not look at, in a box, in a room, with the door closed, not locked.

Section B

Answer both Question 1 and Question 2.

0 1

How does Farquhar present the experience of unrequited love in this extract?

In your response you should:

- analyse the methods the writer uses to shape meanings
- include relevant subject terminology
- consider the contexts in which the text was written and received.

[25 marks]

Recommended time: 40 minutes

0 2

In this extract, Farquhar presents unrequited love as something quietly carried rather than dramatically expressed. Compare how unspoken or unrequited love is presented in this extract and in one or two other texts you have studied.

In your response you should:

- make connections across the texts you have studied
- include relevant subject terminology
- consider the contexts in which texts were written and received.

[25 marks]

Recommended time: 35-40 minutes