

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).

The House on Peel Street

Rachel Mistry

First published 2014 by Anchor Fiction

Extract context: *This extract is taken from the middle section of the novel. The narrator, Cara, has been married to her husband Daniel for nine years. The novel is structured in short chapters, each covering a single night.*

She had found the message at twenty past eleven on a Tuesday. She had not been looking for it. She had picked up his phone to check the time and it had been there, face up, already open, as though it had been waiting for her.

She put the phone down. She made herself put it face down. She poured a glass of water and drank it standing at the sink looking out at the garden, which was dark and said nothing. Then she picked the phone up again.

She read it three times. Then she read the reply, which was his. Then she went back to the beginning and read the whole exchange from the start, slowly, the way you read something you are trying to memorise, or something you cannot quite believe is in the language you think it is in.

She had thought she was not a jealous person. She had said this, at some point, to someone, had been quite certain of it, had perhaps felt quietly superior to people who were. She understood now that what she had meant was that she had not, until now, been given sufficient reason. The feeling was not what she had imagined jealousy to be. She had imagined it would be hot, volcanic, something that announced itself. This was cold and very specific. It had a texture like inventory. She was cataloguing things: the way he had described the evening they had been at the Hartleys together, which had been an ordinary evening she had barely thought of since, and which she was now re-reading in his account of it to someone else, discovering that he had noticed things she had not known he noticed, that he had a language for this person that was not the language he used for her.

She put the phone back where she had found it, face up, and went to bed. She lay in the dark and listened to him breathing and thought about the language he had used, its particular warmth, its easy familiarity, the way it had sounded -- even in text, even in silence -- nothing like the way he spoke to her, and everything like the person she had believed she was to him.

Section B

Answer both Question 1 and Question 2.

0 1

How does Mistry present the experience of jealousy within a relationship 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, Mistry presents jealousy not as a violent emotion but as something cold and precise. Compare how jealousy or betrayal within a relationship 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