
A-level

ENGLISH LITERATURE A

Paper 1 Love through the ages

Mock Paper 6

Morning

Time allowed: 3 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book
- a copy of each of the set texts you have studied for **Section C**. These texts must **not** be annotated and must **not** contain additional notes or materials.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7712/1.
- In Section A you will answer **one** question about a Shakespeare play.
- In Section B you will answer the **one** question about unseen poetry.
- In Section C you will answer **one** question about **two** texts: **one** poetry text and **one** prose text, one of which **must** be written pre-1900.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 75.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- In your response you need to:
 - analyse carefully the writers' methods
 - explore the contexts of the texts you are writing about
 - explore connections across the texts you have studied
 - explore different interpretations of your texts.

Section A: Shakespeare

Answer the following question.

0	1
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Othello -- William Shakespeare

"Othello's collapse in Act 4 reveals that his love was always founded on fantasy rather than knowledge."

In the light of this view, discuss how Shakespeare presents Othello's state of mind in this extract and elsewhere in the play.

[25 marks]

IAGO

Will you think so?

OTHELLO

Think so, Iago?

IAGO

What, to kiss in private?

OTHELLO

An unauthorised kiss.

IAGO

Or to be naked with her friend in bed
An hour or more, not meaning any harm?

OTHELLO

Naked in bed, Iago, and not mean harm?
It is hypocrisy against the devil.
They that mean virtuously and yet do so,
The devil their virtue tempts, and they tempt heaven.

IAGO

If they do nothing, 'tis a venial slip;
But if I give my wife a handkerchief --

OTHELLO

What then?

IAGO

Why, then 'tis hers, my lord; and being hers,
She may, I think, bestow't on any man.

OTHELLO

She is protectress of her honour too;
May she give that?

IAGO

Her honour is an essence that's not seen;
They have it very oft that have it not.
But for the handkerchief --

OTHELLO

By heaven, I would most gladly have forgot it!
Thou said'st -- O, it comes o'er my memory
As doth the raven o'er the infected house,
Boding to all -- he had my handkerchief.

IAGO

Ay, what of that?

OTHELLO

That's not so good now.

OTHELLO falls in a trance

(Act 4, Scene 1)

Section B: Unseen Poetry

Answer the following question.

0	5
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Compare how the poets present desire as something consuming or distorting.

[25 marks]

The Other Side of a Mirror

Mary Coleridge (1861-1907)

I sat before my glass one day,
And conjured up a vision bare,
Unlike the aspects glad and gay,
That erst were found reflected there,
The vision of a woman, wild
With more than womanly despair.

Her hair stood back on either side
A face bereft of loveliness.
It had no envy now to hide
What once no man on earth could guess.
It formed the thorny aureole
Of hard unsanctified distress.

Her lips were open, not a sound
Came through the parted lines of red.
Whate'er it was, the awful wound,
The woe was hushed, the word unsaid.
For ever in that mirror dim
The woman with no peace lay dead.

Mad Girl's Love Song

Sylvia Plath (1932-1963)

I shut my eyes and all the world drops dead;

I lift my lids and all is born again.

(I think I made you up inside my head.)

The stars go waltzing out in blue and red,

And arbitrary blackness gallops in:

I shut my eyes and all the world drops dead.

I dreamed that you bewitched me into bed

And sung me moon-struck, kissed me quite insane.

(I think I made you up inside my head.)

God topples from the sky, hell's fires fade:

Exit seraphim and Satan's men:

I shut my eyes and all the world drops dead.

I fancied you'd return the way you said,

But I grow old and I forget your name.

(I think I made you up inside my head.)

I should have loved a thunderbird instead;

At least when spring comes they roar back again.

I shut my eyes and all the world drops dead.

(I think I made you up inside my head.)

Section C: Comparing Texts

Answer one question in this section.

Either

0	6
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"Love in literature is most honest when it acknowledges its own capacity for self-deception."

In the light of this view, compare how writers present self-deception within love in two texts you have studied.

You must write about at least two poems in your answer as well as the prose text you have studied.

[25 marks]

or

0	7
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Compare how writers present the experience of desire as something that distorts or consumes the individual in two texts you have studied.

You must write about at least two poems in your answer as well as the prose text you have studied.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS