
A-level

ENGLISH LITERATURE A

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

Mock Paper 5

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

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 this paper. 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 7712/2B.
- Answer **one** question from Section A and **both** questions from Section B.
- 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.

7712/2B

Section A: Poetry Set Text

Answer **one** question in this section.

Feminine Gospels -- Carol Ann Duffy

Either

0	1
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Examine the significance of time and memory in *Feminine Gospels*.

You must write about at least two poems in your answer.

[25 marks]

or

0	2
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"The women in *Feminine Gospels* are always more powerful than the men around them."
Examine this view.

You must write about at least two poems in your answer.

[25 marks]

Section B: Drama and Prose Contextual Linking

Read the extract carefully. Answer **both** questions in this section.

Extract from The Distance Back, a novel by Anna Sefton published in 2003

The house has been sold twice since then. I know this because I looked it up, though I could not have explained to anyone why I looked it up or what I hoped to find. It is owned now by a family called Barker. I found the name on the electoral roll. I imagined them: practical, uncomplicated, probably good at things.

I drive past it sometimes when I am in that part of the city. I do not slow down. I tell myself I am simply passing, that it is on the way. It is not on the way.

What I remember most clearly is not the important things. Not the conversations I have replayed so often they have become smooth and unconvincing, like stones worn by water. What I remember is the particular quality of the light on Thursday afternoons, which came through the kitchen window at an angle that made everything look like a painting of itself. I remember the sound the boiler made. I remember that there was a loose tile on the front path that rocked slightly when you stepped on it, and that I had known, without thinking about it, to step around it, and that this small automatic knowledge had felt like love.

My therapist told me that I was not grieving the person so much as the version of myself that had existed in relation to him. I nodded. I found this both convincing and insufficient. It did not account for the tile. It did not account for Thursday afternoons.

I am forty-seven now. I have a good life. I repeat this to myself sometimes, not because I doubt it but because it seems to require confirmation, the way a knot requires checking. I have a good life. I have friends who value me, work that interests me, a flat I chose carefully and arranged with care. I am not unhappy.

But the house has been sold twice since then, and I still know to step around the tile, and there is nowhere now to put that knowledge.

END OF EXTRACT

Answer both questions.

0	5
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Explore the significance of memory in this extract.

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Sefton shapes meanings.

[25 marks]

and

0	6
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Compare the significance of memory and the hold of the past in two other texts you have studied.

Remember to include in your answer reference to how meanings are shaped in the texts you are comparing.

You must use one drama text and one prose text in your response.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS