

A-level ENGLISH LITERATURE B

Paper 2B Texts and genres: Elements of political and social protest writing

Time allowed: 3 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book
- a copy of the set text(s) you have studied for Section B and 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 7717/2B.
- You must answer the question in Section A, **one** question from Section B and **one** question from Section C. Over Section B and Section C you must write about **three** texts: **one** poetry text, **one** post-2000 prose text and **one** further text. At least **one** of your texts must be written pre-1900.
- Do all rough work in the 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

Answer the question in this section.

0	1
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Explore the significance of the elements of political and social protest writing in this extract.

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways the author has shaped meanings.

[25 marks]

The following verses are from a dramatic poem about peaceful protest, titled *The Mask of Anarchy*. It was written by Percy Bysshe Shelley in 1819.

The poem was inspired by a peaceful protest in favour of greater democracy. The protest was violently attacked by armed soldiers who charged into the unarmed crowd, killing six and wounding many more.

These verses come from the end of the poem and are spoken by an optimistic character named Hope, who addresses the people of England. Hope praises their resistance, urging them to stay true to their belief in peaceful protest.

“Stand ye calm and resolute,
Like a forest close and mute,
With folded arms and looks which are
Weapons of unvanquished war,

Let the laws of your own land,
Good or ill, between ye stand
Hand to hand, and foot to foot,
Arbiters of the dispute,

The old laws of England – they
Whose reverend heads with age are gray,
Children of a wiser day;
And whose solemn voice must be
Thine own echo – Liberty!

On those who first should violate
Such sacred heralds in their state
Rest the blood that must ensue,
And it will not rest on you.

And if then the tyrants dare
Let them ride among you there,
Slash, and stab, and maim, and hew, –
What they like, that let them do.

With folded arms and steady eyes,
And little fear, and less surprise,
Look upon them as they slay
Till their rage has died away.

Then they will return with shame
To the place from which they came,
And the blood thus shed will speak
In hot blushes on their cheek.

Every woman in the land
Will point at them as they stand –
They will hardly dare to greet
Their acquaintance on the street.

And the bold, true warriors
Who have hugged Danger in wars
Will turn to those who would be free,
Ashamed of such base company.

And that slaughter to the Nation
Shall steam up like inspiration,
Eloquent, oracular;
A volcano heard afar.

And these words shall then become
Like Oppression's thundered doom
Ringing through each heart and brain,
Heard again – again – again –

Rise like Lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number –
Shake your chains to earth like dew
Which in sleep had fallen on you –
Ye are many – they are few.”

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►

Over **Section B** and **Section C**, you must write about **three** texts from the following list:

Songs of Innocence and of Experience (pre-1900)

Tony Harrison: *Selected Poems*

The Kite Runner (post-2000 prose)

Harvest (post-2000 prose)

Hard Times (pre-1900)

Henry IV Part I (pre-1900)

A Doll's House (pre-1900)

The Handmaid's Tale

Section B

Answer **one** question in this section.

Either

0

2

***Songs of Innocence and of Experience* – William Blake**

‘In Blake’s poetry, personal relationships are liberating and empowering.’

To what extent do you agree with this view?

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Blake’s authorial methods.

[25 marks]

or

0

3

***Selected Poems* – Tony Harrison**

‘Harrison presents work as cruel and degrading.’

To what extent do you agree with this view?

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Harrison’s authorial methods.

[25 marks]

or

0	4
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***The Kite Runner* – Khaled Hosseini**

‘Rahim Khan is presented as simply a kind-hearted and honourable rescuer of others.’

To what extent do you agree with this view?

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Hosseini’s authorial methods.

[25 marks]

or

0	5
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***Harvest* – Jim Crace**

‘Walter Thirsk is sympathetic to victims and despises persecutors.’

To what extent do you agree with this view?

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Crace’s authorial methods.

[25 marks]

or

0	6
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***Hard Times* – Charles Dickens**

‘In *Hard Times*, those who have power use it irresponsibly.’

To what extent do you agree with this view?

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Dickens’ authorial methods.

[25 marks]

or

0	7
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***Henry IV Part I* – William Shakespeare**

‘When the personal and the political clash, the personal always loses.’

To what extent do you agree with this view of *Henry IV Part I*?

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Shakespeare’s dramatic methods.

[25 marks]

Turn over ►

or

0	8
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***A Doll's House* – Henrik Ibsen (translated by Michael Meyer)**

'Secrets and lies always result in misery and hardship.'

To what extent do you agree with this view of *A Doll's House*?

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Ibsen's dramatic methods.

[25 marks]

or

0	9
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***The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood**

'In Gilead, religion is used as the most effective method of control.'

To what extent do you agree with this view of *The Handmaid's Tale*?

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of Atwood's authorial methods.

[25 marks]

Section C

Answer **one** question in this section.

In your answer you must write about **two** texts that you have **not** used in **Section B**.

Either

1	0
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Explore the significance of freedom as presented in **two** political and social protest texts you have studied.

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of authorial methods.

[25 marks]

or

1	1
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Explore the significance of gender as presented in **two** political and social protest texts you have studied.

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed exploration of authorial methods.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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