



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2720U20-1

FRIDAY, 26 MAY 2023 – MORNING

ENGLISH LITERATURE – AS unit 2

Poetry Post-1900

2 hours plus your additional time allowance

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet and clean copies (no annotation) of the poetry texts you have studied for this unit.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer ONE question in Section A and ONE question in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

(Turn over)

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Section A carries 40 marks and Section B 80 marks.

You are advised to spend 45 minutes on Section A and one hour 15 minutes on Section B.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

(Turn over)

SECTION A: CRITICAL ANALYSIS (OPEN BOOK)

Answer ONE question in this section.

You must have a clean copy (no annotation) of the poetry texts which you have studied. Only the prescribed editions must be used.

In your response, you are required to analyse how meanings are shaped.

(Turn over)

EITHER,

**EDWARD THOMAS: Selected Poems
(FABER)**

- 01. Re-read 'Digging' on page 81.
Explore the ways in which Thomas depicts the effects of nature in this poem. [40 marks]**

OR,

**ALUN LEWIS: Collected Poems
(SEREN)**

- 02. Re-read 'Water Music' on page 137.
Examine the ways in which Lewis portrays the lake in this poem.
[40 marks]**

(Turn over)

OR,

**W.B. YEATS: Poems selected by
Seamus Heaney (FABER)**

- 03. Re-read 'Broken Dreams' on pages
54–55. Discuss the ways in which
Yeats portrays beauty in this poem.
[40 marks]**

OR,

**DANNIE ABSE: Welsh Retrospective
(SEREN)**

- 04. Re-read 'Welsh Valley Cinema,
1930s' on page 24. Explore the ways
in which Abse creates mood and
atmosphere in this poem.
[40 marks]**

(Turn over)

OR,

**TED HUGHES: Poems selected by
Simon Armitage (FABER)**

- 05. Re-read 'View of a Pig' on pages 20–21. Examine how Hughes explores death in this poem.**

[40 marks]

OR,

**SYLVIA PLATH: Poems selected by
Ted Hughes (FABER)**

- 06. Re-read 'Mirror' on page 32. Discuss the ways in which Plath explores the sense of self in this poem.**

[40 marks]

(Turn over)

OR,

PHILIP LARKIN: The Whitsun Weddings (FABER)

- 07. Re-read 'Sunny Prestatyn' on page 34. Examine how Larkin presents advertising in this poem.**

[40 marks]

OR,

CAROL ANN DUFFY: Mean Time (PICADOR)

- 08. Re-read 'Havisham' on page 36. Explore the ways in which Duffy portrays betrayal in this poem.**

[40 marks]

(Turn over)

OR,

SEAMUS HEANEY: Field Work (FABER)

- 09. Re-read 'The Otter' on pages 43–44. Examine how Heaney makes use of the otter in this poem. [40 marks]**

OR,

OWEN SHEERS: Skirrid Hill (SEREN)

- 10. Re-read 'Winter Swans' on page 7. Discuss Sheers' creation of mood and atmosphere in this poem. [40 marks]**

(Turn over)

**SECTION B: POETRY COMPARISON
(OPEN BOOK)**

Answer ONE question in this section.

You must have a clean copy (no annotation) of the poetry texts which you have studied. Only the prescribed editions must be used.

Where prescribed sections of texts are indicated in brackets, ONLY POEMS FROM THESE SECTIONS can be included in your response.

You must not choose or refer to any poems named in Section A in your response to Section B.

(Turn over)

In your response, you are required to:

- **analyse how meanings are shaped**
- **demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received**
- **explore connections across the set texts**
- **show how different interpretations have informed your reading.**

(Turn over)

**EDWARD THOMAS: Selected Poems
(FABER)
(poems as listed in the specification)**

**ALUN LEWIS: Collected Poems
(SEREN)
(poems as listed in the specification)**

EITHER,

- 11. How far do you agree that Thomas and Lewis are alike in the ways in which they depict change in their worlds? You must analyse in detail AT LEAST TWO poems from EACH of your set texts and give careful consideration to relevant contexts.**

[80 marks]

(Turn over)

OR,

- 12. “Poetry frequently portrays how we learn through journeys.” In response to this view, explore connections between the ways in which Thomas and Lewis write about journeys. You must analyse in detail AT LEAST TWO poems from EACH of your set texts and give careful consideration to relevant contexts. [80 marks]**

(Turn over)

**W.B. YEATS: Poems Selected by
Seamus Heaney (FABER)**

**DANNIE ABSE: Welsh Retrospective
(SEREN)**

EITHER,

- 13. “Both poets always portray women as strong and powerful.” In response to this view, explore connections between the ways in which Yeats and Abse depict women. You must analyse in detail AT LEAST TWO poems from EACH of your set texts and give careful consideration to relevant contexts. [80 marks]**

(Turn over)

15

OR,

- 14. How far do you agree that Abse and Yeats are alike in depicting loss? You must analyse in detail AT LEAST TWO poems from EACH of your set texts and give careful consideration to relevant contexts. [80 marks]**

(Turn over)

**TED HUGHES: Poems selected by
Simon Armitage (FABER)
(all poems up to and including 'Rain' on
pages 68/69)**

**SYLVIA PLATH: Poems selected by
Ted Hughes (FABER)**

OR,

15. "Their presentation of women is frequently problematic." In response to this view, explore connections between the ways in which Hughes and Plath depict women in their poetry. You must analyse in detail AT LEAST TWO poems from EACH of your set texts and give careful consideration to relevant contexts.

[80 marks]

(Turn over)

OR,

- 16. How far do you agree that Hughes and Plath are alike in the ways in which they convey their thoughts and feelings through the presentation of nature? You must analyse in detail AT LEAST TWO poems from EACH of your set texts and give careful consideration to relevant contexts. [80 marks]**

(Turn over)

PHILIP LARKIN: The Whitsun Weddings (FABER)

CAROL ANN DUFFY: Mean Time (PICADOR)

OR,

- 17. How far do you agree that Larkin and Duffy are alike in the ways in which they write about both the strength and weakness of human nature in their poetry? You must analyse in detail AT LEAST TWO poems from EACH of your set texts and give careful consideration to relevant contexts. [80 marks]**

(Turn over)

OR,

- 18. “There are brighter moments in their poetry but life is often presented as disappointing.” In response to this view, explore connections between the ways in which Larkin and Duffy write about disappointment. You must analyse in detail AT LEAST TWO poems from EACH of your set texts and give careful consideration to relevant contexts. [80 marks]**

(Turn over)

SEAMUS HEANEY: Field Work (FABER)

OWEN SHEERS: Skirrid Hill (SEREN)

OR,

- 19. “Men are often depicted as vulnerable in their poetry.” In response to this view, explore connections between the ways in which Heaney and Sheers present men. You must analyse in detail AT LEAST TWO poems from EACH of your set texts and give careful consideration to relevant contexts.**

[80 marks]

(Turn over)

OR,

- 20. How far do you agree that Heaney and Sheers are alike in portraying the impact of their surroundings on their poetry? You must analyse in detail AT LEAST TWO poems from EACH of your set texts and give careful consideration to relevant contexts. [80 marks]**

END OF PAPER