



**GCE A LEVEL**

**1720U30-1**

**WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE 2024 – MORNING**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE – A2 unit 3**

**Poetry Pre-1900 and Unseen Poetry**

**2 hours plus your additional time allowance**

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

**A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet and clean copies (no annotation) of your set texts for this paper.**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**Use black ink, black ball-point pen or your usual method.**

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

**Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.**

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

**Both Section A and Section B carry 60 marks.**

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

**You are advised to spend an hour on each section. In Section A, you are advised to spend approximately 20 minutes on part (i) and 40 minutes on part (ii).**

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

**SECTION A: POETRY PRE-1900 (OPEN BOOK)**

**Answer ONE question in this section.**

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

**Each question is in TWO parts. In both PART (i) and PART (ii) you are required to analyse how meanings are shaped.**

**In PART (ii) you are ALSO required to demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.**

**EITHER,**

**GEOFFREY CHAUCER: The Merchant's Prologue and Tale (Cambridge)**

- 1 (i) Re-read lines 163–186 from “Ther nis no thing...” to “...th’effect of his entente”. Examine Chaucer’s presentation of marriage in these lines. (For line 186, some may have a version which reads “th’effeet of his entente”.) [15 marks]
- (ii) With close reference to relevant contexts, examine some of the ways in which Chaucer presents selfishness and self-delusion in **The Merchant’s Prologue and Tale**. [45 marks]

**(Turn over)**

OR,

**JOHN DONNE: Selected Poems (Penguin Classics)**

- 2 (i) Re-read 'Twickenham Garden' on pages 20–21. How does Donne present the effects of love in this poem? [15 marks]
- (ii) With close reference to relevant contexts, consider some of the ways in which Donne presents disappointment and loss in his poetry. [45 marks]

OR,

**JOHN MILTON: Paradise Lost Book IX (Oxford)**

- 3 (i) Re-read lines 226–250 from "To whom mild answer..." to "...urges sweet return". How does Milton present Adam in these lines? [15 marks]
- (ii) With close reference to relevant contexts, consider some of the ways in which Milton presents male superiority and patriarchy in Paradise Lost Book IX. [45 marks]

(Turn over)

OR,

**WILLIAM BLAKE: Poems selected by Patti Smith  
(Vintage)**

- 4 (i) Re-read 'The School Boy' on pages 127 – 128.  
How does Blake present the boy in this poem?  
[15 marks]
- (ii) With close reference to relevant contexts,  
consider some of the ways in which Blake makes  
use of the natural world in his poetry. [45 marks]

OR,

**CHRISTINA ROSSETTI: Selected Poems (Penguin  
Classics)**

- 5 (i) Re-read 'Whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive'  
on page 50. How does Rossetti write about life  
after death in this poem? [15 marks]
- (ii) With close reference to relevant contexts, examine  
some of the ways in which Rossetti presents the  
relationship between this life and the afterlife in  
her poetry. [45 marks]

(Turn over)

**SECTION B: UNSEEN POETRY**

**Answer Question 6.**

**In your response, you are required to:**

- analyse how meanings are shaped
  - explore connections across poems.
- 6. Compare the presentation of snow in Poem A: 'Snow-flakes' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and in ONE other poem.**

**Poem B: 'Snow' by Leslie Norris**

**Poem C: 'Blizzard' by Ruth Bidgood**

**Poem D: 'A March Snow' by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.**

**[60 marks]**

**(Turn over)**

**POEM A: 'SNOW-FLAKES' BY HENRY WADSWORTH  
LONGFELLOW**

**Out of the bosom of the Air,  
    Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken,  
Over the woodlands brown and bare,  
    Over the harvest-fields forsaken,  
    Silent, and soft, and slow  
    Descends the snow.**

**Even as our cloudy fancies take  
    Suddenly shape in some divine expression,  
Even as the troubled heart doth make  
    In the white countenance confession,  
    The troubled sky reveals  
    The grief it feels.**

**This is the poem of the air,  
    Slowly in silent syllables recorded;  
This is the secret of despair,  
    Long in its cloudy bosom hoarded,  
    Now whispered and revealed  
    To wood and field.**

**POEM B: 'SNOW' BY LESLIE NORRIS**

The snow surprised us, coming  
    When it did,  
A sudden white swarm, humming  
    Out of the long cloud.  
Winter, with a cold, deciduous voice,  
Came briskly and purposefully upon us,  
  
And our secure horizon  
    Retracted  
To a warm room's bounds. But children  
    Swanked into the yard,  
Their warm laughter twirling the prodigal snow  
Into peaks, columns, ghosts – the afternoon glow  
  
Was evergreen memory for them.  
    So we all,  
Warmed, went to the window, away from  
    The surly fire. The tall  
Snow fell, and thicket, hedge and fence,  
Familiar limits all, burned so with snow's radiance  
  
As to delight, renew us.  
    And we saw,  
Thirty years clearer our eyes,  
    Ourselves, puffed round with scarves,  
Like rainbow robins bounce on the stiff-legged snow,  
Innocently singing with voices lost long ago.

(Turn over)

**POEM C: 'BLIZZARD' BY RUTH BIDGOOD**

**“What is it like up here in snow?”  
we wondered, shivering at dusk  
on the boggy plateau. Answerless,  
we stared along the ruts  
of an obscure track. There was  
the hint of a wind. Our thoughts  
momentarily touched a sleeping fear.**

**That fear has woken up tonight  
with a white scream. Even the valley  
suffers the storm’s answer  
that we so lightly sought –  
the truth from the heights  
come shrieking down in darkness  
to batter at our safety.**

**In the morning, when the wind drops,  
we will climb again, perhaps,  
and in the high white silence find  
another answer growing from the first.  
Because that was, this is – sun, sun and snow,  
and all tracks gone but those  
our seeking footsteps make upon the hill.**

**POEM D: 'A MARCH SNOW' BY ELLA WHEELER  
WILCOX**

**Let the old snow be covered with the new:  
The trampled snow, so soiled, and stained, and sodden.  
Let it be hidden wholly from our view  
By pure white flakes, all trackless and untrodden.  
When Winter dies, low at the sweet Spring's feet  
Let him be mantled in a clean, white sheet.**

**Let the old life be covered by the new:  
The old past life so full of sad mistakes,  
Let it be wholly hidden from the view  
By deeds as white and silent as snow-flakes.**

**Ere this earth life melts in the eternal Spring  
Let the white mantle of repentance fling  
Soft drapery about it, fold on fold,  
Even as the new snow covers up the old.**

**END OF PAPER**