



AS

ENGLISH LITERATURE B

Paper 1A Literary genres: Drama: Aspects of tragedy

7716/1A

Thursday 18 May 2023

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

MATERIALS

For this paper you must have:

- **an AQA 12-page answer book.**

[Turn over]

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INSTRUCTIONS

- **Use black ink or black ball-point pen.**
- **Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The PAPER REFERENCE is 7716/1A.**
- **Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.**
- **You must answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B.**

INFORMATION

- **The maximum mark for this paper is 50.**
- **The marks for questions are shown in brackets.**
- **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 the connections across the texts you have studied**
 - **explore different interpretations of your texts.**

DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO

SECTION A

Answer ONE question from this section.

EITHER

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‘Othello’ – William Shakespeare

Explore the significance of aspects of dramatic tragedy in the following passage, provided on pages 5 to 7, in relation to the play as a whole.

You should consider the following in your answer:

- **the presentation of Iago’s villainy**
- **Othello’s response to Iago’s manipulation**
- **other relevant aspects of dramatic tragedy.**

[25 marks]

IAGO

(returning) My lord, I would I might entreat your honour

To scan this thing no farther. Leave it to time.

Although 'tis fit that Cassio have his place,

For sure he fills it up with great ability,

Yet, if you please to hold him off awhile,

You shall by that perceive him and his means;

Note if your lady strain his entertainment

With any strong or vehement importunity –

Much will be seen in that. In the meantime,

Let me be thought too busy in my fears,

As worthy cause I have to fear I am,

And hold her free, I do beseech your honour.

OTHELLO

Fear not my government.

IAGO

I once more take my leave.

Exit

OTHELLO

This fellow's of exceeding honesty,

And knows all qualities with a learned spirit

Of human dealings. If I do prove her haggard,

Though that her jesses were my dear heart-strings,

I'd whistle her off, and let her down the wind

To prey at fortune. Haply, for I am black

And have not those soft parts of conversation

That chamberers have; or for I am declined

Into the vale of years – yet that's not much –

She's gone: I am abused, and my relief

Must be to loathe her. O, curse of marriage!

That we can call these delicate creatures ours

And not their appetites! I had rather be a toad
And live upon the vapour of a dungeon
Than keep a corner in the thing I love
For others' uses. Yet 'tis the plague of great ones;
Prerogated are they less than the base.
'Tis destiny unshunnable, like death:
Even then this forkèd plague is fated to us
When we do quicken. Desdemona comes:
Enter Desdemona and Emilia
If she be false, O, then heaven mocks itself!
I'll not believe't.

(Act 3, Scene 3)

[Turn over]

OR

02

‘King Lear’ – William Shakespeare

Explore the significance of aspects of dramatic tragedy in the following passage, provided on pages 9 to 10, in relation to the play as a whole.

You should consider the following in your answer:

- **the presentation of Lear**
- **other relevant aspects of dramatic tragedy.**

[25 marks]

GLOUCESTER I know that voice.

He falls to his knees

LEAR Ha! Gonerill with a white beard! They flattered me like a dog and told me I had the white hairs in my beard

ere the black ones were there. To say 'ay' and 'no' to everything that I said! 'Ay' and 'no' too was no good divinity. When the rain came to wet me once and the wind to make me chatter; when the thunder would not peace at my bidding; there I found 'em, there I smelt 'em out. Go to, they are not men o'their words. They told me I was everything. 'Tis a lie: I am not ague-proof.

GLOUCESTER

The trick of that voice I do well remember.
Is't not the King?

LEAR Ay, every inch a king.

When I do stare see how the subject quakes.
I pardon that man's life. What was thy cause?
Adultery?

Thou shalt not die. Die for adultery? No.

The wren goes to't, and the small gilded fly
Does lecher in my sight.

Let copulation thrive; for Gloucester's bastard son
Was kinder to his father than my daughters
Got 'tween the lawful sheets.

To't, luxury, pell-mell, for I lack soldiers.

[Turn over]

Behold yon simpering dame
Whose face between her forks presages snow,
That minces virtue and does shake the head
To hear of pleasure's name –
The fitchew nor the soiled horse goes to't
With a more riotous appetite.
Down from the waist they are centaurs,
Though women all above;
But to the girdle do the gods inherit,
Beneath is all the fiends' –
There's hell, there's darkness, there is the sulphurous
pit – burning, scalding, stench, consumption! Fie, fie,
fie! Pah, pah! Give me an ounce of civet; good
apothe-
cary, sweeten my imagination. There's money for
thee.

He gives flowers

(Act 4, Scene 6)

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[Turn over]

SECTION B

Answer ONE question from this section.

EITHER

03

‘Richard II’ – William Shakespeare

Explore the view that “at the end of the play, no positives emerge”.

Remember to include in your answer relevant comments on Shakespeare’s dramatic methods. [25 marks]

OR

04

‘Death of a Salesman’ – Arthur Miller

Explore the view that “the female characters in the play are victims who deserve our sympathy”.

Remember to include in your answer relevant comments on Miller’s dramatic methods. [25 marks]

OR

05

‘A Streetcar Named Desire’ – Tennessee Williams

Explore the view that “there is no greatness in the play – only ordinary people leading ordinary lives”.

Remember to include in your answer relevant comments on Williams’ dramatic methods. [25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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