

General Certificate of Education  
June 2006  
Advanced Level Examination



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
(SPECIFICATION B)  
Unit 6 Critical Approaches**

**NTB6**

Tuesday 20 June 2006 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book;
- your copy of the pre-release material.

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes  
(including 30 minutes reading time)

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is NTB6.
- Answer **both** questions.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 70 which will be scaled to give a mark out of 40.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.

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Answer **both** questions.

You will be allowed 30 minutes in which to read the unseen Texts 8 and 9 printed on pages 3 and 4 of this question paper.

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1 Compare the ways in which the topic of roads and journeys is presented.

In your answer you **must** refer in detail to Texts 8 and 9 and to at least **two** texts from the pre-release material.

In your answer you should:

- focus on how roads and journeys are presented
- make explicit comparisons between your chosen texts
- identify the attitudes and values expressed and implied
- support your claims by reference to relevant aspects of context and genre
- provide precise analysis of relevant language use.

*(50 marks)*

2 Explain the methods you chose to compare the texts, and show how useful these were in contributing to your understanding of and response to the texts.

*(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

## Text 8

### A Transcript

Extracts from the video 'In the footsteps of Coleridge' produced by the Duke of Edinburgh Award (1988) about a Gold Scheme task planned by 5 teenage students.

#### Key

VO:	voice-over commentary
Sup:	adult supervisor
[Coleridge]	extracts read from Coleridge's notebooks
....	section from video omitted
(.)	short pause

**VO:** our group decide to undertake an exploration tracing the footsteps of the poet Coleridge

**Sup:** there's a lot of ideas in the book

**Girl 1:** sounds interesting

**Boy 1:** it's got some more suggestions (.) there's John Constable (.) Wordsworth (.) um Coleridge is interesting [*reads*] Coleridge was the first one to record the delights and terrors of walking in the high fells in August 1802 following his footsteps are your feelings the same as his that's just a suggestion

[*MUSIC*]

**Boy 1:** so far we've taken these notes and a summary we found in one of the books (.) em and just em found points that were mentioned along the map (.) we've written down references and (.) um obviously it doesn't give the exact route the whole way so we'll have to (.) em we'll have to sort of guess some of it

**Boy 2:** I'm more interested in what he's done what his route was rather than his poetry I can't say I've read any so probably will do at some point I don't know

**Girl 1:** I think we'll get different things out of it like the boys might enjoy the rockclimbing more and (.) em some of us might just get to know Coleridge more some of us might look at the scenery more than the others so I think it could be very different yeah

**Boy 2:** when he goes over Broad Stand it was a bit lary so we're thinking of doing a rock climb down so we'll have to get training for that

[*.... The group are shown reaching the top of Scafell*]

**Boy 1:** you're you're not just plodding em between camp sites getting tired and (.) er demoralised and things (.) you've got something (.) you think just over that hill there'll be something for me (.) and you get there and it's there

**Girl 2:** terrible (.) I'd never do it again

**Girl 3:** I didn't really think about it [*laughs*] it put me off too much I don't think about it I just took it as it came

....

**VO:** our group are met at the summit by the supervisor and assessor who will safely oversee the severe descent of Broad Stand using equipment the group has carried with them

[*Coleridge*] I began to suspect I ought not to go on but then unfortunately though I could with ease drop down a smooth rock seven feet high I could not climb it so go on I must

[*MUSIC as the group climbs down*]

**Girl 1:** well I wouldn't have gone down that rock face without any ropes (.) and I felt very I felt secure with the ropes but I would have felt very unsecure otherwise I wouldn't have done it that way

**Boy 2:** going up Scafell was really good once you got to the top it was a great sense of achievement

**Boy 1:** it was hard work going up (.) but once you got up the views were absolutely superb

**Girl 2:** I was glad once I got there but I hated it going up it was awful [*laughs*]

**Boy 1:** from now on I sort of (.) whenever Coleridge is mentioned I'll sort of think yeah I know a bit about him

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**Text 9**

**A poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)**

**Mezzo Cammin (1842)**

Half of my life is gone, and I have let  
 The years slip from me and have not fulfilled  
 The aspiration of my youth, to build  
 Some tower of song with lofty parapet.  
 Not indolence, nor pleasure, nor the fret  
 Of restless passions that would not be stilled,  
 But sorrow, and a care that almost killed,  
 Kept me from what I may accomplish yet;  
 Though, half-way up the hill, I see the Past  
 Lying beneath me with its sounds and sights, –  
 A city in the twilight dim and vast,  
 With smoking roofs, soft bells, and gleaming lights, –  
 And hear above me on the autumnal blast  
 The cataract<sup>1</sup> of Death far thundering from the heights.

The title refers to the opening of one of the most famous poems in literature:

*La Divina Commedia (The Divine Comedy)*  
 Dante Alighieri  
**Inferno: Canto I**

Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita  
 mi ritrovai per una selva oscura  
 che la diritta via era smarrita.

In the middle of the journey of our life, I found myself  
 in a dark wood with the right road lost.

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<sup>1</sup> cataract – a waterfall

**END OF TEXTS**

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**Text 8:** Extract provided with kind permission of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

**Text 9:** 'Mezzo Cammin' (1842) by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.