



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2013

English Literature (Specification A)

LTA1A

Unit 1 Texts in Context

Option A: Victorian Literature

Friday 18 January 2013 9.00 am to 11.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 LTA1A.
- Answer **two** questions.
- You must answer:
 - the **compulsory** question in **Section A**: Contextual Linking
 - **one** question from **Section B**: Poetry.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- The poetry texts prescribed for this paper **may** be taken into the examination room. Texts taken into the examination must be clean: that is, free from annotation.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 1 hour on each question.

Section A: Contextual Linking**Answer Question 1.**

In your response to this section of the paper you must refer to your wider reading across all three genres (prose, poetry and drama). You may also refer to your AS coursework texts.

Question 1

0	1
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Read the following extract carefully. It is taken from Catherine Parr Traill's memoir *The Backwoods of Canada* (1836), which was a bestseller throughout the Victorian era. Catherine Parr Traill was born in England in 1802 and emigrated to Ontario in 1832. Here she considers the difficulties awaiting those who left Britain to start a new life in the Canadian colonies, part of the British Empire.

How does the writer present her thoughts and feelings about aspects of Victorian life?

How far is the extract similar to and different from your wider reading in Victorian literature? You should consider the writers' choices of form, structure and language, as well as subject matter. (45 marks)

The emigrants to British America are no longer in the rank of life that formerly left the shores of the British Isles. It is not only the poor husbandmen and artisans¹, that move in vast bodies to the west, but it is the enterprising English capitalist, and the once affluent landholder, alarmed at the difficulties of establishing numerous families in independence, in a country where every profession is overstocked, that join the bands that Great Britain is pouring forth into these colonies! Of what vital importance is it that the female members of these most valuable colonists should obtain proper information regarding the important duties they are undertaking; that they should learn beforehand to brace their minds to the task, and thus avoid the repinings and discontent that is apt to follow unfounded expectations and fallacious hopes!

It is a fact not universally known to the public, that British officers and their families are usually denizens of the backwoods; and as great numbers of unattached officers of every rank have accepted grants of land in Canada, they are the pioneers of civilization in the wilderness, and their families, often of delicate nurture and honourable descent, are at once plunged into all the hardships attendant on the rough life of a bush-settler. The laws that regulate the grants of land, which enforce a certain time of residence, and certain settlement duties to be performed, allow no claims to absentees when once the land is drawn. These laws wisely force a superiorly-educated man with resources of both property and intellect, to devote all his energies to a certain spot of uncleared land. It may easily be supposed that no persons would encounter these hardships who have not a young family to establish in the healthful ways of independence. This family renders the residence of such a head still more valuable to the colony; and the half-pay officer², by thus leading the advanced guard of civilization, and bringing into these rough districts gentle and well-educated females, who soften and improve all around them by *mental* refinements, is serving his country as much by founding peaceful villages

and pleasant homesteads in the trackless wilds, as ever he did by personal courage, or military stratagem, in times of war.

¹ husbandmen and artisans: farm labourers and manual workers.

² half-pay officer: a reserve officer who had left the army but still received half of his regular pay. He could be recalled to active military service at any time.

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►

Section B: Poetry

Answer **one** question from this section.

In your response to this section of the paper you should consider the form, structure and language of the poems you choose to write about, as well as their subject matter.

Selected Poems – John Clare**EITHER****Question 2**

0	2
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“Clare is at his most effective when he writes about the changes taking place in the countryside during his lifetime.”

How far do you agree with this view of Clare’s poetry?

In your answer you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection. (45 marks)

OR**Question 3**

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Remind yourself of ‘Memory’, the last poem in the selection.

To what extent do you feel that this poem provides an appropriate conclusion to the selection? (45 marks)

Selected Poems – The Brontës**OR****Question 4**

0	4
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“Childhood is the most important theme in the poetry of the Brontës.”

How far do you agree with this view of the Brontës’ poetry?

In your answer you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection. (45 marks)

OR**Question 5**

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Remind yourself of ‘Will the day be bright or cloudy?’, the first poem by Emily Brontë in this selection.

To what extent do you feel that this poem would provide an effective introduction to the whole selection? (45 marks)

Selected Poems – Alfred, Lord Tennyson**OR****Question 6**

0	6
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“The primary target of Tennyson’s poetry is Victorian greed and materialism.”

How far do you agree with this view of Tennyson’s poetry?

In your answer you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection. *(45 marks)*

OR**Question 7**

0	7
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Remind yourself of Tennyson’s poem ‘The Golden Year’.

To what extent do you feel that this poem is of central importance to the selection of Tennyson’s poetry that you have studied? *(45 marks)*

Selected Poems – Thomas Hardy**OR****Question 8**

0	8
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“Love is the most important theme in Hardy’s poetry.”

How far do you agree with this view?

In your answer you should **either** refer to **two** or **three** poems in detail **or** range more widely through the whole selection. *(45 marks)*

OR**Question 9**

0	9
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Remind yourself of Hardy’s poem ‘The Darkling Thrush’.

To what extent do you agree that this poem is the key to the whole selection? *(45 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

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Question 1: Extract from *The Backwoods of Canada*, by Catherine Parr Traill, published by McClelland and Stewart Ltd, 1836.

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