

PAPER 1 (Love Through the Ages) 3 hours (40% of A level)

SECTION A – *Othello* – 1 extract based question with closed book exam. e.g. ‘Typically, texts about husbands and wives present marriage from a male point of view.’ In the light of this view, discuss how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Othello and Desdemona in this extract and elsewhere in the play.

(25 MARKS) 55 minutes (5 minutes extract analysis, 5 minutes planning, 45 minutes writing)

SECTION B – Comparative unseen poetry – two poems from different time periods. 1 question which offers a full or partial argument e.g. ‘It has been said that Rossetti’s poem is conventional and celebratory, whereas Millay’s poem offers a very different view of love. Compare and contrast the presentation of love in the following poems in light of this comment.

(25 MARKS) 70 minutes (10 minutes analysis of each poem, 5 minutes planning, 45 minutes writing)

SECTION C - *Atonement* and pre-1900 poetry anthology (2 poems) – open book comparative with choice of 2 questions e.g. ‘Compare how the authors of two texts you have studied present ideas about passion’ **OR** ‘Compare how the authors of two text you have studies present barriers to love.’

(25 MARKS) 55 minutes (5 minutes planning, 50 minutes writing)

PAPER 2 (Texts in Shares Contexts) 2 hrs 30 (40% of A level) – OPTION 2 150 minutes

SECTION A – *A Streetcar Named Desire* – choice of two questions e.g. ‘Primarily, this play presents a clash between two cultures, not two individuals.’ Examine this view of *A Streetcar Named Desire* **OR** Examine the view that *A Streetcar Named Desire* fails because the relationship between Stanley and Stella is inconceivable.

(25 MARKS) 45 minutes (5 minutes planning, 40 minutes writing)

SECTION B – Unseen prose extract – you will be given 1 unseen prose extract from 1945 onwards and asked to answer a question on a theme of modern identity e.g. ‘Explore the significance of isolation in this extract. Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that the author shapes meanings’

(25 MARKS) 55 minutes (10 minutes analysis of extract and planning, 45 minutes writing)

SECTION C – *The Handmaid’s Tale* and *Feminine Gospels* (2 poems) – 1 question linked to section B by theme i.e. isolation e.g. ‘Modern literature shows isolated characters as being profoundly damaged.’ Compare the significance of isolation in two other texts you have studied

(25 MARKS) 50 minutes (5 minutes planning, 45 minutes writing)

NEA (Non- Examination Assessment) (20% of A level)

Studying of a series of satellite texts –*The Merchant of Venice, Much Ado, A Doll’s House, Wide Sargasso Sea, Brighton Rock* - you will then choose your own question to explore and analyse e.g.

‘In literature, marginalized characters suffer under the oppressive actions of their superiors.’

In light of this view, compare and contrast the presentation of marginalized characters within *The Merchant Of Venice* and *Wide Sargasso Sea*.

Your word count is 2500 (excluding quotations) and this is independently led based on your interests and personal perspective.

Other essential skills

- Confident and engaged reader of literature
- Articulate and able to vocalise ideas to spur on discussion
- Equipped with managing time and independence – significant number of longer texts to read
- Interest in wider critical reading
- Awareness of social and historical events to complement reading
- Reflective – most tasks will require redrafting/refining