
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

9748/03

Paper 3 The Individual and Society in Literature

31 August 2016

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

Set texts may be taken into the examination room. They may bear underlining or highlighting. Any kind of folding or flagging of pages in texts (eg. use of post-its, tape flags or paper clips) is not permitted.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your registration number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **three** questions, one from each of Sections A, B and C.
You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

Section A

Answer one question in this section.

1

Either(a) The extract below is from the play *Time and the Conways* (1939) by J B Priestly, which is set in a prosperous English suburb of 1919.

Write a critical appreciation of the extract, relating it to the theme of the individual and society in literature.

MADGE We're friends, aren't we?

GERALD I consider you one of my very best friends, Madge, and I hope I'm not flattering myself.

MADGE (*warmly*) Of course not.

GERALD (*smilingly*) Good! So?

MADGE You're not doing enough, Gerald.

GERALD (*mildly*) I'm kept busy, y'know.

MADGE Yes, I don't mean you're lazy – though I'm not sure that you aren't a bit, y'know, Gerald – I mean you're not doing enough with yourself. You're not using yourself to the utmost. I could be tremendously proud of you, Gerald.

GERALD That's – almost overwhelming – coming from you, Madge.

MADGE Why from me?

GERALD Because I know very well that you've got a very good brain and are a most critical young woman. Rather frightening.

MADGE (*rather femininely*) Nonsense! You don't mean that. I'd much rather you didn't, y'know.

GERALD All right, I don't. As a matter of fact, I'm very fond of you, Madge, but don't often get a chance of showing you that I am.

MADGE (*lighting up at this*) I've always been fond of you, Gerald, and that's why I say I could be tremendously proud of you. (*With more breadth and sweep and real warm enthusiasm*) We're going to build a new world now. This horrible War was probably necessary because it was great bonfire on which we threw all the old nasty rubbish of the world. Civilisation can really begin – at last. People have learnt their lesson –

GERALD (*dubiously*) I hope so.

MADGE Oh Gerald – don't be so pessimistic, so cynical –

GERALD Sorry, but a lawyer – even a young one – sees a lot of human nature in his office. There's a procession of people with their quarrels and grievances. And sometimes I wonder how much people are capable of learning.

MADGE That's because you have to deal with some of the stupidest. But the people – all over the world – have learned their lesson. You'll see. No more piling up armaments. No more wars. No more hate and intolerance and violence. Oh – Gerald – I believe that when we look back – in twenty years' time – we'll be staggered at the progress that's been made. Because things happen quickly now –

GERALD That's true enough.

MADGE (*begins to orate*) And so is all the rest. Under the League, we'll build up a new commonwealth of all the nations, so that they can live at peace for ever. And Imperialism will go. And so in the end, of course, will Capitalism. There'll be no booms and slumps and panics and strikes and lockouts, because the people themselves, led by the best brains in their countries, will possess both political and economic power. There'll be Socialism at least, a free,

prosperous, happy people, all enjoying equal opportunities, living at peace with the whole world. (*Quotes with great fervour and sincerity*)

45 Bring me my bow of burning gold:
 Bring me my Arrows of desire:
 Bring me my Spear: O clouds unfold!
 Bring me my Chariot of fire.

50 I will not cease from Mental Fight,
 Nor shall my Sword sleep in my hand
 Till we have built Jerusalem
 In England's green and pleasant Land...

GERALD (*moved*) Madge – you're inspired tonight. I – I hardly recognise you – you're –
MADGE (*warmly*) This is the real me. Oh! – Gerald – in this New World we're going to
55 build up now, men and women won't play a silly little game of cross-purposes
 any longer. They'll go forward together – sharing everything.

Or (b) Write a critical appreciation of the following poem (published in 1795) by Robert Southey, relating it to the theme of the individual and society in literature.

The Pauper's Funeral

What! and not one to heave the pious sigh? Not one whose sorrow-swoln and aching eye For social scenes, for life's endearments fled, Shall drop a tear and dwell upon the dead? Poor wretched Outcast! I will weep for thee, And sorrow for forlorn humanity.	5
Yes, I will weep; but not that thou art come To the stern Sabbath of the silent tomb: For squalid Want, and the black scorpion Care, Heart-withering fiends! shall never enter there. I sorrow for the ills thy life has known As thro' the world's long pilgrimage, alone, Haunted by Poverty and woe-begone, Unloved, unfriended, thou didst journey on: Thy youth in ignorance and labour past, And thine old age all barrenness and blast!	10
Hard was thy Fate, which, while it doom'd to woe, Denied thee wisdom to support the blow; And robb'd of all its energy thy mind, Ere yet it cast thee on thy fellow-kind, Abject of thought, the victim of distress, To wander in the world's wide wilderness.	15
Poor Outcast, sleep in peace! the wintry storm Blows bleak no more on thine unshelter'd form; Thy woes are past; thou retest in the tomb; – I pause – and ponder on the days to come.	20
	25

Section B

**Answer one question in this section, using two texts that you have studied.
The texts used in this section cannot be used in Section C.**

2

Either(a) Compare the ways in which **two** of the texts you have read present individuals in a social hierarchy.

Or (b) “Individuals need to belong.”
With this comment in mind, compare the ways in which **two** texts you have studied present social belonging.

Section C

**Answer one question in this section, using one text that you have studied.
The text used in this section cannot be used in Section B.**

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE: *The Scarlet Letter*

3

Either(a) Discuss the presentation of the individual's conscience in relation to his or her society in *The Scarlet Letter*.

Or (b) "Hester Prynne is a woman ahead of her time." Discuss in relation to ideas about the individual and society.

PHILIP LARKIN: *from Collected Poems*

4

Either(a) How accurate is it to describe Larkin's presentation of the individual's memory and nostalgia as largely social? You should refer to at least **two** poems from your selection.

Or (b) "Loneliness clarifies."
Discuss Larkin's presentation of loneliness and its effects on the individual and society. You should refer to at least **two** poems from your selection.

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: *A Streetcar Named Desire*

5

Either(a) Consider Williams's presentation of individual and social desire in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Or (b) Discuss the significance of symbolism to the play's exploration of the individual and society.