

GCE A LEVEL - NEW

1720U40-1



ENGLISH LITERATURE – A2 unit 4 Shakespeare

THURSDAY, 22 JUNE 2017 – MORNING 2 hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question in Section A and **one** question in Section B.

The same Shakespeare play must be chosen for both Section A and Section B. Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Section A carries 45 marks and Section B carries 75 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

You are advised to spend approximately 45 minutes on Section A and one hour 15 minutes on Section B.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

Section A: Shakespeare extract

Answer one question in this section.

In your response, you are required to analyse how meanings are shaped.

Either,

King Lear

1. With close reference to the language and imagery in this extract, analyse Shakespeare's presentation of Lear's thoughts and feelings at this point in the play. [45]

REGAN LEAR What need one?
O, reason not the need! Our basest beggars

Are in the poorest thing superfluous.
Allow not nature more than nature needs,
Man's life is cheap as beast's. Thou art a lady:

If only to go warm were gorgeous,

Why, nature needs not what thou gorgeous wear'st, Which scarcely keeps thee warm. But, for true need –

You heavens, give me that patience, patience I need. You see me here, you gods, a poor old man,

As full of grief as age; wretched in both.

If it be you that stirs these daughters' hearts

Against their father, fool me not so much To bear it tamely; touch me with noble anger,

And let not women's weapons, water-drops,

Stain my man's cheeks! No, you unnatural hags, I will have such revenges on you both

That all the world shall – I will do such things – What they are yet I know not; but they shall be

The terrors of the earth. You think I'll weep. No, I'll not weep. [Storm and tempest.

I have full cause of weeping; but this heart Shall break into a hundred thousand flaws Or ere I'll weep. O fool, I shall go mad! [Exeunt Lear, Gloucester, Kent and Fool.

(Act 2, Scene iv)

Antony and Cleopatra

2. With close reference to the language and imagery in this extract, analyse Shakespeare's presentation of the relationship between Antony and Cleopatra at this point in the play. [45]

ANTONY O, whither hast thou led me, Egypt? See

How I convey my shame out of thine eyes By looking back what I have left behind

'Stroy'd in dishonour.

CLEOPATRA O my lord, my lord,

Forgive my fearful sails! I little thought

You would have followed.

ANTONY Egypt, thou knew'st too well

My heart was to thy rudder tied by th' strings, And thou shouldst tow me after. O'er my spirit Thy full supremacy thou knew'st, and that Thy beck might from the bidding of the gods

Command me.

CLEOPATRA O, my pardon!

ANTONY Now I must

To the young man send humble treaties, dodge

And palter in the shifts of lowness, who

With half the bulk o' th' world play'd as I pleas'd Making and marring fortunes. You did know How much you were my conqueror, and that My sword, made weak by my affection, would

Obey it on all cause.

CLEOPATRA ANTONY Pardon, pardon! Fall not a tear, I say; one of them rates

All that is won and lost. Give me a kiss;

Even this repays me.

We sent our schoolmaster; is 'a come back?

Love, I am full of lead. Some wine,

Within there, and our viands! Fortune knows We scorn her most when most she offers blows.

[Exeunt.

(Act 3, Scene xi)

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Hamlet

3. With close reference to the language and imagery in this extract, analyse how Shakespeare presents Hamlet's character at this point in the play. [45]

Enter Hamlet.

HAMLET Now might I do it pat, now 'a is a-praying;

And now I'll do't – and so 'a goes to heaven,

And so am I reveng'd. That would be scann'd:

A villain kills my father; and for that,

I, his sole son, do this same villain send

To heaven.

Why, this is hire and salary, not revenge.

'A took my father grossly, full of bread,

With all his crimes broad blown, as flush as May;

And how his audit stands who knows save heaven?

But in our circumstance and course of thought

'Tis heavy with him; and am I then reveng'd

To take him in the purging of his soul,

When he is fit and season'd for his passage?

No.

Up, sword, and know thou a more horrid hent.

When he is drunk asleep, or in his rage;

Or in th' incestuous pleasure of his bed;

At game, a-swearing, or about some act

That has no relish of salvation in't -

Then trip him, that his heels may kick at heaven,

And that his soul may be as damn'd and black

As hell, whereto it goes. My mother stays.

This physic but prolongs thy sickly days.

[Exit.

KING [Rising] My words fly up, my thoughts remain below.

Words without thoughts never to heaven go.

[Exit.

(Act 3, Scene iii)

Henry IV Part 1

4. With close reference to the language and imagery in this extract, analyse Shakespeare's presentation of the King at this point in the play. [45]

KING God pardon thee! Yet let me wonder, Harry, At thy affections, which do hold a wing Quite from the flight of all thy ancestors. Thy place in council thou hast rudely lost, Which by thy younger brother is supplied. And art almost an alien to the hearts Of all the court and princes of my blood. The hope and expectation of thy time Is ruin'd, and the soul of every man Prophetically do forethink thy fall. Had I so lavish of my presence been, So common-hackney'd in the eyes of men, So stale and cheap to vulgar company, Opinion, that did help me to the crown, Had still kept loval to possession And left me in reputeless banishment A fellow of no mark nor likelihood. By being seldom seen, I could not stir But, like a comet, I was wond'red at; That men would tell their children 'This is he'; Others would say 'Where, which is Bolingbroke?' And then I stole all courtesy from heaven, And dress'd myself in such humility That I did pluck allegiance from men's hearts, Loud shouts and salutations from their mouths, Even in the presence of the crowned King. Thus did I keep my person fresh and new, My presence, like a robe pontifical, Ne'er seen but wond'red at, and so my state, Seldom but sumptuous, show'd like a feast And won by rareness such solemnity.

(Act 3, Scene ii)

The Tempest

5. With close reference to the language and imagery in this extract, analyse how Shakespeare presents Prospero at this point in the play. [45]

PROSPERO Go release them, Ariel;

My charms I'll break, their senses I'll restore,

And they shall be themselves.

ARIEL I'll fetch them, sir. [Exit.

PROSPERO Ye elves of hills, brooks, standing lakes, and groves;

And ye that on the sands with printless foot Do chase the ebbing Neptune, and do fly him When he comes back; you demi-puppets that By moonshine do the green sour ringlets make, Whereof the ewe not bites; and you whose pastime Is to make midnight mushrooms, that rejoice

To hear the solemn curfew; by whose aid – Weak masters though ye be – I have be-dimm'd The noontide sun, call'd forth the mutinous winds, And 'twixt the green sea and the azur'd vault

Set roaring war. To the dread rattling thunder Have I given fire, and rifted Jove's stout oak With his own bolt; the strong-bas'd promontory

Have I made shake, and by the spurs pluck'd up The pine and cedar. Graves at my command

Have wak'd their sleepers, op'd, and let 'em forth, By my so potent art. But this rough magic

I here abjure; and, when I have requir'd

Some heavenly music – which even now I do –

To work mine end upon their senses that

This airy charm is for, I'll break my staff, Bury it certain fathoms in the earth,

And deeper than did ever plummet sound

I'll drown my book.

[Solemn music.

(Act 5, Scene i)

Section B: Shakespeare essay

Answer one question in this section.

In your response, you are required to:

- analyse how meanings are shaped
- demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received
- show how different interpretations have informed your reading.

King Lear

Either,

6. "Shakespeare's chief concern in *King Lear* is to highlight the absurdity of life in a heartless universe." Examine this view of the play. [75]

Or,

7. "In *King Lear* Shakespeare presents a society in which violence goes hand in hand with power." Examine this view of the play. [75]

Antony and Cleopatra

Either,

8. "Antony lacks the stature of a tragic hero and Cleopatra only acquires tragic stature after Antony's death." Discuss this view of the play. [75]

Or,

9. "In *Antony and Cleopatra* love is shown to be more destructive than war." Examine this view of the play. [75]

Hamlet

Either,

10. How far would you agree that *Hamlet* is "not so much a revenge tragedy as a domestic drama"? [75]

Or.

11. "In *Hamlet* Shakespeare shows us a Denmark disordered by a prince's melancholy and sickness of soul." Examine this view of the play. [75]

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Henry IV Part 1

Either,

12. "In this play we are left in no doubt that kingship is a role that must be acted." Examine this view of kingship in *Henry IV Part 1.* [75]

Or,

13. How far would you agree that in *Henry IV Part 1* we witness how "power poisons personal relationships"? [75]

The Tempest

Either,

14. "The island setting, the use of magic and the supernatural all provide us with nothing more than an entertaining spectacle." How far would you agree with this view of *The Tempest*? [75]

Or,

15. "In his creation of Ariel and Caliban Shakespeare presents a world in which moral values are unclear." Examine this view of *The Tempest.* [75]

END OF PAPER