

Section 2 – Drama and Poetry pre-1900

Answer **one** question from this section. You should spend about 1 hour and 15 minutes on this section.

In your answer, you should refer to one drama text and one poetry text from the following lists:

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Love is invariably possessive.

In light of this view, consider ways in which writers explore love and possession.

Good writing about sexual relationships is invariably moral.

In light of this view, consider ways in which writers explore the morality of sexual relationships.

Men may seem to be more powerful than women but the reality is very different

In light of this view, consider ways in which writers explore power and gender.

Forbidden tastes are sweetest.

In light of this view, consider ways in which writers explore the attraction of that which is forbidden.

Conflict in literature generally arises from misunderstanding.

In light of this view, consider ways in which writers make use of misunderstanding.

Rank and social status are enemies of happiness.

In light of this view, consider ways in which writers explore the effects of rank and social status.

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'Endings are always, in some sense, artificial.'

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers conclude their work.

'What can male writers know or understand about women?'

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers present women.

'Arrogance is the most monstrous of faults.'

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers portray arrogance.

'It is rarely good for us to get what we want.'

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers portray appetites and desires, and their consequences.

'Wrongdoing and villainy can provoke both admiration and disgust at the same time.'

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers present wrongdoing and villainy.

'Seduction is most effectively accomplished through flattery.'

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers represent seduction.

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To embrace love is to embrace danger

In the light of this view, consider writers' treatment of love

Literature explores the conflict between order and chaos

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers represent order and chaos.

The fascination of innocence lies in its fragility

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers represent innocence.

Verbal wit is women's strongest weapon

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers represent women's use of language.

Court, city or country: a writer's choice of setting is always significant

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers use settings.

Great literary characters are always putting on a show

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers present literary characters.

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Literature rarely shows power being used well

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers present the use of power.

Experience all too often leads to disillusionment

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers explore the consequences of experience.

Good writing must, above all, help us to view the world afresh.

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers help us to see the world in new ways.

Literature shows us that sexual desire must be restrained

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers present sexual desire.

Humour helps us come to terms with human weakness

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers explore human weaknesses.

Writers, readers and audiences delight in the spectacle of sinfulness

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers present sin.

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Pride goes before a fall: the greater the pride, the harder the fall

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers present pride and its consequences.

Love is a kind of madness

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers portray love and its effects.

In literature the use of time is always significant

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers make use of time.

Words can entice use, can compel us, can ensnare us

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers present persuasive or seductive uses of language

We admire defiance and disobedience – especially in the face of the inevitable

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers explore defiance and disobedience

There is a fine line between heroism and foolishness

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers explore heroism.

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Because we know we must die, we live all the more intensely.

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers portray the idea of living life to the full.

Laughter is always dangerous

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers use humour.

Love is the most selfish of emotions

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers explore love.

Appetite – whether for power, knowledge, sex or money – is a destructive force.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers explore appetites.

Happiness – a state to which all aspire but which few will ever reach.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers explore the search for happiness.

Irony exposes the gap between the way things appear to be and the way they are.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers use irony.

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Love is a restless emotion, driving growth and change.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers explore the power and effects of love.

Life is a game of chance in which skilful players risk everything.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers explore risk and chance

Temptation arises from a willingness to be tempted.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers explore temptation and its consequences.

There is a tension between the attractiveness of wrongdoing and fear of its consequences.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers explore aspects of wrongdoing.

For women, sex is a means to an end. For men, it is an end in itself.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers explore differing attitudes to sex.

It is the processes of argument and persuasion which most strongly engage us.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers use argument and persuasion.

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The struggle with God is all consuming and passionate.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers explore relationships with God.

It is their weaknesses which make heroic characters interesting.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers present heroic characters.

Pride is inescapable from foolishness

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers present the nature of pride.

Evil characters are lonely characters and their isolations fascinates us.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers explore the nature of evil.

Desire dazzles and destroys people like light in a candle flame.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers present intense desire and their consequences.

Women are the subtler sex; more varied in their attractions, more ingenious in their stratagems.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers present women.

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Masks, poses, facades, deception – all are weapons in the battle of life.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers present disguise and deception.

In literature, the main purpose of setting is to intensify the presentation of character.

In the light of this view, discuss the effects writers create by their use of settings.

We are both fascinated and repelled by the obsessions of others.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers present obsession and its effects.

Flawed characters are always more memorable than any moral lessons that literature seeks to draw from them.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers present characters' flaws and failings.

Of all the emotions that drive us, fear is the strongest.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers present the power of fear.

The more intense the passion, the more bitter its effects

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers present intense emotions.

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The pleasures of pursuit are greater than the thrill of conquest.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers present seduction and its consequences.

Vanity drives us and can all too easily destroy us.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers present the power of vanity

By inviting us to laugh at foolishness writers encourage us to laugh at ourselves.

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers use mockery and humour.

Conflict in literature generally arises from misunderstanding.

In light of this view, consider ways in which writers make use of misunderstanding.

Experience all too often leads to disillusionment

In the light of this view, consider ways in which writers explore the consequences of experience.

Court, city or country: a writer's choice of setting is always significant

In the light of this view, discuss ways in which writers use settings.

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---|
| Level 6: 26–30 marks | AO3 (50%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently developed and consistently detailed understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written, as appropriate to the question. Consistently developed and consistently detailed understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are received, as appropriate to the question. |
| | AO4 (25%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent and consistently detailed comparative analysis of relationships between texts. |
| | AO1 (12.5%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent and consistently detailed understanding of texts and question; well-structured, coherent and detailed argument consistently developed; consistently fluent and accurate writing in appropriate register with critical concepts and terminology used accurately and consistently. |
| | AO5 (12.5%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judgement consistently informed by exploration of different interpretations of texts. |
| Level 5: 21–25 marks | AO3 (50%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good, clear evaluation of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written, as appropriate to the question. Good, clear evaluation of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are received, as appropriate to the question. |
| | AO4 (25%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good, clear comparative analysis of relationships between texts. |
| | AO1 (12.5%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good and secure understanding of texts and question; well-structured argument with clear line of development; good level of coherence and accuracy of writing in appropriate register with critical concepts and terminology used accurately. |
| | AO5 (12.5%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good level of recognition and exploration of different interpretations of texts. |