



English Literature

Paper 2



Overview of English Literature Paper 2

Exam Board: AQA

Time: 2 hours 15 minutes

Content: An Inspector Calls, Power and Conflict Poetry and Unseen Poetry

You should spend 50 minutes on An Inspector Calls, 50 minutes on Power and Conflict Poetry and 30 minutes on Unseen Poetry. This then gives you 5 minutes to check your work.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

What's assessed

- [Modern prose or drama texts](#) (page 11)
- [The poetry anthology](#) (page 12)
- [Unseen poetry](#) (page 13)

How it's assessed

- written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Mark Scheme

For each exam you will be marked on the following assessment objectives. The assessment objectives are the same across all exam questions. **There is only one difference which is in Power and Conflict Poetry as you need to compare!**

AO1	Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to: • maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response • use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.
AO2	Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.
AO3	Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.
AO4	Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

Mark	AO	Typical features
Level 6 <i>Convincing, critical analysis and exploration</i> 26–30 marks	AO1	• Critical, exploratory, conceptualised response to task and whole text. • Judicious use of precise references to support interpretation(s).
	AO2	• Analysis of writer's methods with subject terminology used judiciously. • Exploration of effects of writer's methods to create meanings.
	AO3	• Exploration of ideas/perspectives/contextual factors shown by specific, detailed links between context/text/task.
Level 5 <i>Thoughtful, developed consideration</i> 21–25 marks	AO1	• Thoughtful, developed response to task and whole text. • Apt references integrated into interpretation(s).
	AO2	• Examination of writer's methods with subject terminology used effectively to support consideration of methods. • Examination of effects of writer's methods to create meanings.
	AO3	• Thoughtful consideration of ideas/perspectives/contextual factors shown by examination of detailed links between context/text/task.

AO1- you need to build an argument across your essay. You need to discuss the whole text as well as the extract.

AO2- you need to explore the use of language and structure. What is the writer trying to convey? Why are they wanting to show their audience this?

AO3- context doesn't just mean the Victorian period or the Jacobean era. You need to think about the themes being used and the writers' intentions.

Essay Structure

Introduction

Every essay you write should include an introduction. In your introduction you need to include an overview of the text, some key themes and a link to the exam question.

An Inspector Calls

An Inspector Calls was written and performed post WWII however, set in 1912 during the Edwardian period. Priestley uses the microcosm of the upper-middle class family, the Birlings, to criticize the selfishness and hypocrisy of the elite in society. Priestley uses the character of Mr. Birling to...

Only the underlined section would change depending on what the given exam question is.

Power and Conflict Poetry

Both '_____' and '_____' present (insert question here). '_____' centres around (explain what the poem is about) and '_____' concentrates on (explain what the poem is about). Both poems explore... (insert question).

Example full introduction

Both 'Ozymandias' and 'Tissue' present nature as the fundamental and overlooked symbol of power within our world, whilst depicting the efforts of mankind to control or overpower it as futile. 'Ozymandias' centres around one of the most celebrated and powerful pharaohs of the Egyptian Empire (Ramesses II), who reigned for sixty-six years, from 1303 BC - 1213 BC. 'Tissue' concentrates on the power of "paper" and the impact it can have on human lives.

Paragraph Structure

WHAT
IS THE WRITER SAYING?
WHAT IS THE WRITER TELLING US ABOUT THE THEME/CHARACTER /SETTING?
WHAT DO THEY WANT YOU TO FEEL AS A READER?
IDEAS + QUOTE

HOW
IS THE WRITER SAYING IT?
HOW DO THEY USE LANGUAGE /STRUCTURAL TECHNIQUES TO DO THIS? HOW DO KEY WORDS/PHRASES SHOW THIS? HOW DOES IT TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE TIME A TEXT WAS WRITTEN?
METHODS

WHY
IS THE WRITER SAYING IT?
WHY IS THE WRITER DOING THIS? WHY DID THE WRITER CHOOSE THAT LANGUAGE?
WHY MIGHT THEY WANT US TO INTERPRET IT IN A DIFFERENT WAY?
EFFECT/CONTEXT

Topic sentence linked to the question

Evidence from the text. If it's from the extract, it's a direct quotation. If it's from elsewhere, it can just be a moment. It doesn't have to be an exact quotation.

Explanation and analysis- zoom in on key words. What is the effect? Why have they been chosen?

Link everything back to the question/theme/context. ***You do not have to put historical context into every paragraph! It doesn't need to come into your essay at all.***

**Topic sentence
linked to the
question**

Explanation and
analysis- zoom in
on key words.
What is the effect?
Why have they
been chosen?

At the beginning of ACC, Dickens presents family to be an annoyance for Scrooge which is evident when his nephew visits him at his place of work. When Fred visits Scrooge he announces, 'A Merry Christmas, uncle!' showing how friendly and excitable he is. Dickens purposefully uses Fred as the antithesis of Scrooge to demonstrate to his readers how one should behave towards their family. The use of the exclamation even after Scrooge has been rude to his nephew conveys how Fred will continue to try and have a relationship with his uncle regardless of his behaviour. Dickens uses this uncomfortable exchange to show the importance of familial relationships and how Scrooge had a lack of them at the beginning of the novella.

Evidence from the text.

Link everything back to the question/theme/context.

Essay Structure

Step 1- read and highlight the question.

Step 2- write down everything you know about the question from the text

Step 3- Remember, you MUST talk about the text in chronological order

Step 4- write your introduction. It needs to outline an argument

Step 5- write your essay! Always write in chronological order

Top Tips

- 1. Always plan your answer before reading the extract**
- 2. You do not have to know quotations! Make references if you are unsure.**

An Inspector Calls- DO NOT RETELL THE STORY! YOU NEED TO BE ANALYSING. WHY DID PRIESTLEY WRITE THE PLAY? WHAT WAS HIS MESSAGE?

EITHER

01 How important is the character of Eric in demonstrating Priestley's ideas?

Write about:

- How Eric responds to his family and the Inspector
- How Priestley presents Eric's actions

OR:

02 How successfully is the idea of collective responsibility explored in this play, through the use of the Inspector?

Write about:

- Priestley's ideas about collective responsibility in *An Inspector Calls*
- How Priestley uses the Inspector to present these views

EITHER

01 How does Priestley use Gerald Croft's status to show his ideas about society?

Write about:

- How the Birling family react to Gerald Croft
- How Priestley presents Gerald Croft

OR:

02 How successfully does Priestley present the different attitudes between the older and younger generations in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

- How Priestley presents the older generation and the younger generation
- How Priestley shows his and their attitudes in the way he writes

EITHER

01 Why did Priestley create the Birling family as the central characters in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

- How Priestley presents the Birlings
- What the Birling family represent and how they demonstrate Priestley's views

OR:

02 How does Priestley explore guilt in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

- How Priestley presents guilt by the way he writes
- How Priestley presents different characters' reactions to guilt

Power and Conflict Poetry

1. Compare the ways poets present ideas about pride in 'Ozymandias' and in one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
2. Compare the ways poets present ideas about anger in 'London' and in one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
3. Compare the ways poets present the effect of conflict in 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' and in one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
4. Compare the ways poets present the reality of conflict in 'Exposure' and in one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
5. Compare the ways poets present fear in 'The Prelude' and in one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
6. Compare the ways poets present memory in 'My Last Duchess' and in one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
7. Compare the ways poets present ideas about the power of nature in 'Storm on the Island' and in one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
8. Compare the ways poets present the consequences of conflict and war in 'Bayonet Charge' and in one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.

Unseen Poetry Part 1

Section C: Unseen poetry

Answer **both** questions in this section.

Autumn

Autumn arrives
Like an experienced robber
Grabbing the green stuff
Then cunningly covering his tracks
5 With a deep multitude
Of colourful distractions.
And the wind,
The wind is his accomplice
Putting an air of chaos
10 Into the careful diversions
So branches shake
And dead leaves are suddenly blown
In the faces of inquisitive strangers.
The theft chills the world,
15 Changes the temper of the earth
Till the normally placid sky
Glow red with a quiet rage.

Alan Bold

27 **1**

In 'Autumn', how does the poet present the effects of the season of autumn?

[24 marks]

Section C: Unseen poetry

Answer **both** questions in this section.

On Aging

When you see me sitting quietly,
Like a sack left on the shelf,
Don't think I need your chattering.
I'm listening to myself.
5 Hold! Stop! Don't pity me!
Hold! Stop your sympathy!
Understanding if you got it,
Otherwise I'll do without it!
When my bones are stiff and aching,
10 And my feet won't climb the stair,
I will only ask one favor:
Don't bring me no rocking chair.
When you see me walking, stumbling,
Don't study and get it wrong.
15 'Cause tired don't mean lazy
And every goodbye ain't gone.
I'm the same person I was back then,
A little less hair, a little less chin,
A lot less lungs and much less wind.
20 But ain't I lucky I can still breathe in.

Maya Angelou

27.1

In 'On Aging' how does the poet present the speaker's attitudes to growing old?

[24 marks]

Section C: Unseen poetry

Answer **both** questions in this section.

The Richest Poor Man in the Valley

On the outside
he seemed older than he was.
His face was like a weather map
full of bad weather

5 while inside
his heart was fat with sun.

With his two dogs
he cleared a thin silver path
across the Black Mountain.

10 And when winter
kicked in
they brought his sheep
down from the top
like sulky clouds.

15 Harry didn't care for things
that other people prize
like money, houses, bank accounts
and lies.

He was living in a caravan
20 until the day he died.

But at his funeral
his friends' tears
fell like a thousand
diamonds.

Lindsay Macrae

27.1

In 'The Richest Poor Man in the Valley', how does the poet present ideas about living a happy and contented life?

[24 marks]

Nobody

If you can't bring yourself to build
a snowman or even to clench
a snowball or two to fling
at the pine tree trunk, at least
5 find some reason to take you out

of yourself: scrape a patch of grass clear
for the birds maybe; prod at your shrubs
so they shake off the weight, straighten up;
or just stump about leaving prints
10 of your boots, your breath steaming out.

Promise. Don't let yourself in
for this moment again: the end
of the afternoon, drawing the curtains
on the glare of the garden, a whole
15 day of snow nobody's trodden.

Michael Laskey

2 7 . 2

In both 'Nobody' and 'The Richest Poor Man in the Valley' the poets describe ideas about how to live your life.

What are the similarities **and/or** differences between the methods the poets use to present these ideas?

[8 marks]

Jessie Emily Schofield

I used to wash my grandmother's hair,
When she was old and small
And walked with a frame
Like a learning child.
5 She would turn off her hearing aid
And bend into the water,
Holding the edge of the sink with long fingers;
I would pour warm cupfuls over her skull
And wonder what it could be like
10 In her deaf head with eighty years of life.
Hers was the softest hair I ever felt,
Wedding dress silk on a widow;
But there is a photo of her
Sitting swathed in hair
15 That I imagine chestnut from the black and white,
Long enough to sit on.
Her wet head felt delicate as a birdskull
Worn thin by waves of age,
As she stood bent.
20 My mother's mother under my hands.

Judy Williams

27. 2

In both 'Jessie Emily Schofield' and 'On Aging' the speakers describe their attitudes to the effects of growing old.

What are the similarities and/or differences between the ways the poets present these attitudes?

[8 marks]

Today

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze

that it made you want to throw
open all the windows in the house

5 and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb*,

a day when the cool brick paths
and the garden bursting with peonies**

10 seemed so etched in sunlight
that you felt like taking

a hammer to the glass paperweight
on the living room end table,

releasing the inhabitants
from their snow-covered cottage

15 so they could walk out,
holding hands and squinting

into this larger dome of blue and white,
well, today is just that kind of day.

Billy Collins

* jamb – the sides of a doorway or opening

** peonies – flowers

27. 2

In both 'Today' and 'Autumn' the speakers describe attitudes towards the seasons.

What are the similarities and/or differences between the ways the poets present these attitudes?

[8 marks]