

O Level Literature in English  
Set Texts for Examination in 2014

Syllabus Code 2010

## Paper 1: Set Texts (2 hours 40 minutes)

- **Candidates must answer four questions in the paper.**
- All questions carry equal marks
- The paper is divided into three sections: Drama, Poetry and Prose.
- **Candidates must choose from at least two of the sections Drama, Poetry and Prose.**
- Candidates write on **three or four** books chosen from the list of prescribed texts. Each question may be on a different text, or candidates may write two answers on one text.
- Set texts may NOT be taken into the examination room.
- All questions encourage informed personal response, and test all the Assessment Objectives. In practical terms, this means candidates should demonstrate:
  - Personal response: sometimes directly, for example, 'What do you think?', 'What are your feelings about...?' and sometimes by implication: 'Explore the ways in which...'
  - Knowledge of the text by referring to details and using quotations.
  - Understanding of characters, relationships, situations and themes.
  - Understanding of the writer's intentions and methods, and comment on the writer's use of language.
- **Poetry texts:** for each poetry text, there will be one passage-based question (the passage will be printed on the question paper), and two essay questions.
- **Drama and Prose texts:** for each drama and prose text, there will be one passage-based question (the passage will be printed on the question paper), one essay question, and one 'empathic' question.
  - Empathic tasks (sometimes known as 'empathetic' or 'creative response' tasks) address the same assessment objectives as the essay and passage-based questions. They test knowledge, understanding and response but the candidate is able to engage more imaginatively with the text, by assuming a suitable 'voice', i.e. manner of speaking, for the character concerned.

### Examinations in June and November 2014 contain questions on the following texts

Section A	Drama
** Arthur Miller	<i>All My Sons</i>
William Shakespeare	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
* William Shakespeare	<i>The Tempest</i>
* Oscar Wilde	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>

Section B	Poetry
<p>** Thomas Hardy</p>	<p>The following fourteen poems:</p> <p>Neutral Tones 'I Look into My Glass' Drummer Hodge The Darkling Thrush On the Departure Platform The Pine Planters The Convergence of the Twain The Going The Voice At the Word 'Farewell' During Wind and Rain In Time of 'The Breaking of Nations' No Buyers: A Street Scene Nobody Comes</p> <p>These may be found in <i>Selected Poems</i>, ed. Harry Thomas (Penguin). Poems printed in the paper will follow this text.</p>
<p>* from <i>Songs of Ourselves: The University of Cambridge International Examinations Anthology of Poetry in English</i> (Cambridge University Press ISBN-10: 8175962488 ISBN-13: 978-8175962484)</p>	<p>from Part 4 (Poems from the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries): Poems 110 to 123 inclusive, i.e. the following fourteen poems:</p> <p>Sujata Bhatt, 'A Different History' Gerard Manley Hopkins, 'Pied Beauty' Allen Curnow, 'Continuum' Edwin Muir, 'Horses' Judith Wright, 'Hunting Snake' Ted Hughes, 'Pike' Christina Rossetti, 'A Birthday' Dante Gabriel Rossetti, 'The Woodspurge' Kevin Halligan, 'The Cockroach' Margaret Atwood, 'The City Planners' Boey Kim Cheng, 'The Planners' Norman MacCaig, 'Summer Farm' Elizabeth Brewster, 'Where I Come From' William Wordsworth, 'Sonnet Composed Upon Westminster Bridge'</p>

Section C	Prose
* Tsitsi Dangarembga	<i>Nervous Conditions</i>
* Anita Desai	<i>Fasting, Feasting</i>
Kiran Desai	<i>Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard</i>
** George Eliot	<i>Silas Marner</i>
** Susan Hill	<i>I'm the King of the Castle</i>
* from <i>Stories of Ourselves: The University of Cambridge International Examinations Anthology of Short Stories in English</i> (Cambridge University Press: ISBN-10: 052172791X ISBN-13: 978-0521727914)	The following ten stories: Thomas Hardy, 'The Son's Veto' Katherine Mansfield, 'Her First Ball' V.S. Pritchett, 'The Fly in the Ointment' P.G. Wodehouse, 'The Custody of the Pumpkin' Graham Greene, 'The Destroyers' R.K. Narayan, 'A Horse and Two Goats' Ted Hughes, 'The Rain Horse' Morris Lurie, 'My Greatest Ambition' Ahdaf Soueif, 'Sandpiper' Penelope Fitzgerald, 'At Hiruhamara'

\* text examined also in June and November 2015

\*\* text examined also in June and November 2015 and June and November 2016

Unless otherwise indicated, students may use any edition of the set text, provided it is not an abridgement or simplified version.

Note: the Examiners will use the Alexander (Collins) edition of Shakespeare unless otherwise stated. This should not be regarded as the prescribed edition. Candidates may use any editions for study, unless otherwise stated.