



Knowledge Organiser for 'A' Level English Literature

English Literature Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts – Unseen Prose

Info

This paper's full title is:

Paper 2: Texts in Shared Contexts

Section B: Contextual Linking

- One compulsory question on an unseen extract.

Unseen Prose Routine

- Read and underline relevant information before the extract.
- Read and underline what is being asked in the question.
- Write a summary of the extract at the side – splitting it into sections relevant to the question e.g. Extract about patriotism might have this structure; speech by a recruiting officer (jingoistic), comradeship in training, abrupt loss of faith in trenches.
- Look for and underline quotes that support your point in each section (looking for If& s features).
- Write your answer chronologically reflecting on changes and why they happen.

Example question:

Option 1

Section B: Drama and Prose Contextual Linking

Read the Insert. Answer **both** questions in this section.

Read the Insert carefully. It is taken from *How Many Miles to Babylon?*, a novel by Jennifer Johnston published in 1974. Alec Moore, who is Irish, is a junior officer on the front line. In this extract, his commanding officer tells him that Private Crowe, whom Alec has known from childhood, is to be executed for desertion.

Answer **both** questions.

0 | 5 Explore the significance of conflict with authority in this extract.

Remember to include in your answer relevant detailed analysis of the ways that Johnston shapes meanings. [25 marks]

and

0 | 6 Compare the significance of conflict with authority in **two** other texts you have studied.

Remember to include in your answer reference to how meanings are shaped in the texts you are comparing. [25 marks]

You must use **one** drama text and **one** prose text in your response, at least **one** of which must be a text written post-2000. [25 marks]

Potential Themes:

- Wars and the legacy of wars
- Personal and social identity
- Changing morality and social structures
- Gender, class, race and ethnicity
- Political upheaval and change
- Resistance and rebellion
- Imperialism, post-imperialism and nationalism
- Engagement with the social, political, personal and literary issues which have helped to shape the latter half of the 20th century and the early decades of the 21st century.

Unseen prose gives you the perfect chance to write about structure.

Words to use for structure:

- Simple chronology, framed narratives, use of flashbacks, cyclical structure, shifts in time and place, use of multiple narrators, foreshadowing, analeptic (flashback)/proleptic (flash forward) narrative, stream of consciousness
- episodic novel, epistolary structure, autobiographical or diary form
 - changing narrators/perspective/tense
- how authors privilege certain events by their position in the narrative
- the privileged position of beginnings and endings in terms of narrative structure and their importance in introducing and concluding key aspects of setting, character, themes and context
 - development of an incident, an idea or the story, suspense, tension
 - contrast, twist, change, shift in tone, climax, anti-climax, using a specific method to introduce an idea/setting/character
 - Micro-structure: sentence structures (short/compound/clauses)/ patterns (repetition/listing/dash/ana phora/semantic field)

Exam Facts

Whole paper = :75 marks

Unseen Prose = 25/75

The whole paper forms 40% of your entire English Literature GCSE

Exam is 2hr 30m long

Module Facts

- We study this in Yr.12 and return to it for revision in Yr.13
- You will also have a research/annotation/preparation tasks

Where to get help

- All resources are at:
- Student Shared Area:\ENGLISH\Yr.12 LITERATURE\Paper 1
 - These include all the teaching packs + past papers + model answers + wider reading + an AQA Study Guide

MARK BAND DESCRIPTORS

Band 5	perceptive/assured
Band 4	coherent/thorough
Band 3	straightforward/relevant
Band 2	simple/generalised
Band 1	largely irrelevant, largely misunderstood, largely inaccurate