OCR A Level English Literature

**Year 12 Mock Exam Guidance for AB/JRH group**

Please note: The mock exam format will be slightly different for the two groups. Please make sure you are consulting the guidance for your group.

**Exam Format**

The exam will last 2 hours and 30 minutes. You will be required to answer **two questions** in that time in the following format:

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**Section A: Drama and Poetry Pre-1900 – 1 hour 15 minutes**

Set texts: John Webster: The Duchess of Malfi

Geoffrey Chaucer: The Merchant’s Prologue and Tale

You will be given a choice of questions. Each question will comprise a brief statement offering a general opinion which will then be followed by a question inviting you to explore how the theme or topic mentioned is presented in both your texts. You will also be reminded to compare your texts. See the example below:

**‘Forbidden tastes are sweetest.’**

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

**In your answer, compare one drama and one poetry text from the above lists. [30]**

How will this question be assessed?

* Consider the intellectual and social contexts that produced these texts (AO3 - CONTEXT) and the ways in which the texts differ or contrast in their treatment of particular topics (AO4 - COMPARISON).
* Gather a range of quotations from the texts alongside information about historical, social cultural perspectives that will allow you to compare your texts confidently in detail.

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**Section B: Comparative and Contextual Study – 1 hour 15 minutes**

You will be given one question which you must answer. There will be an unseen extract related to the topic of American Literature from 1880 to 1940. The question will be phrased as follows:

**Write a critical appreciation of this passage, relating your discussion to your reading of American Literature 1880 – 1940.**

How will this question be assessed?

* The first part of this sentence ‘Write a critical appreciation’ instructs you that you need to privilege AO2 in you answer and ‘explore the effects of language, form and structure’ in the extract.
* The second part requires you to fulfil AO3 ‘Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of contexts in which literary texts are written and received’ by contextualising the unseen extract within the topic area that you have studied, which is American Literature 1880 – 1940.
* We will look at historical, social and literary context in more detail in Year 13 but at this stage you should use your knowledge of your set texts to display your understanding of context. If you have read additional novels from the period that seem relevant to the extract then use these to help you place the extract in its literary and historical context.

**Revision Advice**

**Section A: Drama and Poetry Pre-1900**

* Follow the guidance given by your teacher and access the revision resources on Moodle.
* Make sure you know your texts well. Learn useful quotations that will allow you to explore themes, characters and contextual aspects of each text.
* Deepen and develop your contextual knowledge for each text. MASSOLIT lectures are a good place to do this and we also recommend the resources on the British Library website.

<https://www.massolit.io>

 <https://www.bl.uk/discovering-literature>

**Section B: Comparative and Contextual Study**

* Develop your close analysis skills by reading and analysing a range of extracts from American literature form the period 1880 – 1940. This ZIGZAG resource has a useful collection of extracts that will allow you to hone your skills of analysis. [American Literature Unseen Prose Preparation Pack](https://moodle.kes.net/pluginfile.php/34099/mod_resource/content/1/American%20Literature%20-%20Unseen%20Prose%20Preparation%20Pack.pdf)
* You should also use this other ZIGZAG resource to deepen your knowledge of American historical, social and literary context in this period. [Student Guide to A Level OCR Set Topic - American Literature](https://moodle.kes.net/pluginfile.php/30433/mod_resource/content/1/American%20Literature%20-%20ZIG%20ZAG%20Student%20Guide%20to%20A%20Level%20OCR%20Set%20Topic.pdf)
* We recommend these short introductions to American Novels on the EMC website along with a range of other useful essays and videos on your set texts,

<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/e-mag-clips/american-literature>

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