

## Literature Exam

### Example Questions

The paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes long

Of Mice and Men/Lord of the Flies = 30%

Duffy, Armitage and pre-1914 Poetry = 40%

You are advised to spend 45 minutes on your prose text and 1 hour on the poetry.

### Of Mice and Men

1. How does Steinbeck create sympathy for Lennie in 'Of Mice and Men'?
2. Write about the importance of dreams in 'Of Mice and Men'. (Focus on the dreams in the novel and how the writer shows the importance of dreams.)
3. How does Steinbeck explore the theme of loneliness in the novel? (Focus on the characters that are lonely and how does this make them behave and say - give examples of language.)
4. How does Steinbeck present Curley's wife in the novel? (Focus on whether Steinbeck portrays her in a sympathetic way, the sort of life she has had, her ambitions and how we feel about her when she dies.)
5. What contribution to 'Of Mice and Men' does Slim, Curley and Candy have in the novel?  
(Focus on each character's actions and what they say. Then explain the role each character has in the novel.)

## Lord of the Flies

1. What do you consider the importance of Piggy in 'Lord of the Flies' and how does Golding present him?
2. How does Golding show death in the novel? (Focus on the deaths which occur in the novel, the methods that Golding uses to present these deaths and the effects of these deaths on the reader.)
3. What is the importance of Simon in the novel? (Focus on his words, his actions, his approach to the different events and what other characters say about him.)
4. What are the causes of the breakdown of civilised behaviour in the novel? (Focus on language, events and characters in your answer.)
5. What is the significance of 'the beast' in the novel? You should refer closely to events and to the actions and opinions of the characters in your answer.

## Duffy, Armitage and Pre-1914 Poetry

1. Answer both parts (a) and (b).
  - a) Compare how the writers present parents in 'Before you were Mine' by Carol Ann Duffy and 'Mother, Any Distance' by Simon Armitage. AND THEN...
  - b) Compare how the writers present females in **two poems** from the Pre-1914 Poetry Bank.
2. Compare the effectiveness of the ending of 'Sonnet 130' by William Shakespeare with the effectiveness of the endings of **one poem** by Simon Armitage, **one poem** by Carol Ann Duffy and **one other poem** from the Pre-1914 Poetry Bank.
3. Answer both parts (a) and (b).
  - (a) Compare how the writers present feelings of bitterness in 'Havisham' by Carol Ann Duffy and 'My Last Duchess' by Robert Browning. AND THEN...
  - (b) Compare how the poets present feelings of pleasure in **one poem** by Simon Armitage and **one other poem** from the Pre-1914 Poetry Bank.

IN BOTH (a) and (b) REMEMBER TO COMPARE i) the feelings and ii) how the writers present the feelings by the ways they write.

4. Compare the ways the poets write about strong emotions in at least four of the poems you have studied. Write about 'Laboratory' by Robert Browning, **one poem** by Carol Ann Duffy, **one poem** by Simon Armitage and **one other poem** from the Pre-1914 Poetry Bank.
5. Compare the ways in which the poets present women in four or more of the poems that you have studied. You should write about 'Anne Hathaway' by Carol Ann Duffy, **one poem** by Simon Armitage and **two poems** from the Pre-1914 Poetry Bank.