



National
Qualifications
2026

X824/77/11

**English
Literary Study**

THURSDAY, 30 APRIL

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Total marks — 20

Attempt **ONLY** Part A **OR** Part B **OR** Part C **OR** Part D.

PART A — POETRY — 20 marks

Attempt **one** question.

PART B — PROSE FICTION — 20 marks

Attempt **one** question.

PART C — PROSE NON-FICTION — 20 marks

Attempt **one** question.

PART D — DRAMA — 20 marks

Attempt **one** question.

You may not use the text(s) and/or writer(s) from your dissertation for this paper.

Write your answers clearly in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet, you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

Use **blue** or **black** ink.

You must leave your answer booklet on your desk; if you do not, you could lose all the marks for this paper.



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 **Qualifications
Scotland**
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LITERARY STUDY — 20 marks

Attempt **ONLY** Part A OR Part B OR Part C OR Part D.

PART A — POETRY

Your answer should take the form of a **CRITICAL ESSAY** appropriately structured to meet the demands of your selected question.

Attempt **ONE** question.

1. Analyse the poetic means by which **three** poems explore the pain and/or pleasure of love.
2. Compare and contrast the means by which unsettling emotions are explored in **three** poems.
3. Discuss how the evocation of place contributes to an exploration of the central thematic concerns of **three** poems.
4. Analyse the principal means by which the complexity of being human is presented in **three** poems.
5. Discuss how ideas of alienation and/or belonging are explored in **three** poems.
6. Discuss the means by which a sinister and/or cynical tone is created in **three** poems.
7. Discuss how flaws in human nature are explored in **three** poems.

OR

PART B — PROSE FICTION

Your answer should take the form of a CRITICAL ESSAY appropriately structured to meet the demands of your selected question.

Attempt ONE question.

8. Discuss how symbolism is used to explore the themes of **two** novels or **three** short stories.
9. Discuss how familial relationships shape the identity of the central characters in **two** novels or **three** short stories.
10. Discuss the ways in which setting is used to reflect the internal and/or external conflicts of characters in **two** novels.
11. *'It is the love of power that corrupts, and the power of love that redeems.'*
Compare the treatment of power in **two** novels or **three** short stories.
12. Discuss the ways in which social class impacts the development of characters in **two** novels.
13. Discuss how unreliable narrators influence the reader's interpretation of **two** novels.
14. Discuss the importance of a moment of revelation to the plots and themes of **two** novels.

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OR

PART C — PROSE NON-FICTION

Your answer should take the form of a CRITICAL ESSAY appropriately structured to meet the demands of your selected question.

Attempt ONE question.

15. *'I write entirely to find out what I'm looking at, what I'm thinking, and what it means.'*

With reference to at least **two** non-fiction texts, discuss how they reflect on the writer or writers' experiences of the world.

16. Discuss the ways in which at least **two** non-fiction texts use travel writing to explore a moral or ethical issue.

17. Discuss the means by which at least **two** non-fiction texts offer the reader insights into political struggle, conflict, or war.

18. Compare and contrast the techniques used in at least **two** non-fiction texts to offer the reader a deeper understanding of an issue, an idea, or an argument.

19. *'Technology destroys people, places and our relationship with the natural world.'*

Discuss with reference to at least **two** non-fiction texts.

20. Discuss the ways in which language is used to present political opinion in at least **two** non-fiction texts.

21. *'Memoirs hold a unique power to connect us to the experience of another in profound ways.'*

Discuss with reference to at least **two** non-fiction texts.

OR

PART D — DRAMA

Your answer should take the form of a CRITICAL ESSAY appropriately structured to meet the demands of your selected question.

Attempt ONE question.

22. Discuss how external conflicts between characters lead to internal conflict within a character in **two** plays.
23. *'Sometimes loss can be the greatest driving force of all.'*
Discuss with reference to **two** plays.
24. Discuss the portrayal of psychological or emotional change in **two** plays.
25. Discuss how dramatic presentations of innocence and/or experience are explored in **two** plays.
26. Discuss the thematic significance of how characters support or fail to support others in **two** plays.
27. Discuss the dramatic means by which humanity emerges from even the most inhumane characters in **two** plays.
28. Discuss the use of humour or wit to expose tensions and/or hypocrisies in **two** plays.

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