

General Certificate of Education  
January 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
(SPECIFICATION A)  
Unit 4 Comparative Literary Studies**

**NTA4**

Friday 18 January 2008 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is NTA4.
- Answer **one** question on two linked texts.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

**Information**

- The texts prescribed for this paper **may** be taken into the examination room.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 150.
- All questions carry 150 marks.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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Answer **one** question.

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*The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale* – Geoffrey Chaucer  
**and**  
*Death of a Salesman* – Arthur Miller

**EITHER**

- 1 Compare the ways in which Chaucer concludes 'The Pardoner's Tale' with the ways in which Miller concludes *Death of a Salesman*.

You should refer in detail to:

the section of 'The Pardoner's Tale' beginning "And thus acorded been these shrewes tweye" to the end of the tale (lines 549–682 in the recommended edition)

**and**

the section of *Death of a Salesman* beginning "BIFF: Pop! I'm a dime a dozen, and so are you!" to the end of the play (pages 105–112 in the recommended edition).

**OR**

- 2 Compare Chaucer's and Miller's use of irony in *The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale* and *Death of a Salesman*.

You should write in detail about **one** or **two** sections from *The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale* and **one** or **two** sections from *Death of a Salesman*.

*The Whitsun Weddings* – Philip Larkin  
**and**  
*Ariel* – Sylvia Plath

**OR**

- 3 Compare the ways in which Larkin and Plath explore their views on life.

You should write in detail about **two** or **three** poems by each poet.

**OR**

- 4 Compare Larkin's 'Mr Bleaney' with Plath's 'Wintering'.

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*King Lear* – William Shakespeare  
**and**  
*A Thousand Acres* – Jane Smiley

**OR**

- 5 Compare Shakespeare's presentation of Edmund with Smiley's presentation of Jess.

**OR**

- 6 Compare the way in which Shakespeare ends his play with the way in which Smiley ends her novel.

You should refer in detail to:

the section of *King Lear* beginning "KENT: I am come/To bid my King and master aye good night" to the end of the play (Act 5, Scene 3, line 233 to the end)

**and**

the section of *A Thousand Acres* beginning "THE BOONE BROTHERS AUCTION HOUSE was plenty busy that spring..." to the end of the novel (Epilogue, pages 368–371 in the recommended edition).

*Wuthering Heights* – Emily Brontë  
**and**  
*The French Lieutenant's Woman* – John Fowles

**OR**

- 7 Compare Brontë's presentation of Edgar with Fowles's presentation of Ernestina.

**OR**

- 8 Compare the ways in which Brontë and Fowles present love in *Wuthering Heights* and *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.

You should refer in detail to:

the section of *Wuthering Heights* beginning "With straining eagerness..." and ending "...on a great occasion like this" (Volume II, Chapter I, pages 159–163 in the recommended edition)

**and**

the section of *The French Lieutenant's Woman* beginning "She seemed hopelessly abashed..." and ending "...left her to look into the bedroom" (Chapter 46, pages 333–337 in the recommended edition).

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*The Woman in White* – Wilkie Collins  
**and**  
*An Evil Cradling* – Brian Keenan

**OR**

- 9 Compare the ways in which Collins and Keenan use settings in their narratives.

You should write in detail about **one** or **two** sections from *The Woman in White* and **one** or **two** sections from *An Evil Cradling*.

**OR**

- 10 Compare Collins’s presentation of Marian Halcombe with Keenan’s presentation of himself.

*The Perfect Storm* – Sebastian Junger  
**and**  
*Life of Pi* – Yann Martel

**OR**

- 11 Compare the ways in which Junger and Martel present individuals in their narratives.

You should write in detail about **one** or **two** sections from *The Perfect Storm* and **one** or **two** sections from *Life of Pi*.

**OR**

- 12 Compare the ways in which Junger and Martel describe islands in their narratives.

You should refer in detail to:

the section of *The Perfect Storm* beginning “Sable Island is a twenty-mile sandbar...” and ending “...something catastrophic happens aboard the *Andrea Gail*” (Chapter ‘Graveyard of the Atlantic’, pages 133 – 135 in the recommended edition)

**and**

the section of *Life of Pi* beginning “I made an exceptional botanical discovery” and ending “...weakly leapfrogged to the tree” (Chapter 92, pages 256 – 260 in the recommended edition).

**END OF QUESTIONS**