



Comparative – Cultural Context
English past Exam Questions
Higher Level

Section 2

A THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

1. “In any cultural context, deeply embedded values and attitudes can be difficult to change.”

Compare the extent to which the above statement is valid in relation to your understanding of the cultural context of **at least two texts** on your comparative course. (70)

OR

2. “The issue of social class is important in shaping our understanding of the cultural context of a text.”

(a) Discuss the importance of social class in shaping your understanding of the cultural context of **one** text that you have studied as part of your comparative course. (30)

(b) Compare the importance of social class in shaping your understanding of the cultural context of **two other texts** that you have studied as part of your comparative course. (40)

Section 2

B THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

1. “A reader can feel uncomfortable with the values and attitudes presented in texts.”

Compare the extent to which the values and attitudes that you encountered, in **at least two texts** on your comparative course, made you feel uncomfortable. (70)

OR

2. “The roles and status allocated to males or females can be central to understanding the cultural context of a text.”

(a) Show how this statement might apply to **one** text on your comparative course. In your answer you may refer to the roles and status allocated to either males or females, or both. (30)

(b) Compare how the roles and status allocated to males or females, or both, aided your understanding of the cultural context in **two other texts** on your comparative course. (40)

Section 2

B THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

1. “The main characters in texts are often in conflict with the world or culture they inhabit.”

In the light of the above statement, compare how the main characters interact with the cultural contexts of the texts you have studied for your comparative course.

(70)

OR

2. “Understanding the cultural context of a text allows you to see how values and attitudes are shaped.”

(a) Show how this statement applies to **one** of the texts on your comparative course.

(30)

(b) Compare the way in which values and attitudes are shaped in **two other texts** on your comparative course. Support the comparisons you make by reference to the texts.

(40)

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Section 2

B THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

1. Imagine that you are a journalist sent to investigate the cultural context of the worlds of the three texts from your comparative course.

(a) Write an article on the cultural context that you found most interesting. (30)

(b) In a second article compare the cultural contexts of the other two worlds with each other. (40)

OR

2. “The cultural context can have a significant influence on the behaviour of the central character/characters in a text.”

Compare the way in which the behaviour of the central characters in **at least two** of your texts is influenced by the cultural context of those texts.

(70)

Section 2

B THE CULTURAL CONTEXT

1. "The cultural context of a narrative usually determines how the story will unfold."

(a) Compare the way in which the cultural context influenced the storyline in **two** of the texts you have studied in your comparative course.

(40)

(b) Show how the cultural context influenced the storyline in a third text you have studied.

(30)

OR

2. "Understanding the cultural context of a text adds to our enjoyment of a good narrative."

In the light of the above statement write an essay comparing the cultural contexts of the texts you have studied in your comparative course. Support the comparisons you make by reference to the texts.

(70)