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**Pearson Edexcel**  
**Level 3 GCE**

Centre Number

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# English Literature

**Advanced Subsidiary**  
**Paper 2: Prose**

Thursday 26 May 2016 – Morning  
**Time: 1 hour**

Paper Reference

**8ET0/02**

**You must have:**  
prescribed texts (clean copies)

Total Marks

**44**

ND047696275



## Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **one** question.
- Answer the question in the space provided  
– *there may be more space than you need.*

## Information

- The total mark for this paper is 44.

## Advice

- Read the question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answer if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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P 4 9 8 4 3 A 0 1 2 0

**PEARSON**

Answer ONE question on your chosen texts, one of which must be pre-1900.

Begin your answer on page 8.

### Science and Society

#### Texts

Pre-1900: *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley; *The War of the Worlds*, H G Wells

Post-1900: *Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro; *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood

#### EITHER

- 7 Compare the ways in which the writers of your **two** chosen texts present characters responding to adversity.

In your answer you must consider the following:

- the writers' methods
- links between the texts
- relevant contextual factors.

(Total for Question 7 = 44 marks)

#### OR

- 8 Compare the ways in which the writers of your **two** chosen texts present anxieties about scientific development.

In your answer you must consider the following:

- the writers' methods
- links between the texts
- relevant contextual factors.

(Total for Question 8 = 44 marks)

Scientific development - the Creature, violating nature  
- Social science

Responding to adversity - structure - hope → despair  
- Creature vs Oppressed  
- Victor vs Oppressed  
- Control of Godwin + society



P 4 9 8 4 3 A 0 5 2 0

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box  and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: Question 1  Question 2  Question 3   
Question 4  Question 5  Question 6   
Question 7  Question 8  Question 9   
Question 10  Question 11  Question 12

Please write the name of the texts you have answered the question on below:

Text 1: Frankenstein

Text 2: The Handmaid's Tale

36 SecA

8 SecA04

Both 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood and 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley show characters responding to adversity, but this is done in different ways across each text. For example, as the latter is a Gothic horror novel written to warn the contemporary reader of the dangers of misusing science and violating nature's boundaries, the adversity portrayed there is the physical threat of the Creature to Victor and his family, shown by the way William is killed only because 'you belong to my enemy'. In contrast, 'The Handmaid's Tale' is a science fiction work about a theocratic and oppressive dystopian society, and so the adversity Oppred faces is more psychological in nature, such as whether she will lose her identity and opinions to Gilead as 'this will become normal'.

The reaction characters in both novels have to adversity also differs, which is best shown in that while both Oppred and the Creature move from hope to despair in the structure of their novels, the former becomes apathetic while the latter becomes monstrous. Early



in the novel, Ojoped is still able to find hope in her situation and in 'sunlight, flowers: these are not to be dismissed'. Not only is the reference to 'sunlight' and 'flowers' symbolic of the fact that hope is not lost to Ojoped yet, they also introduce two important motifs of 'Handmaid', which are nature and fertility as symbolised through flowers. Nature is also used in 'Frankenstein' to indicate the Creature's hope, as 'soon a gentle light stole over the heavens' is used to indicate the Creature's innocence and so show him as the Romantic ideal of the Noble Savage, who is innocent and pure due to not being tainted by society and civilisation.

The hope of both characters is then destroyed by their societies, as Ojoped is driven to despair by her experiences in Gilead - 'how can I keep on living?'. The usage of a rhetorical question shows how uncertain and distrustful Ojoped has become as a result of Gilead's influence. This then makes her apathetic, with another rhetorical question reinforcing how she is now far less confident and how she no longer has hope for a way out of her situation -

'What use are they, for me, now?'. The emphasis on the word 'me' may also show how she has also given up hope of finding her family. Similarly, the Creature is cruelly rejected from his society due to his monstrous appearance, and the ideal of the Noble Savage is corrupted, as he adopts the view that 'they shall share my wretchedness'. This different response to adversity, to let it corrupt and twist someone from gentle to murderer, adds a tragic element to 'Frankenstein's' narrative in the sense that the events of the novel and the death of Victor's family could have been avoided if



society was more accepting and less judgemental of the Creature, which may be Shelley critiquing her contemporary society for its shallow nature and judging someone only on physical appearance.

The adversity in both novels could be said to be the result of science and society, which allows both authors to make points about the faults and contemporary fears of the times in which they were writing. This is evidenced by the adversity in 'Frankenstein' being one that Victor directly creates by collecting 'bones from charnel houses'. The reference to 'bones' shows the extremes that Victor is willing to go to for science, as well as unsettling the reader by displaying how he violates 'the recesses of nature'. This serves as a criticism from Shelley of Romanticism, which puts advances of science over respecting nature's boundaries. The adversity in 'Handmaid' is not one Ofgood created, but one she is victim to, which may show the extent to which patriarchy has power over her. Atwood draws on fears of computerization and nuclear power to craft the downfall of time before and the rise of Gilead - 'if there had still been potable money, it would have been more difficult' - and <sup>address</sup> ~~responds~~ the reader's concerns about society. This criticism is done less directly in Atwood's novel than Shelley's, as though Ofgood recognizes she is telling a story as a response to adversity and a hope that 'there will be an ending', the fragmented, stream-of-consciousness narrative, the criticism is not as directly acknowledged as with 'Frankenstein' where Victor recognizes he is 'morning at the most interesting part of my tale'.



In conclusion, both Atwood and Shelley present characters responding to adversity in their novels, though the reactions of each character are portrayed differently, even through similar structures.

Science and society is shown to be a cause of adversity in both novels, which allows both authors to criticise aspects of their societies, with Shelley focusing on the dangers of science and a judgmental society in 'Frankenstein' and Atwood focusing on extremism in both fundamentalism and Christianity, as well as radical feminism in 'The Handmaid's Tale'. The power of both societies is adversity that characters must overcome.



Handwriting practice area with 25 horizontal dotted lines.

**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 44 MARKS** **44**

