

Assessment objectives	
AO1	Respond to texts critically and imaginatively.
AO2	Explain how language, structure and form contribute to writers' presentation of ideas, themes and settings.
AO3	Relate texts to their social, cultural and historical contexts.

Sample WJEC past paper essay questions	
2022	'To Kill a Mockingbird' reveals the cruelty beneath the respectable surface of American society in the 1930s.' How far do you agree with this statement? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and to comment on its social, historical and cultural context.
2020	In what ways do you think Harper Lee's choice of Scout as the narrator is important in <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> ? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and to comment on its social, historical and cultural context in your answer.
2019	Atticus says, 'I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand.' How does Harper Lee present the theme of courage in <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> ? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and its social, cultural and historical context.
2018	There are several strong women in <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> . How does Harper Lee present some of these women to highlight some aspects of American society at the time the novel was set?
2017 Winter	Show how Harper Lee uses the character of Calpurnia to highlight some aspects of American society at the time the novel is set.
2017 Summer	'To Kill a Mockingbird' is a novel of hope, despite the horror it portrays.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and its social, cultural and historical context.

Main Characters		
Atticus Finch	Scout (Jean Louise) Finch	Jem (Jeremy) Finch
Dill (Charles Baker) Harris	Tom Robinson	Boo (Arthur) Radley
Calpurnia	Aunt Alexandra	Bob Ewell

Key areas of context		
Civil rights movement	Racism	The Great Depression
The American justice system	Discrimination	Women in the 1930s

Some key quotations
'I'd rather you shot at tin cans in the back yard, but I know you'll go after birds. Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.' (Atticus says this to Jem.)
'Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing.' (Scout Finch)
'You can choose your friends but you sho' can't choose your family, an' they're still kin to you no matter whether you acknowledge 'em or not, and it makes you look right silly when you don't.' (Atticus)
'Atticus, he was real nice.' 'Most people are, Scout, when you finally see them.' (Atticus and Scout talking.)
'It's never an insult to be called what somebody thinks is a bad name. It just shows you how poor that person is, it doesn't hurt you.' (Atticus)