

Knowledge Organiser for 'A' Level English Literature

English Literature Paper 1 – Wuthering Heights

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Info	Concepts	Heathcliff	Edgar	Catherine	Other Characters
This paper's full title is: Paper 1: Love through the Ages Section C: Comparing texts: one question (from a choice of two) (25 marks) You also do: •Taming of the Shrew •Love Poetry •Unseen Poetry Comparison on this paper	Narrative style Elements of the Gothic Types of love and their effects/ consequences Cycles, repetition and mirroring The significance of nature and natural imagery, particularly within the context of Cathy and Heathcliff and the contrast between Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange. Opposition and reconciliation Conflict and contrast Social prejudice Microcosm Romantic elements in Victorian context	then. "I have to remind myself to breathe – almost to remind my heart to beat!" 'He sat by the corpse all night' gravely 'I'm trying to settle how I shall pay Hindley back. I don't	'No mother could have nursed an only child more devotedly than Edgar tended her' "It was not the thorn bending to the honeysuckles, but the honeysuckles embracing the thorn." 'Edgar stood on the hearth weeping silently,' 'Your presence is a moral poison' Linton, on the contrary, displayed a true courage of loyal and faithful soul: 'Will you give up Heathcliff heareafter or will you give up me?' 'He possessed the power to depart as much as a cat possesses the power to leave a mouse half eaten'	"A wild, wicked slip she was." "In my soul and in my heart, I'm convinced I'm wrong!" "Nelly, I am Heathcliff! He's always, always in my mind: not as a pleasure, any more than I am always a pleasure to myself, but as my own being." "I'm tired of being enclosed here.' 'My love for Linton is like the foliage in the woods, time will change it' 'It would degrade me now to marry Heathcliff' "I wish I were a girl again, half savage and hardy, and free 'He's more myself than I am'	'He had room in his heart only for two idols—his wife and himself: - Hindley 'gave himself up to reckless dissipation' - Hindley 'a most fascinating creature: a real goddess in my eyes,' -Lockwood 'Together they would brave Satan and his legions' Cathy and Hareton "Is Mr. Heathcliff a man? If so, is he mad? If not, is he a devil?" Isabella 'The very morrow of our wedding she was weeping to go home' Isabella
Exam Information		Critical Comment		Social, Cultural, Historical	
Whole paper = 3hrs:		-'Like Blake, Emily Bronte is		Wuthering Heights' was publis	hed in 1847, a time of massive

Comparative question

1 hour

The whole paper forms 40% of your entire English Literature A Level

SHREW = 25 marks = 13.33%

It is an open book exam – but you still need to learn quotations to save time! You will need to be thoroughly familiar with the order of events. This is not only so that you can find them quickly in the exam, but also so that you can comment on the incredibly complex structure.

concerned solely with those primary aspects of life which are unaffected by time and place.
Looking at the world, she asks herself not, how does it work?
What are its variations? – but what does it mean.' David Cecil

When first published, Wuthering Heights shocked its readers with what was considered to be obscenity and

The story of the second generation brings to a conclusion the conflict between domestic and wild. Professor Sutton-Ramspeck

monstrosity.

"It's as if Emily Brontë were telling the same story twice, and eliminating its originality the second time." [1] Leo Bersani, qtd. in London 42

The general effect is inexpressibly

painful. We know nothing in the

whole range of our fictitious

literature which presents such

shocking pictures of the worst

forms of humanity...." (Atlas,

' Kettle goes on to examine how Heathcliff rebels against the values represented in Wuthering Heights, the values which reflect the specific tyranny of Victorian capitalist society.

Wuthering Heights' was published in 1847, a time of massive economic and social change. Britain was undergoing an industrial revolution.

Even in the relatively small community of Haworth, the Brontë's would have seen the effects of this shift. The town itself saw an influx of people and the infrastructure struggled to cope. There was no running water and the sewerage system in the town was woefully inadequate, and diseases such as tuberculosis were rife. Despite having Queen Victoria as head of state, the Britain of 1847 remained an inherently male-dominated society and this is reflected in the presentation of the female characters in Wuthering Heights.

One effect Brontë achieved in setting her novel much earlier in the century was to emphasise the 'otherness' of the north country.