OXFORD AQA

INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL
ENGLISH LITERATURE

Unit 3 Elements of crime and mystery

Friday 9 January 2026 | 07:00 UK Time | Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:
- an OxfordAQA 12-page Answer Book.

Instructions
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must answer **two** questions.

Information
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  – use good English
  – organise information clearly
  – analyse carefully the writers' methods
  – use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Answer **two** questions.

Either

0 1 **William Shakespeare: *Macbeth***

'In *Macbeth*, Shakespeare presents murder as just as likely to be committed in a place of apparent safety as in a place of danger.'

To what extent do you agree?

[25 marks]

or

0 2 **Samuel Taylor Coleridge: *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner***

'The killing of the albatross is presented as a crime that lacks any clear motive.'

To what extent do you agree with this view?

[25 marks]

or

0 3 **Robert Browning: *Selected Poems***

'The criminals in these poems are presented as feeling proud rather than ashamed of the crimes they have committed.'

To what extent do you agree? In your answer, refer to 'Porphyria's Lover' and at least one other poem.

[25 marks]

or

0 4 **Charles Dickens*: Oliver Twist***

'In *Oliver Twist*, the deaths of characters are always presented as being the consequence of crime.'

To what extent do you agree?

[25 marks]

or

0 5 **Edgar Allan Poe: *Collected Stories***

'In these stories, the detective figures are presented as highly skilled and effective.'

To what extent do you agree? In your answer, make reference to 'The Purloined Letter' and at least one other story.

[25 marks]

or

0 6 **Robert Louis Stevenson: *Collected Stories***

'In these stories, the rich are presented as having the power to avoid being harmed by criminal activity.'

To what extent do you agree? In your answer, make reference to at least two stories.

[25 marks]

or

0 7 **Agatha Christie: *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd***

Explore the significance of King's Abbot and Fernly Park as settings for crime in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

[25 marks]

or

0 8 **Qiu Xiaolong: *Death of a Red Heroine***

'Despite her celebrity, Guan Hongying is presented as an exploited figure who is isolated from other people.'

To what extent do you agree with this view?

[25 marks]

or

0 9 **Kate Atkinson: *When Will There Be Good News?***

Louise says 'Men like Decker were inadequates.'

To what extent do you agree that in *When Will There Be Good News?*, Atkinson's male criminals are all presented as weak and inadequate individuals?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.oxfordaqa.com

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and OxfordAQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2026 OxfordAQA International Examinations and its licensors. All rights reserved.