

AQA AS Level English Language & Literature
Specification A
Module 3
NA3M

Activities and Exam Practice

Enduring Love

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Before you start the novel

Studying *Enduring Love* for AQA Language and Literature Specification A, Module 3 (NA3M)

Forgive me if you're not a fan, but studying the language of literature is like playing football. In both, enjoying the skill and exercise of the game is what is most important. It isn't separate from scoring goals, or marks – it's what makes that possible. If you want to do well in the exam, or the league, learn to love practising your skills.

Think of *Enduring Love* as the opposition. It's an excellent team to play against: clever, exciting, thought-provoking and surprising. It will bring out the best in you.

Here's what you need to know in order to play the game of literary and linguistic study.

The rules

These are important not just because they are the standards for the exam, but also because they are the rules of how to play. **They tell you how to play well.** You can find these rules in the exam specification. Your teacher might have given this to you, if not you can find it on the AQA website (www.aqa.org.uk). Here is a brief summary of the key rules.

To **win**, you need to:

1. **Work out the ways in which choices of form, style and language** create the meaning of the text.
2. Investigate how **values** and **attitudes** are created.
3. **Never forget frameworks**

What do these key words mean?

1. Form, Style and Language

Form: This refers to the genre and purpose of the text you are studying. The overall form of *Enduring Love* is that of a novel, but Ian McEwan has chosen to include other forms within it, such as the letter form and at the end a formal report. Parts of the novel are written in the form of conversations, others in the form of digressions.

Style: This describes the narrative method the

author has chosen – in this case first-person narrative – and his choices of lexis, syntax, rhetoric and imagery. It also covers the general impression the writing gives you. (You might say a football team has a defensive style of play or a flamboyant one. Appendix 1 in *Enduring Love* is written in a formal style.)

Language: To a certain extent this is a subdivision of style. In a novel, when you study language, you need to look at the actual words the author uses and the imagery he constructs with them.

There will be more about these important words in the exam section of the guide

2. Values and attitudes

Make sure you treat these as different and separate

Values: This word describes what a person prizes and wants to protect. Values are individual and often linked to morality. You can discover what people value from what they say, but more often you have to work it out from what they do.

The footballer symbol below indicates an activity: something for you to think about or do.



Practice: Match the value to the behaviour

Values: excitement and adventure, fashion and style, comfort, teamwork

Fit one of these to the behaviour of the person who –

- Always passes the ball in a football game
- Likes bungee jumping, white water rafting and scuba diving
- Doesn't like going out in the rain or cold and chooses nice flat sensible shoes
- Buys the big name trainers even though cheap ones do the job just as well.

Attitudes: This describes how the value shows itself in relation to ideas, things and people.



Practice: Describing attitudes

Think of words to describe the attitudes of –

- a postman to a couple of growling rottweilers

- a referee (who values the proper conduct of a game of football) to a stalker on the pitch
- a nature lover to the idea of cutting down a forest to make a new motorway

3. Frameworks

This word is being used as a metaphor (more about these later). A frame contains things and stops them spilling out all over the place. All that 'use a framework' means is:

Don't let your thoughts and ideas spill out all over the place. Show that you are thinking inside a box, that there are some rules and some structure to what you are arguing. Another word for framework might be 'approach', in other words a point of view or particular way of looking at things. It really does help if you think of frameworks as physical frames or tables. Your other subjects might help you too. A framework is like Terms of Reference in Science or a brief in Media or Sociology coursework.

A framework gives you two things: (1) a method for your analysis; (2) a plan for an essay.

You could let your thoughts spill out all over the place and say –

Port Vale are a great team; they're the best, the goal keeper is really good-looking and I love the colours of the away strip.

Or you could use a framework and choose a precise approach:

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	Goals for	Goals against	Position in league
Port Vale	42	30	10	2	100	110	28	First

Now you can say:

From the point of view of success in the League, Port Vale are a great team because they have gained the most points, and their goal difference is excellent.

(Then you could quote the evidence.)

Notice that using a framework also helps you to edit out ideas which are not relevant or useful.

The pitch

You need to know the area you're playing in. The important things here are –

- This module requires you to study a **modern** prose text and *Enduring Love* belongs to the **genre** of the **modern novel**.
- The novel is set in and around London in the 1990s and is about a **science journalist** and an obsessive **stalker**.
- It is written as a **first-person narrative**.

Some help with all of these is coming up.



Practice: Understanding 'Modern Novel'

1 Brainstorm and look up definitions for 'modern'. It might help to bring in what you know from other subject areas, such as Art, Music, Film and Media Studies. Store your ideas and use them to help you understand *Enduring Love*. There are no right answers. What matters is that you support your argument with evidence.

One characteristic of 'the modern' that you might come up with is the fusion of different **genres**. Don't panic. Think about musical genres: Heavy Metal, Rap, House ... They used to be separate

and distinct, but if you listen to music today, you hear all sorts of fusions. Think, too, about sampling and the way musicians use sections of other styles and works. This is 'modern'. If you prefer, think about *Big Brother*. How many genres are fused here?

2 Do the same for 'novel'. Find out what the word means. Talk about novels you've read and what they have in common. Consider who they are about, what happens in them, how the story is told and their relationship with reality. It might be a good idea to make Mind Maps or notes on these topics.



Practice: Genre

1 McEwan called *Enduring Love* 'a psychological thriller'. Do you notice anything about this?

Answer: it is a fusion of two genres.

Identify novels or films that you would classify as 'psychological' and list their characteristics. *Blair Witch?* *The Birds?* *Sixth Sense?* *Vertigo?* *Memento?* These often relate to the mind and play on our fears. They tend to use the *techniques* of suspense and uncertainty. Characters don't know who they can trust.

2 Do the same for 'thriller'. Think of James Bond. Here you might find lots of action, surprise, violence, car chases and guns. The same conventions apply to a novel as to film. You will find useful information about the codes and conventions of the psychological thriller on the websites www.filmsite.org and www.imdb.co.uk under **Genre**. Be ready to find them in *Enduring Love*.

There are other activities on Genre in the [Exam Preparation](#) section of this resource.



Practice: Science writing

Your other subjects might be helpful again here. Look at popular science magazines like *National Geographic* or newspaper science supplements. Dip into the articles and think about their language and purpose. This will also be useful for the Language Production module at AS. Again, make a list or Mind Map of the characteristics and techniques of this kind of writing.



Practice: Stalkers

1 Brainstorm the word and the idea. You will find that stalkers are quite a modern phenomenon. Use the internet to find an example of a real stalker and share your findings with the rest of the class, perhaps by making a presentation. Bob Dylan, John Lennon and Madonna have all had stalkers. The important thing here is not so much the stalker and what he (usually it *is* he) does, but the effect that it has on the person being stalked. Bob Dylan's stalker, Alan Jules Webberman, has pursued him for nearly forty years and still hunts through his dustbin. Dylan even dedicated an album to him.

2 Find out about De Clerambout's syndrome and share your findings in a presentation.