Modelled Answers (Introductions)

Module C: Exploring Transitions

To what extent can the experience of transitions both limit and extend individual freedoms? In your response refer to your prescribed text and at least one related text of your own choosing.

Option 1
Transitions may be an inevitable aspect of life, but transformations are not. Involuntary transitions such as physiological changes present different challenges to those associated with conscious action to enact a substantive shift in attitudes, beliefs and understanding of self. If an individual actively seeks a transformation, such as the persona of Rita in Willy Russell’s 1978 play *Educating Rita*, then the exploration can result in growth, change and a ‘better song to sing’, but at the potential cost of partial alienation from your place in the previous world. *(Related Text ... Similarly ...)* Exploring transitions offers considerable benefits, but there are considerable risks associated with such a journey. How the individual responds to the inevitable challenges will largely determine the extent to which the experience extends or limits individual freedoms.

Option 2
Transitions from one state to another inevitably involve challenges that tend to deter all but the most determined. A conscious decision to transition or change your social context will often take you out of your comfort zone by alienating you from your former place in the world. This needs to be weighed against the potential benefits of personal growth, new knowledge and ideas, and a deepened understanding of oneself and others. Willy Russell has positioned us through the persona of Rita (and to a lesser extent Frank) in his 1978 play, *Educating Rita*, to see that the individual’s response to the challenges of transition will largely determine the extent to which the experience will extend or limit individual freedom. *(Related Text ... Similarly ...)* Transitioning from one social context to another can simply involve learning ‘a different song’ with all the associated limits to individual freedoms, but to master a ‘better song’ is to provide much greater choice, thus extending individual freedoms.