Here are all of the exam questions set on this text since the exams began. Have a look and see how many you can actually do …

<table>
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<th>AO</th>
<th>Sample questions:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to literary study, using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression</td>
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<tr>
<td>2i</td>
<td>Respond with knowledge and understanding to a literary text</td>
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<td>5i</td>
<td>Show understanding of the contexts in which literary texts are written and understood</td>
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Sample questions:

- How does Williams suggest that Blanche Dubois represents the faded grandeur of the American past? **AND** explore the ways in which Williams presents a conflict between the worlds of Blanche Dubois and Stanley Kowalski.
- Explore the methods Williams uses to create dramatic tension for an audience in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. You should include consideration of:
  - interactions between characters
  - conflicts in language
  - settings, real and imagined
  - stage effects, such as the Polka music and the locomotive noise

**January 2001:**

- Explore the ways in which Williams creates drama from some of the contrasting characters in the play.
- What does the play’s setting contribute to its dramatic effect? You might like to consider:
  - the Kowalskis’ flat
  - its surroundings
  - the wider American context

**June 2001:**

- How important are illusion and fantasy as themes in *A Streetcar Named Desire*?
- Explore the ways in which Williams creates dramatic conflict from the social differences between the characters in the play. You might like to consider:
  - class
  - gender
  - age
January 2002:

- Explore the ways in which Williams uses the contrast between Blanche and Stanley to represent different aspects of American society.
- How does Williams’ use of theatrical devices contribute to the dramatic impact of the play? You might like to consider:
  - the use of music
  - sound effects and lighting
  - the stage set

June 2002:

- “When a play employs unconventional techniques it is not, or certainly shouldn’t be, trying to escape its responsibility of dealing with reality” (Williams). Discuss the ways in which Williams employs “unconventional” techniques to deal with reality in this play.
- “BLANCHE: (to Mitch) I don’t want you to think that I am severe and old-maid school-teacherish or anything like that … I guess it is just that I have – old-fashioned ideals!” How do the characters’ attitudes to sex and sexuality create dramatic conflict in A Streetcar Named Desire?

January 2003:

- How is the changing nature of American society reflected through the play’s central characters?
- Explore the ways in which Williams uses lighting, music and other effects to create dramatically appropriate moods and atmosphere in the play.

June 2003:

- How does the language spoken by different characters in the play reveal the kind of people they are?
- Explore what A Streetcar Named Desire has to say about male and female roles in the society the play depicts.

January 2004:

- Some critics suggest that Williams takes no side in the conflict between Blanche and Stanley. Do you agree?
- What does the setting of A Streetcar Named Desire contribute to the play’s dramatic impact? Consider both where and when it is set.

Past exam papers and further information can be found at the AQA website: http://www.aqa.org.uk.