

GCSE

English Literature Revision - Anthology Poetry

8702/2

Paper 2 Modern texts and poetry

2hrs 15 for the whole paper

This paper is divided into 3 sections

Section A is Modern texts

Marks 30 +[4]

Section B is Anthology Poetry

Marks 30

Section C is unseen poetry

Marks 24+8

With the Anthology section, you will be given one printed poem and asked to compare it thematically to another of your choice (unprinted). The first thing to consider is which poem you are going to compare it to. It would be very tempting to choose a poem that you feel very confident about; but if it is not one that really fits the question you may need to think again. You are advised to spend 40-45 minutes on this question. For revision purposes make sure you have somehow linked the poems thematically. (made a chart, colour coder, or whatever works for you).

It is out of 30 marks:

AO1 is worth 12 marks

AO2 is worth 12 marks

AO3 is worth 6 marks

<p>AO1 This tests your ability to read understand and respond. In other words answer the question which has been set using textual references and quotations to support and illustrate.</p>	<p>AO2 This tests your ability to analyse the language, form and structure used to create meanings and effects, using subject terminology where appropriate. In other words don't just choose a word and say it is good. Identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• what type of word it is,• and interpret its intended meaning,• the effect on the reader.	<p>AO3 This tests your ability to show an understanding of the texts and the contexts in which they were written. In other words what events of the time might have inspired the poet. (For instance the context of Wilfred Owen's poem Exposure is obvious.)</p>
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The process

Read the question carefully.

Underline/highlight the key word in the question.

Look at the point of comparison: choose a couple of other poems you studied which you feel would best suit the theme.

Make brief notes on the ones you have chosen; then pick the one where you have the best points.

Annotate/highlight the poem with the main lines which answer the question.

Annotate key language features in the poem

Briefly make a note on the context so that you do not forget to include it.

Make a small list of the language features you want to include.

Start writing- make your first line actually directly respond to the question. Include a brief explanation of what it was that made you choose the second poem.

What are the examiners looking for?

To gain good marks you must:

Actually answer the question; not just in your opening statement but throughout the essay.

This is a comparison question so the examiners are looking for points that you compare. Do not just write about one poem and then the other. You might get a few marks for writing a final paragraph that compares at the end. To get good marks, however, you must compare as you go along.

Do not just summarise what is in the poem:

Analyse the points:

Why was that particular word /phrase chosen?

What does that word suggest to you?

What effect does the word/phrase have upon the reader?

Use relevant quotations:

Don't use a quotation just because you know it. Close reference to the text is far better than a random quotation

Use proper terminology:

Language: metaphor, simile, assonance, sibilance repetition etc.

Form: What type of poem is it? Sonnet/ Dramatic Monologue etc.

Sound: Rhyme and Rhythm

Structure: What does the poem look like, how many stanzas does it have?

Does it tell events in a chronological order or does it use flashback?

For example with War Photographer you could write:

Structurally the poem is laid out in four regular six-line stanzas. Each stanza ends in a rhyming couplet. This enables the reader to see the contrast between its very rigid order and the chaotic, disturbing images described in the poem. This organisation mirrors the actions of the photographer, who lays out his films in "ordered rows", as though in doing so he can in some way help to restore order to this unordered world, showing the reader the idea that war brings chaos with it.

In charge of the Light Brigade are the lines indented so it physically looks like horses charging?

EXAMPLE QUESTION

Compare the ways poets present ideas about war in 'War Photographer' and in one

Other poem from 'Power and conflict'.

Model opening two paragraphs of answer.

Both "War Photographer" and "Exposure" present ideas about war; more specifically both poets show different aspects of the horror of war.

The opening lines of each poem present very different settings. Owen's poem states. 'Our brains ache, in the merciless iced east winds that knife us' The reader immediately realises that in a very physical sense this group of people are exposed; the adjectival phrase 'merciless iced east winds' showing just how harsh these conditions were in that war. The personification of 'merciless' successfully implies that there is no hope and sets the tone for the rest of the poem. Historically the First World War is known as being one in which thousands and thousands of people suffered, so the wider context of the word merciless presents Owen's first hand and personal attitude to the war; it is one that I can empathise with.

The first line of Duffy's 'War Photographer' on the other hand is in direct contrast. Owen's first word is the personal pronoun 'our' showing that he was not alone and that the suffering was jointly shared; whereas 'In his darkroom he was finally alone' Duffy's use of personal pronouns shows that

he was not sharing an experience with anyone at that specific moment. The use of the adverb finally, however, allows the reader to understand that this is probably not normally the case and suggests a sense of relief at his solitude, presenting war as something that not to be desired. Although Duffy's understanding of War was not first-hand in the way that Owen's was, the poem was inspired by her friendship with a war photographer; so as readers we can accept that even though it may not be reliable narrative, it will focus on the emotions surrounding such a career.

Revision resources

Useful weblinks:

BBC Bitesize http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english_literature/poetryconflict/

YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9h_csKEwxg&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cAO64IBHZTFwTz2X0DD_Cxk

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9h_csKEwxg&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cAO64IBHZTFwTz2X0DD_Cxk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dABvuspS9Vo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o60RW2a2m5w>