

SUBJECT: English

UNIT: KS4 Unseen poetry



Overview and Context

Section C of literature paper 2 asks you to analyse two poems that you have not seen before.

Question 1 - One question analysing the first unseen poem – 24 marks

Question 2 - One question comparing the first unseen poem with a second – 8 marks

Steps to analysing an unseen poem

1. Read the question carefully and highlight the key words
2. Read the poem twice. Make sure you understand what it is about (use the question to help you)
3. Read the title carefully – what does it mean?
4. What do you notice about the structure? Is there a rhyme scheme or a set amount of lines in a stanza?
5. What do you notice about the first line? What is the narrative voice?
6. Identify the tone of the poem – it is positive or negative, reflective or emotive?
7. Identify poetic devices in the poem – what is their effect? This is more important than identifying lots of devices
8. Highlight key words in the poem that help create a particular image or feeling
9. You must write in PEE paragraphs – in your analysis you must consider the effect on the reader and the poet's intention.
10. Write about language **AND** structure.

REMEMBER IN THE COMPARISON QUESTION YOU MUST COMPARE METHODS NOT NARRATIVE.

language	Structure	Form
Alliteration: repeated first letter. Assonance: repeated vowel sound. Cliché: over-used phrase Colloquial language: casual, informal language. Extended metaphor: a series of linked metaphors. Hyperbole: exaggeration for effect. Imagery: visually descriptive or figurative language. Metaphor: something described as something else. Motif: recurring theme or symbol. Onomatopoeia: a sound word. Personification: giving human qualities to inanimate objects. Semantic field: a group of words related in meaning. Sibilance: a repeated s/sh/ch/z sound. Simile: comparison between two things using like or as.	Anaphora: repeated words at start of a line. Caesura: a break in the middle of a line using punctuation. Enjambment: a sentence that runs over stanzas. Iambic pentameter: 5 sets of stressed/unstressed beats on a line. Juxtaposition: placing contrasting ideas close together in a text. Oxymoron: two opposite words next to each other. Refrain: repeated lines Repetition: a pattern of repeated words / ideas / sounds. Rhyme scheme: the organisation of the rhyme. Rhyming couplet: two lines that rhyme next to each other. Rhythm: a recurring beat in a poem. Volta: the turning point of a poem.	Ballad: a dramatic story poem with four line stanzas. Blank verse: verse with no rhyme – Dramatic monologue: a character speaks to the reader. Elegy: written to mourn the death of a person (elegiac) Epic: tragic / heroic story poem. First person: using the pronouns I / me / my Free verse: no regular rhyme or rhythm. Narrative: describes an event. Sonnet: - Shakespearean: 14 lines, abab cdcd efef gg, typically a love poem. - Petrarchan: eight lines (octave) rhyming ABBAABBA, and a six lines (sestet) rhyming CDCDCD. Third person: using the pronouns he / she / they.