

'Taking a Stand' Anthology question
Foundation Tier

The purpose of this pack is to provide centres with the question paper, mark scheme and a set of exemplar materials with commentaries.

The individual documents can be found on our website at www.edexcel.com

Included in this pack:

- Question and extract from Summer 2012 Paper
- Marked scripts with the mark and band
- Examiner commentary and mark scheme

Section B – Taking a Stand – Foundation Tier.

- 5 (a) Describe the writer's thoughts and feelings about the modern world in 'The world is a beautiful place'.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer.

(15)

Script 1 response to Q5 (a)

Band 2 – 5 marks

(a)

The writer expresses his thoughts and feelings about the modern world by first explaining why the world is a beautiful place. The writer has made the poem by not making any full stops or any commas, which shows that the poet doesn't want to stop the poem going and although the poem doesn't stop, the writer 'jumps' from "the world is a beautiful place" to "if you don't mind people dying" which shows that the world is always happy or sad, but there could be sometimes really sad times, but happiness will come."

The writer's feelings to the world are really happy, but as well really unhappy, and what the poet is explaining that the "happiness will come and it will make you happy" but in the same time the writer is using the Repetition "if you don't mind" which means that "if you don't care so it will be if, but you will still have to face it."

From looking at the poem you can see that the writer's tone is really calm and carrying on to change

because, as he writes the poem, there is no use of any full stops, speech marks and etc, and that shows that his tone will change as he goes through the stanza and as well as doing that, he is showing that ~~perhaps the best~~ world is the best place even though we have really 'rubbish' times.

Examiner summary:

The candidate makes comments which show a limited grasp of the ideas in 'The World is a Beautiful Place'. There is recognition of contrasting moods, but the grasp of meaning is not secure.

Band this response achieves in the mark scheme:

2	4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited explanation of how the writer conveys thoughts and feelings to create effect.• Limited relevant connection made between thoughts and feelings and the language used.• Limited relevant textual reference to support response.
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To move up to the next band: This response needs to show more connection between how the poet conveys thoughts and feelings and the language used; this needs to be supported with more reference to the poem.

Script 2 response to Q5 (a)

Band 4 – 10 marks

In this poem 'The World Is a Beautiful place' the writer is very Sarcastic towards life, you can even say ~~he~~ ^{his} views are humorous. "touch of hell" implies to me that the Writer is being humorous in the poem, because of course, nobody wants there life to have a touch of hell in it. moreover, I think that phrase is also very Sarcastic because "hell" is a negative way to describe something and he said that "everything is ~~so~~ fine", ~~which~~ which contradicts each other. moreover he says that life is okay even though people are dying and starving, which makes me feel that he only ~~feels~~ feels that you should care about yourself and forget ~~the~~ everyone else.

Also, I think that the writer thinks that, the only thing you're guaranteed in life is death because at the end of the poem it finishes with the word "mortician" which is the last thing your body sees before you get buried. So the reason he is so Sarcastic and humorous is because he's saying enjoy ^{life} whilst it lasts.

There is hardly any punctuation in this poem, this allows you to continue to read on without stopping throughout the whole thing, however there is ~~only~~ repetition of the word "if" which is allowing the ~~reader~~ writer to show both sides of the story. (if this happens then you can do this).

The layout is in like a flow, this tells me that the writer is a person who just lives life, do what they have to do and whatever happens; happens. Lawrence Ferlinghetti as someone who just goes with the flow.

Examiner summary:

The candidate offers a generally sound awareness of the poet's ideas and how these are expressed. In particular, the way in which he sardonically undercuts the 'beauty' by humour is soundly explained.

Band this response achieves in the mark scheme:

4	10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally sound explanation of how the writer conveys thoughts and feelings to create effect. • Generally sound relevant connection made between thoughts and feelings and the presentation of ideas. • Mostly clear, relevant textual reference to support response.
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To move up to the next band: This response needs to refer more closely to the poem and use more relevant textual reference to support the points made.

Section B – Taking a Stand – Foundation Tier

EITHER

- (b) (i) Explain how the writer of 'Those bastards in their mansions' presents different thoughts and feelings about the modern world from those in 'The world is a beautiful place'.

Use **evidence** from the poems to support your answer.

You may include material you used to answer 5(a).

(15)

OR

- (ii) Explain how the writer of **one** poem of your choice from the 'Taking a Stand' collection presents different feelings from those in 'The world is a beautiful place'.

Use **evidence** from the poems to support your answer.

You may include material you used to answer 5(a).

(15)

Script 1 response to Q5 (b)(i)

Band 3 – 7 marks

Simon Armitage (writer of "these bastards in their mansions") expresses expresses his view of life on a character that is in the poem. In his view life is pretty rubbish because the rich people have everything and he doesn't really have much. And the writer expresses / of 'the world is a beautiful place' have different thoughts and also feelings towards life. For example: the writer is writing that 'the world can get sometimes on your nerves, but it will work out eventually' but as from the Armitage's view "the life never gets better if you haven't got a good life style and rich people have everything and they are scared of you. That creates a

strong difference between these two poets. In my opinion Armitage is actually trying to make a point about how life can be but as from "World is a beautiful place" it shows only one point that is made and that is, "life is life, you get really bad days, but eventually it will work out, but the Armitage's point of life is, "If you are not rich, people will turn away from you, and some people can get scared, and the life can't work out for you."

"These bastards in their mansions" is a really strong pessimistic side of life, because he explains that rich people can fear you but, at the last line it says 'me, i stick to the shadows, carry a gun' which suggests that whatever you are deal with it and the same point is being made in 'world is a beautiful place' but these two points that are being made can really change a lot as you compare these two poems.

Examiner summary:

The choice of second poem is the given poem 'Those Bastards in their Mansions'. Although comment is not always fully focused, there are some relevant linking points made between the two poems.

Band this response achieves in the mark scheme:

3	7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some explanation of how the writer conveys thoughts and feelings to create effect.• Some relevant connection made between thoughts and feelings and the presentation of ideas.• Occasional relevant textual reference to support response.
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To move up to the next band: This response needs to provide more detailed comments on both poems and make relevant connections between the two poems, all supported with relevant textual reference.

Script 2 response to Q5 (b)(i)

Band 3 – 9 marks

5b) 'The world is a beautiful place' is about life in a sense of bad things happen and the sarcasm and humour helps you to get through with it, whereas 'Those bastards in their mansions' is about life should be fair and ~~has~~ also anger, the use of 'gun' suggests that someone wants to physically hurt someone because life isn't fair. One person is living in a mansion whilst ones aren't fortunate enough to get it so they are saying that everyone should get treated equally.

'The world is a beautiful place' is saying that you can live the life, "going swimming, and "picnics" suggest that life can be fun, ~~whereas~~ however you're only going to die at the end of it, whereas "Those bastards" is saying that life isn't fair and everyone should be treated the same and have the same things, if not then violence will get involved.

Examiner summary:

Some relevant comment is offered linking the two poems through their use of contrast. More development would have been needed to take this to a higher band.

Band this response achieves in the mark scheme:

3	7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some comparisons and links.• Some evaluation of the different ways of expressing meaning and achieving effects.• The selection of examples is valid but undeveloped.
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To move up to the next band: This response needs to be more developed with a selection of examples to explain the links and comparisons between the two poems.