

Examiners' Report  
June 2013

GCSE English Literature 5ET2F 01

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## Introduction

In this series there were sufficient numbers of responses where candidates engaged with the nature of the poetry. This was particularly evident with the Unseen Poem, where examiners for this tier professed themselves pleased with the quality of response. There were also many sound responses to the Anthology poems, but preparation of some candidates was not always sufficiently thorough. However, in comparison, on both the (a) questions on the named poem and the (b) questions that looked for links and comparative points across two poems, some candidates did show evidence of careful preparation. On the (b) questions, more successful candidates offered sound and clear comparisons, although some of the weaker candidates struggled to compare the poems effectively, often adding a brief comparative conclusion, after treating each poem in isolation. Making more detailed links throughout would have improved their grades as most candidates showed an understanding of each poem.

Centres might like to consider further helping candidates to find and comment on similarities and differences between two poems, especially in their handling of similar thematic material. For example in this series many candidates failed to point out the ironic sense of humour in the named poems in Collection D: Taking a Stand.

## Question 1

### Unseen poem

The poem selected for 5ET2F was 'Trees are Great' by Roger McGough, a poem with a topical theme. This poem discriminated well and stimulated a range of responses which demonstrated at the very least some grasp of the poet's subject matter and attitude.

Many candidates engaged on a personal level with McGough's 'message' which generally strengthened their responses, although in a few cases tangential discussion of trees and conservation did lead to some loss of focus. Most responses did move beyond the thematic to demonstrate some level of awareness of language and structure.

Comments on the writer's craft ranged from simple identification of techniques, to responses which thoughtfully discussed the poet's language, organisational choices and their possible effects on the reader. Many candidates had been taught to comment on the three bullet points which helped to structure their responses. However, some stuck too rigidly to this approach and this did lend itself to 'tagged-on' comments about language that did not really explore the context of the quotations selected.

In a number of candidates' responses, the thoughts and feelings expressed in the poem became somewhat lost in the emphasis given to the poetic devices employed. An excessive focus on the use of particular parts of speech meant that sometimes candidates failed to make the connections between these points and the presentation of the poet's ideas. This was something which differentiated between the more and the less successful responses.

These are the opening and closing paragraphs of a candidate's response to the Unseen Poem (Question 1).

In the poem 'Trees are great', Roger McGough presents his ideas about ~~how~~ trees <sup>and now they</sup> are important. He uses repetition on the first line of each stanza, excluding the final stanza. This <sup>could</sup> be because he wants to emphasize how 'Trees are great', so that the repeated line would stay with the reader. This line is also the name of the title, again emphasizing the importance of those three words.

Continuing on about the trees importance, the last stanza links to both humans and nature,

'Where ~~the~~ would naughty boys climb?' 'Where would little birds nest?' This puts ~~across~~ across that humans need trees, not just to survive but for small things that may seem meaningless, however they

are meaningful. The fact that Roger used 'little birds' as opposed to 'birds' could emphasize how little the birds are in comparison to the tree, perhaps signifying that trees are stronger and therefore more important.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is a sound response with some relevant comment on the poem's structure. A personal response is evident here with the comment about the poet's use of the words 'little birds'. Ideas are clearly communicated and there is relevant textual support.

The response was rewarded an overall mark of 17/20, bottom of band 5.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Note how the candidate refers to the text and employs quotations which illustrate the points made. The candidate's personal response is supported by relevant quotations.

In this poem Roger explains and shows the reader why trees are good/needed in society. In the poem Roger describes trees with their many good features to show the reader why they are so good. In a way Roger is trying to influence or change someones views about trees, by showing them to us how trees are great. Roger also ends the last stanza with some questions to just to make the reader think about trees and how good they are. In the last stanza rhyme this is because the last stanza is trying to be serious, compared to the first three. As you would rhyme when doing something serious. Roger also uses personification to see trees to having human features, like: "they stand" "they dance" "and open their backs". Roger uses personification to make our like trees are like us. Like we should treat them with the same equality, as humans. Roger also does

this so we can respect trees in some way as we would respect other humans. He also starts every question with 'where' he does this as if the trees are a place, like a landmark for people to go to and what to do with them. A landmark is seen as important to people so Roger was trying

to give their effect.' for trees. He also gives  
the trees actions the 'show'. It is  
providing trees in a good way and it shows  
the reader what they actually do.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

The candidate displays a generally sound understanding of the poem's message. There are some relevant comments on structure and poetic devices. However, there is little in the way of textual references to support comments. Hence the response could not move into a higher band. It was awarded 13/20 in band 4.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

For a band 5 response, the candidate would need to ensure that all comments are supported by quotations from the text.

In this poem "Trees are great" it seems as if Roger McGough is describing what bees can handle, and what they feel. What happens in this poem is the description of a bee, also in the text it states "They don't cry when they're bearded" this sounds as if a young child who gets bullied wishes he/she was a bee.

Another thing that happens in the poem is, Roger McGough says "But you never hear them complain" bees don't talk so we can make an educational guess this is a child who's lonely, and some one who gets ~~bullied~~ bullied. An example of this "They dance and sway, they stay all day" this suggests people leave him/her and he/she feels the bee is loyal to him/her, and will never leave.

This is plot that Roger McGough ~~to~~ organised this poem ~~poetically~~ to create the image of bees fishing in the wind, this is called imagery, also if you turn the page horizontally it looks a bee you could climb, and in the text it states "where would the <sup>naughty</sup> ~~best~~ boys climb" this again the use of imagery.

The writer uses many language features such as repetition, alliteration and rhetorical questions.



An example of alliteration is "Seldom Shout"  
this allows the text to become rhythmic and  
can get the reader more involved and engaged  
in the poem.

An example of repetition is every first three  
letters of each <sup>stanza</sup> ~~paragraph~~ except the last one  
starts with "Trees are great" this is because  
the writer is drilling this line into your  
head to make it ~~remembered~~ so you can  
remember it easily.

Rhetorical questions are, also used in this poem,  
and they use all foot questions at the end

So you can think about what it really means  
and make your own opinion on trees, and what  
you think about them.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The response shows some clear understanding of the overall meaning of the poem. There are some interesting comments about bullying. However, these are not really supported by the text. Because not all points were supported by close reference to the text, the response could not be in a higher band and was awarded a mark of 10 in band 3.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Make sure that your interpretation is always fully justified and clearly supported by the text.

## Question 2

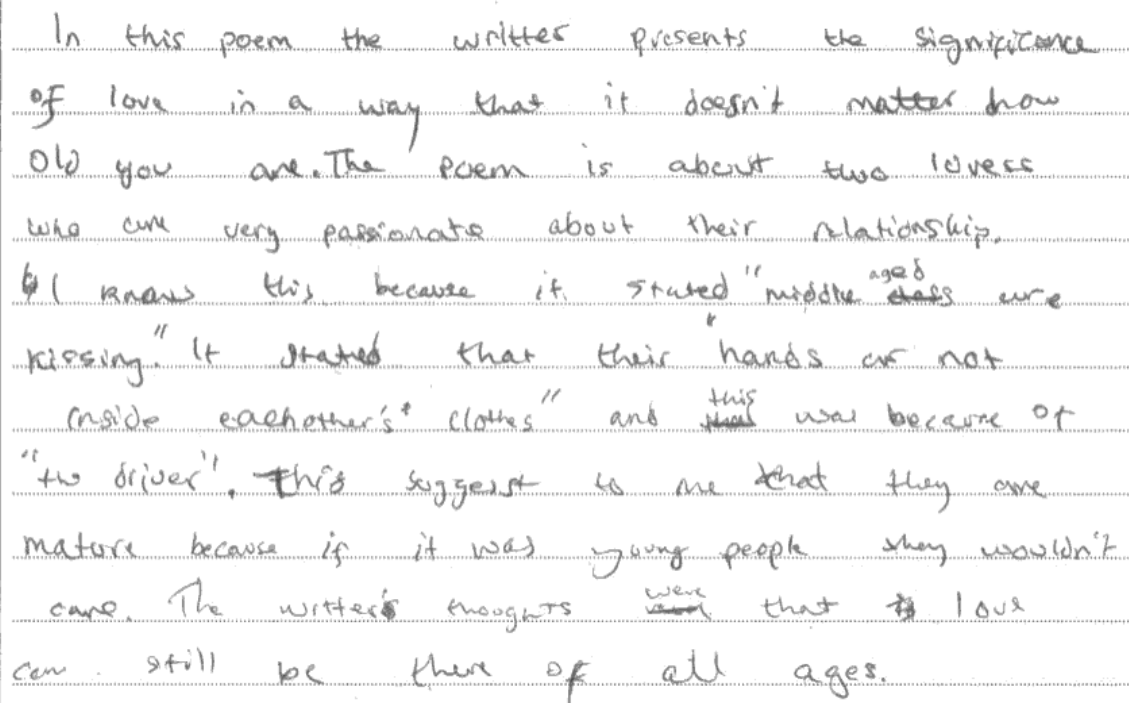
### Relationships

2(a): 'Kissing' was the poem chosen for candidates' comments. Responses generally demonstrated at least some understanding of Adcock's perspective on close relationships. There were, however, a few misreadings, notably attributing an attitude of disapproval to the poet, especially of the younger couple. More confident candidates were able to distinguish between the younger and older couple and link that to a broader theme of how relationships can develop. Less confident candidates adopted a narrative approach which paraphrased content rather than examined thoughts and feelings.

2(b)(i): The named poem was 'Nettles' which, though challenging, brought some satisfactory to good responses. Many candidates noted how one poem focused on romantic, whilst the other on familial, love. The thematic disparity proved challenging for the less confident candidates, whilst for the stronger, the pairing made for discussion on the differences between the 'soft' and 'natural' language in 'Kissing' and the hard militaristic metaphors of 'Nettles'.

2(b)(ii): This was also a popular option. The alternatives offered by candidates were: 'One Flesh', 'Sonnet 116', 'Rubbish at Adultery', 'Valentine' and 'Even Tho'. All these choices made for valid comparisons as the different contexts allowed candidates to consider relationships from a variety of perspectives. 'One Flesh' was the most popular and most successful of these options, whereas 'Valentine' appeared to be the least successful. It was evident that many candidates were comfortable with their own choice of text. However, one examiner noted that although many candidates had written full and perceptive personal responses, they did not seem to understand that they had to compare and link both poems and hence lost marks.

These are the opening paragraphs of a candidate's response to the set anthology poem 'Kissing', Question 2(a).



In this poem the writer presents the significance of love in a way that it doesn't matter how old you are. The poem is about two lovers who are very passionate about their relationship. I know this because it stated "middle aged <sup>aged</sup> ~~class~~ were kissing". It stated that their hands are not inside each other's clothes" and ~~that~~ <sup>this</sup> was because of "the driver". This suggest to me that they are mature because if it was young people they wouldn't care. The writer's thoughts <sup>were</sup> ~~were~~ that ~~to~~ love can still be there of all ages.

The writer also expressed love as ~~so~~ <sup>painful</sup> and ~~not~~ just mentally, "locked so tightly together that it hurts" this suggests that love can

cause ~~be~~ pain to a ~~relationship~~ physically but it was this couples' love that was so great it outweighed the pain which suggests that the ~~couples~~ are madly in love.

The writer also stated "they too have futures" which indicates that love can remain present for a long time to come. However, because they are ~~old~~ so old this statement could also mean that they will have their future in heaven (next life). It is very unlikely that they will live for another 50 years which suggests their futures lie somewhere else.

Also there are 10 lines in each stanza. This is equal, maybe the writer is trying to say in their relationship everything is equal, i.e. no dominant figure.

not pour it out to the edge of doom." This ~~also~~ applies to the poem that love bears it self to the edge of doom (death). It also stated "love is not times fool" meaning it doesn't matter how old you are relating to this poem. The couple in the poem didn't care how old they were, and even if they didn't look great, "seeing not everything" indicating they get turned on even if they are not looking good. Which by the way is true love. Stanzas are organised which suggests that they are organised people.

26(ii) A poem called "one flesh" is very different to "kissing". One flesh was about a daughter who saw their parents in an emotional separation. They are never intimate because it stated that they were facing "charity" meaning that they are not having sex. On the other hand kissing is the opposite, they are really intimate. In fact so much that they were touching each other in public whereas in one flesh they don't even touch inside their home.

Also it stated "time itself" a feather touching them". This suggests that their age is causing them to not be passionate however "kissing" openly knew their aged and embraced it. This is completely opposite poems in relation to passion.

Also it stated that in their relationship, the only thing keeping themselves together was the daughter whereas in the kissing poem the only thing that was keeping them away from each other was the driver. ~~It~~ Completely opposite in this aspect as well.

The kissing poem ~~is~~ was very passionate but there is no passion here. "Fire from which I came has now grown cold" this suggests that it wasn't really love of true minds at the beginning because love doesn't grow cold.

There were a former passion her though, ~~and~~ and I assuming there ~~was~~ was no former passion in kissing because if there were,

they would be kissing and touching for a long time ~~and~~ and considering their age, a very long time. So in one there ~~was~~ was a former passion but in the other ~~there~~ there ~~wasn't~~ wasn't.



## ResultsPlus

**Examiner Comments**

The opening sentence of the response immediately focuses on the poet's message and then proceeds to develop this opening statement. The response is well structured dealing confidently with both stanzas in the poem. There is evidence of a personal response which is supported by well chosen quotations. There is enough in the response to merit it being placed at the top of band 5 with a mark of 15.



## ResultsPlus

**Examiner Tip**

Make sure the opening sentences of a response give as strong an interpretation as possible. A focused and strong introduction helps to pinpoint ideas.



This is the middle part of a candidate's response to the set poem 'Kissing' Question 2(a).

In the poem 'Kissing', the writer begins talking about a <sup>couple</sup> ~~people~~, ~~however~~ ~~at the~~ who are on the riverbank, deep in love with each other and very intimate. However, as the poem goes on, ~~the~~ time goes by and the 'young' couple are not so young anymore.

In the poem, the writer shows that when the couple were young, they were deep in love that they didn't notice anyone else other than themselves. For example, it says 'They can see no one other than themselves.' This suggests that the couple are <sup>the only ones there</sup> ~~and~~ and they only notice themselves.

The writer has ~~structured~~ structured the poem by having two separate paragraphs showing how they ~~were~~ are when they ~~were~~ <sup>are</sup> young and how they are when they

are old.

In the first paragraph, which is all about the couple being young and ~~and~~ deep in love, there is nothing ~~and~~ other than positive things and optimistic things about the couple.

In ~~the~~ the second paragraph, it shows that

the couple are more serious about each other and the relationship. For example, it says 'At this very moment the middle-aged are kissing in the back of the taxi'. This suggests that they have been together since they were young, and they are middle aged now and they are still together.

In this poem, the writer presents love as something that the heart itself involves. Tiers Adair presents love as never ending, as long as the couple are committed ~~and~~ to each other and are optimistic about their relationship lasting for a long while. For example, it says 'seeing's not everything'. This suggests that if you really love and care someone, you shouldn't care about how

they look and you wouldn't want to change anything about them.

Also, in the poem, it says 'on their not so of course youthful skin, which they won't notice'. This suggests that they are not bothered about ~~the~~ how they look, because they are deeply in love.

I believe that the writer has chosen to structure the poem in this way because it shows loyalty and true love. The writer is trying to imply that even if you are ~~not~~ young when you begin a



Relationship, if the love is true and real,  
then the relationship can develop into  
something much more when you are old.



**ResultsPlus**  
**Examiner Comments**

This is a thoughtful response in which the candidate looks at the structure and the effect this has on the poem as a whole. There are some thoughtful comments about the emotions expressed. A lack of development has kept this response at the top of band 4 with a mark of 12.



**ResultsPlus**  
**Examiner Tip**

To reach band 5, this response needs a fuller development of the argument as well as closer reference to the text.

This is most of a candidate's brief response for Question 2(a) for the set poem 'Kissing'.

When the young couple in the first stanza, they ~~could~~ ~~had~~ had their arm around each other and ~~was~~ clamped together. This could suggest that the writer tried to tell the reader that as a young couple they don't seem to care what's happening around them and they really wanted to be next to each other.

When the writer says that "Their hands are not inside each other's clothes" this suggests that the couple are much more mature than before in stanza one where they were kissing in public in front of people but now their in a ~~micro~~ cab shows they are respecting people around them.

~~When the~~ During the past every relationship had to keep private but the writer mentions that it changed, "This very moment the middle-age are kissing in taxis, airports & stations" this suggests that the writer has compared with the modern time & the past.

"Not of course youthful skin" this could suggest the couple are old and not young anymore, when you compare the first stanza & the second one you can see that the couple ~~are~~ were getting older but the writer makes clear when we got older they never lost their love.

2) b) ② The poem I chose to compare it with kissing is one flesh because these two have a lot of differences between each other.

In one flesh its about his parents / fathers who lost their love and have nothing left between each other ~~ago~~ but they stay together because of their daughter.

The writer described their relationship by saying "tossed up like flatbun" this suggest that their relationship has crashed and won't be able to fix it again.

When the writer says "chastity faces them" this suggest to the reader that this couple don't have any physical left in the relationship, but in "kissing" the couples can't stop themselves from getting into each other clothes, this shows they <sup>still</sup> have a physical side of their relationship unlike the couples in one flesh.

In the first stanza you can see that the writer separates the couple and then describes them but the title is "one flesh" this suggest that they are together but the relationship of their love is gone and thats why the writer described them separately.

In kissing the couples stayed together and every time ~~the~~ passed they never losed their love and still had physical relationship but in one flesh the couple stayed together because they had a duty of their daughter so they couldn't leave each other. But as time went on they never left even though ~~to~~ their daughter was grown up. They didn't leave each other ~~because~~, they knew there was no point because they've gotten old and they can't be bothered.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

There is some sound explanation of the writer's craft in this response. The candidate has made links between the two stanzas. However, comments and ideas are not fully developed and more detail would have been needed to place this response higher in band 4. The overall mark awarded was 10.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Aim to round off your answer with a conclusion that demonstrates your grasp of the poem, as the candidate has done here.

These are the last three paragraphs of a candidate's response for Question 2 (b)(ii), comparing the set poem 'Kissing' with a poem of their own choice.

When the writer says that "Their hands are not inside each other clothes" this suggests that the couple are much more than before in stanza one where they were kissing in public in front of people but now their in a ~~car~~ cab shows they are respecting people around them.

~~When the~~ During the past every relationship had to keep private but the writer mentions that it changed, "This very moment the middle-age are kissing in taxis, airports & station" this suggests that the writer has compared with the modern time & the past.

"Not of course youthful skin" this could suggest the couple are old and not young anymore, when you compare the first stanza & the second one you can see that the couple ~~are~~ were getting older but the writer makes clear when he got older they never lost their love.

2) b) (ii) The poem I chose to compare it with kissing is one flesh because these two have a lot of differences between each other.

In one flesh its about his parents / partners who lost their love and have nothing left

between each other ~~are~~ but they stay together because of their daughter.

The writer described their relationship by saying "tossed up like a boat" this suggests that their relationship has crashed and won't be able to fix it again.

When the writer says "chastity faces them" this suggests to the reader that this couple don't have any physical left in the relationship, but in "kissing" the couples can't stop themselves from getting into each other clothes, this shows they <sup>still</sup> have a physical side of their relationship unlike the couples in one flesh.

In the first stanza you can see that the writer separates the couple and then describes them but the title is "one flesh" this suggests that they are together but the relationship of their love is gone and that's why the writer described them separately.

In kissing the couples stayed together and every time ~~to~~ passed they never tossed their love and still had physical relationship but in one flesh the couple stayed together because they had a duty of their daughter so they couldn't leave each other. But as time went on they never left even though ~~to~~ their

daughter was grown up, they didn't leave  
her after ~~because~~, they knew there was  
no point because they've gotten old  
and they can't be bothered.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

The choice of a second poem 'One Flesh' is apt, permitting comparisons between the types of relationship portrayed because of the strong contrast in the treatment of the physical aspects. Although not developed, there are some relevant comments and there is a strong element of comparing and linking both texts. The mark given was 12 - top of band 4.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Note how the two poems are not treated in isolation, but linked throughout the response.



This is the middle part of a candidate's response to Question 2(b)(ii). The poem chosen is 'Rubbish at Adultery'.

The relationship in this poem is based on intimacy, which the couple used to have all the time. I know this because it says 'I'm after passion, thrills and fun'.

This suggests that the relationship isn't anything long-term and there is no commitment in the relationship.

The writer of this poem ~~is~~ is angry because she believes that her partner isn't good at anything and he doesn't try to do anything properly. I know this because it says

'You're just ~~as~~ crap at it. Choose one and do it properly, you stupid, ~~stupid~~ stupid git.'

This poem differs from the poem 'Kissing' because kissing is a more passionate poem, ~~and~~ which is based on couples developing and transcending into a more loving couple, and having their love grow more. The 'Rubbish at Adultery' poem is negative and doesn't show hope for love and romance like the poem 'Kissing' does.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

The candidate has chosen 'Rubbish at Adultery' which should have lent itself to some interesting links and comparisons. However, there is only a limited attempt to link the two poems. The response was awarded a mark of 9 (top of band 3).



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Make sure you refer to the poem of your choice in sufficient detail as well as making and developing links with the first named poem.



This is a candidate's complete response to Question 2(b)(i), where the set second text was 'Nettles'.

In the nettles poem a boy falls on a nettle "bed" and his mum takes revenge on the nettles. I know this because in the poem it says "And then I lit." This suggests to me that there is a completely different feeling between the poem Kissing and Nettles.

This is because kissing is a poem about people who kiss next to the river and on the bank. Whereas Nettles is a poem where the mum talks about her son who dropped into a nettle bed.

The mum was very upset and felt angry because of the thing that happened to her son. I know this because in the poem it says "We soothed him till his pain was not so raw." This suggests to me that the writer is feeling very emotional due to the fact that her son dropped into the nettles.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The poem 'Nettles' allowed for comparisons of two different types of relationships - romantic and familial. The candidate has written a limited response on how both poems are linked. There is a limited reference to the second poem for support. The response was awarded a mark of 6 in band 2.



### ResultsPlus

#### Examiner Tip

All points and comments should be supported by short and relevant quotations.

### Question 3

#### Clashes and Collisions

Question 3(a): The poem selected for candidates' comment was Christina Rossetti's 'Cousin Kate'. As this poem has a strong narrative element, the majority of candidates were able to recognise and comment on the basic 'storyline' of conflict that the poem relates. The themes of love, sex and betrayal engaged candidates' interest; there were some thoughtful observations about the treatment of the 'cottage-maiden'. As regards language analysis, responses in the lower bands contained generalised comments. More confident candidates selected precise textual evidence to support interpretations; these included the use of figurative language and some commented on how the regular structure of the ballad conveys controlled anger. There were a few responses which displayed some knowledge of the historical context of the poem which often added to the overall analysis.

Question 3(b)(i): The set poem for comparison was 'Catrin' by Gillian Clarke which looks at a volatile mother and daughter relationship. This was the option most candidates chose. Many of the responses in the lower bands were less secure in their understanding of 'Catrin' and some missed the poem's focus on a mother-child conflict, thereby weakening any comparisons and links made. Strong responses were those which made connections between the two poems comparing the emotions, their shared theme of conflict within families and the feeling of isolation felt by the two women.

Question 3(b)(ii): Candidates opting for this question chose to compare 'Cousin Kate' with 'Half-caste', 'Parade's End', 'Belfast Confetti', and 'The Class Game'. 'The Class Game' was a popular choice and although the major differences between Rossetti's and Casey's themes and styles proved to be somewhat problematic, there were some interesting responses. These made valid points about issues of social status. Candidates who chose 'Belfast Confetti' were able to discuss the conflict in detail and note the unusual punctuation and sounds in the poem. 'Half-Caste' was also popular. The best responses caught the tone of the poem and how indignation was presented with humour. However, many of the less confident candidates did not appear to understand that it was the term itself that was the bone of contention and seemed to consider that the poem was about racism in general.

This is the opening paragraph responding to the set text 'Cousin Kate'.

It is clearly evident so that the author's ~~thoughts~~ thoughts and feelings about conflict between individuals in the poem 'Cousin Kate' are extremely strong. She writes the poem using a clear, precise structure of ~~four~~ eight lines per stanza, and each of these lines contain around about the same number of words. This produces a clean structure for the poem, something that reflects strongly against how she's really feeling. This structure ultimately effects the tone of the poem because it creates a lighter tone to the sorrow-felt words she uses. Also, because the poem is written in

first tense, it suggests that the tone <sup>structure</sup> and overall themes of Love and Betrayal are all personal ones. The content of the poem overall expresses Rossetti's feelings towards this man, and how 'shameless' 'shameful' he has made her feel, this is extremely saddening and ~~creates~~ <sup>expresses her</sup> feelings of heartbreak and betrayal to the reader and therefore causing effect on them.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

This response displays a sound and confident explanation of how the writer expresses her thoughts and feelings, as well as focusing on some of the key features of the poem. There is evidence of a personal response and comments about the conflict are supported by some well chosen quotations. The response was awarded a mark of 15 (top of band 5).



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Note how the candidate has started the response with a strong introduction which immediately focuses on the task in hand.

This is the complete response to Question 3(a).

A) The writer makes the thoughts and feelings of the main characters in the poem clear. The poet makes all the characters except Cousin Kate feel guilty because of their thoughtless actions. However Cousin Kate must feel overwhelmed as she has been lifted from a poor family into the arms of a selfish yet wealthy man. The cottage-maiden whom the Lord first slept with feels slightly jealous of her cousin, Kate. This is because she is seen as pure and so the Lord married her and bound her with a wedding ring. Now the maiden is called an 'Outcast thing', this is because the Lord simply used her as a 'plaything' and was therefore cast aside bearing the Lord's son, whilst he fell for Kate.

In the poem, there is no physical conflict, only emotional, this is because the maiden is jealous of her Cousin Kate. On the other hand the Lord is feeling guilty for his actions as he carelessly got rid of Kate and his only chance to father a son, which leaves Kate feeling more... depressed.

The cottage maiden uses the phrase 'To lead a shameless shameful life', this suggests that now she has been used she is left to fend for herself in her now unstable life.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This response is rather brief and the comments are not fully developed, although there are some well-focused comments supporting the interpretative points. The overall mark for this response was 10/15, low band 4.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Make sure that the interpretation is always clearly supported; the comments in the final paragraph need some further thought.

This is the complete response to Question 3(a).

3a) The writer may have had many thoughts and feelings about conflict between individuals in 'Cousin Kate'. One of ~~the~~<sup>her</sup> thoughts may have been sorrow, this is because she might have felt sorry for the maiden and wrote a poem based on it. Maybe the poet had experienced the same as the maiden, meaning this was a true story and the poet wrote a poem to make it more effective. The ~~the~~ rhetorical question 'to fill my heart with care' shows that there was reasons that the lord made up to have a child with the maiden. The poet wrote it in this form because she wanted people to see how the maiden was affected and if the poet experienced the same, she might have wanted the lord to see it to feel ashamed of himself ~~re~~ and realise how ~~rough~~ much pain the maiden/poet is in.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is a brief and limited response with very little direct reference to the text. There is a tendency towards the narrative with no development of any argument. For example, the language feature mentioned has not been fully explained. The overall mark awarded was that of 6/15 in band 2.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

When referring to a language feature (in this case a rhetorical question) make sure it has been fully explained and why you think it is important. Do not just list the feature, but show clearly its effect on the ideas of the poem.



This is a complete response to Question 2(a), consisting of just one paragraph.

with it. However ~~in~~ Daljit has use juxtaposition to show the conflict, 'Frost to the cold', 'the few that warmed us' ~~them~~ by juxtaposing the ~~warm~~ words 'Frost' and 'warm'. She has made the conflict in the poem clear because there is only a 'few' people that has 'warmed' them back. Daljit has also included some 'Yorkshire' people in the poem to show conflict by having them in the shop slating the Indian family ~~and~~ in front of them. This shows that the conflict in this poem is serious because they are causing conflict in front of each other when there doesn't need to be. Whereas Christina doesn't include anyone else in the poem just the woman who is talking about others and what they have done.

Both poems presents conflict in different ways but they both have meaning and are similar in certain ways.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

The candidate has chosen 'Parade's End' as the text for comparison. This response is an example of an apt choice being made in choosing the second text. It is a very secure response analysing two very different types of conflict. The response is well structured linking both poems. There are some interesting comments on the techniques used by both poets. The response covered all points needed for a top band 5. It was awarded a mark of 15/15.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

If candidates opt for a (b)(ii) response, they must choose a poem carefully and refer to it in sufficient depth as well as making links with the first named poem.

This is the first part of the response. The candidate has chosen 'Belfast Confetti' as the second poem for Question 3(b)(ii).

ii) Seamus Heaney's poem 'Belfast Confetti' is another poem which displays ~~the~~ conflict but in a different way to 'Casin Kate'. It displays violent conflict between police and rioters in Belfast. The theme of conflict is shown in a different way to 'Casin Kate' as no words are exchanged but weapons are used in the conflict. 'a burst of rapid fire' shows the police firing shooting the rioters for causing distress and chaos on the streets, so they shoot to stop them from causing chaos. However it could indicate the conflict of both groups, fire firing at one another to gain control of the situation that has broken out, this is different to conflict displayed in 'Casin Kate' as it is violent ~~and~~ conflict and between more than two individuals.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

The candidate's choice 'Belfast Confetti' allows for some interesting comments to be made about the conflicts. Although both texts are linked in discussing how the conflicts are portrayed, the overall response lacks depth. The mark awarded was middle of band 4 with a mark of 11.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Note how the candidate immediately homes in on the differences between the two poems. This avoids the impression that the question is being approached in a rather general way.



## Question 4

### Somewhere, Anywhere.

Question 4(a): There were not many responses for this Collection. The set poem was 'Postcard from a Travel Snob'. Many candidates struggled to demonstrate a full understanding of the poem and failed to pick up on the humour and irony. Many interpretations were very literal. There was quite a lot of feature spotting with a generic comment rather than close comment and focus on the text.

Question 4(b)(i): The set text for comparison was 'Our Town with the Whole of India!'. In contrast to 'Postcard...' there was generally a sound understanding of the poem and candidates engaged with its dense description and theme of multi-culturalism. More confident candidates made some interesting and valid points of comparison such as the quiet and solitude of the setting in 'Postcard...' with the vibrancy and noise of 'Our Town...'

Question 4(b)(ii): Amongst those who opted to choose their own poem for comparison, there were some very thoughtful comments on 'City Jungle', 'Sea Timeless Song' and 'Cape Town Morning'. Candidates were able to write more confidently about these poems than about 'Postcard from a Travel Snob'. Comparisons were, however, often limited and confined to content and ideas and few were able to compare language effectively.

This is the opening paragraph of a candidate's response to Question 4(a).

(a) This poem is about a personal anthropologist who is expressing her view on typical luxury holidays.

The writer, Sophie Hannah, opens the poem with 'I do not wish anyone were here.' This is the first example of her isolationism. Hannah clearly wants to be in a isolated lonely place. Hannah goes on to state 'This is not a holiday resort.' 'Pints of beer', 'Perish the thought'. From these quotations it becomes quite clear she is against the concept of a luxury holiday. The word 'Perish' is used. This example of a imperative makes the poem personalised as it appears she's communicating with the reader. This, in turn, means she's trying to make a point about her personal view on holidays and how they should be spent.

Later in the poem, Hannah goes on to describe 'Nobody speaks English'. Which only supports the idea of her being isolated and alone.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

This is a sound explanation of how the writer expresses her thoughts and ideas. Comments are supported by some well chosen quotations and the candidate presents ideas in a clear and focused way. The mark awarded was top of band 5 with a mark of 15.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

Note how the candidate begins the answer with a clear comment about the poet's sense of isolation and uses quotations early in the response to express ideas.

This is the major part of the response for the candidate's choice for Question 4(b)(ii) 'Cape Town Morning'.

Ingrid de kok has different ideas about people and places, it states that 'Window panes rattle old rust', This is # Showing images of decay because of the rust and people live with it. 'Street Children sleep'. There are children sleeping outside because they don't have a home or they work on the street in the day cleaning cars or ~~shoes~~ shoes. It's also dangerous sleeping on the street because there is a lot of gun ~~come~~ crime in South Africa. 'Shaver Mummies in Sacks': Ingrid de kok is comparing that to Egyptian mummies. and there dream of coins is because they are quite poor and when mummies were buried they used to put coins on their eyes.

~~After~~ After it talks about mummies and children on the street it talks about flowers which are more positive and fresh blossoms. These ideas ~~are different~~ are different to 'Postcard from a Travel Snob'.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The candidate's choice 'Cape Town Morning' has the potential to allow for some comments and links to be made between the the poets' ideas of people and place. However, the links are rather tenuous and not developed.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Although equal coverage is not required, try to include a wide range of links with the second poem to the first.

## Question 5

### Taking a Stand

Question 5(a): This was very much a 'minority' choice. The set poem for this Collection was 'No Problem'. Most candidates demonstrated at least some understanding of the key issues in 'No Problem'. Some interpretations were, however, rather literal and did not really address the attitudes presented in the poem. Others successfully grasped the issue of racism and how Zephaniah confronts it through language and humour. Some band 4 and 5 responses considered the poet's reasons for including dialect and possible effects on the reader.

Question 5(b)(i): The poem chosen for candidate comparison was 'Pessimism for Beginners'. This choice presented some challenges with many candidates struggling to interpret the poem. Many saw this as a purely negative poem and failed to pick up on its rather black and ironic humour. Those who did understand the humour were able to compare it more successfully with 'No Problems'.

Question 5(b)(ii): The most popular choice for this question was 'Those Bastards in their Mansions'. This was a sound choice which allowed candidates to explore divergent responses to different types of prejudice. There were some interesting comments on Zephaniah's irony and Armitage's anarchic humour.

This is the entire response, consisting of two paragraphs, to Question 5(a).

Throughout the poem the author shows us a very strong attitude to the way a black person has to live ~~there~~ <sup>their</sup> live, we know the author is writing from a black person's point of view. "Black is not the problem". The author feels black people's lives are different because of stereotypes and the way they're treated. "Now I am branded athletic" "He put me in a pigeon hole".

In the poem the author also shows us that he thinks a life is a life and you should everyone should be treated equal rather than just judged on the colour of their skin. "An racist stunts" "I can do more than dance". The author uses a lot of repetition to show his attitude to how everyone's life should be equal, he repeats the words "I am not the problem" on ~~the~~ four different occasions. The author also shows that because of the attitude people show to his life because of his skin colour, he doesn't show this ~~attitude~~ attitude back to other people's life people with a different skin colour. "Some of me best friends are white".

In the poem 'These bastards in their mansions' the author has a strong attitude to the way in which rich people live their lives. This is shown to us from the title 'these bastards in their mansions'. The author in 'These bastards in their mansions' has an attitude to the way people of a different social class live their lives. Where is 'No problem' the author shows an attitude to the way people have live their life because of their race or skin colour. 'Black is not da problem'. In 'These bastards in mansions' the author express he doesn't like the way the people with higher social class treat people with a lower social class. 'Picked at by their eagles'. In ~~no~~ <sup>No</sup> problem the author shows the reader the way in which he criticises people being treated differently, unequally and unfairly because of their race or skin colour. 'Yu put me in a pigeon hole'.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

Although the response lacks depth and development and there is a tendency to state ('He says...'), there is sufficient evidence to award this response a mark of 10 (low band 4).



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

For a band 5 mark, comments such as those on the use of language (e.g. 'a lot of repetition') needed further depth of treatment.

These are the three middle paragraphs of a candidate's response for Question 5(a) 'No Problem'.

Then he says "born academic" to suggest ~~that~~ that he was born smart or is smarter than others, ~~or~~ or is capable of doing more than others.

He says "branded athletic", athletic could mean that he was fast or strong but the word "branded" is a word used with animals where when they burn a symbol ~~into~~ on to their bodies, so it sounds like he was forced to become an athlete or named the Strongest.

He then says "greet you with a smile" this shows that he is a nice and respectful person to other people. But he then shows another side where he says "you put me in a pigeon hole" this suggests that he was kept in a prison cell or a tiny room as pigeon holes are tiny places for letters. So this could <sup>also mean</sup> mean that he was ~~tormented~~ in a small room.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

Although the response lacks depth and development and there is a tendency to state ('He says...'), there is sufficient evidence to award this response a mark of 10 (low band 4).



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Try to incorporate quotations into the main body of the response rather than using them as statements.

This is the complete candidate's response (one paragraph) for Question 5(b)(ii).

In the poem 'These bastards in their mansions' the author has a strong attitude to the way in which rich people live their lives. This is shown to us from the title 'These bastards in their mansions'. The author in 'These bastards in their mansions' has an attitude to the way people of a different social class live their lives. Where as No problem the author shows an attitude to the way people have live their life because of their race or skin colour. 'Black is not da problem'. In 'These Bastards in mansions' the author express he doesn't like the way the people with higher social class treat people with a lower social class. 'Picked at by their eagles'. In ~~no~~<sup>No</sup> problem the author shows the reader the way in which he criticises people being treated differently, unequally and unfairly because of their race or skin colour. 'Yu put me in a pigeon hole'.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

The candidate chose 'Those Bastards in their Mansions' which should have provided some interesting comparisons and links. However, the few links and comparisons that are offered are not flagged up.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

All points should be supported by short and relevant quotations.



These are the three middle paragraphs of Question 5(b)(i) using the set text 'Pessimism for Beginners'.

Another point the author makes is that ~~she~~ there is a lot of ~~hatred~~ ~~hated~~ hatred as they use words like "venal" and "vile" as a way of describing how people feel about them. In stanza 3 the author says "pecked by an eagle" and "bash in your head" to ~~describer~~ describe the level of hatred people feel towards her.

In "No Problem" the author tries to show that what ever people throw at him, he is still better than them.

In stanza ~~3~~ <sup>4</sup> she says "Makes them spatter their basin with vomit" suggesting that everything she does make people sick cause she's better than them or even that they envy her so much that they can't hold their stomach down.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a response which lacks development and balance. The candidate discusses 'Pessimism for Beginners' with very little reference to the other named poem. This response was awarded a top band 3 mark of 9



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Make sure that the points linking the two poems are developed fully, with sufficient comment on both poems.



## Paper Summary

Overall, responses to the poems showed understanding and engagement with both sections of the paper. However, based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Include more detail and development in your answers
- Make full use of examples, do not just list them or language features
- Keep separate and clearly label the two parts of the Section B answers - (a) on the one named poem; (b)(i) on the second named poem or (b)(ii) on a second poem of your choice
- Think carefully about how to make effective links and comparisons, addressing both poems (although equal weighting is not required)
- Write your answers in the correct part of the answer booklet.

## **Grade Boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>



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