

IGCSE

London Examinations IGCSE

English Literature (4360)

Exemplar candidate responses from the
May 2005 examination session

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Exemplar candidate responses

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English Literature

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from the May 2005
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Note:

The Examiner's Comments in this booklet should be read in conjunction with the Grade Descriptions on page 15 of the specification; to the Assessment Grid for Coursework on page 12 of the specification; and to the published Mark Scheme for the 2005 examination session.

Paper One - Drama and Prose

Example One (Question 4A), A View from the Bridge

Throughout the play, issues of law and justice are raised frequently. Chose THREE events from the play that highlight these issues, and explain their dramatic importance.

Section A: Drama

A view from the bridge

4. a)

In "A view from the bridge" law and justice are portrayed in 3 different ways - the U.S. laws of the Supreme Court, the law and justice in human nature, and the "law" which is has originated from the local

Sicilian community.

When Eddie is fed up and can't ^{bear} take the "a son-of-a-bitch punk" Rodolpho stealing his Catherine away from him, he turns to Alfieri in order to find some legal way in which he can get rid of Rodolpho. He tells Alfieri ^{left} (in his office) "it's just breakin' my heart you know" and explains how he loathes Rodolpho's blond hair, high voice, joking character. "Marco goes around like a man" he says and constantly interrupts Alfieri, who's trying to explain to him that all of that is legal according to the ^{left} law - "I'm only a lawyer" - his job can't help Eddie in any way. The turning-point and climax of the play consists of this dialogue ^{author's} and we are hinted about the following events in the play, ~~at~~ at the end of the dialogue. This is when Alfieri says there is only one legal question - "the manner ^{left} which with which they entered the country." Eddie, naturally says "Oh Jesus, no!" and that won't do anything about that, ^{not} however it is he who phones up the immigration bureau, and informs that Rodolpho and Marco are illegal immigrants.

Alfieri concludes - "I think he made himself
wholly known, and for this I think I will
like him more than all my sensible clients."
This is about Eddie's personality and how he
was able to ignore the law.
relevant text ref. ✓
Hasn't quite brought out conflict
between law + culture. Uses text well.

Examiner's Comments

This response addresses the question directly, offering comments on three distinct scenes - Eddie's meeting with Alfieri, the 'jail scene', and the ending. The introduction is organised, and constructive, defining the concepts in the question in the candidate's own terms. What follows is purposeful, and reflects a clear understanding of the themes and relationships within the play, though it does not develop the comments to any great depth. The textual evidence offered consists, mostly, of appropriately chosen details. The C grade description applies here: there is not quite the depth to place the response higher. 24 out of 40.

Example Two (Question 6B), Pride and Prejudice

There are various settings in this novel, such as Meryton, Pemberley, London and Rosings Hall. Chose two of these settings and show how EACH has its own atmosphere and how each is important to the novel.

6. ~~a)~~
b) At Rosings, Mr. and Mrs. Collins's marriage and Lady Catherine de Burgh's pride, and Mr. and Mrs. Collins are underlined. As Mr. and Mrs. Collins are frequently invited to dine with Lady Catherine, Elizabeth also has the honour to join them during the time, which she's there. Mr. Collins's caricature behaviour towards Lady Catherine is contrasted with Elizabeth's quick-witted strong personality. Mr. Collins is constantly interrupted by Lady Catherine and he accepts this; he constantly gives long silly compliments to her, no matter on every word she says and his attitude strongly highlights the class difference between the two — this is what she is used to and enjoys very much. Elizabeth however, refers to ~~her~~ Lady Catherine as to any other ordinary person, as she judges by virtue and not by social class. During their first dinner at Rosings (Lady Catherine), Lady Catherine says "You give your opinion quite decidedly for so young a person. Pray,

what is your age?" She is constantly surprised at the manner with which Elizabeth is talking — "I have not been ~~accustomed~~ accustomed to such language as this." Hence, she tries to ridicule Elizabeth ~~in~~ in every possible, snobbish, social ways! "Didn't Five children and no governess?" "Your mother must have been quite a slave to your education." This is denied by Elizabeth — "Indeed she hasn't" — and Lady Catherine is ~~amused~~ amused even more at the fact that SHE had ~~been~~ been ~~denied~~ denied. I personally find this scene ~~very~~ very extraordinarily interesting as it is so comical to ~~it~~ see Lady Catherine in such a position.

At Rosings, Mrs. Collins marriage is also emphasized to be a result of Mr. Collins's connections with Lady Catherine — as she designed half of their house and ~~this fact is constantly~~ constant praises about the splendour of the house is heard from the pompous Mr. Collins; a result of Charlotte's pressure as a woman to "marry for money" and not to become an old maid; and a result of being pressured to obtain social security. As Charlotte herself said — "Happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance" — this is the exact impression which we get from Rosings.

Meryton is the place where all are introduced at the Meryton Ball, and ~~where~~ also Lydia's and Kitty's world of officers and other

entertainments (such as visiting Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Bennet's stupid sister).

At the Meryton Ball, Jane Austen thoroughly presents vs with Mr. Darcy's and Mr. Bingley's contrasting characters. At All are happy with Mr. Bingley as he is open, social and isn't aware of social class difference, whereas Mr. Darcy is not everyone's favourite as he is quite the opposite. He only talks to those, who are in his social circle - Caroline, ~~Mrs~~ etc. and this shows his awareness of class difference. Elizabeth also overhears him saying "She is not handsome enough to tempt me" about her to Mr. Bingley.

points supported by textual ref. ✓
Not well foc. on but a.

Messes Mr D & Rosings / Thin on Meryton.
which is v. important

Examiner's Comments

Although there is an imbalance in the response - there is more on Rosings than on Meryton - this essay shows a sharp focus on the task, from the outset. The Rosings section shows considerable insight into how the setting reflects the personality of Lady Catherine, and the analysis of the exchanges between Lady Catherine and Elizabeth is very sharp. The supporting use of the text here is also impressive. The writing in this part of the essay has the perception, and depth of detail, characteristic of responses at high B, or A, grades. However, the second part is relatively disappointing, and the Meryton comments are more generalised: there is no real conviction in identifying a particular 'Meryton' atmosphere. Overall, therefore, 25 out of 40.

Example Three (Question 6A), Pride and Prejudice

'As they are presented in the novel, Charlotte Lucas and Mr Collins seem very well matched.'
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

6. SECTION B

a. I believe that Charlotte Lucas and Mr. Collins' marriage has worked well for both sides. Charlotte Lucas is a "plain-looking" ~~27~~ twenty-seven year old that has no money. She was in desperate need to marry as she didn't want to die an "old maid". Being plain looking and quite old to be getting married at the time, when offered a marriage proposal, she was wise to take it. Even though it was Mr. Collins, who was a "pompos", arrogant, annoying little man, she accepted. She needed the security of not having to grow old by herself being an "old maid" incase she happened to get ill, etcetera. The reason as to why she probably needed to the secret security

was because her ~~property~~ father's property was probably 'entailed' to someone else.

Unlike Elizabeth ~~to~~ who felt it was absolutely necessary to have love in a marriage, Charlotte thought it pointless. She mentioned in a conversation about it that if she found love in marriage then it would simply be a "bonus". She also didn't believe in being in love because she thinks that marriage changes people, so if you marry someone you love they are bound to change anyway, so there is no point.

She was happy enough to live in ~~an estate~~ a reasonable sized estate, with the security of growing old with money and with a man who lived at the other side of the house because she couldn't bear being with him for too long. She felt it was only necessary to talk to him once in a while and also have sex with him once in a while to keep the marriage going.

Charlotte's best friend Elizabeth Bennet who is witty and intelligent turned Mr. Collins down. She decided she wouldn't stoop so low and her mother called her a "foolish headstrong girl".

Elizabeth was very surprised when she heard of Charlotte's engagement to Mr. Collins.

Mr. Collins is a pompous, arrogant, annoying man. He constantly praises his heiress, Lady Catherine de Bourgh. He praises her even to the point where he counts the amount of trees in her grounds and talks about them for a long time. His reasons for marriage are also quite simple. His initial reason was because his heiress told him ~~too~~ saying that a good clergyman must have a

wife. When he reached the Bennet's house, he liked Jane but switched his attentions to Elizabeth when he realised she was taken. When she refused him he went to the closest thing to a good wife that Lady Catherine would approve of which was Charlotte.

Also, it was known in these days that if a man had a wife, he was seen to be further up the social ladder and ~~more~~ therefore more worthy or accomplished.

On to Mr. Collins is ~~was~~ a very boring yet amusing man because of his pomposity and ~~remarks~~ ^{remarks}. This marriage did not find love in the end but both sides of the marriage found what they were looking for and ~~were~~ at least found happiness in that aspect.

We are told at the end that Charlotte is pregnant and so ~~their marriage, to me, was a successful one albeit a strange one.~~

In these days, a marriage like this was considered perfectly normal. They did not have the need for the aspects that today we call essential. In conclusion, although I find this marriage slightly strange due to ~~my~~ ^{my} times' ways of life, I think it was a successful one ~~in this era~~ for both Charlotte Lucas and Mr. Collins, in ~~this~~ era.

Clear focus on question. Some close reference to text, but response somewhat lacking in detail.

Examiner's Comments

This response starts positively and concisely, suggesting a well-planned approach. An overview of the text is offered, in that Charlotte's marriage is seen in the context of the novel as a whole ('Unlike Elizabeth ...' etc). Also, some insight is shown into the cultural, historical and social context - and indeed this 'old maid' interpretation forms a large part of the candidate's argument. The response remains focused on the question, and the text, throughout. However, the comments are not particularly advanced, and the references to the text are often fairly broad, in terms of character and narrative, so that little really detailed, or persuasive, evidence is offered. (Many candidates who achieved higher marks on this question were able to refer in detail to Charlotte's conversations with Elizabeth about her marriage, for example). 28 out of 40.

Example Four (Question 1B), Julius Caesar

Explain the dramatic importance of the supernatural in 'Julius Caesar'. How are Caesar and Brutus affected by any of the extraordinary elements in the play, such as ghosts, omens, dreams or the soothsayer?

1b	<p>The supernatural events that took place in Julius Caesar are of importance / dramatic effects in the book. All the extraordinary elements in the play such as ghosts, omens, dreams and the soothsayer have either a slight or major effect on the plot of the book and the characters themselves.</p> <p>The supernatural events that took the characters and at the same time try to tell the readers that with the decision that a character might have made would cause serious problems and consequences in their lives.</p> <p>Many of the extraordinary events affected Caesar and Brutus in the book, compared to others.</p> <p>Caesar as one of the characters was affected by these events, which tried to warn him of events that were to come which were not of a good atmosphere or nature. We first see in the book that the soothsayer tries to warn Caesar against a day which will harm him in a way that will cause Caesar great harm ^{to all of Rome} "he says to him" "Beware of the ides of March." This emphasizes that something somewhere will cause unwanted harm on to Caesar Caesar. At this time we see that Caesar pays no ^{why} attention to him and ignores this message from the soothsayer.</p> <p>Another extraordinary event which tried to help Caesar move from the harm, that</p>
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Leave blank

Acad.

hen

left

was to fall into his hands was his wife Calpurnia's dream. She dreamt that ^{there} blood in her ~~be~~ dream and connected it to something bad happening to her husband ^{Julius Caesar} Calpurnia. In this days of Julius Caesar ^{1009.} started symbolised death and danger and even in these days it still does. After Calpurnia confessed about her dream to

only a dream and meant nothing to him and his life. We see that Caesar is not a believer in supernatural powers openly but secretly we see he has a small part of him that believes in it, such as telling Mark Anthony to touch Calpurnia's womb after the chase, so that she could become pregnant since she was infertile. ✓

All these events that took place, affected Caesar because they all tried to tell ^{or} warn Caesar about the danger that he was to face, but his ^{non-belief} non-believe in these events and and suspicions of people, all led to Caesar entering into great danger which he thought would never happen. ✓

Brutus was also another character who was affected by the extraordinary supernatural events that took place, since he was apart of the conspirators against Caesar he was faced with elements which made him scared of what he was intending on doing and what he had already done. ✓

Leave blank

Brutus believed that anything which was unusual meant that something of bad consequences would take place which he had no power against or anyone else did.

The omens were one of the supernatural events that took place such as an owl seen in the day, animals were slaughtered without hearts and blood, lions walking in

birds surrounding the conspirators and other omens which took place all symbolised bad events and danger around Rome.

These events affected Brutus, because he became frightened and told Cassius that what they were planning to do was not a good idea, but with Cassius constantly telling Brutus that they meant nothing, convinced Brutus to continue with the conspirators plan of killing Caesar and overthrowing down ~~dictatorship~~ dictatorship.

This events made Brutus want to remove himself from the plan, but with him being a humble ^{and?} man he, remained and with persuasion from Cassius he remained with the conspirators.

Another event which affected Brutus was the ghost of Caesar, which took place after the conspirators had run away from Rome, because the crowds wanted to revenge Caesar's death, and kill the conspirators. The ghost of Caesar appeared to Brutus to tell him that he had come to revenge ~~Caesar~~ his own death and wouldn't leave him until it was done.

This affected Brutus to a very high extent, because he became scared and regretted what he had done, this supernatural event led to the death of Brutus because by suicide because he couldn't live with Caesar's ghost following him around waiting to revenge against him.

Leave blank

All these events led to the fall of the conspirators (Brutus) and the death of Caesar.

We are also told that, Caesar believed in fate and so he believed that what ever was to happen was meant to be, and Brutus believed in free will as well as fate because at times he took things into his own hands and at times believed in what was to happen was to happen.

This could be dev.

Close focus, with good use of text but not always clearly developed

Examiner's Comments

After a somewhat slow opening, this response shows a very keen focus on the question. The use of the text is detailed, purposeful, and sustained (there are few actual quotations, but detailed references are chosen to good effect). There is mature understanding of the play's key features. The candidate shows how the play's themes, structure, relationships and so on are brought out through the references to the supernatural. The ideas are expressed clearly and coherently. 34 out of 40.

Example Five (Question 4B), A View from the Bridge

Consider how Catherine's relationship with Eddie develops as the play progresses.

Right from the very beginning of the play, Eddie and Catherine are presented as having a very loving and close father-and-daughter relationship, albeit not related by blood. In the opening scene, Miller creates the impression of familial warmth in their relationship, enacted in the living room of the Garbone household. Eddie "can't help but smile" at the sight of Catherine, and ^{is} "pleased about it"; similarly, Catherine appears very happy to see him. She does many things for him: "taking him by the arm... sitting down on her heels beside him." In addition, she fetches a beer for him. Miller makes Catherine seem like an obedient and compliant little dog, content to "fetch" and "sit on her heels" at his feet. Eddie encourages this by infantilising her, calling her names such as "Baby" and "katie", the diminutive

form of her name and generally acting very protective towards her. At the start, this is evidenced when Eddie reminds her that "I promised your mother on her deathbed... I'd take care of you" and later reiterating to Beatrice that "she is my niece and I'm responsible for her." Catherine seems used to this, and it seems as if an equilibrium has been reached within their relationship. Miller even makes Catherine "walk around in front of him" in her "slip" — denoting the obvious familiarity and comfort they have with each other through the stage directions.

Leave blank

However, it is the imminent arrival of Beatrice's cousins that really start to fragment their relationship. Catherine and Rodolfo have a mutual instant attraction (she stares at him "wonderfully" and appears "enthralled" with him) that ultimately drives her away from Eddie. Eddie is extremely jealous of Rodolfo, which leads one to question the nature of his love for Catherine. He is in complete denial and is "(shocked, horrified...)" when Beatrice dares point out that it is Catherine he desires; angry and ashamed of himself in his conscious mind, he chooses to hide his inner emotions by trying to undermine Rodolfo. In many instances he insinuates that Rodolfo is homosexual: "the next night... he sings, he cooks, he makes dresses... he's like a weird." Miller chooses to direct hatred for Rodolfo to Eddie purely because Rodolfo is coming between him and Catherine. Thus Eddie is forced to do despicable things to the brothers Marco and Rodolfo. On one occasion he is sparring with Rodolfo and "stagger[s]" him; Catherine watches with "bliss" and Miller depicts Catherine rushing to Rodolfo's aid instead of to Eddie. And all the while Eddie starts to act strangely and resentfully towards their relationship, planting the idea that Rodolfo only is using her "for her passport" in her mind. It is at this point their relationship changes — I think the stage directions of Catherine "(turning raw, with some fear, at a discovery... she is at the edge of tears as though a familiar world has shattered)" is effective in showing this. She becomes "scared of Eddie" and "can't sleep" all the time, confused and torn between

Leav
blan

her love for him and Eddie. She laments: "I mean I know him and now I'm supposed to turn around and make a complete stranger out of him?". This connects the paradoxical situation she is in, clearly still caring for him despite all that he's done. Another example is when she sneers at him after the betrayal of the brothers: "~~He's~~ ^{He's} a rat! He belongs in the sewer!", but later on with Miller's synthesis of the play, Eddie's tragic death, she tries to salvage their relationship: "I never meant to do anything bad to you, Eddie." In my opinion, her attitude towards him changes a great deal as the play

progresses but their relationship, in the end, still contains a substantial amount of love for one another.

Leave blank

None, detailed, logical response.

Examiner's Comments

This response impresses from the start ... 'Eddie and Catherine are presented as ...' and establishes at once that the candidate is aware of subtlety and depth in their relationship, and that the candidate has an awareness of the play's structure. The question is addressed very directly, and this focus is never lost. The use of the text is very sophisticated for this level, and is sustained throughout, forming the basis of a coherent and convincing interpretation of Catherine's character and relationship with Eddie. The candidate's economical and precise vocabulary of course helps to give the response conviction; but the high mark is gained primarily through the detailed and thorough knowledge of the text, and the way in which this is harnessed to the demands of the question. 39 out of 40.

Paper Two - Poetry

Example Six (Question 2)

Several of the poems in the Poetry Anthology express strong emotions. Choose any TWO poems and show how the poets present these emotions.

the poems 'Half-past Two' and 'Plena Timoris' both express strong emotions but are different. Half-past Two refers to childhood and their perception of time. Plena Timoris ~~shows~~ expresses love in a poignant manner where there is love as well as tragedy.

Half-past two reinforces the emotion of being a child and how they perceive things, such as time, differently. Half-past two is about a child who gets trapped in a 'timeless' world of 'ever'. He had to stay in the school room till half-past two. The child did not know how to read numeral time, he knew ~~getting up time~~ TV time, time to get up time and many other times but not half-past two. The poem also includes a fairytale element of the child's ~~mind~~ mind; 'ever, timeless!' This childish fairytale element once again arouses the emotions of a child. The child's perception of time is different and makes the teacher seem god-like by the poet using capital letters. The poet contains ~~the~~ the perception of a child's interpretation of the clock's hands coming to life in the quiet room. The poet does this by using onomatopoeia in the poem of the sound 'click'. This also reinforces the fairytale element and the emotions of childhood. The poet uses childish language like made-up times, 'Getting up time, Grantime.', which express strong childish emotions which makes us understand the poem as we have all at some point of our lives been children.

past. The poet expressed the emotion of being a child very well by ~~the~~ the use of language, style, and literary devices. These convey our feelings too and allow us ~~to~~ to ~~drift~~ drift into this 'land of ever' where 'time hides ticketless waiting to be born.'

the poem 'Plena Timoris' expresses the strong emotion of love and how a woman loved a man so much that it led to tragedy. Thus ~~shows~~ ^{portrays} the theme of Tragic Love. The first paragraph of Plena Timoris describes an atmosphere of mushy love of the ~~to~~ two lovers and how they 'laughed and leant'. However the tone and language changes when tragedy starts. The poet expresses the emotion of ~~the~~ death of a woman with negative language and abrupt, harsh words. When reading the poem, we can visualise the scene of a woman who 'slid down, let go' and then ~~an~~ ^{with an} 'arm upbore'. The poet shows ~~contrast~~ contrast of the woman's hand when the two lovers were holding hands as to compare to the arm that was seen in the river. Once again this reinforces ^{the} tragedy. The poet uses abrupt and harsh language by the use of staccato, '~~she~~ climbed, slid down, let go.' which reinforces the harshness of the situation and the tragedy of a woman. ~~the poet tells us~~ The poet tells us of this woman who wouldn't let go of her lover that she drowned herself, 'drowned herself for the love of a man'. The poet of 'Plena Timoris' uses language to arouse our feelings towards this tragic love that we are actually able to sympathise with ~~the~~ the persona.

is bitter-sweet, poignant with first ~~the~~ the emotion of love and then the sudden tragedy both combining to ~~give~~ express strong emotions in the poem.

These two poems 'Half-past Two' and 'Plena Timoris' appeal to our feelings. ~~One of which is~~

Examiner's Comments

This response offers a straightforward interpretation of two poems, without much development or depth. The choice of poems is perhaps not an obvious one - some readers might consider that 'Half-past Two' does not make explicit 'strong emotions' in the way that many other poems in the Anthology do, and this choice of poems tends to limit the candidate's opportunities for comparison. Most of the comments are appropriate, but they tend to be somewhat superficial, and there is little sense of personal engagement with the poems. The comments on language are usually sound, but they are rarely developed, and tend to lack conviction. Focus on the question is also a little loose. 21 out of 40.

Example Seven (Question 1)

'Remember' and 'Refugee Mother and Child' both portray people approaching death. Explain fully whether you think each poet has been successful in writing about death.

'Remember' is a poem about real and selfless love. The poem portrays the persona approaching death and leaving behind her lover. The tone is poignant and bitter-sweet, and the theme is of handling grief after death. The structure of the poem is a sonnet. It is split into an octet and a sestet. The octet is the first half of the poem which shows the poet's reluctance at leaving her lover and passing into the "silent land". In the second half of the poem, the mood changes and this is introduced by the word "yet". The poet is unselfish and tells her lover to move on and forget her if he "should remember and be sad." In the octet part of the poem, repetition of "remember me" is used. This emphasises on the poet's reluctance to leave and to make sure her lover doesn't forget the times they had. "Remember me" has an insistent tone as the poet urges her lover to dig into his memories of their happy times together.

Death Through the use of poetic devices such as euphemism, the death is made to seem gentler, 'silent land' and 'gone away'. The poet also uses alliteration to add to the personal feeling of the poem, 'held me by the hand'. Imperative tone of 'you' and personal pronouns also add a personal touch and gentler feeling to the poem.

A nostalgic and regretful tone is also introduced →

in the poem when the poet says 'future that you planned?'. It hints at a likely wedding of herself and her lover. This intensifies the sadness of the poem. However, in the last two lines, a ^{feeling of} hope and suggestion of a life for her lover is brought up; "Better... you should forget... than... be sad". The poem ends on this positive note.

Christina Rossetti is successful in writing about death through the various poetic devices used to convey emotion and gentleness in the harsh facing of death.

'Refugee mother and child' is summarised by the poet in the first verse, "No ^{Madonna} ~~Madonna~~ ... could touch ... a mother's tenderness." A refugee mother is caring for her son ^{with} such love and devotion even though she knows this cannot help change his fate of death.

The poet creates a religious and pure image of the mother's devotion for her child ~~then~~ by comparing her to a ^{holy} ~~godly~~ "Madonna". The poet suggests that the mother's love for her child is even stronger than the holy image given.

In the second verse, the poet creates horrifying images which is seen in our sense of sight, smell and touch. The "odours of diarrhoea", "washed dried-up bottoms", and "blown empty bellies" create and evoke horrifying images of death. The image of malnutrition, ^{and} ~~poverty~~ devastation is ^{also} shown through these images. This is how the poet effectively portrays death.

The repetition of the word "ghost" also contribute the poem's theme of death. "Ghost" refers to ^{shadow of the} ~~former~~ life that the mother and her son are living in. This is ~~also~~ implied in "In another life... a little daily act." "Ghost" also foreshadows ^{woman's} ~~some~~ death and hints at the immortality of the mother as she is →

probably to frail and weak.

The mother's devotion to her child is unlike all mothers who had "ceased to care". Her devotion is shown "as she combed the rust-coloured hair" and "singing in her eyes". This makes the poem more gentle. However even in this gentleness, the reader is port (g)ts us back to reality of the woman's fate through the diction used. The poet uses "skull" and "grave" for this negative effect. However, the poem ends on a positive note as it brings a sense of uplifting and reminiscence.

In 'Refugee mother and child', we can relate to this poem as we know of the other life mentioned in this poem and can sympathise with the persona.

Chinua Achebe manages to create a harsh image of death through the use of imagery and one sentenced structure in the second verse. This adds to the negativity of the poem and conveys powerful emotion. Achebe also uses enjambement to show that the suffering ^{for the woman and her child} is never-ending. By this language used as well, Achebe portrays death effectively and successfully.

Examiner's Comments

This response is quite well balanced, giving more or less equal weight to each poem. The two interpretations both show insight and understanding. There is a clear awareness of the effects of language (the paragraph beginning 'The mother's devotion ...', for example, illustrates quite convincingly how language choices affect tone and convey feeling). Where technical terms are introduced they are used purposefully (e.g., the example of euphemism in 'Remember'), rather than merely as 'window dressing'. The question is also borne in mind at all times, and a clear statement is offered in summing up the interpretation of each poem. The response does not, however, reach the highest grades as it is a little 'thin', lacking the sustained depth and detail of the very best work. 31 out of 40.

Example Eight (Question 2)

Several of the poems in the Poetry Anthology express strong emotions. Choose any TWO poems and show how the poets present these emotions.

Strong emotions in 'Plena Timoris' and 'for me from you'

'Plena Timoris' and 'for me from you' are two poems which show and express strong emotions. In 'Plena Timoris', the poet expresses how a woman becomes very shocked because she has seen that another woman has "killed herself for the love of a man". In 'For me from you' the poet is very frustrated and has very strong feelings of hatred towards the man she is going to marry because he gives her presents all the time to remind her that he has more money than her.

'Plena Timoris' starts off as a typical love poem with ^{an} "idyllic environment with the moon in its southing directly blends its silver with their environment." Here, the moon is seen as a love element and it all seems perfect. We also see physical unity between the lovers "his arm around her" this shows us that the lovers are really united and happy to be together. It is the opening of a typical love poem that we would expect. There is also very few punctuation in the first stanza, which could be trying to reflect the smooth actions of the lovers and I think that since it is very flowing to read, you might associate it with the flowing movement of a river. We know they are in a river scenery because the poet says: "parapet stone bridge" which helps create the happy atmosphere and also with the words: "they laughed"

and leant".

This perfect atmosphere is broken in the next stanza because "a man came up to them, then one more" and I think that in a love poem there should only be two people (the lovers) and when these two unknown men come up to talk to them we can guess that something bad is going to happen. One of the men then tells them in direct speech "there's a woman in the canal below" and he describes the quick movements of a woman who committed suicide by using only short and even ~~one~~^{two} word sentences: "Climbed over. Slid down. Let go..." This slows you down as you read it and I think that it greatly contrasts with the enjambement of the first stanza. It is very jerky. The men explain that this woman "killed herself for the love of a man" and it makes us feel sad and shocked because we didn't really expect it. The idyllic mood is broken abruptly.

This suicide has a huge impact on the first woman because she starts to evaluate her relationship with her boyfriend. I think that she feels a strong emotion of pity for the woman^{empathises with her} and might think that the boy who she is with now is not the right one. She feels scared: "my heart shuddered with dread" and we see that the heart is not a love element here any more. They also tell us that "it seemed as to freeze her" which can be linked to the fact that the other woman drowned herself in the canal. The woman realises that her boyfriend is not the one who she wants to spend the rest of her life with and that is why: "they wandered away".

"For me from you" is also a poem where we can see strong emotions because the poem is written in 'Streams of consciousness' which means that the poet just jotted down her feelings as they came on a piece of paper.

This poem starts with repetition: "for days and days your words have poured and poured" this shows us straight away that the poet is fed up of listening to her fiancé and that she can't stand any more. We feel very sorry for the woman because we see she has no freedom and she has to do what her husband to be wants. Her fiancé thinks that everything has a value in money that is why she says: "how much are you selling, how much am I buying". He is giving her things all the time like "a small car" "a nice big kitchen" "a fat allowance" and is always saying "for me from you". I think that the husband is really nasty to do that to her because he probably wants to show her that she is inferior because she might have less money. At first we might think that being given things is something nice but since he lets her know all the time that these presents are from him she feels small and she refers to herself as "i" with a small i.

The poet does not know what to do and she feels that his words follow her all over, like when she says: "your words come muscled in" and it think that it gives the impression that his words push into her mind and she can't stop thinking about it.

I think that the poet feels no hope like when she says: "In this dark room without the shine of the moon" here we see that the moon is not a love element like in 'Plena Timoris' but it is trying to reflect her desperation. This quote probably refers to her life because it is dark and with no light. I think that the light represents hope.

The poet seems to be passive with her husband and doesn't stand up to him but I think that ^{throughout} during the poem she gains strength because when "in my mind i go to the market" "where everything abounds, where everything is bought" she sees that some women refuse to sell her things so this, in my opinion, shows that other women would not stand their husbands showing that he is the breadwinner all the time.

The final lines shows that she might be prepared to say something to her fiancé and refuse to marry him because she says: "if i buy my place for me from you" we feel admiration because she has the power to stop her suffering.

In conclusion, 'Plena Timoris' makes a woman reevaluate her love with her boyfriend showing that love is transient and in 'for me from you' shows how if we are strong and have strong feelings of wanting to change something, we can do it. I think that 'for me from you' is a more effective poem because the great use of repetition makes us realise the feelings of the poet which are of great frustration and monotony.

Examiner's Comments

The introductory paragraph reflects a confident and considered approach: the candidate justifies the choice of poems, whilst introducing (and briefly summarising) them. The interpretations are thorough and workmanlike - if not particularly sophisticated - and the comments on technique are always purposeful and well illustrated. A detailed knowledge of the two poems is put to good use, throughout the essay. There is little complex or technical vocabulary used in the analysis, but points are made simply and with conviction - e.g. the paragraph beginning 'The poet does not know ...'. The candidate does not quite offer the depth of detailed understanding or commentary for the highest marks, but this is clearly sound A grade work. 33 out of 40.

Paper Three - Coursework

Example Nine

Final Draft

Intense feelings are often expressed in poetry. From your own study of at least three poems in the anthology compare how a range of poets are able to make careful word choices so as to ensure their poems are full of intensity and feeling.

'Plena Timoris' by Thomas Hardy, 'In your mind' by Carol Ann Duffy and 'Refugee Mother and Child' by Chinua Achebe all achieve intensity and strong emotion through literary devices and language. They all consider the theme of love although set in different scenes. 'Plena Timoris' and 'Refugee Mother and Child' also talk about the theme of death and despair whereas 'In your Mind' talks about the love of a place.

In 'Plena Timoris', in the first stanza there are two lovers that are looking over a ledge. In the first stanza Hardy uses romantic imagery: 'the lovers looked over the parapet stone' which paints a picture of romance in the readers mind. By doing this the poet makes the reader feel the love between the couple. The poet also achieves romantic imagery through alliteration such as 'lovers leant' and 'laughed and leant' emphasising the romance between the couple. The poet use of the word 'lover' suggests that the relationship is not legitimate and perhaps the couple were having an affair. Also, by using the word 'lover' it creates a false sense of security which is shattered in the next stanza.

AO2
appreciation of
language
style

'Plena Timoris' has a dramatic contrast of mood between stanza one and the second stanza and the rest of the poem because the poem goes from romantic scenes to gruesome scenes. The poet does this through gruesome imagery

whereas in the first stanza the poet uses romantic imagery. In the second stanza and the rest of the poem, a couple watches a lady who has committed suicide being lifted out of a canal. The lady in the couple is watching this incident, it change her idea about the affair and realises that if she is not careful she will end up like the dead women. The poet uses morbid imagery 'arm upbore' and onomatopoeia 'splash' is used to describe the horror of the event creating a very clear image of a dead arm coming out of the water. The onomatopoeia 'splash' combined with the image creates an effective image in the readers head. By the author using this powerful imagery he creates a strong effect of death on the reader. It is almost as if he brings you into the poem as a bystander watching the life of the lovers.

appreciating
tone
AO2

The contrast between romantic imagery and gruesome imagery is strong and sudden representing the affair that the lovers are having from being happy and laughing 'laughed and leant' to breaking up and being heart broken. The contrast shows that these sort of relationships never last long and once it ends it only becomes worse because they lose their loved one "her arm dropt from his' and every thing they that made them happy. By using the couple watching the body being pulled out the canal 'a dripping body began to show', Hardy ultimately shows the 'lovers' end. The contrast between stanzas also represents the metaphorical death of love and how it starts out happy but quickly dies.

AO3
personal
response

AO1

In 'Plena Timoris' in the first stanza 'his arm around her' representing the feeling and mood of love in the stanza. It moves on to the second stanza 'arm upbore' portraying the feeling and mood of death where the dead woman is carried out of the canal. In the fourth stanza 'her arm dropt' shows the metaphorically death of love where the lady leaves the man. Hardy describes the live women as a corpse like the dead women using words such as 'froze' and 'shuddered'. This connects the dead woman's fate with the live lady in the reader's mind and reflects the live lady's thoughts about the inevitable death of love.

used
don't
memorise

A01
sound
knowledge
of the poem

A02

A03

'Refugee Mother and Child' by Chinua Achebe is about a refugee mother and child living their daily lives in the horrible living conditions that they live in. Chinua Achebe uses vocabulary of death such as 'ghost smile', 'ceased to care' and 'putting flowers' emphasising the inevitable. After you have read the poem you grow attached to the mother and wonder if she is going to die because she puts her child's life before her own 'mothers there had long since ceased to care but not this one'. We have respect for her positive spirit as she performs act of love and devotion 'combed the rust coloured hair left on his skull' to the child- as she attempts to perform normal activities 'struggling with labour' in this horrendous situation increase the sense of pathos.

engagement
with the poem
A03

In the poem, there are shocking images of the reality of daily lives of a refugee 'washed out ribs and dried up bottoms' and 'blown empty bellies'. Pain and suffering is also conveyed in the lack of punctuation and the poem's free verse.

This gives the poem a reflective tone and it becomes like a catalogue of pain. The quotation 'heavy with odour' refers to the 'stench of diarrhoea'; this has a strong effect on the reader because it is an image of smell which no one wishes to experience. Achebe uses the word 'heavy' to suggest that it is overbearing and powerful. The image is meant to horrify and shock the reader. A02

In 'Refugee mother and child' there is contrast between the horrific images 'washed-out ribs' and the love and care of the mother 'mother's tenderness'. The poet achieves this through religious imagery of 'Madonna and child', there are all these horrific images of children but through all that there is image of love and devotion 'mother's pride as she combed the rust-coloured hair', which gives the mother a quality to admire because the mother still has time to comb his hair and love him like the 'Madonna and child' even though they are living in horrible conditions.

In 'In Your Mind' the poet Carol Ann Duffy the poet does not use specific words or things 'your job' and 'render the room yours'. When Duffy is talking about going on holiday she says 'the other country'. By saying this, it allows the reader to imagine and draw them into the poem. It lets the reader imagine and lets them put their dream country. Also, when she talks about jobs 'your job' and 'render the room yours' again allows the reader to imagine and let the reader turn the poem into their own.

In 'In Your Mind' by Carol Ann Duffy enjambment is used with free verse to represent the flow of thoughts and the lack of formal structure gives the poem a dream-like quality. The second stanza is broken up with punctuation 'you go to you job; right at the old hotel, left and left again' to make the stanza like a camera taking snapshots of routine on her holiday and things she saw 'seagulls. Bells' on her holiday.

In 'In your Mind' each stanza is associated with a different sense, in the second stanza the sense is sight of her holiday 'watching the sun peel itself into the sea'. In the third stanza the sense is sound on her holiday 'a flute practicing scales' and in the fourth stanza is smell 'turns up the scent of the air'. By using three out of the five senses the poet enables the reader to associate the senses with images and sounds and smells to clear a clear picture in the reader's mind of going on holiday, the holiday and returning home.

I conclude that these three poems 'Plena Timoris' by Thomas Hardy, 'In your mind' by Carol Ann Duffy and 'Refugee Mother and Child' by Chinua Achebe all achieve intensity and strong emotion through literary devices such as alliteration and imagery and also the use of language and vocabulary. The poems portray the intense and strong emotion through in 'Plena Timoris' the metaphorical death of love and the juxtaposition with actual suicide. In 'Refugee mother and child' the use of ending the love in horrendous situation contrast of past and present and in 'In your mind' the contrast of past and present and juxtaposition of dream

and reality. Also the poets Hardy and Achebe using the theme of love and death and showed how they affect each other to portray their intense emotions. Whereas, on the other hand Duffy uses only the theme of love to portray the intensity and emotion in her poem.

Although struggling to express at times / this candidate demonstrates a sound knowledge of the poems. There is evidence of an understanding of meaning and tone with an appreciation of the poet's use of language and style.

Examiner's Comments

This unit of coursework offers a sound, if undeveloped, interpretation of the chosen poems. The precise focus of the assignment title is helpful for this candidate, offering support and direction - although such a relatively prescriptive title might have been limiting for a more gifted candidate.

Many of the points made are supported by close reference to the text, although the ideas are at times not followed through: we are often told that a language choice, or an image, is 'effective', for example, but we are rarely told what the particular effect is. However, the unit sticks to its task, shows a clear understanding of meaning and tone, and offers some personal opinions - albeit without much sense of engagement. Occasional difficulties in expression may hinder the flow of the argument, though they rarely obstruct meaning. 25 out of 40.

Example Ten

English Literature Coursework
Critical Essay Final Draft

Intense feelings are often expressed in poetry. From your own study of at least three poems in the anthology compare how a range of poets are able to make careful word choices so as to ensure their poems are full of intensity.

Piano, *Refugee Mother and Child* and *Plena Timoris* are based on the themes of love, death and childhood. *Piano* by D.H. Lawrence expresses the happy memories of his childhood and also his sadness as an adult that he can never have his childhood back. *Refugee mother and Child* by Chinua Achebe reflects the emotion of a refugee mother watching her son die. *Plena Timoris* written by Thomas Hardy reflects that the love is not infinite but is fragile and easy to change. Although the three poems have different feelings of emotion, they are all presented in a way which will maximise the intensity of the theme they are representing.

The poem *Piano*, where a grown up man thinking back at his childhood while listening to a singer and a piano play in front of him is, rhythmic. The poem is made up of rhyming couplets such as "strings" and "sings" which represent the melody of the piano. The title of the poem *Piano* is not only echoed by the first word of the poem "softly" but also some other euphonic words such as "tingling strings" of the piano and "cosy" living room he had while he was a child. This makes the reader feel as if they are actually in the situation.

The poet shows how his feeling towards his childhood becomes emotional. The poet slides into his childhood memories very smoothly, led by the song, using negative connotations such as "insidious" and "betrays me" to show that he was taken back to his childhood memories against his will. However, he cannot control his emotions as he reminds himself of the childhood he misses so much. The contrast between him "sitting under the piano" while the mother plays the piano and he himself "weeping like a child" in the third stanza reflects his emotions. Being under the piano symbolises the protection he enjoyed while he was a child. On the other hand, the simile used, compared to a child, shows his heartbreaking sadness that he cannot return to his secure childhood.

There is also a contrast between his feelings towards his memories of childhood and the current situation he is placed in. Euphonic words such as "hymns" and the "tinkling piano" in the parlour of his house, his mother "who smiles as she sings" are used as description of his childhood. On the other hand, negative words and negative words such as "clamour" and describing the singer singing as "vain," reflects his thoughts about the current situation. The onomatopoeia, "tinkling piano", describing his childhood is written in the present tense, making it sound as if it's happening right now, emphasising that the man remembers his childhood clearly. Describing the song as a "clamour," however, shows his dislike of his current situation. This juxtaposition not only describes that he is not willing to be in the situation as a grown up man but also foils the sweet memories of his childhood.

Plena Timoras describes a woman's love and trust suddenly vanishing away as she watches a corpse of a woman, who drowned herself for her lover, drawn up from the water. There is a strong contrast between the emotions towards her lover before and after she hears about another woman's death as the emotion of the man changed dramatically after thinking about his childhood in *Piano*. The lovers spending time together "laughed and leant" against

English Literature Coursework
Critical Essay Final Draft

each other is very different from the alliteration on the last stanza, the young woman being confused about the "dim dreads" of their future together. The alliteration in the first stanza shows that the young woman trusts and depends on the man. However, the alliteration describing the lovers at the end of the poem has a totally different effect, showing that her trust in the man has become pessimistic. It emphasises the broken hope and trust of the young woman towards the man.

A01
debated
knowledge

Thomas Hardy juxtaposes the similarity of the dead woman and the young woman which is the reason for the young woman becoming scared about her own relationship with the man. A parallel is shown between these two women from the dead woman's "arm upbore" from the water and the young woman's "arm drops" from the man's shoulder. The similarity in gesture emphasises that the two women's situation is alike and foreshadows the situation which the young woman can be placed in at the end of her relationship. The metaphorical death of love is juxtaposed with real death, which is the main theme of the poem. Young woman's "heart shuddered" as if it wants to "freeze" her when she heard another woman's death, is parallel with the "dripping body" of the woman who "drowned herself" forms a horrible image. Since these words seem like describing a corpse, it foreshadows the worst ending, death, for the young woman when her love relationship is broken.

clarify reference
A01

The change in the relation of the dead woman with her lover is used to intensify the pain of the dead woman. The caesura explaining "He grew tired." shows the end of the relationship and also love, which is the reason for the woman's death. The caesurae after the end of the relationship between the dead woman and her lover, "And hope," "hopeless despair" shows how her emotions changed rapidly by speeding up the pace of the poem.

The refugee mother's hopelessness for the son who is soon going to die, is well described in *Refugee Mother and Child*. The son's "washed-out ribs", "dried up bottoms" and also his "blown empty bellies" shock the reader. The mother's obscure hope of the mother to make her son live is shown in the oxymoron "blown empty bellies". The word "rust" is used while describing the hair of the dying child, emphasises the mother's hope for her son to live slowly breaking and also the regret not being able to save the child. It also represents decay which emphasises the weaken of the mother's hope.

A02
personal insights

Although this poem is describing the child's death, it also foreshadows the mothers' death. This is predicted since the poem is written in the past tense with only few verbs including the description when the mother "began" to part her son's hair and when she "held" a ghost smile for her child, used throughout the poem. As shown in the examples such as the mother "held a ghost smile" for her dying son, and "began" parting his son's hair, the poem is written in past tense. It seems as if the child's death is what happened in the past and as if both the mother and the child are not alive anymore. There are only few verbs including when the mother "combed" her child's hair for the last time. This emphasises their weakness over the uncontrollable situation they are in.

Chinua Achebe intensifies the pain the refugee mother and the child are going through with monosyllabic words. These words slow down the pace and at the same time emphasises the few remaining polysyllabic words. "... for a son she soon would have to forget" makes the reader curious about the reason why the mother needs to forget her son. The monosyllabic words also increase the sadness since it describes their powerless reaction to

A03
clear pass

English Literature Coursework
Critical Essay Final Draft

the pain and statically waiting for their last moment. "She held a ghost smile" and combed her son's "hair left on his skull" emphasises their hopeless and static situation.

If euphonic words were used in *Piano* to represent both the poet's childhood and his current situation, the lexis of death is used in this poem, foreshadowing the child's death. The refugee mother parting her son's hair as putting flowers on a "tiny grave" foreshadows that the boy is going to die soon. The word "tiny" especially emphasise that it's a death of a young boy. The mother giving a "ghost smile" to her son who cannot get away from death, express the main theme of the poem, the infinite love of the mother. Trying to make her son comfortable at the very last moment makes the reader respect the mother's strength.

This horrendous situation, a mother watching her own child die, contrasted to a normal life activity emphasises the sorrow of the mother and the child even more. Parents parting their child's hair is compared with the refugee mothers parting her child's hair as if she were "putting flowers on a tiny grave" increases the agony. This simile allows the reader to compare their own situation with the refugee mother and child and increase the feeling of pathos. It makes the reader admire rather than pity the mother. This is similar to the pathos created in *Plena Timoris* when young woman hears about another woman's death. However, it's contrasted that the love between the two lovers is about to break in *Plena Timoris* although the love between the refugee mother and child is growing even stronger.

The contrast between euphonic words describing childhood with negative words representing his sadness as being an adult helps D.H. Lawrence to emphasise the intense emotion: Longing for the protected childhood in "Piano". Similarly in "Refugee Mother and Child" the images of death are contrasted with the loving and protected impression created by a religious character. "Plena Timoris" also develops intensity by juxtaposing the living with the dead. This emphasise the transience of love. The intense feeling created by poets' careful choice of words keeps the intensity of the poem high until the very last line. Intensity allows the poet to emphasis the themes, mainly love and protection, of the poem.

A detailed and confident analysis demonstrating a sensitive and well-informed understanding of the poems. Good use of close reference and quotation and a clear focus.

Examiner's Comments

This unit offers a close and detailed analysis of the chosen poems, demonstrating clear understanding and some sensitivity in interpretation. The quality of the work, and how points are developed more fully than in the case of the previous exemplar unit, can be seen clearly in the two candidates' treatment of the 'arm upbore' and 'arm drops' references to 'Plena Timoris'. In this unit the observation has more depth, and suggests a much more engaged personal response, even though the basic idea is not dissimilar. Additionally, this unit is lucidly and coherently expressed, using a technical vocabulary where this is appropriate. Overall, this unit offers personal insights, sound technical analysis, and a clearly focused response to the assignment title. 33 out of 40.

Example Eleven

Several of these poems discuss themes concerning suffering. Discuss three of them.

"Remember", "Crabbit Old Woman" and "Refugee Mother and Child" all depict suffering in some form, stemming mostly from the likely prospect of death. "Remember" by Christina Rossetti is about torment and confusion when anticipating death; "Crabbit Old Woman" by Phyllis McCormack is about an old woman in hospital anticipating death; and "Refugee Mother and Child" by Chinua Achebe is a description of extreme suffering in times of famine and hardship. ✓

Sophisticated appreciation of language and style ✓
The tone of the three poems is similar in that each is melancholic; a bitter undertone had the poem a voice. In "Remember", Rossetti reveals a morbid fascination with death and decay—there is a semantic field of death in the use of the extended metaphor "Remember me when I am gone/Gone far away into the silent land". She compares death to a journey, and the ambiguous implications set the ambivalent tone for the rest of the poem as "silent land" can be peaceful, tranquil, and calm; or it could also be viewed as eerie and frightening. ✓

Clear focus on question ✓
Techn. vocab ✓
"Crabbit Old Woman" could be viewed as angry and confrontational, when McCormack opens with a series of questions: "What do you see, nurses, what do you see?/Are you thinking/when you're looking at me/...Is that what you're thinking?/...Then open your eyes/you're not looking at me." The tone becomes bittersweet as she reminisces throughout the poem, taking on multiple perspectives, patterned after Shakespeare's famous "Seven Ages of Man" speech from *As You Like It*: "I'm a small child of ten...A young girl of sixteen...Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead...". The future is "cruel" as she thinks of "the years/and the love I have known". ✓
Good use of close-reference and quotation

Synaesthesia ✓
The narrative viewpoint of "Refugee Mother and Child" is an observational one, Achebe was a visitor at the scene of the poem's subject matter and not actually experiencing it firsthand, like the other two poems. As a result I think that he tinges the poem with sympathy and pity as a witness to an inevitable tragedy. He uses a semantic field of illness, particularly the first five lines of the second stanza, "The air was heavy with odours of diarrhea of unwashed children with washed-out ribs and dried-up bottoms struggling in laboured steps..." to emphasize the incredibly harsh circumstances of the situation and how horrified he feels. ✓
He also utilizes synaesthesia to create the strong impression of overwhelming sensations that are so intense, to the point where I feel the words are able to jump off the page three dimensionally.

Several similar themes also appear in each poem. "Remember" is distinct because it showcases the weakness of humanity—the ambiguity and confusion. Rossetti appears to be talking to some sort of lover or

person who holds her "by the hand", holding onto her, anchoring her down. She vacillates between telling them to remember her when she is "gone away", and urging them to "...forget and smile/than that you should remember and be sad". In the octet, she repeatedly tells them to "remember" her, "only remember" her, as if for fear of oblivion. However, there seems to be a sort of quiet anger in "When you can no more hold me by the hand...when no more day by day/You tell me of our future that you planned." Rossetti sounds quite resentful of this person, who sounds domineering mentally (planning their future) and physically (holding her). She seems to be warning him, "It will be late to counsel then or pray"—as if she knows that she will die. In my opinion it sounds as if she finds a certain glee in death, appearing to embrace it, not in the least worried. But once again, her flair for ambiguity comes in as she ruefully sums up her relationship with this person, and her take on life and death: "Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay." She isn't quite sure whether to leave or stay with him, torn between him—and death. This leads me to wonder if she is personifying death and talking to death *itself*. It is as if the mystery person dominates her thoughts the way death dominates her thoughts.

✓ Understand
of technique
points

Then, the volta appears with the discourse marker "Yet" that signifies the turmoil inside her mind as she then changes her opinion with "Yet if you should forget me for a while/And afterwards remember, do not grieve...". A contradictory theme of strength is introduced, as she bravely faces up to death herself, smoothly reassuring: "For if the darkness and corruption leave/...the thoughts that I once had,/Better by far you should forget...". She wants him to live his own life. The metaphors for death and the rotting of the body, also could suggest the life she led—dark and depressing.

✓ Very
close
reading

Contrasting with some aspects of "Remember", "Crabbit Old Woman" displays themes of dignity, humanity and resisting old age and death. The confrontations in the beginning are effective because Phyllis McCormack acknowledges what is perceived to be wrong about her: "...old...not very wise...Uncertain of habit...far-away eyes...dribbles her food...Who seems not to notice the things that you do...". Yet the sarcasm in the acknowledgements all suggests that she still has a fully functioning and stable mind, entirely capable of thought and not deteriorating just because her body "crumbles" and "there is a stone/where I once had a heart." Because inside her "old carcass"—an eviscerated corpse, empty and dead—"a young girl still dwells.../loving and living life over again." The hope is still conveyed, her youthful spirit still existing. It is a beautiful thing, to be so positive even though there is the "stark fact/that nothing can last". McCormack personifies nature in "...nature is cruel/'Tis her jest to make/old age look like a fool" to emphasize the fact that even though there is nothing she can do about getting old, about the rapid decline of her exterior, there is nothing wrong with it so long as her mind is still sharp as ever. This is evidenced with her good memory in naming many

Good
use
of quotation

memories in such detail during the recounting of her life story: "A young girl...dreaming that soon a true lover she'll meet...Remembering the vows that I promised to keep..."

"Refugee Mother and Child" also includes themes of dignity and the strength of humanity, more similar to "Crabbit Old Woman" than to "Remember". Chinua Achebe cleverly demonstrates his admiration for the mother's dignity and hope to maintain life in the face of death by comparing her and her child to Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary—"No Madonna and Child could touch that picture of a mother's tenderness...". He compares black starving refugees in Africa to the epitome of white culture, insinuating that the bond he witnessed transcends humanity and that they are even better than the cornerstone of Christianity, elevating the mother's status which proves provocative and extremely effective.

The touching picture of strength is shown in "Most mothers there had long since ceased to care but not this one...". She "held a ghost smile...in her eyes the ghost of a mother's pride..." which denotes the tiniest effort to smile, probably due to her exhaustion and lack of energy, and connoting their irrevocable, slow deaths. The death imagery is subtle, but instantly recognizable as soon as the word "ghost" is used. The "rust-colored hair left on his skull" also denotes a skeletal, washed-out and therefore near-death, appearance. But what so amazes me is the "mother's pride" which drives her to comb and "carefully part" his "rust-coloured hair"—an effective metaphor—the very domestication and incongruity of it, along with the isolated phrase " - singing in her eyes - " which connotes an isolated, incongruous thought as well because "singing" is a verb with joyful connotations, very much a contrast with the rest of the poem. The parting of his hair shows that his mother hasn't quite given up hope yet; "in another life this would have been a little daily act...now she did it like putting flowers on a tiny grave" at once demonstrates the human capacity for strength and weakness—attempting to hope, to dream and defeat death; yet realizing full well that miracles will not happen anyway—"...for a son she soon would have to forget"—therefore letting her son die 'gently'.

"Refugee Mother and Child" is effective in that the graphology, the enjambment, the lack of punctuation all give the impression of extremely vivid imagery that Achebe simply cannot waste any time on pausing to describe it. I like that this poem deliberately lacks punctuation because his reaction is so immediate. There is too much sensation at once—as clearly demonstrated in "the air was heavy with odours of diarrhea...unwashed children...washed-out ribs...dried-up bottoms...blown empty bellies." The alliteration on the letter 'b' denotes how big and round and hollow the starving children's stomachs are, connoting a cruel irony that when starving their bellies are so "blown" and full-looking, a severe side effect of malnutrition. Another cruel irony is shown when he uses the metaphor

✓
Demonstrated
analytical
and
interpretative
skills

"ghost smile" as starvation strips away the flesh of the face, making the people look as if they are smiling all the time when only it is the flesh that is so thin that you can see their teeth through it all. Achebe also deliberately creates opposition between 'clean' and 'dirty', in "washed-out ribs", which in real life resembles a very white, stretched, clean appearance when in fact they are not—more effective display of irony. This fits well with the contrast between the aforementioned white Madonna and the black refugees of whom they represent. *sensitive appreciation of meaning*

I find that irony also appears quite subtly in "Remember". It is written in a form which most closely resembles the Petrarchan sonnet, which has a very strict octet-sestet structure of 14 lines. Meanwhile, Rossetti's thoughts are a cacophony inside her head, which initially I thought would be more suited to free verse, where she can go wild with her emotions. However, she seems to be trying to be calm and logical about death and the person she is addressing; therefore she is trying to control all her impulses and slots her swirling thoughts into a neatly ordered poem. The first-person use also makes the situation more chilling. Metaphor and imagery associated with death are packed into the 14 lines. The rhythm is also very regular, keeping in with the formal structure, which also seems to contrast with her irregular contradictory thoughts and ideas. The Petrarchan sonnet is traditionally used for writing about serious matters, and where the octet described a problem, the sestet revealed a solution, with the volta clarifying this structure. This can be found in "...you understand/It will be late to counsel then or pray" and "Yet...do not grieve...".

"Crabbit Old Woman" overall is a very popular and effective poem for many reasons. It has a very regular iambic trochaic rhythm, which suits the poem because it is monosyllabic and sounds as like a normal everyday conversation, partly why people can relate to it so much. The long sentences indicate the outpouring of emotions that change tone easily and the simplicity actually works because nothing in the poem is subtle. An example is the sudden change from "Again we know children/my loved one and me" to "Dark days are upon me/my husband is dead" in the next line. It fulfils the preconceptions that people have about age, and the anger as mentioned is also stimulating. The full rhymes also make it more attractive to read, but in this case poetic diction is used which to some would be a disappointment. Even though the metaphors used are often clichéd—"wings on her feet", "far-away eyes", "my heart gives a leap"—I think that it is well suited to this particular poem. The simple lexis is also well suited because of the simple subject matter. Therefore metaphors for transition from youth to age are prominent ("grace and vigour depart/now is a stone/where I once had a heart..."), and used more successfully and strikingly.

observational but with the poet's own little twist to provoke and stimulate the reader's mind. *Informed personal opinion*

Examiner's Comments

This is an outstanding unit, combining a confident personal response with a highly detailed technical analysis of the poets' styles. The candidate is not afraid to express individual (or 'non-standard') views - 'Even though the metaphors used are clichéd ...'; and invariably the points are supported with detailed and relevant textual examples. The understanding of poetic form and technique is sophisticated - remarkable at GCSE level. There is a sensitive, mature and critical understanding of the material, expressed in a lucid way, which carries great conviction. A wide range of technical terms is used appropriately, and, while the points could no doubt be made equally well without the use of these terms, their use enables this candidate to communicate ideas concisely and precisely. The excellent ending of the unit, on a personal note, rounds off a piece of work of which the candidate should be very proud. 40 out of 40.

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