

GCSE English Literature
5ET2H

Unit 2 – Poetry

Exam Exemplar Script
Commentaries

January 2012

Candidate	Section	Commentary	Band/Mark
Section A Unseen poem			
Candidate A DocID 0297300024279		Starts with clear and focused overall interpretation. Explores effect of some of the child's observations ('money-box', 'gust of rain') and looks soundly at the repeated use of questions. Refers accurately to rhyme scheme: comment on 'enjambement' more doubtful - there is sometimes a natural break at the end of the line. Overall, interpretation is sound and enough clear points are made for Band 2. Some valid points are made (on over-protectiveness and the youth of the child).	Band 2 Mark 7
Candidate B DocID 0297300024259		The candidate begins with a clear introduction. Thoughtful comment is offered on the evidence of the 'old rag doll', suggesting that Lulu has left her childhood behind. Comment on enjambement and caesura less secure (there is no convincing example offered of either device). Repetition of questions shows young child's anxiety. There is some assured interpretation, with interesting comment on significance of 'circle'. Makes something of the mother's feelings shown at end – a strong point.	Band 4 Mark 14
Candidate C DocID		First paragraph: thoughtful interpretation – shows the mother's 'dismissive. nonchalant answers' (note confident use of language) can be	Band 5 Mark 20

0297300024258		inferred from the child's comment, since direct speech is not used. Notes that because of mother's reluctance and evasiveness, child's questioning becomes more persistent and insistent: child clearly feels something is not being said, which increases anxiety. Notes the very concrete, detailed observations ('literal language'). Very perceptive comments and interpretation: excellent on the ambiguity which is important to the poem.	
Section B Relationships			
Candidate D DocID 0297300024769	A	Comment on metaphor is clear, with reference to the fruit imagery. Good on her wanting to have a loving relationship as well as independence: very well grasped. Attempts comment on structure – notes the effect of short 'starter' lines in stanzas: creating 'sharpness and intensity'. Deals effectively with the Caribbean cultural context, and relevant structural comments. Although not all points are fully convincing or developed, there is much that is focused enough for a Band 3.	Band 3 Mark 8
	B (i)	Good comparative comment offered from outset. Notes that she feels he is 'indecisive', which is threatening their relationship. Points made about physical relationship in both: could be	Band 3 Mark 8

		clearer at times. Notes anger in 'Rubbish at Adultery', but does not fully explore reasons for this. Some focused comment on detail of language: maintains linkage between the poems throughout: strong connections between language and ideas.	
Candidate E DocID 0297300024393	A	The candidate offers a clear general introduction, paving the way for excellent analysis and confident judgement. Although the contextual points are well made, they take time out of a focus on specific instances of language. Nevertheless, there are a good number of excellent points . Deals very well with the fruit imagery and offers much assured, confident and perceptive comment.	Band 5 Mark 15
	B (ii)	The choice of 'One Flesh' allows a sustained exploration of the importance of the physical side of a relationship, but it is easy to misread 'One Flesh' as saying that the loss of physical intimacy means the end of the relationship in effect: not quite the message. However, there is sophisticated analysis, well rooted in the text, and the comparison between the poems is maintained at a high level, with shrewd, assured writing.	Band 4 Mark 11
Section B Clashes and Collisions			

Candidate F DocID 0297300024228	A	The candidate makes focused comment on the language of war in 'Invasion', looking at both positive and negative 'semantic fields'. The personification of 'blood' is noted. However, 'will' is not an imperative. Much of the comment is thoughtful and focused but occasionally it does not work quite as well, therefore. For a higher band, the interpretation would have needed to be more sustained and developed.	Band 3 Mark 7
	B (i)	Differences between Hardy's and Auden's use of language are noted. There are some well-judged comments about each poem, and links are explored to an extent. However, there is no close analysis of the developing situation of the Auden, with its chilling denouement, and this keeps the level at a Band 2, despite the clear engagement and response.	Band 2 Mark 5
Candidate G DocID 0297300024236	A	The candidate focuses on a number of features of the poem's language - future tense, use of pronouns, alliteration on plosive words - and makes relevant and valid comments on each. The analysis of 'pathetic fallacy' is very effective indeed. Altogether, there is an assured maturity in the candidate's writing: it is skilful and sophisticated, with admirable use of language. This perceptive response merits a score in the Band 5 range.	Band 5 Mark 13
	B (ii)	The choice of 'Exposure' for the second poem enables the candidate to make a wide range of relevant comparisons	Band 5 Mark 15

		and links with 'Invasion'. The comment is perceptive and shows excellent control. When the answer turns to 'Exposure', it shows equal conviction in the handling of the sense of 'waiting', which is one idea that certainly links the poems. The interpretation shows acute awareness and imagination: an exemplary response.	
Section B Somewhere, Anywhere			
Candidate H DocID 0297100179448	A	The candidate begins by focusing on the title: direct, personal' and also wrongly notes the meter of the poem as being 'iambic pentameter'. More effective is the analysis of the note of 'conviction' in the opening line and its wider implications about inheritance. Comment on individual features of the language are sound and show a clear grasp of the idea that some things simply cannot be bequeathed – perhaps those things that most symbolise a home.	Band 2 Mark 6
	B(i)	'Sea Timeless Sea' is, clearly, seen by the candidate as a very different type of poem, with its air of permanence contrasting with her mother's kitchen's changing nature. However, both poems are in a sense dealing with the contrast	Band 2 Mark 5

		between transitoriness and eternal qualities. Relevant comments are made about the repetition and sibilant sound effects in 'Sea Timeless Sea'. Overall, the comment is sound and focused.	
Candidate I DocID 0297100179432	A	The candidate quickly establishes a commitment to close analysis of the language and its effects – although it falters when referring incorrectly to an oxymoron. The sparseness of Hardi's use of language is shown well in the phrase 'blunt and emotionless'. There is exploration of a large number of detailed and relevant language features, but without losing sight of the overall interpretation. The comments are thorough and often effective, but would need at times a little more depth to place the response in Band 4.	Band 3 Mark 8
	B (ii)	The choice of 'Our Town with the Whole of India!' is an interesting one, enabling the candidate to contrast the domestic intimacy of the kitchen with the more outward-looking panoramic scenes of the other poem. There is a strong commitment to taking in the breadth and variety of the 'Our town...' poem, and the candidate focuses on many of the close-packed images of the lively town. The danger is that the focus on detail prevents a more complete overview. Sometimes, features are listed with little analysis, and more comparative points could be made. However, the candidate has compressed a great deal into the available time, and the thoroughness of	Band 3 Mark 8

		the coverage of points makes this a Band 3 response.	
Section B Taking a Stand			
Candidate J DocID 0297300027781	A	The candidate quickly establishes that the poem is an 'extended metaphor', which life presented as a consumer product. The suggestion is offered that the choice of 'consumerism' reflects a 'materialistic' opinion – a thoughtful point. The prevailing negativism of the ideas is noted, but so is the fact that it is admitted to be 'a popular product'. Comment is well sustained and often shows a thorough grasp, though not quite all points are developed fully.	Band 3 Mark 9
	B (i)	The given second poem, 'On the life of man', is seen, appropriately, by the candidate as similar in its treatment of life in an extended metaphor – in that case that of a theatrical play. Although occasionally the comments are slightly off the mark, the overall quality of the response is impressive, as the Raleigh poem is analysed in depth, with the comments very well linked to those on the first poem.	Band 4 Mark 10