

Examiners' Report
June 2015

GCSE English Literature 5ET2H 01

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Introduction

This series saw a number of changes to the format of the examination; the Unseen Poem was chosen from a prescribed list of fifteen poets and the question relating to the Anthology Poems was simplified. Candidates are now given one task to respond to, rather than two shorter ones, in which they are invited to analyse a set poem from the Collection they have studied and compare it with one other poem, chosen by them, from the relevant Collection. There were considerable numbers of responses where candidates engaged with the nature of the poetry presented. Examiners were pleased with the quality of the responses and the variety of interpretations, in particular for the Unseen Poem.

With regard to Section B examiners noted that the vast majority of candidates dealt well with the new rubric requirements as they were able to devote time and thought into a single question. There were many good responses to the Anthology poems and some thoughtful candidates revealed careful preparation of their chosen Collection. There were some excellent comparisons with their chosen poems, although a minority of candidates struggled to compare the poems effectively. Rather than occasional links, integrated comparison throughout would have greatly improved their answers, as many candidates had a thorough understanding of the texts. Centres might like to consider ways of helping candidates find and comment on similarities and differences between two poems, especially in their handling of thematic material.

Centres have clearly taken on board the advice in previous reports to write each question in the appropriate section of the answer booklet.

Overall, the responses from candidates had many strong features, demonstrating their enjoyment and engagement with the study of poetry. Examiners noted:

- the many refreshing and independent responses to the unseen poem
- evidence that candidates understood the ideas presented in the poems of their choice
- the capacity to select apt examples of the way a poet's language expressed feelings and attitudes and to comment on how these related to the themes.

The less successful responses:

- did not demonstrate clearly a full grasp of the poems' meanings and ideas
- sometimes made unsubstantiated and over-general points, without supporting them with appropriate textual evidence
- when writing about two poems, treated them separately, without making the required connections.

Question 1

The poem selected was *Woman Work* by Maya Angelou. The poem proved accessible and allowed candidates of all abilities to achieve. There was scope for analysis for the more confident candidates. Examiners saw a variety of responses which was reflected in a wide range of marks being awarded. There were some interesting points made about the title, for example, the perceptive observation that it reads like an imperative; others commented on the alliterative couplet, suggesting that woman and work were intrinsically linked.

The poem lent itself to a discussion of structural devices and its change in tone and structure as the poem progresses from the monotonous rhythm of the first half to the more lyrical and romantic latter half required deeper analysis. More confident candidates were aware of the fact that a change in structure or form often signals that there are other changes occurring in tone and moods, and identifying and commenting on this gave depth and complexity to their responses. The discriminator of an assured response came down to the candidates' interpretations of the latter half of the text. The majority of candidates noted the poet's references to nature and recognised that nature was a source of relief and comfort.

Many candidates engaged with the wider meaning and how the poem was a criticism of society and the treatment of women. Others interpreted the poem as a celebration of women, their resilience and independence. Some candidates brought contextual knowledge to their responses being familiar with the work of Maya Angelou.

These are the opening and closing sections of a candidate's response to the Unseen Poem.

The poem 'Woman Work' by Maya Angelou explores the thoughts and feelings of hardship, gender status, freedom and purpose.

It is clear to the reader that hardship and labour is being explored by the poet. This is shown on the many rhyming couplets such as "I've got the children to tend. The clothes to mend" and "The floor to mop. The food to shop." The fact that on the first stanza it is all made up of rhyming couplets shows that the work that is being done is being dragged on implying it is like a chore or a repeated process. The use of 'I' is ~~used many times~~ ^{repeated} here "I got company to feed" and here "I gotta clean up this hut." This conveys that this work ^{is} being done by one person.

only 'and creates a sympathetic tone towards' the reader.

The issue of gender status is explored by the poet and not just in the poem but also in the title of the poem 'Woman Work'. The title is alliteration implying that women go well with work and so they should be the ones doing it. The first stanza is shown to be quite stereotypical in the way that women have ~~the~~ "the children to tend," "the floor to mop" and "the garden to weed." Even though many of these jobs are not seen as hard work, the irony is that most, if not all, are very hard work and if women are stereotyped at being weak and they should work and clean then why aren't the men weeding the garden and picking the cotton. This whole poem creates the idea that women are underestimated and they do a lot more than people, men specifically, think.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is an insightful response with some very perceptive explanation in terms of ideas. There is evidence of a personal response and to support this, the candidate has carefully chosen textual references. A full text view is taken and the reader is given an interesting interpretation. Overall, this perceptive response was awarded 18 marks, which puts it firmly in band 5.



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Note how the candidate's strong introduction helps focus the response on the requirements of the question. The final paragraph sums up the candidate's arguments and a rounded response is presented.

This is the second half of a candidate's response to the Unseen Poem.

Yet, in the second stanza there is a volta where the pace of the poem changes ~~and~~ from a hot, fast paced rush to a cooler and overall calmer glow of ~~whispering~~ ideas. For example ⁱⁿ the second stanza of the poem it says "cool my brow again", the use of the verb cool suggests that due to the extensive amount of work the brow is hot and cooling the brow would therefore create a sense of calmness. This point is further made by the use of caesura ~~where~~; such as "Shine on me, sunshine", this ~~suggests~~ the use of the comma suggests that the writer is pausing to take a breath and as a result beginning to relax ~~it~~. This creates a direct contrast to the ~~opening~~ stanza which suggests that she is almost unable to stop ~~and breathe~~ and breathe due to the amount of work she is doing. This clearly shows how difficult the woman's work is as she is appreciative of even the ~~smallest~~ break.

However, this second part of the poem also seems to be nonexistent ~~as the poem is written~~; this is due to the

Section A continued) fact that ~~the~~ the poem is written as the internal monologue of Maya Angelou as she imagines the ~~long~~ tranquility and peacefulness of being able to relax. This point is further reinforced by the fact that she is personifying the weather and almost asking it to

this lexical field to present to the reader her feelings about the work and how she wants to be taken away from it by nature.

Maya Angelou ~~at~~ also shows that she wants to escape from work by the last lines of stanzas three and four where she says 'Til I can rest again!' then goes on to say 'Let me rest tonight'. This suggests to the reader that a woman goes through all of this labour yet desires rest. This ~~shows~~ ^{presents} that Angelou believes that the work ~~is~~ of a woman is too ~~stressful~~ difficult for one woman.

To conclude, through many structural and language features in this poem Angelou strongly ~~expresses~~ ^{is} presents that she ^{is} strongly ~~opposes~~ ^{opposes} against the traditional labour for a woman and believes that it is too much for one woman.



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Examiner Comments

This is a sustained interpretation of the poem. There is focus on language and imagery and some comment on how both develop in the poem, there is also a summing up at the end. However, the range of comments on language and form is not well developed and there was not enough to move this response into a higher band.

The response was awarded a mark of 12 in band 3.



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Examiner Tip

When discussing language, form, structure and effects make sure your comments are precise and thorough.

This is the middle section of a candidate's response to the Unseen Poem.

In stanza 2 ~~there~~ Angelou uses soft ~~the~~ ~~the~~ sanding words like 'shine' and 'sunshine' giving the poem a calm tone suggesting rest and happiness, ~~but~~ ~~also~~ rest is again suggested with the line 'cool my brow again', which implies ~~is~~ that the woman is having a break. This makes the reader think that although a woman has to do her work she needs rest, ~~that~~ ~~at~~ which she enjoys. The stanza is also very short this implies that her ~~brow~~ rests ~~or~~ breaks would be very short. ~~and~~ The ~~and~~ third stanza is again short however, the language is harsher and harsher imagery is used, ~~this~~, for example, 'storm, blow me from here with your fiercest wind' this could suggest an ~~un~~ unpredictable employer or how that her ~~soft and dreamy~~ rests that one described as ~~softly~~ ~~softly~~ ~~softly~~ positively one suddenly changed ~~to~~ by a more negative ~~or~~ ~~a~~ case. // There is also a lot of

Enjambement in the poem. There is ~~more~~
more enjambement ~~and~~ and less punctuation in the
first stanza than any other this gives the
impression of a rush and ~~each~~ that make it
a more difficult to read which could suggest

(Section A continued) That her changes are difficult and
that she has little time to ~~breathe~~ catch
her breath.

There is still enjambement in the ~~text~~
all the other stanzas, ~~but~~ however, there is
more punctuation especially in stanza ~~two~~ ^{two} which
again ~~is~~ links to the idea of her resting.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The candidate has attempted a close reading of the poem. The answer picks up on language and how it changes throughout the poem. It links rhythm to theme and there are comments on how the imagery changes, but these are not explored in any depth. There is a personal response and the candidate moves from the lot of one woman to all women. However, the lack of depth kept this response in band 3 with a mark of 12.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Note how all comments are supported by short and relevant quotations.

Question 2

Song for Last Year's Wife by Brian Patten from Collection A was the named poem. Most candidates responded well to the Patten poem writing with sympathy for the man's plight. The majority of candidates identified the form of the monologue as an effective way to present the persona's sense of loss and melancholy. Many candidates understood the force of the winter image.

My Last Duchess was a popular choice of poem for comparison with similarities of form, that of a monologue and the presentation of a possessive, even obsessive love as seen from a single perspective. *Our Love Now* also proved popular for comparison with its thematic similarities of painful and hurtful love to the Patten poem, but this time with a female voice to balance that of the male. Possibly the most popular comparison poem was *One Flesh*; candidates commented that both poems present the end of a relationship and the separation of a couple. More confident responses compared the imagery and how this represents the characters' sense of isolation, the image of 'winter' and 'empty garden' in the Patten poem and 'silence' and 'cool' in *One Flesh*.

Choices such as *Sonnet 116* looking at love as a concept and *Pity me not because the light of day* speaking of the pain of unrequited love, were also attempted, although these presented challenges in terms of tackling such complex poems within the time constraints.

Most candidates understood the necessity of discussing two poems. Candidates who performed better were those who could consider both poems simultaneously, rather than those who considered one poem and then the other, linking the two with a brief and often undeveloped comparison comment.

This candidate chose *One Flesh* as the companion poem for comparison. This extract is from the middle of their response.

you". Both poems imply similar situations for both people yet loneliness. They also both imply death. *Song for Last Year's Wife* implies that ~~the structure of~~ 'Alice' is dead by saying 'send me your ghost' which ~~could suggest~~ could suggest death you could argue that the 'ghost' could represent a memory. Similarly, 'One flesh' also suggests death when it says 'some new event, this could suggest death, however, it is ironic due to the possibility of the ~~same~~ line.

The structure of the poems are slightly different. 'Song for last year's wife' is written in free verse and hasn't got clear stanzas, which reflects the

in clarity of whether 'Alice' is dead or alive. This contrasts with 'one flesh' ~~poem~~ which has 3 three clear stanzas in the poem; the stanzas could reflect order and routine, suggesting that nothing new or exciting happens to this couple, showing us as the reader how the writer reflects that love becomes a chore a not a spontaneous thing as it originally was. Both poems use enjambment, in 'song for last year's wife' the writer may use enjambment to make the poem more difficult to read

(Section B continued) and so reflecting the idea of love ~~is~~ ^{and new} ~~emerging~~ even if someone is gone ~~and~~ it ~~is~~ ~~promoted~~ doesn't falter. It also shows that we can change to obsession and desperation by the way of which some lines in the poem could be said. Jennings also uses enjambment in 'one flesh' which could ~~not~~ reflect the idea that ~~the~~ love changes and doesn't stay in an ordinary pattern which could be suggested with punctuation at the end of each line. In the end stanza of 'one flesh' there is a lot of enjambment suggesting reflection on a love that was once there, ^{as this} can also be ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~by~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{new} ~~writer~~ ^{the} ~~is~~ ^{writer} talking about a 'fine' the couple once had.



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Examiner Comments

The response is focused on the theme of love and change. There is some awareness of a possibility of multiple readings. The candidate links structure, theme and imagery in both poems. The response is assured with some interesting comments but lacks sufficient depth and language analysis for a mark in band 5.

This response was awarded 11 marks, band 4 for AO2 and 10 marks, band 4 for AO3.



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Examiner Tip

Note how the candidate focuses closely on the structure of the poems and discusses how this creates tone and mood.

In this response the candidate has chosen *Valentine* as the poem for comparison. This extract includes the first three paragraphs of the response.

The two poems "Song for Last Year's Wife" and "Valentines" both show different perspectives on love and changes through their 4 poems. Brian Patten presents his idea of a relationship has broken down, whereas Carol Ann Duffy suggest a ~~fast~~ growing future relationship.

Patten ~~well~~ suggests to us ~~that~~ at the very start this was a ~~pass~~ relationship, "Alice, this is my first ~~relat~~^{winter}ship/without you", this already suggests that the relationship has broken down. He then goes on to tell us he has tried to focus on another relationship "I wake with another mouth feeding from me". This implies he has tried to move on but he cannot put in the commitment he once had

in the past. Then carries on by saying "I send out my spies," All of these actions come across as a sign for love but could maybe been seen as ~~seldom~~ obsessive, maybe the ~~poet~~ poet is telling us this relationship ~~is~~ that the man was in was not ready for change.

(Section B continued)

Duffy's meaning behind her poem is that she wants ~~a~~ ^{the} relationship between her and her lover to grow, besides the irregular references of ~~her~~ her feelings of love. "I give you an onion." This is not a typical gift of love but maybe the relationship she is wanting or in is quiet unordinary. She is very dismissive of any other kind of Valentines gift "Not a red rose or a satin heart" This love is special, it has its own unique ways and values. This reflects her thoughts on love and as the poem carries on ^{to} reflects the thoughts, changes aswell.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is an assured and clear exposition of both poems. Comments are supported by relevant and well-chosen quotations. However, comparison appears generally to be implicit rather than explicit. It is explicit only in the first paragraph. Hence the overall response lacks sufficient depth for a higher band mark. AO2 is focused and meets all the criteria for band 4 whereas AO3 just moves into band 4.

The marks awarded were 12 for AO2 and 10 for AO3.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Make sure that the two poems are not treated in isolation, but linked throughout the response, comparing and contrasting to build up an argument.

This is a complete and rather brief response in which the candidate uses *Sonnet 116* as the poem for comparison.

In this piece of writing I will be analysing two poems; *Sonnet 116* and *Song For Last years wife* describing the reflections of love and change.

The poem '*Sonnet 116*' is about love and how it goes on even in the after life where as the poem '*Song For Last years wife*' is about a man mourning the death of his wife a year or so and how their love is over but he still misses her. These themes are represented throughout both poems; an example of this in *Sonnet 116* is where Shakespeare puts: "Love's not times fool" suggesting that he believes love carries on even in the after life. This is significant because in comparison to this, in the poem '*Song For Last years wife*' the feelings of grief and anguish are shown. An example of this is where it says "this is my first winter of walking without you" I believe that this quote is important because it shows a clear difference in thoughts and opinion of love

(Section B continued) shown by the two poets. The use of the word "without" makes the poet sound as if he is alone and upset because he has no one else. On the other hand in the poem *Sonnet 116* marriage is seen as to continue on even in the after life through tough times

people face an example of this is when it says "but bears it out even to the edge of doom" this is significant because although both poets are writing about the life, they have two opposite thoughts on the matter after life and if life continues or not.

Both poems are structured the same with only one stanza and punctuation throughout which slows the reader down and makes them think more about the words the poets have written.

The slowing down of the writing may emphasise the feelings shown by the poets through punctuation.

This makes the reader feel included in both poems and gives us a more in depth, specific view of how they feel.

To conclude I believe both poets show an interesting view of love and the after life which consider speaking in lots of different ways, however both show in depth ~~truly~~ opinion on the same subject.



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The comments on the set poem are stronger, though not particularly well supported by textual references. The comments on the sonnet are undeveloped. There is little meaningful comparison. The candidate has not addressed the question about love and change, but writes about love and death. AO3 is slightly more secure than AO2.

The marks awarded were: AO2 band 1, mark of 1: AO3 band 1, mark of 2.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

When choosing your poem for comparison make sure you have enough points to offer to make sound comparisons and links. Also support your comments with carefully chosen quotations.

Question 3

Hitcher by Simon Armitage from Collection B was the named poem. The subject matter appeared to be very engaging for the candidates and it offered them an opportunity to demonstrate their levels of both critical and analytical skill. Stronger responses picked up on the black humour, the nonchalance of the deed and the disconnection with reality. There was much discussion across the ability range, of the persona, a disturbing character with a total lack of remorse. Many candidates commented on the tone of the poem: casual, blunt and matter-of-fact. The more confident noted how this, coupled with structural devices such as enjambment, served to hint at something ominous 'round the next bend'. The task invited a wide range of choices for the companion poem.

The most popular choice was *Half-caste*, in which the anger is presented verbally compared to the physical act of violence. Valid and astute points of comparison included Agard's mocking tone and Armitage's paranoia and sadistic calculation. Another popular choice was *Cousin Kate*. While the less confident adopted a narrative approach, more developed responses drew similarities that the anger presented was personal and caused by jealousy. Some noted how the poems ended on a victorious self-satisfied note. *Catrin* looked at the anger caused by a conflict between mother and child. *The Class Game* with its overtly confrontational tone and explicit anger was also a popular option for comparison. Candidates who chose poems with a larger canvas, *Exposure*, *The Drum* and *Invasion* had a more challenging task. Many responses compared the narrative content, whilst the more secure noted that the violent imagery provided deeper analysis and commented on how these poems present anger on a wider scale, namely the personas' objection to war.

The most problematic companion poem used for comparative purposes proved to be *Your Dad Did What?* Many candidates were able to summarise but did not really go much beyond that. Although frustration was noted as an emotion to be compared with *Hitcher's* anger.

This candidate has chosen *Cousin Kate* for comparison. This is an extract from the middle of the response.

Hitcher presents anger as a blind rage that you release wildly. This is made clear through the persona's interactions with the *Hitcher*. It is made clear the persona doesn't know the *Hitcher* in the second stanza and then the persona releases his anger on the *Hitcher* in the third stanza. It contains much more aggressive language such as "I let him have it" and "... six times with the knob /ok /in

(Section B continued) "the gaze..." which creates a more hostile scene in the reader's mind than previous stanzas. It reflects the way anger can be triggered and released easily and the way people blindly let it out.

Cousin Kate shows anger to be much more direct and aims the anger at, in this case, two people. This is shown in the poem through the repetition of characters' names and descriptions of them. For example in stanza 5 the persona says "He had not won me with his love / Nor bought me with his hand: / I would have spit into his gaze / and not have taken his hand." The repetition of 'his' and 'he' shows very clearly how the anger she feels is blamed on another and how she releases this anger onto him in particular. This is different to Hitcher in which the anger had no target for

(Section B continued) *whatever reason,*

In *Cousin Kate*, the anger the persona feels is released with feelings of regret and sadness. This is seen in stanza 4 in the line "Chose you and cast me by." This way the persona mentions both *Cousin Kate* and the unnamed lord shows her feelings of regret and depression and perhaps also loneliness. This is a stark contrast to *Hitcher*.



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For AO2 there is sustained comment about language and form. The response is focused on the content and theme. The comparisons are more secure and there is some evidence of being assured in places. There is some interesting comment on the different forms of anger and how it is expressed. The response is more secure on the set poem than on the comparison one.

The marks awarded were: AO2 band 3, mark of 9;
AO3 band 4, mark of 10.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Note how the candidate has used two aspects of the same emotion, anger, comparing and contrasting them to build an argument linking the poems together.

This candidate has chosen *Catrin* as the poem for comparison with the set poem. This extract is from the middle of the response.

The techniques used in *Catrin* to present anger are heavily based on imagery. This is particularly shown by the "tight red rope of love which we both sought over." Physically this could symbolise the actual bond between a mother and her daughter. (the umbilical cord). However it also ~~visually~~ symbolises that the rope ~~has~~ is the mental bond between a mother and her daughter which provides the feelings of love and compassion. However this rope ~~also~~ proves to be the reason why anger is ~~being~~ exchanged between a mother and her daughter. "Our struggle to be separate." This symbolises that although they love each other, both the mum and the ~~also~~ daughter want more independence. In contrast there is little imagery in *Hitcher* and a message of anger is conveyed in a more auto-biographical sense. This is because the persona of the poem is in 1st person which makes the poem seem like an actual life experience.

The structure of both poems is also different. In *Hitcher*, Armitage ~~is~~ uses ~~to~~ ~~even~~ enjambment in the last ~~to~~ three stanzas in order to keep the flow of anger in the poem going. However in *Catrin* the poem is split into ^{have} two separate

paragraphs which symbolise there being a difference in time taken place and so breaks up the poem into two chunks



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Examiner Comments

This is an assured, personal and well balanced response. It is assured on language and a range of ideas is presented in an assured manner. The point that there is anger between two personalities in both poems, but that in *Hitcher* the two personalities are locked in one person, is well made. Imagery is explored and some assured attention is given to structure and form.

Marks awarded were: AO2 band 4, mark of 11: AO3 band 4, mark of 12.



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Examiner Tip

Note how the candidate does not use 'metalinguage' or 'technique spotting' when discussing some of the features of the poems, such as imagery.

This candidate has chosen *Parade's End* as the poem for comparison. The extract includes the opening sentences and then the middle of the response.

The poems 'Hitcher' and 'Parade's End' both present anger but in different ways. In 'Hitcher' anger is presented as being quite aggressive whereas in 'Parade's End' the anger is more passive and subtle.

Both poems also present anger in the way of jealousy. For example, in 'Parade's End' colloquial language is used on the line "Come up to Yorktesher metkin clawins on aut theh can befor buggin off in theh flash caahs!" The son in the poem is imitating the ~~poor~~ people who are racist to them which implies he wishes his family wouldn't get all this grief just for who they are. He is angry that they make fun of him and his family and so he resorts to doing the same. In 'Hitcher' the driver seems jealous of the hitcher who "has" just a toothbrush and the good earth for a bed" as he has his problems with his work. This then results in the driver lashing out and writing in 'Parade's End' where the anger is both ways, the hitcher does not have a chance to be angry back implying the driver has the power as he is the one driving.

(Section B continued) In both poems it ends on a calm tone rather than an angry one. In 'Hitcher' from being aggressive and violent it ends with the lines "Stitch that, I remember thinking, you can walk from there" creating the idea that maybe it was all a dream and the rest of the poem was just what the driver wanted to do. Equally, in 'Parade's End' the poem ends with the lines "Then we swept away the bonnet-leaves from gold to the brown of

our former colour" implying the "family are used to these attacks and it is ~~no~~ just another day for them. Enjambement is used which puts emphasis on the point of the gold turning back into the brown implying that their wealth does not matter, it's their skin colour that does.



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Examiner Comments

This is a perceptive and subtle response with depth in the candidate's reading of the poems and comments are supported by carefully chosen references to text. Anger is interpreted in a number of ways, such as an expression of jealousy. Although there is relatively little focus on technique, the response still merits full marks.

Marks awarded were: AO2 band 5, mark of 15:
AO3 band 5, mark of 15.



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Examiner Tip

Note how the candidate's introduction helps focus on the differences and similarities between the two poems. This avoids the impression that the question is being approached in a rather general way.

The poem chosen for comparison here is *Catrin*. The extract is the first half of the response together with the introduction.

Both *Hitcher* and *Catrin* present anger but they do so in different ways, *Hitcher* through extreme violence and the hopeful thinking of becoming free and *Catrin* in the anger between mother and child growing up and the tension between them.

In *Hitcher*, Armitage uses ^{the} aggressive stressful verb "screaming" to show how anger is slowly beginning to build. He personifies the "ansaphone" to show how everything around the person is causing stress to build ^{up} in ~~the~~ ~~paper~~. The use of enjambement at the beginning of *Hitcher* emphasises the person's disjointed mental state as does the use of "It was hired" as an end stop line. Overall this makes it seem as if the person is angry with himself as he has been "under the weather".

And is a shirker from work as "one more sick-note, ^{miser,} ~~and~~ and you're ~~finished~~ finished" Showing he isn't conforming to everyday society and perhaps also that he has been genuinely ill as he has been "Under the weather" And so he is angry with his boss as well.

~~In contrast~~ Similarly, Catrin uses the violent adjective "fierce"

(Section B continued) To imply that there is anger between the mother and child but this anger is different to Hitcher's portrayal of anger as it is the natural conflict that arises between mother and child. The aggressive verb "shouted" appears in Catrin but it is used to show the anger of the mother and child and their struggle to be "separate". This contrasts to Hitcher where we have a sudden scene of extreme violence "I let him have it" As this shows the venting of the anger that has brewed since the "Ansaphone kept screaming". The anger is disturbing as the person seems proud ~~at~~ "Didn't even swerve" At his venting of anger and shows their complete lack of concern for human life.



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The candidate analyses and discriminates with great perception between the different forms and themes of the poems. Embedded quotations are used confidently and critical language is used to reveal meaning. Each poem is used to off-set the other for AO3. This is a mature and sophisticated response which meets all the criteria for both AO2 and AO3.

Marks awarded were: AO2 band 5, mark of 15; AO3 band 5, mark of 15.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Note how the candidate has made a comment, and developed it about the different types of anger expressed in the poems. When you make a comment, make sure you develop your ideas fully and explain why you think the point you have chosen is important, as the candidate has done here.

Question 4

Orkney/*This Life* by Andrew Greig from Collection C was the named poem. This was the least popular cluster in the series. Many candidates commented on the strength of feeling that the voices in the poems expressed for their surroundings and then provided strong evidence to back up their comments. The language used to describe the natural and urban settings were examined to a generally pleasing, if not particularly high, standard. *Composed upon Westminster Bridge, London* and *Sea Timeless Song* were popular companion poems.

This candidate chose *Composed upon Westminster Bridge* as the poem for comparison. This extract is from the middle of the response.

(Section B continued) William Wordsworth wrote the poem as a sonnet as he feels that much love towards what he sees.

He goes on to describe what he sees "The beauty of the morning; silent, bare, ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie open unto the fields and to the sky; All bright and glittering in the smokeless air. Never did Sun more beautifully steep" he describes the site location as silent and bare and ~~he feels that it~~ even though he seems to feel that there is not a more perfect time than early in the morning before everyone is awake and around because the sight is so much more perfect when it is @ calm and ~~and~~ undisturbed.

He describes the city as calm and says that it is going at its own pace ~~B~~ because no one is awake yet to stop it

From doing its own thing." In his first
splendour, valley rock, or hill: Ne'er saw I, never
felt, a calm so deep! The river glideth

(Section B continued) at his own sweet will:

Dear god! the very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still!"
Using imagery it makes you think of
being on Westminster bridge and hearing
nothing but the flow of the river
and seeing no movement and also
the way he describes how silent it
is makes you feel as if the city its
self is resting.

William Wordsworth obviously feels
a great deal of passion and love toward
his location and shows it from how
beautifully he describes it.

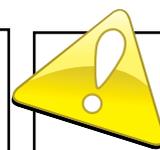
Andrew Greig shows pride in Orkney
rather than love but through his
pride you can see his also loves it
too.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The analysis of the chosen poem is much stronger than that of the set one. The poems are handled separately for the most part and the only point of comparison is the emotion both poets feel when writing about the places they love. The response is sound, the AO2 being the more secure.

The marks awarded were: AO2 band 3, mark of 7; AO3 band 2, mark of 5.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

When making comparisons, do not treat the poems in isolation but link them throughout the response. Also make sure you find enough points to offer sound and secure comparisons and links.

Question 5

Those bastards in their mansions by Simon Armitage from Collection D was the named poem. This was a minority choice. Most candidates showed an understanding of the Armitage poem and were able to identify feelings of anger, hatred and paranoia in the persona, and were able to link these to wider themes of class struggle and segregation to varying degrees of success.

By far the most popular choice as a companion poem was *No Problem*. Many compared the attitudes of the voices and noted that *No Problem* did not openly judge harshly as did the Armitage text, citing good language as evidence for this. Stronger and more secure responses also discussed how the poems reflected issues in society. Other choices offered for comparison were: *Living Space* and *The world is a beautiful place*. The most problematic was *Solitude* which candidates, on the whole, were able to summarise but many did not go beyond quite basic comparisons.

These are the first and last paragraphs of a response where the candidate has chosen *Solitude* as the companion poem.

The poem "those bastards in their mansions" is written by Simon Armitage and presents a negative view of how the world is run, or primarily in accordance to the problems faced in society and the social hierarchy present at the time. The poem "Solitude" is written by Ella Wheeler Wilcox and it explores the way society is only after you should you have something to offer humans doesn't care otherwise. Both poems present ideas on the problems with society and the social order of life.

In conclusion, Armitage presents the idea that the problem with society is based upon the social hierarchy and can be fixed by changing the distribution of wealth, whereas Wilcox believes the problem with society is the selfish mindset people have adapted and to fix it you must work on yourself. Both use themes of negative views on society, linguistic techniques

and structural devices to influence the reader



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

The candidate's own choice of poem, although challenging, lends itself to some interesting points of comparison. The candidate compares the poets' feelings about society and comments on how each deals with these problems. However, the clarity of argument is not always consistent.

The response was awarded 13 marks, which is band 5 for AO2 and 13 marks which is band 5 for AO3.



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Examiner Tip

Note how the candidate has immediately introduced a common theme linking the two poems and has returned to this theme with the closing argument and conclusion, thus presenting a rounded response.

This candidate has chosen as the companion poem *No Problem*. This is an extract taken from the middle of the response

The speaker of the poem "These Bastards" does obviously not have a clear state of mind and suffers severe paranoia that society has something against him. The fast pace listing of things society would do but haven't ~~show~~ imply that he is getting riled up and irrate towards society for something they haven't done. "sniffed at by their beagles, picked at by their eagles, pinned down, grilled beneath the sun" shows the speaker has a dark mind because none of things have ever happened to him. He ~~is~~ is quite ^{psycotic} ~~psycotic~~ as he carries a

gun to protect himself from society's who have done nothing wrong.

The speaker of "No Problem" stays calm keeping the same pace when talking. He is wise and knows that getting angry will not fix it. He often relates to himself and things that society actually do to him. He states "I am born academic". The use of "I" shows he is directly affected by racial stereotypes and society thinking he isn't intelligent. Unlike the speaker of "Those Bastards", he is affected by society and its actions.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

The candidate's choice of poem lends itself to comparisons about segregation in society. There is sound comment on content and tone, although the lack of specific comment on language and form keeps this response in band 3 for AO2 with a mark of 8. The comparisons are more secure and there is some evidence of AO3 being assured in places; a mark of 10 was awarded which is band 4.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

When choosing your text for comparison, make sure you have enough points to make sound comparisons and links, as this candidate has done.

Paper Summary

Many examiners commented positively on the quality of candidates' responses to the poems, both the Unseen Poem as well as those from the Anthology.

Based on the performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- make sure the particular requirements of the question are focused on
- use your examples fully, analysing and commenting on them
- make effective links and comparisons when required
- answer in the correct section of the paper.

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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