

English

Paper 2 – 1 hour 30 minutes

2 questions

Question 1 (45 minutes)

A comparative question on the poems from the Different Cultures you have studied.
(Cluster 1) The Poems:-

Limbo
Nothing's Changed
Island Man
Blessing
Two Scavengers in a Truck
Night of the Scorpion
Vultures
What Were They Like?

Key Assessment Objectives are:-

- interpretation
- language
- structure

Therefore you must write about:-

- the ideas and attitudes of the poets. Develop and sustain an interpretation. (Don't just retell the poems.)
- the ways the poems are set out. Understand and evaluate structural devices.
- the ways each poet uses language. Understand and evaluate linguistic devices.
- what the poems have to say about people's cultures.

Always support points with textual evidence - use PEE.

Check you use paragraphs and correct punctuation.

Interpretation and Culture

When writing about the poems you need to demonstrate your understanding of them. The poems in this section have a distinctive voice related to many different cultures and traditions. When writing about this across the poems:

- be aware of the individuality of each poem
- look at how aspects and ideas of culture and tradition are explored in the poems, and comment on similarities and differences.

Copy out and complete the chart below to help you explore all the themes in the poems you study. Make notes in the boxes and add more columns as you need them. Remember that examination questions may also link poems by:

- use of language
- structure.

Poem	Traditions and the past	Differences and change	Belonging to two cultures	Roots/identity	People and place	Protest and conflict
Limbo						
Nothing's Changed						Protests about injustice
Island Man				Explores a migrant's connection with his birthplace		
Blessing						
Two Scavengers in a Truck		A response to obvious differences in social class				
Night of the Scorpion						
Vultures			A response to human			

			cruelty			
What Were They Like?						Is based on the war in Vietnam

Model Question and Answer Plan

Compare the ways people are presented in **Two Scavengers in a Truck, Two Beautiful People in a Mercedes** and *one* other poem.

It is important to be aware of assessment objectives when preparing your response in the examination. For the award of grade C or above, examiners would be looking for:

- effective supporting use of textual detail
- some cross-reference
- awareness of authorial techniques and purpose
- understanding of feelings, attitudes, ideas.

In this particular model the approach is to explore one poem and then the other. This is not the only possible approach: you may have a plan that compares different aspects of two poems *throughout* your response. The model answer plan based on Cluster 2 shows you how to do this.

Plan	Examiner's observations
<p>Two Scavengers in a Truck ... begin by pointing out how the writer sets the scene for his presentation of two pairs of people - they're together in a frozen moment at a red light in a particular place.</p>	<p>Make sure you use the key word 'people' early on. It's the <i>presentation of people</i> - not just the people - you are to write about. Looking at setting is therefore relevant.</p>
<p>Focus on the differences between the two pairs. Begin with the garbagemen: explore the use of colour, and how imagery is used to differentiate between the old and young men. Comment on vocabulary such as 'scavengers' and the Quasimodo reference. Note they are going home.</p>	<p>How should you structure your response when there are four people? For ease of approach and to help shape your response you could decide to focus on one pair in this paragraph. Focus on techniques such as imagery, contrast.</p>
<p>Move on to the couple in the Mercedes. Comment on how they are presented as different. Explore use of alliteration and oxymoron in 'casually coifed'. Comment on the similarities between the two young men despite the gap in social class.</p>	<p>Now move on to the next pair. Again focus on techniques. Draw out use of contrast: how does the writer make the wealthy pair different from the two scavengers? Is the writer's sympathy with some people more than others?</p>
<p>Choose Night of the Scorpion as a poem about people that is very different. It involves a greater number of people and they are placed in a more obviously 'dramatic' setting - there is a lot of action and the poet presents people through their words and actions, unlike Two Scavengers in a Truck ...</p>	<p>Take time to choose a poem that is clearly about people. You will want to establish points of comparison between your two poems; you will want to cross-reference. Make sure you use the key word 'people' and start to make comparative points - for example, the different settings in which people are placed.</p>
<p>Look at how the 'peasants' are portrayed. Focus on how the writer uses imagery - 'like swarms of flies' - and repetition to describe them. Discuss whether he has a negative or neutral view of them.</p>	<p>As with Two Scavengers in a Truck ... you need to find a shape to your response - there are different people in the poem. For ease of response, break down the poem. Begin with the 'peasants' and focus on techniques: repetition, alliteration, etc. Don't just mention them - explain their effects.</p>
<p>Then look at the presentation of the father and mother - focus on how they</p>	<p>As well as exploring the techniques used to present the family, draw out the</p>

are presented in a different way, more straightforward. Mention the presence of the writer in the poem as an observer - compare this with Two Scavengers in a Truck ...	important point of comparison about the poetic stance of the two writers: one seems detached from the experience while the other is a part of it.
Finish with a discussion of the writers' intentions in the two poems. What attitude does each poet have towards the 'people' in the poem?	Finish by exploring briefly what the poets' attitudes are. You only have 45 minutes and this is the seventh paragraph of your response.

English

Paper 2

Section B - 45 minutes

Writing to Inform, Explain or Describe

Choose a question which uses your strengths.

Inform - showing what something means, looking beyond facts and stating the importance something has for you and others.

Explain - presenting facts clearly, logically and in an unbiased way.

Describe - giving details of something so that some one can clearly imagine it.

Plan your response carefully.

Make sure you know which text type you are being asked to write (explain, describe, inform etc).

Know your target audience - fit language accordingly.

Vary sentence length.

Use connectives.

Check your paragraphing, punctuation and spelling.