

love & RELATIONSHIPS

LADY HAWKINS' SCHOOL - English Department

AQA GCSE English Literature Paper 2 - Section B

Friday May 25 2018 - 9.00am - 2 hours 15 minutes

Section B: Poetry 'Love and Relationships'

- For this section of the paper you will be asked one question which is worth 30 marks.
- You are advised to spend 45 minutes on this section

Here are some revision ideas and notes for you: including an exemplar essay, quick resume of each poem, a theme chart and a selection of essay titles.

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Love and Relationships – quick resume

Some brief notes on each poem to jog your memory.

When We Two Parted: Byron writes about a real situation from his life – an affair he had with Lady Frances Webster who ended their relationship. He is bitter about it and tries to justify himself and pin the blame on his lover. Strict form 4 x 8 lines strict rhyme scheme.

Love's Philosophy: Shelley is writing about what he would like to happen in a relationship and is trying to persuade his lover to 'mingle' with him. 'Nothing in the world is single' so be part of me. She is taking some persuading. Two stanzas of 8 lines clear rhyme scheme.

Porphyria's Lover: Robert Browning's Dramatic Monologue in which a man strangles his lover. Is he suffering from Porphyria? Pathetic fallacy to set the scene.

Sonnet 29 'I Think of Thee': Elizabeth Barrett Browning's passionate poem is set against nature – she is the vine winding herself around the tree which is him. (Based on their true relationship) – sonnet – 14 lines 8/6 Petrarchan form.

Neutral Tones: Hardy's poem focuses on a dying relationship – circular in form/ it ends where it started with the image of the pond – one speaker – oxymorons. Autobiographical? Written from the point of view of the man.

Letters from Yorkshire: two different lives juxtaposed connected by letters and the internet – country man and city woman. Maura Dooley. Contrast. Platonic relationship/friendship. Free verse.

The Farmer's Bride: In this poem a Dramatic Monologue by Charlotte Mew focuses on a sad marriage – the farmer is desperate for his wife to love him – she has no voice in this poem – she is timid and shy. The farmer and his bride - two characters in the poem. His desire and her fear. Uses dialect words.

Walking Away: This poem by Cecil Day Lewis deals with how a parent deals with the metaphorical 'loss' of a child as the child grows up and gains independence from the father. Father and son. Memories. Autobiographical. First person narrator.

Eden Rock: Charles Causley – autobiographical – a memory of a picnic with his parents. Difficult to decide what ‘it’ is in the last line – ‘I had not thought that it would be like this.’ Son and parents. He uses half rhyme to create a gentle feel.

Follower: Seamus Heaney’s autobiographical poem describes his memories of his father and how he wanted to ‘follow’ his father. Role reversal. It has a regular steady rhythm with a regular rhyme scheme with use of half rhyme.

Mother Any Distance: Simon Armitage extended metaphor of the tape measure unreeling. Mother and son. Follows a loose sonnet structure – 14 lines but not a strict rhyme scheme.

Before You Were Mine: Carol Ann Duffy’s autobiographical poem about her mother’s life before Carol was born. She is the current Poet Laureate – first woman to hold the position.

Winter Swans: Owen Sheer’s poem centres on a young couple who are finding their relationship difficult - the Swans become a symbol of their love as they resolve their differences and come together. Swans mate for life. Free verse.

Singh Song: in **Daljit Nagra’s** poem the title is a Pun – a play on words – Singh means lion – second generation Indian – untypical – his bride is his love – glimpse of another culture. The poem is like a song with a chorus. He uses *PUNGLISH* to emphasise the British Indian culture.

Climbing My Grandfather: Andrew Waterhouse’s poem focuses on a child exploring his grandfather by using the extended metaphor of climbing. His grandfather is the mountain he has to climb. Free verse.

Compare how poets *present attitudes towards memory* in 'Letters from Yorkshire' and *one other poem* from 'Love and Relationships'?

'Letters from Yorkshire' by Maura Dooley, is an autobiographical poem where the speaker has her memories of Yorkshire aroused when she receives a letter from an old friend. Similarly, 'Eden Rock' is also an autobiographical poem where the speaker – Charles Causley – remembers a specific place from his childhood. However, the memory for Causley provokes a feeling of sadness as he remembers his parents, whereas, in 'Letters from Yorkshire' it connects Dooley with her past which she remembers with fondness.

Both poems deal with loss; loss that is linked to memory of a specific place. In 'Letters from Yorkshire' the speaker has moved away yet thinks about Yorkshire as a place that symbolises life and this feeling is vivid for Dooley as she compares it with her current life. She can imagine quite clearly her friend as he works on the land and connects with nature and the '*seasons*'. She describes his knuckles as '*singing*' personifying his happy mood and reinforcing his actions as being at one with nature '*digging his garden*' and '*seeing the seasons*'. This is contrast with her who is indoors, away from nature, working at her computer, '*feeding*' words onto a '*blank screen*' – the use of personification here suggest she is on a treadmill with no excitement – the word '*blank*' being a metaphor for her emptiness. Is the poem suggesting that she has lost her roots and the 'letters' make her remember her loss? Dooley is realising the difference of how her life was in Yorkshire and her life now. Her friend, the writer of the letter keeps her connected. Dooley has moved from Yorkshire to the city - it is implied it is London but is non-specific. She is living a fast paced life – using computers, modern and up to date whereas the writer of the letter is 'old fashioned' which takes her back to her life before which she remembers in detail and with love.

Yorkshire and the memory of her life there, is embedded in Dooley's heart and the same can be said of Causley in his memory of 'Eden Rock'.

Causley is looking back to a moment, captured in time, when he remembers a picnic with his parents and the family dog 'Jack'– they are 'waiting' for him to 'join' them. He remembers the

scene vividly: his mother in 'a sprigged dress' and can see them 'beckoning' 2 to him to 'cross 2' the divide so they can all be together again as a family. Causley is almost 'blinded' 2 by 'three suns' 2 - the religious connotation of 'the holy trinity' and how the sun gives warmth and light which are both essential for life.

Light is also important in provoking memory in 'Letters from Yorkshire' - the letters are 'pouring in light and air'. Light and air are essential for life.

Both poets, Dooley and Causley realise the importance of family in relation to their roots the main difference being that Dooley is looking back fondly while Causley feels the isolation of the loss of his parents. For Causley his feeling of emptiness is not a 'blank screen' and it is interesting how Causley deliberately breaks down the structure of the poem in the final quatrain of five which he changes to three lines and the final, single line 'I had not thought it would be like this.' This ambiguous statement leaves the reader wondering what Causley means by 'it'.

Both poets are looking back, remembering. Causley is devastated by the loss of his parents and the memory of that loss at 'Eden Rock'. Dooley looks back with fondness when she receives her 'Letters from Yorkshire' as they keep her connected to her past. (3)

(1) Introduction immediately starts the comparison between both poems and relates directly to the question.

Underlined words - good use of discursive markers - clear indication that both poems are being discussed.

(2) Embedded quotes flow in sentences and show detail from the poem.

(3) The conclusion refers to the opening paragraph and links directly to the question asked.

Here is a list of possible essay titles

Use the coloured theme chart to decide which poem you might choose to make your comparison.

Remember only the NAMED poem is printed in full

Compare the ways that **family relationships** are presented in *Eden Rock* and one other poem.

Compare the ways **death** is presented in *Eden Rock* and one other poem.

Compare the ways that **power** is presented in *Porphyria's Lover* and one other poem.

Compare the ways **desire** is presented in *Porphyria's Lover* and one other poem.

Compare the ways that **intense feelings** are presented in *Porphyria's Lover* and one other poem.

Compare the ways **romantic relationships** are presented in *Singh Song* and one other poem.

Compare how **culture** in relationships is presented in *Singh Song* and one other poem.

Compare the ways **parental relationships** are presented in *Mother, Any Distance* and one other poem.

Compare the ways that **changing relationships** are presented in *When We Two Parted* and one other poem.

Compare the ways that **romantic love** is portrayed in *Sonnet 29* and one other poem

Compare the ways that **independence** is presented in *Walking Away* and one other poem.

Compare how **strong relationships** are presented in *Climbing my Grandfather* and one other poem.

Compare the ways that **parental relationships** are presented in *Before You Were Mine* and one other poem.

Compare the ways **memories of relationships** are portrayed in *Before You Were Mine* and one other poem.

Compare the ways **distance** in relationships is portrayed in *Winter Swans* and one other poem.

Compare the ways that **ageing relationships** are presented in *Follower* and one other poem.

Compare the ways **memories** are presented in *Letters from Yorkshire* and one other poem.

Compare the ways **feelings of loss** are presented in *Neutral Tones* and other poem.

Compare the ways **the role of nature** in relationships is presented in *Love's Philosophy* and one other poem.

Compare the ways **destructive love** is portrayed in *The Farmer's Bride* and one other poem.

Compare the ways that **marriage** is portrayed in *The Farmer's Bride* and one other poem

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Poems and their themes.	Romance	Fulfillment	Loss	Independence	Strong Bonds	Admiration	Distance	Desire	Nature	Death	Memory	Marriage	Gender	Culture
<i>When We Two Parted</i>			Black				Orange			Grey	Green		Yellow	Pink
<i>Love's Philosophy</i>	Red	Blue						Pink	Green					
<i>Porphyria's Lover</i>	Red	Blue						Pink		Grey			Yellow	
<i>Sonnet 29 – 'I think of thee!'</i>	Red						Orange	Pink	Green					
<i>Neutral Tones</i>			Black				Orange		Green	Grey	Green			
<i>The Farmer's Bride</i>	Red		Black				Orange	Pink	Green			Purple	Yellow	Pink
<i>Walking Away</i>				Purple	Yellow		Orange				Green			
<i>Letters From Yorkshire</i>					Yellow	Teal	Orange	Pink	Green					
<i>Eden Rock</i>			Black		Yellow		Orange			Grey	Green			
<i>Follower</i>					Yellow	Teal	Orange		Green		Green			
<i>Mother, any distance</i>				Purple	Yellow		Orange							
<i>Before You Were Mine</i>				Purple	Yellow	Teal		Pink			Green		Yellow	
<i>Winter Swans</i>	Red	Blue					Orange	Pink	Green					
<i>Singh Song!</i>	Red	Blue						Pink				Purple		Pink
<i>Climbing My Grandfather</i>					Yellow	Teal			Green		Green			