

Literature Poetry – Essay Structure/Technique

Answer Section “B” (Poetry) before Section “A” (the novel, or the Anthology short stories).

Find your way quickly to the right section of the question booklet by using the Contents Page (the booklet is quite thick because it contains **ALL** the questions for **ALL** the poems, novels and short stories which different schools around the country can choose from).

You have **ONE HOUR** to plan and write a comparison of **FOUR** poems.

Some questions are split into two parts – **A** and **B**. Part **A** asks about **TWO** poems. Part **B** asks you to deal with **TWO DIFFERENT** poems separately, sometimes with a completely different task. You **must** answer both **A** and **B** = **FOUR** poems. (This type of question **may** be easier for timing and structure).

Most questions **NAME** one or two poems and let you choose the others, to make up the **FOUR** poems.

If you choose a question **not** split into sections **A** and **B** and you are trying to juggle with four poems together in the **one** essay answer, it is absolutely vital that you learn and use a structure/sequence like the one on the next page. You may choose not to stick exactly to it but you definitely need a **PLAN** before the exam.

Literature Poetry – Essay Structure/Technique

STEP ONE

- Pick **TWO** poems to deal with first as a pair– two that will make a good **comparison** for the question which you have chosen. (Decide on your other two poems at this point but concentrate on the first pair in your answer for now).
 - Quickly **underline** and **number**, 3 or 4 main **ideas** and 3 or 4 writer's **methods** in **ONE** poem in your Anthology.
 - Do the same with the **SECOND** poem of the pair – thinking about comparisons and differences. Write it all up, into about **SIX** paragraphs. **TIME = 20 MINS.**
-

STEP TWO

- Now compare poem **THREE** with poem **FOUR** as a pair. **Underline** and **letter code** the parts of the two poems you want to focus on. Write it up into about **SIX** paragraphs. **TIME = 20 MINS. (= 40 MINS. TOTAL)**
-

STEP THREE

- Now, from the four, choose your **BEST** poem for this question and make some **different** points from the ones already made in Steps One and Two. Glance back at your answer and do not repeat any points.
- **Link** some ideas about your **best** poem to the other pair of poems – you don't need to worry **too** much about comparison from now on, however.
- Try to have a final paragraph, **summing up** the **main** similarities and differences across the four poems (3/4 sentences). **TIME = 20 MINS. (= 60 MINS TOTAL)**