2.7 Literature: Poetry Comparison: Test Pack

AQA 8702 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Poems

Poem A: Doorstep

Poem written for Revision Library (original, copyright-free). Not derived from any published or past-paper text.

She counts the mornings in the creak of hinges,

bacon in the pan though no one's hungry,

the kettle boiled for two, still poured for one,

a coat that hangs like a question on its peg.

I watched him fold his whole room into a bag,

T-shirts pressed flat as pages in a book,

and thought of all the doors I'd held for him,

now just this last one, opening onto rain.

The 158 pulled off at half past eight,

its windows lit like a row of small suns,

and for a moment I could see his face

pressed to the glass, already someone else's.

I went back in and put the kettle on,

because the shape of Tuesday hadn't changed,

because the bread still needed cutting thick,

because love, like bread, is kept for who returns.

Poem B: The Tide Table

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Nan kept the tide times pinned beside the clock,
as if the sea still answered to a name,
ruled columns for the water's coming in,
long after Grandad's boat forgot the way.

She'd walk the harbour wall at half past six,
her headscarf knotted tight against the wind,
counting gulls the way some count their blessings,
reading the swell for words that never came.

Forty years she'd known the numbers by their heart,
high tide at Whitby, low against the slip,
and though the calendar had turned to grey,
she kept the almanac beside her bread.

I found her, once, still totting up the hours,
her finger tracing columns with the tide,
and asked her why she measured what was lost.
She said, the sea comes back. It always has.

1 Read Poem A, 'Doorstep', and Poem B, 'The Tide Table', on the source page before answering the questions below.

Looking only at 'Doorstep', list four physical objects or actions connected to daily routine that the poet mentions (for example, something to do with cooking or cleaning).

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

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2 Match each literary term to its correct definition by writing the correct letter next to each number.

Terms:
1 Enjambment
2 Simile
3 Quatrain
4 Motif

Definitions:
A a comparison using 'like' or 'as'
B a recurring image or idea that develops meaning across a text
C a four-line stanza
D a sentence or clause that runs on past the end of a line without a pause

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 Looking only at 'The Tide Table', list four physical objects or actions connected to daily routine or ritual that the poet mentions.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Which quotation from 'The Tide Table' most clearly shows Nan's continuing hope that Grandad might return?

Write the correct letter, then justify your choice with brief reference to the quotation's effect.

- ☐ A) 'her headscarf knotted tight against the wind'
- ☐ B) 'the calendar had turned to grey'
- ☐ C) 'the sea comes back. It always has'
- ☐ D) 'counting gulls the way some count their blessings'

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

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5 Complete the table below. For each literary technique, give one quotation, from either poem, that is an example of it, and state which poem it is from.

1 Simile
2 Enjambment
3 Extended metaphor
4 Direct or reported speech

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.7 Literature: Poetry Comparison: Test Pack

Question 1

the kettle (boiled for two, poured for one) or equivalent	**B1**
bacon in the pan or equivalent	**B1**
the coat hanging on its peg or equivalent	**B1**
folding/packing T-shirts into a bag, or cutting the bread, or the 158 bus, or equivalent (any distinct fourth detail)	**B1**

Answer: Any four of: the kettle boiled for two; bacon in the pan; the coat on its peg; folding clothes into a bag; the bread being cut; the 158 bus.

Question 2

1-D	**B1**
2-A	**B1**
3-C	**B1**
4-B	**B1**

Answer: 1-D, 2-A, 3-C, 4-B

Question 3

the tide table/almanac pinned beside the clock, or kept beside the bread, or equivalent	**B1**
walking the harbour wall or equivalent	**B1**
knotting the headscarf against the wind or equivalent	**B1**
counting gulls, or reading the swell, or tracing columns with her finger, or equivalent (any distinct fourth detail)	**B1**

Answer: Any four of: pinning up the tide table beside the clock; walking the harbour wall; knotting the headscarf; counting gulls; reading the swell; tracing the columns with her finger; keeping the almanac beside the bread.

Question 4

correctly identifies C	**B1**
valid brief justification, e.g. the present tense and simple, repeated statement show certainty/faith (oe)	**B1**
developed comment, e.g. 'always has' shows a belief built on forty years of repeated experience, contrasting with the grey calendar of option B which represents the passage of loss (oe)	**B1**

Answer: C - 'the sea comes back. It always has.' The plain, present-tense statement shows Nan's continued faith that what is lost will return, even after forty years of waiting.

Question 5

valid simile with correct poem named, e.g. 'hangs like a question on its peg' (Doorstep) or equivalent	**B1**
valid enjambment example with correct poem named, e.g. 'I watched him fold his whole room into a bag, / T-shirts pressed flat as pages in a book' (Doorstep) or any valid example from either poem	**B1**
valid extended metaphor example, e.g. the tide table representing memory and time throughout 'The Tide Table', or equivalent	**B1**
valid direct/reported speech example, e.g. 'She said, the sea comes back. It always has' (The Tide Table) or equivalent	**B1**

Answer: 1 Simile - 'hangs like a question on its peg' (Doorstep). 2 Enjambment - 'I watched him fold his whole room into a bag, / T-shirts pressed flat as pages in a book' (Doorstep). 3 Extended metaphor - the tide table used throughout 'The Tide Table' to represent memory and time. 4 Direct/reported speech - 'She said, the sea comes back. It always has' (The Tide Table).

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