2.9 Literature: Unseen Poetry: Test Pack

AQA 8702 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Poems

Poem A: The Closing Tide

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

The harbour keeps its old appointments still,
though half the boats have traded oak for rust,
and no one queues before the ice house now
to haggle over herring silvered with dawn.

My father knew this water like a name
he had learned by heart before he learned his own,
the slack of every rope, the turn of tide,
the hour the mackerel ran beneath the pier.

I come at evening when the gulls have gone
to somewhere calmer, and I count the hulls
still leaning on their trailers in the yard,
patient as old horses put to grass.

A crane stands rusted at the water's edge,
its arm still lifted, though it lifts no more,
as if it means to hoist the tide itself
and set it down more gently than the years.

Down at the slipway, boys who never knew
the fleet at full strength skim their flattened stones
and count the bounces, careless of the hush

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that settles where a hundred voices were.

I do not tell them what the harbour was.

I let the water keep its own account,

and watch the light lie down along the quay

the way it always has, the way it will.

Poem B: New Ground

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

Where the fish market stood, they cleared the stone

and turned the rubble under with a plough

someone's grandfather once used for wheat,

before the herring came and stayed for good.

Now runner beans climb strings where crates were stacked,

and rhubarb pushes red through broken brick,

and old men who remember neither crop

lean on the fence to watch the young ones dig.

A girl called Priya plants her first potato,

presses the soil down firm with both her palms

as if she is tucking something into sleep,

and asks her mother what was here before.

Her mother says, the sea came almost to this wall,

and points to where the tide once used to reach,

though nothing now but gulls still cross that line

to remind the field it used to be a shore.

Someone has kept the old crane's photograph

pinned in the shed beside the seed packets,

not out of grief, but as you would keep a face

of someone loved, who chose to move away.

By August there will be marrows fat as boats

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and beans enough to feed the whole close down,

and no one here will call it consolation,

only, quietly, a kind of change worth having.

1 Read Poem A, 'The Closing Tide'. Answer the following questions about it.

(a) Which of these best describes the setting of the poem? **(1)**

- ☐ A) A busy city market
- ☐ B) A declining fishing harbour
- ☐ C) A mountain village
- ☐ D) A primary school playground

(b) Who is the speaker of the poem? **(1)**

- ☐ A) A tourist visiting for the first time
- ☐ B) A young child
- ☐ C) An adult reflecting on their father's connection to the sea
- ☐ D) A journalist reporting on the fishing industry

(c) According to stanza 4, what does the crane no longer do? **(1)**

- ☐ A) Rust
- ☐ B) Stand at the water's edge
- ☐ C) Lift anything
- ☐ D) Cast a shadow

(d) What are the boys at the slipway doing in stanza 5? **(1)**

- ☐ A) Fishing from the pier
- ☐ B) Mending nets
- ☐ C) Skimming stones
- ☐ D) Selling herring

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

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2 Here are four literary terms and four definitions. For each term in parts a to d, choose the letter of the definition that matches it. Use the same four options (A to D) for every part.

A) Giving human qualities to a non-human thing or object.

B) A comparison that says one thing IS another, without using 'like' or 'as'.

C) The repetition of consonant sounds at the start of nearby words.

D) A sentence or phrase that runs on beyond the end of a line without a pause.

(a) Metaphor **(1)**

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

(b) Personification **(1)**

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

(c) Enjambment **(1)**

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

(d) Alliteration **(1)**

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 Find and copy one phrase from Poem A that suggests the harbour used to be busy and full of life.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Read Poem B, 'New Ground'. Identify one example of each of the following techniques, using a short quotation as evidence.

(a) A simile **(1)**

(b) Personification **(1)**

(c) A symbol of the past **(1)**

(d) Direct speech **(1)**

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.9 Literature: Unseen Poetry: Test Pack

Question 1

(a) B) A declining fishing harbour **B1**

(a) Answer: B) A declining fishing harbour

(b) C) An adult reflecting on their father's connection to the sea **B1**

(b) Answer: C) An adult reflecting on their father's connection to the sea

(c) C) Lift anything **B1**

(c) Answer: C) Lift anything

(d) C) Skimming stones **B1**

(d) Answer: C) Skimming stones

Question 2

(a) B **B1**

(a) Answer: B

(b) A **B1**

(b) Answer: A

(c) D **B1**

(c) Answer: D

(d) C **B1**

(d) Answer: C

Question 3

identifies a valid phrase suggesting former busyness, e.g. 'haggle over herring' or 'a hundred voices' or 'the fleet at full strength' (oe) **B1**

phrase copied accurately from the text (cao) **B1**

Answer: Any one of: 'to haggle over herring silvered with dawn'; 'a hundred voices were'; 'the fleet at full strength'.

Question 4

(a) valid quotation of a simile, e.g. 'as if she is tucking something into sleep' or 'as you would keep a face' (oe) **B1**

(a) Answer: 'as if she is tucking something into sleep' (stanza 3) or 'as you would keep a face' (stanza 5).

(b) valid quotation of personification, e.g. 'to remind the field it used to be a shore' (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: 'to remind the field it used to be a shore' (stanza 4).

(c) valid quotation identifying a symbol, e.g. 'the old crane's photograph' (oe) **B1**

(c) Answer: 'the old crane's photograph' (stanza 5).

(d) valid quotation of reported or direct speech, e.g. 'the sea came almost to this wall' (oe) **B1**

(d) Answer: 'Her mother says, the sea came almost to this wall' (stanza 4).

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