

Poetry Anthology: Power and Conflict	AQA GCSE English Literature Paper 2 (2hr 15mins)	Section B: 45 minute response: compare two poems
Poems, Poet, Content and Context (in bold)		
Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1817)	London by William Blake (1794)	Extract from The Prelude by William Wordsworth (1850s)
Narrator meets a traveller who tells him about a statue in the middle of the desert. The statue is of an ancient and cruel ruler from a past civilization – <b>Pharaoh Ramesses II</b> . The Romantic poem is about the temporary nature of power. Ultimately, power will fade, art cannot immortalise power and nature will be long-lasting. <b>Romantic poets believed in emotion rather than reason and they tried to capture intense experiences in their work, particularly focussing on the power of nature. Shelley was inspired by events of the French Revolution. Tone: ironic, rebellious, proud, arrogant, angry, aggressive.</b>	The narrator describes a walk around the city of London and comments on the despair and misery that he sees. <b>Blake was influenced by the French Revolution and wanted social and political equality. He wanted the people to rise up against the powerful establishments (church, monarchy) and emancipate (liberate/free) themselves.</b> Blake's poems and illustrations often explored the state of the human soul. The 'Songs of Experience' from which this poem is taken examines how innocence is lost, and how society has been corrupted by industrialisation. <b>Tone: angry, dark, rebellious, hopeless, futile, horrified</b>	This is only an extract of the poem and is <b>autobiographical</b> . It is about an over confident narrator who finds a boat and takes it out on the lake. Although confident to begin with and enjoying the scenery, the narrator sees the mountain appear on the horizon and is overwhelmed with its size and power. It causes the narrator to retreat and change his view of nature as he now realises its power. <b>Wordsworth was a Romantic poet and this extract explores the connection between nature and human emotion, and the way human identity is shaped by experience. Tone: confident &gt; dark / fearful &gt; reflective</b>
My Last Duchess by Robert Browning (1842)	The Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred Lord Tennyson (1854)	Exposure by Wilfred Owen (1917)
A Duke is showing a visitor a portrait of his Duchess (former wife) who is now dead. Whilst observing the painting he tells the visitor that the Duchess was flirtatious and displeased him. As he speaks we realise that the Duke is insanely jealous and probably had the Duchess killed. We learn at the end of the poem that the visitor has come to arrange the Duke's next marriage and is representing the woman he is set to marry. <b>Browning was fascinated by Italian Renaissance art. Tone: sinister, bitter, angry, jealous, controlling, alarming, proud.</b>	A tribute to the <b>British cavalry (soldiers on horseback) who died during the Crimean War (1853-1856)</b> . A misunderstanding meant that the men were given an incorrect order to charge into battle with swords, and meet the Russian enemy, who were armed with guns. The cavalry were defenceless - yet still fought bravely. <b>Biblical references create a vision of hell and there are strong religious connotations. People marvelled at the bravery of men facing certain death as reported in The Times. Tone: energetic, tragic, haunting, admiring, patriotic, horrified.</b>	An authentic poem based on <b>Owens' own experience on the front line in the trenches</b> . It was a horrendous winter and the men are subject not to enemy attacks but to the brutality of nature. Nature is personified as the main enemy and the men can only wait to die. It is an <b>anti-war poem</b> and stresses the insignificance of man compared to nature. <b>During the Somme, over 60,000 British soldiers died in one night. Includes biblical references foretelling the end of the world. Tone: tragic, haunting, dreamy, angry, exhausted, futile, monotonous.</b>
Storm on the Island by Seamus Heaney (1966)	Bayonet Charge by Ted Hughes (1957)	Remains by Simon Armitage (2008)
The narrator describes how a community are waiting to be hit by a storm. It is obvious that they have been hit before because of the landscape of the island. The narrator starts off confident but as the storm hits, the power of the storm creates feelings fear and trepidation. <b>Heaney grew up in a farming community in Ireland; much of his poetry uses agricultural/natural images inspired by his homeland. Alludes to the political and often violent storm between Catholics and Protestants. Tone: dark, violent, anecdotal, fearful, anxious, helpless, preparedness</b>	The poem focuses on a single soldier's experience of a charge towards enemy lines. It describes his thoughts and actions as he tries to stay alive. It is clear that the soldier is not ready for the charge and could have been sleeping. The soldier fears for his life and the patriotic ideals that encouraged him to fight have gone. <b>Hughes was a former RAF serviceman and Anthropologist and his poems often look at man's impact on nature as well as the similarities between man and beast. Tone: bewildered, desperate, dreamy, terrified, disorientated.</b>	<b>Based on the account of a British soldier who served in Iraq, first published in a series of interviews by Channel 4 called 'The Not Dead'</b> . A group of soldiers shoot a man who's running away from a bank raid. His death is described in graphic detail and the soldier who is telling the story can't get the death of the man out of his head and is haunted by the image and the guilt. He didn't know if the man was armed or not and the reader gets the impression that it was not an isolated incident. <b>Tone: tragic, haunting, anecdotal, nonchalant, guilty.</b>
Poppies by Jane Weir (2009)	War Photographer by Carol Ann Duffy (1985)	Tissue by Imtiaz Dharker (2006)
A mother describes her son leaving home, seemingly to join the army. The poem is about the mother's emotional reaction to losing her son to the war. She fears for his safety and after he leaves her she goes to a familiar place that reminds her of him. <b>Weir is a textile artist as well as poet and textiles feature heavily here. She uses familiar sewing imagery to explain the unfamiliar experience of loss and maternal heartache. The domestic ordinariness is both disarming and beautiful. Tone: tender, tragic, dreamy, bitter, fearful, anxious, poignant.</b>	A war photographer is in his darkroom, developing pictures that he has taken in different warzones. As the pictures develop he recalls the death of one man and remembers the cries of his wife. The photographer contrasts his experiences to rural England and focuses on people who do not seem to care about war torn places. <b>Duffy was inspired to write this poem by her friendship with a photojournalist. She refers to the 'Napalm Girl' photo depicting the graphic horror of the Vietnam war. Tone: painful, detached, angry, helpless.</b>	The poem uses tissue as an extended metaphor for life. She describes how life, like tissue, is fragile. However, she also discusses some of the literal uses of paper that are intertwined with our lives, such as recording names in the Koran. She then goes on to discuss how we are made from tissue (living tissue which is our skin) emphasising that life is fragile. <b>Dharker has Pakistani origins and was raised in Glasgow. Her poems look at issues of identity, the fragility and beauty of life. Tone: gentle, flowing, ethereal, admiring, respectful, resistant.</b>
The Emigree by Carol Rumens (1993)	Checking Out Me History by John Agard (2007)	Kamikaze by Beatrice Garland (2013)
The speaker speaks about a city that she left as a child. The speaker has a purely positive view of the city. The city she recalls has since changed, perhaps it was scene of conflict, however, she still protects the memory of her city. The city may not be a real place but represents a time and emotion -perhaps the speaker's childhood. <b>This poem examines the idea of a land and a city that is permanently alien to the speaker. Tone: mournful, defiant, nostalgic, positive, pathos, threatened.</b>	The narrator discusses his identity and emphasises how identity is closely linked to history and understanding your own history. <b>In school he was taught British history and not about his Caribbean roots for which he feels resentful.</b> He mocks some of the pointless things he was taught and contrasts silly topics with admirable black figures. <b>Agard often examines cultures and identities through dialect and lyrical style. Tone: defiant, angry, rebellious, cynical, colloquial, celebratory.</b>	Kamikaze is the <b>unofficial name given to Japanese pilots who were sent on a suicide mission near the end of World War 2. The mission was considered one of honour</b> but this poem is about a pilot who aborted the mission. His daughter imagines that her father was reminded of his childhood and the beauty of nature and life whilst on the mission. When he returned home he was shunned. <b>Tone: sorrowful, pitiful, patriotic, shameful, regretful, empathetic.</b>
The Assessment Objectives: Ensure that your answer covers all these areas		
<b>AO1</b> ♦ Write a response related to the key word in the question. ♦Use comparative language to explore both poems. ♦ Use a range of evidence to support your response and to show the meaning of the poems.	<b>AO2</b> ♦ Comment on the effect of the language in your evidence, including individual words. ♦ Identify any use of poetic techniques and explain their effects.	<b>AO3</b> ♦ What might the poet's intentions have been when they wrote the poem? ♦ Comment on the historical context – when was the poem published and what impact might it have had then, and today?

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Themes					
<p><b>Power of Nature:</b> Ozymandias, The Prelude, Exposure, Storm on the Island, Tissue and Kamikaze.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Nature is a powerful force that can cause suffering and destruction. It's often personified in poetry to describe its effects in human terms.</li> <li>♦ Nature has the power to change humans and affect their decisions.</li> <li>♦ Nature is presented as an enemy – personified, merciless and unstoppable.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Power of humans:</b> Ozymandias, London, My Last Duchess, Tissue and Checking Out Me History.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Humans often use power to benefit themselves rather than other people, and the misuse of power can lead to people being hurt and killed.</li> <li>♦ Human power is ultimately insignificant compared to nature, which is vast and timeless.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Effects of conflict:</b> The Charge of the Light Brigade, Exposure, Bayonet Charge, Remains, Poppies, War Photographer and Kamikaze.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Conflict causes injury (both physical and psychological) and death.</li> <li>♦ Even people not directly involved in the fighting can be affected by conflict.</li> <li>♦ The long lasting effects of conflict can lead to trauma, disorientation and an overwhelming sense of loss and despair.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Reality and brutality of conflict:</b> The Charge of the Light Brigade, Exposure, Bayonet Charge, Remains and War Photographer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Poems set in the heat of battle create vivid pictures of the sights, sounds and emotions. They can be horrific, disturbing and traumatic experiences for the poet and reader.</li> <li>♦ Poems set after the battle are more detached from the reality.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Loss and Absence:</b> London, Exposure, Poppies, The Emigree, Kamikaze.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ People experience loss when they're separated from someone or something they love.</li> <li>♦ An absence of hope can lead to negativity and despair.</li> <li>♦ People without power often feel hopeless. When things are futile, it feels like there's no point in fighting back.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Memory:</b> The Prelude, My last Duchess, Remains, Poppies, War Photographer, The Emigree and Kamikaze.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Memories can be powerful, particularly memories of negative or difficult experiences.</li> <li>♦ Memories often contain specific, personal details which give them a unique power.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Place:</b> London, The Prelude, The Emigree and Kamikaze.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ By setting a poem in a specific place – time or location, the poet attaches a greater sense of reality to an episode or event.</li> <li>♦ A place can conjure up a strong set of emotions, memories and experiences.</li> <li>♦ Places have strong connections with our sense of who we are, where we come from and where we belong.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Identity:</b> My Last Duchess, The Charge of the Light Brigade, Poppies, Tissue, The Emigree, Kamikaze and Checking Out Me History.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Belonging to a family is an important part of human identity.</li> <li>♦ National identity and patriotism can have powerful effects, particularly in war.</li> <li>♦ Examining our identity – who we are – is the constant struggle for human beings. We need to feel that we belong otherwise we are nobody</li> </ul>		<p><b>Individual Experiences:</b> London, The Prelude, Bayonet Charge, Remains, Poppies, War Photographer, The Emigree and Kamikaze.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Conflicts can involve thousands of people, but everyone involved has their own experience of it.</li> <li>♦ Focusing on individual experiences allows the poet to present a place, action or event from a specific, unique point of view.</li> <li>♦ Conflict can leave individuals feeling isolated and frightened.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Bravery:</b> Exposure, Bayonet Charge, The Charge of the Light Brigade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Bravery is a subjective idea that can be a symbol of courage and patriotism or foolishness and wrongdoing.</li> <li>♦ Bravery or courage can be out of necessity, and sometimes it is an enforced emotion that is fuelled by fear, desperation and anguish.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Suffering:</b> War Photographer, Remains and Exposure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Poets use suffering as a powerful connection with humanity. Nobody wants to experience or witness anguish or the pain of another person.</li> <li>♦ Suffering often occurs when there is conflict, war, death and loss.</li> <li>♦ Images of suffering can haunt or traumatise the observer.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Decay:</b> Ozymandias and Tissue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The deterioration of material objects, memories and power over time.</li> <li>♦ Poems that explore the effects of decay often use it to symbolise the inevitable decline of humanity as a natural process.</li> <li>♦ Decay can be beautiful, complicated and slow.</li> </ul>	
Language for comparison (AO3)		Subject Terminology and Poetic methods used by the poet to create a meaning (AO2)			
<p><b>When poems have similarities</b></p> <p>Similarly...</p> <p>Both poems convey / address...</p> <p>Both poems explore / present...</p> <p>The idea is also explored in...</p> <p>Likewise...</p> <p>In addition...</p> <p>Also...</p> <p>Equally...</p>	<p><b>When poems have differences</b></p> <p>Although...</p> <p>Whereas...</p> <p>In contrast...</p> <p>On the other hand...</p> <p>Unlike...</p> <p>However...</p> <p>Conversely...</p> <p>Alternatively...</p>	<p>Autobiographical</p> <p>Dramatic monologue</p> <p>Cliché</p> <p>Emotive</p> <p>Euphemism -“all smiles stopped”</p> <p>First person</p> <p>Half rhymes</p> <p>Iambic pentameter</p> <p>In media res</p>	<p>Internal rhyme “tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers”</p> <p>Language</p> <p>Monologue</p> <p>Mood</p> <p>Narrative</p> <p>Phonetic spellings</p> <p>Rhetorical question</p> <p>Rhyming scheme</p>	<p>Rhythm</p> <p>Structure</p> <p>Symbolism</p> <p>Voice</p> <p>Third person</p> <p>Tone</p> <p>Epic poem</p> <p>Hyperbole</p> <p>Semantic field</p>	<p>Protagonist</p> <p>Poet</p> <p>Persona</p> <p>Chorus</p> <p>Narrative</p> <p>Syllable</p>
Poetic techniques (AO2)					
Language		Structure		Form	
<p><b>Alliteration:</b> words that are close together starting with the same letter or sound. <b>Assonance:</b> the repetition of similar vowel soft and long sounds. <b>Colloquial Language:</b> informal language, usually creates a conversational tone or authentic voice.</p> <p><b>Consonance:</b> repetition of hard and blunt consonant sounds.</p> <p><b>Personification:</b> giving human qualities to the nonhuman.</p>	<p><b>Imagery:</b> language that makes us imagine a sight (visual), sound (aural), touch (tactile), smell or taste. <b>Irony:</b> language that says one thing but implies the opposite e.g. sarcasm. <b>Metaphor:</b> comparing one thing to another. <b>Onomatopoeia:</b> language that sounds like its meaning. <b>Pathetic Fallacy:</b> giving emotion to weather in order to create a mood within a text.</p>	<p><b>Plosives:</b> short burst of shocking or surprising sounds: t, k, p, d, g, or b. <b>Sibilance:</b> the repetition of s, z or sh sounds. <b>Simile:</b> comparing two things with 'like' or 'as' <b>Tone:</b> the mood or feeling created in a poem.</p>	<p><b>Anaphora:</b> when the first word of a stanza is the same across different stanzas. <b>Caesura:</b> using punctuation to create pauses or stops. <b>Contrast:</b> opposite concepts/ feelings in a poem. <b>Enjambment:</b> a sentence or phrase that runs onto the next line. <b>Juxtaposition:</b> contrasting things placed side by side. <b>Oxymoron:</b> a phrase that contradicts itself.</p>	<p><b>Repetition:</b> repeated words or phrases. <b>Stanza:</b> a group of lines in a poem. <b>Volta:</b> a turning point in a poem.</p>	<p><b>Blank verse:</b> poem in iambic pentameter, but with no rhyme. <b>Free verse:</b> poetry that doesn't rhyme. <b>Meter:</b> arrangement of stressed/unstressed syllables. <b>Monologue:</b> one person speaking for a long time. <b>Rhyming couplet:</b> a pair of rhyming lines next to each other. <b>Sonnet:</b> poem of 14 lines with clear rhyme scheme. <b>Speaker:</b> the narrator, or person in the poem.</p>

