

Section A: Unseen Poem

Read the following poem and answer Question 1

The Fog Horn

In this soup thick night, the fog horn
Calls, like a cow in pain
Sounding its lonely rhythms. Its long

- Notes travel not only the sea's swell, but
5 Float over fields full of sleeping cattle, then
To towns, through deserted streets,
Pulsing through my window, reaching

- My ears. How many people listen,
Lying in their beds awake
10 To the soft displacement of silence.

Like hearing a dying animal,
It proves that yet a life exists
Marking the human shorelines
With its pulse.

- 15 And all around the sea
Stretches, falling over the horizon's rim.

FRANCES WILLIAMS

Answer the question in this section.

1. Explore how Vernon Scannell presents the thoughts and feelings of the speaker in the poem 'November Story'.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer marks

Total for Section A = 20

Section A: Unseen Poem

Read the following poem and answer Question 1

November Story

The evening had caught cold;
Its eyes were blurred.
It had a dripping nose
And its tongue was furred.

I sat in a warm bar
After the day's work:
November snuffled outside,
Greasing the sidewalk.

But soon I had to go
Out into the night
Where shadows prowled the alleys,
Hiding from the light.

But light shone at the corner
On the pavement where
A man had fallen over
Or been knocked down there.

His legs on the slimed concrete
Were splayed out wide;
He had been propped against a lamp-post:
His head lolled to one side.

A victim of crime or accident,
An image of fear,
He remained quite motionless
As I drew near.

Then a thin voice startled silence
From a doorway close by
Where an urchin hid from the wind
"Spare a penny for the guy!"

I gave the boy some money
And hastened on.
A voice called, 'Thank you guv'nor!'
And the words upon

The wincing air seemed strange –
So hoarse and deep –
As if the guy had spoken
In his restless sleep.

VERNON SCANNELL

Answer the question in this section.

2. Explore how Vernon Scannell presents the thoughts and feelings of the speaker in the poem 'November Story'.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer

Total for Section A = 20 marks

Section A: Unseen Poem

Read the following poem and answer Question 1

November night, Edinburgh

The night tinkles like ice in glasses.
Leaves are glued to the pavement with frost.
The brown air fumes at the shop windows,
Tries the door, and sidles past.

- 5 I gulp down winter raw. The heady
Darkness swirls with tenements.
In a brown fuzz of cottonwool
Lamps fade up crags, die into pits.

- 10 Frost in my lungs is harsh as leaves
Scraped up on paths. - I look up, there,
A high roof sails, at the mast-head
Fluttering a grey and ragged star.

- The world's a bear shrugged in his den.
It's snug and close in the snoring night.
15 And outside like chrysanthemums
The fog unfolds its bitter scent.

NORMAN MACCAIG

Answer the question in this section.

1. Explore how Norman MacCaig presents the thoughts and feelings of the speaker in the poem 'A November night, Edinburgh'.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer

Total for Section A = 20 marks

Section A: Unseen Poem

Read the following poem and answer Question 1

Names

She was Eliza for a few weeks
when she was a baby –
Eliza Lily. Soon it changed to Lil.

Later she was Miss Steward in the baker's shop
5 And then 'my love', 'my darling', Mother.

Widowed at thirty, she went back to work
As Mrs Hand. Her daughter grew up,
Married and gave birth.

Now she was Nanna. 'Everybody
10 Calls me Nanna,' she would say to visitors.
And so they did – friends, tradesmen, the doctor.

In the geriatric ward
They used the patients' Christian names.
'Lil,' we said, 'or Nanna,'
15 But it wasn't in her file
And for those last bewildered weeks
She was Eliza once again.

WENDY COPE

Answer the question in this section.

1. Explore how Wendy Cope presents the thoughts and feelings of the speaker in the poem 'Names'.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer

Total for Section A = 20 marks

Section A: Unseen Poem

Read the following poem and answer Question 1

In Oak Terrace

Old and alone, she sits at nights,
Nodding before the television.
The house is quiet now. She knits,
rises to put the kettle on,

- 5 watches a cowboy's killing, reads
the local Births and Deaths, and falls
asleep at 'Growing stock-piles of war-heads'.
A world that threatens worse ills

- 10 fades. She dreams of life spent
in the one house: suffers again
poverty, sickness, abandonment,
a child's death, a brother's brain

- melting to madness. Seventy years
of common trouble; the kettle sings.
15 At midnight she says her silly prayers,
And takes her teeth out, and collects her night-things.

Tony Connor

Answer the question in this section.

1. Explore how Tony Connor presents the thoughts and feelings of the speaker in the poem 'In Oak Terrace.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer

Total for Section A = 20 marks

Section A: Unseen Poem

Read the following poem and answer Question 1

Summer in the Village

Now, you can see
where the widows live:
nettles grow tall and thistles seed
round old machinery.

- 5 Hayfields smooth under the scythe
simmer with tussocks;
the hedges begin to go,
and the bracken floods in.

- Where the young folk have stayed on
10 gaudy crops of caravans
and tents erupt in roadside fields;
Shell Gifts, Crab Sandwiches, To Let,
the signs solicit by the gates, left open
where the milk churns used to stand;
15 and the cash trickles in.

- 'For Sale' goes up again
on farms the townies bought with good intentions
and a copy of *The Whole Earth Guide*;
Samantha, Dominic and Willow play
20 among the geese and goats while parents in the pub
complain about Welsh education and the dole.
And a new asperity creeps in.

- Now, you will see
the tidy management of second homes:
25 slightly startled, old skin stretched,
the cottages are made convenient.
There are boats with seats;
dogs with the work bred out of them
sit listlessly by garden chairs on Kodakcolor* lawns;
30 and all that was community seeps out.

Christine Evans

Answer the question in this section.

1. Explore how Norman MacCaig presents the thoughts and feelings of the speaker in the poem 'Summer in the Village'.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer

Total for Section A = 20 marks

Section A: Unseen Poem

Read the following poem and answer Question 1

Incoming Calls

Thriving in the borders
We know we'll never be Welsh
But our children are or will be
And we're happy to help.

5 We're refugees from the cityscape
We came here to give them freedom to grow
Where the air won't line their lungs
With grey snow.

10 Yes, some of us are ageing hippies
Who art and craft and grow green vegetables
For seemingly little gain
But we add our incoming voices loud
To the chorus who want the village school to remain

15 We came here to join the community
Though some fear we're taking over
'cause we want to protect what we came here for
When some who've been here for hundreds of years
Want jobs no matter what the ecological discord

20 And some of your sons and daughters
Can't live in the place they were born to
'cause some of us had loads of cash
From the sale of our city semi-detached

25 And we've forced the prices
Beyond your dreams
And you don't see why *your* kids
Have to leave

30 And it's happened before
It'll happen again
We can only try
To help our children be friends

'cause everyone wants a better life
And everyone fights to have it
And change is a river that flows on and on
No matter how much you damn it

Labi Siffre

Answer the question in this section.

1. Explore how Labi Siffre presents the thoughts and feelings of the speaker in the poem 'Incoming Calls'.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer

Total for Section A = 20 marks

Section A: Unseen Poem

Read the following poem and answer Question 1

Impressions of a New Boy

- This school is huge – I hate it!
Please take me home.
Steep stairs cut in stone,
Peeling ceiling far too high,
5 The Head said 'Wait' so I wait alone,
Alone though Mum stands here, close by.
The voice is loud – I hate it!
Please take me home.
- 'Come. Sit. What is your name?'
10 Trembling lips. The words won't come.
The head says 'Speak', but my cheeks flame,
I hear him give a quiet sigh.
The room is full – I hate it
Please take me home.
- 15 A sea of faces stare at me.
My desk is much too small.
Its wooden ridge rubs my knee,
But the Head said 'Sit' so though I'm tall
I know that I must try.
- 20 The yard is full – I hate it.
Please take me home.
Bodies jostle me away,
Pressing me against the wall.
Then one boy says, 'Want to play?'
- 25 The boy says, 'Catch' and throws a ball
And playtime seems to fly.
This school is great - I love it.

Marian Collihole

Answer the question in this section.

1. Explore how Marian Collihole presents the thoughts and feelings of the speaker in the poem 'Impressions of a New Boy'.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer

Total for Section A = 20 marks

Section A: Unseen Poem

Read the following poem and answer Question 1

Only the Wall

That first day
only the wall saw
the bully
trip the new boy
5 behind the shed,
and only the wall heard
the name he called,
a name that would stick
like toffee.

10 The second day
the wall didn't see
the fight
because too many
boys stood around,
15 but the wall heard
their cheers,
and no one cheered for
the new boy.

The third day
20 the wall felt
three bullies
lean against it,
ready to ambush
the new boy,
25 then the wall heard
thumps and cries,
and saw blood.

The fourth day
only the wall missed
30 the new boy
though five bullies
looked for him,
then picked another boy
instead. Next day
35 they had him back,
his face hit the wall.

The sixth day
only the wall knew
the bullies
40 would need that other boy
to savage.
The wall remembered
the new boy's face
going home,
45 saw he'd stay away.

Matthew Sweeney

Answer the question in this section.

1. Explore how Matthew Sweeney presents the thoughts and feelings of the speaker in the poem 'Only the Wall'.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer

Total for Section A = 20 marks

Section A: Unseen Poem

Read the following poem and answer Question 1

Grandfather

- I remember
His sparse white hair and lean face...
Creased eyes that twinkled when he laughed
And the sea-worn skin
- 5 Patterned to a latticework of lines.
I remember
His blue-veined, calloused hands.
Long gnarled fingers
Stretching out towards the fire –
- 10 Three fingers missing –
Yet he was able to make model yachts
And weave baskets.
Each bronzed Autumn
He would gather berries
- 15 Each breathing Spring
His hands were filled with flowers.
- I remember
Worshipping his fisherman's yarns.
Watching his absorbed expression
- 20 As he solved the daily crossword
With the slim cigarette, hand rolled,
Placed between his lips.
I remember
The snowdrops
- 25 The impersonal hospital bed,
The reek of antiseptic.
- I remember, too,
The weeping child
And wilting daffodils
- 30 Laid upon his grave.

Susan Hrynkow

Answer the question in this section.

1. Explore how Susan Hrynkow presents the thoughts and feelings of the speaker in the poem 'Grandfather'.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer

Total for Section A = 20 marks

Section A: Unseen Poem

Read the following poem and answer Question 1

Jessie Emily Schofield

- I used to wash my grandmother's hair,
When she was old and small
And walked with a frame
Like a learning child.
- 5 She would turn off her hearing aid
And bend into the water,
Holding the edge of the sink with long fingers;
I would pour warm cupfuls over her skull
And wonder what it could be like
- 10 In her deaf head with eighty years of life.
Hers was the softest hair I ever felt,
Wedding dress silk on a widow;
But there is a photo of her
Sitting swathed in hair
- 15 That I imagine chestnut from the black and white,
Long enough to sit on.
Her wet head felt delicate as a birdskull
Worn thin by waves of age,
As she stood bent.
- 20 My mother's mother under my hands.

Judy Williams

Answer the question in this section.

1. Explore how Norman MacCaig presents the thoughts and feelings of the speaker in the poem 'Jessica Emily Schofield'.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer

Total for Section A = 20 marks

Section A: Unseen Poem

Read the following poem and answer Question 1

Foghorns

- When Catrin was a small child
She thought the foghorn moaning
Far out at sea was the sad
Solitary voice of the moon
5 Journeying to England.
She heard it warn 'Moon, Moon',
As it worked the Channel, trading
Weather like rags and bones.
- Tonight, after the still sun
10 And the silent heat, as haze
Became rain and weighed glistening
In brimful leaves, and the last bus
Splashes and fades with a soft
Wave-sound, the fog-horns moan, moon –
15 Lonely and the dry lawns drink.
This dimmed moon, calling still,
Hauls sea-rags through the streets.

Gillian Clarke

Answer the question in this section.

1. Explore how Gillian Clarke presents the thoughts and feelings of the speaker in the poem 'Foghorns'.

Use **evidence** from the poem to support your answer

Total for Section A = 20 marks