



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

**Wednesday 8 June 2022 – Morning**

**GCSE English Literature**

**J352/21 Poetry across time**

**Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes**



**You must have:**

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

**Do not use:**

- copies of the texts

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- All the questions have two parts, (a) and (b). Answer **both** parts of the question.

**INFORMATION**

- The total mark for this paper is **40**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- This document has **12** pages.

**ADVICE**

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.



<b>Poetry across time</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Page</b>
Love and Relationships	1	4
Conflict	2	6
Youth and Age	3	8

## Poetry across Time

Answer **both** parts of the question on the poetry cluster you have studied.

### 1 Love and Relationships

Read the two poems below and then answer **both part a) and part b)**.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on part a) and 30 minutes on part b).

- a) Compare how these poems present the loss of a loved one.

You should consider:

- ideas and attitudes in each poem
- tone and atmosphere in each poem
- the effects of the language and structure used.

[20]

AND

- b) Explore in detail **one** other poem from your anthology which presents a memorable relationship.

[20]

*Long Distance II* by Tony Harrison

- 1      Though my mother was already two years dead  
           Dad kept her slippers warming by the gas,  
           put hot water bottles her side of the bed  
           and still went to renew her transport pass.
- 5      You couldn't just drop in. You had to phone.  
           He'd put you off for an hour to give him time  
           to clear away her things and look alone  
           as though his still raw love were such a crime.
- 10     He couldn't risk my blight of disbelief  
           though sure that very soon he'd hear her key  
           scrape in the rusted lock and end his grief.  
           He knew she's just popped out to get the tea.
- 15     I believe life ends with death, and that is all.  
           You haven't both gone shopping; just the same,  
           in my black leather phone book there's your name  
           and the disconnected number I still call.

*Silence* by Anthony Thwaite

1 This silence, with you away –  
These silences, day after day –  
Silence itself, pure and cold and grey –

5 Once I welcomed it, heard  
Nothing but peace, even a bird  
Disturbing it. Without a word

Silence welcomed me, took  
Me in friendliness, shook  
Melancholy out, thrust a book

10 Into my hands, so that I read  
Hungry of what lay ahead,  
Not thinking of the dead.

15 Alone,  
Silence lies along the bone,  
Grey, cold as a stone.

## 2 Conflict

Read the two poems below and then answer **both part a) and part b)**.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on part a) and 30 minutes on part b).

- a) Compare how these poems present emotions leading to conflict.

You should consider:

- ideas and attitudes in each poem
- tone and atmosphere in each poem
- the effects of the language and structure used.

[20]

### AND

- b) Explore in detail **one** other poem from your anthology which presents strong feelings about the causes of conflict.

[20]

*A Poison Tree* by William Blake

- 1 I was angry with my friend:  
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.  
I was angry with my foe:  
I told it not, my wrath did grow.
- 5 And I watered it in fears,  
Night and morning with my tears;  
And I sunned it with smiles,  
And with soft deceitful wiles.
- 10 And it grew both day and night,  
Till it bore an apple bright.  
And my foe beheld it shine.  
And he knew that it was mine,
- 15 And into my garden stole  
When the night had veiled the pole;  
In the morning glad I see  
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.

*Anger* by Charles and Mary Lamb

1 Anger in its time and place  
May assume a kind of grace.  
It must have some reason in it,  
And not last beyond a minute.  
5 If to further lengths it go,  
It does into malice grow.  
'Tis the difference that we see  
'Twixt the serpent and the bee.  
If the latter you provoke  
10 It inflicts a hasty stroke,  
Puts you to some little pain,  
But it never stings again.  
Close in tufted bush or brake  
Lurks the poison-swelled snake  
15 Nursing up his cherished wrath;  
In the purlieu of<sup>1</sup> his path,  
In the cold, or in the warm,  
Mean him good, or mean him harm,  
Wheresoever fate may bring you,  
20 The vile snake will always sting you.

<sup>1</sup>purlieu of = area near

### 3 Youth and Age

Read the two poems below and then answer **both part a) and part b)**.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on part a) and 30 minutes on part b).

- a) Compare how these poems present an adult's thoughts about a young person.

You should consider:

- ideas and attitudes in each poem
- tone and atmosphere in each poem
- the effects of the language and structure used.

[20]

**AND**

- b) Explore in detail **one** other poem from your anthology which presents concerns about young people.

[20]

*Midnight on the Great Western* by Thomas Hardy

1 In the third-class seat sat the journeying boy,  
And the roof-lamp's oily flame  
Played down on his listless form and face,  
Bewrapt past knowing to what he was going,  
5 Or whence he came.

In the band of his hat the journeying boy  
Had a ticket stuck; and a string  
Around his neck bore the key of his box,  
That twinkled gleams of the lamp's sad beams  
10 Like a living thing.

What past can be yours, O journeying boy  
Towards a world unknown,  
Who calmly, as if incurious quite  
On all at stake, can undertake  
15 This plunge alone?

Knows your soul a sphere, O journeying boy,  
Our rude realms far above,  
Whence with spacious vision you mark and mete  
This region of sin that you find you in,  
20 But are not of?



*Childhood* by Edna Jacques

1 She does not know that rooms are bleak and bare,  
That poverty dwells with us all the while;  
It is enough for her that I am there  
To praise her little deeds, to sing and smile.

5 She does not know that heartache hovers near  
Above the place where lie her dolls asleep,  
That eyes grow wide and dark with naked fear  
And life seems such a tired trust to keep.

10 Sunlight to her is earth's most precious gold,  
Daisies and buttercups are jewels rare,  
A clump of mignonette<sup>1</sup> is wealth untold,  
Her crown a wreath of flowers in her hair.

15 No banquet hall in all the bounteous land  
Has half the glory of a picnic spread  
Out on a shining beach, with sun and sand,  
Wind in her face, and seagulls overhead.

20 Oh, may our hearts be glad for common things,  
Whitecaps at sea and tattered driftwood piled,  
Finding in these the peace that Heaven brings.  
Grant us the simple wisdom of a child.

<sup>1</sup>mignonette = a garden herb

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**





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