

GCSE LITERATURE UNSEEN POETRY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Section C – Unseen Poetry

Question 1

One question analysing the first unseen poem – 24 marks

Question 2

One question comparing the first unseen poem with a second – 8 marks

Assessment Objectives

- AO1:** Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to: maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response plus use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.
- AO2:** Analyse the language, form and structure used by the writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant terminology where appropriate.

Steps to analysing an unseen poem

- Read the question carefully and highlight the key words
 - Read the poem twice. Make sure you understand what it is about (use the question to help you)
 - Read the title carefully – what does it mean?
 - What do you notice about the structure? Is there a rhyme scheme or a set amount of lines in a stanza?
 - What do you notice about the first line? What is the narrative voice?
 - Identify the tone of the poem – it is positive or negative, reflective or emotive?
 - Identify poetic devices in the poem – **what is their effect?** This is more important than identifying lots of devices
 - Highlight key words in the poem that help create a particular image or feeling
 - In your analysis, remember to use TIE
 - Tone
 - Image
 - Emotion
- TIE your analysis together!
- You must write in PEA paragraphs – in your analysis you must consider the effect on the reader and the poet's intention.
 - For the 24 mark question aim for 4-5 paragraphs
 - For the 8 mark question aim for 2-3 paragraphs

Vocabulary to describe a poet's feelings and definition (AO2)

Acceptance: recognising the reality of a situation.	Hostile: showing or feeling dislike / being unfriendly.	Mocking: making fun of someone or something.
Anger: resentful rage.	Indignation: angry at an unfairness.	Pathos: create pity or sadness.
Anticipation: looking forward positively.	Jovial: cheerful and friendly.	Pensive: deep or serious thought.
Awe: respect mixed with fear and wonder.	Love: strong emotion of attachment.	Remorse: deep regret or guilt for shameful, hurtful or violent actions / thoughts.
Compassionate: demonstrating love, care or understanding.	Optimistic: having a sense of hope, confidence or positive outlook.	Sadness: a sense of sorrow, grief.
Disgust: feeling something is wrong or nasty.	Pessimistic: having a negative outlook, lacking hope or confidence.	Serenity: calm, peaceful, tranquil.
Dismay: concern or distress.	Melancholy: a feeling of deep sadness.	Shame: a sense of regret for past actions / thoughts.
Elation: exceptional happiness.		Vengeful: seeking to harm someone or something.
Fearful: afraid, frightened, scared.		

Methods (AO1)

Language	Structure	Form
Abstract: an idea rather than a real thing.	Anaphora: repeated first words at start of a line.	Autobiographical: about the poet's life / experiences.
Alliteration: repeated first letter.	Beginning: the start, establishment of ideas, initial idea/moment/thought/statement.	Ballad: a dramatic story poem with four line stanzas.
Assonance: repeated vowel sound.	Chronological: in time order	Blank verse: verse with no rhyme – usually 10 syllables.
Authentic: seems genuine / truthful.	Caesura: a break in the middle of a line using punctuation.	Dramatic monologue: a character speaks to the reader.
Cliché: over-used phrase	Enjambment: a sentence that runs over stanzas.	Elegy: written to mourn the death of a person (elegiac)
Colloquial language: casual, informal language.	Flashback: set in a time earlier than the main story.	Epic: tragic / heroic story poem.
Extended metaphor: a series of linked metaphors.	Iambic pentameter: 5 sets of stressed/unstressed beats on a line.	First person: using the pronouns I / me / my
Hyperbole: exaggeration for effect.	Juxtaposition: placing contrasting ideas close together in a text.	Free verse: no regular rhyme or rhythm.
Imagery: visually descriptive or figurative language.	Oxymoron: two opposite words next to each other.	Narrative: describes an event.
Internal rhyme: rhyme on the same line.	Refrain: repeated lines (like a chorus in a song).	Ode: a lyrical poem addressed to one person.
Irony: sarcasm.	Repetition: a pattern of repeated words / ideas / sounds.	Persona: the voice / speaker of the poem, different from the writer.
Metaphor: something described as something else.	Rhyme scheme: the organisation of the rhyme.	Sonnet: - Shakespearean: 14 lines, ababcdcdefefgg, typically a love poem. - Petrarchan: eight lines (octave) rhyming ABBAABBA, and a six lines (sestet) rhyming CDCDCD.
Motif: recurring theme or symbol.	Rhyming couplet: two lines that rhyme next to each other.	Shape poem: the structure mimics the shape of the main subject of the poem.
Onomatopoeia: a sound word.	Rhythm: a recurring beat in a poem.	Third person: using the pronouns he / she / they.
Pathetic fallacy: giving human emotion and conduct to things found in nature including the weather.	Title: set the scene/time/place/mood/ tone or create anticipation/confusion/connection/curiosity.	
Personification: giving human qualities to inanimate objects.	Volta: the turning point of a poem.	
Plosive: letters p/t/k/b/d/g		
Semantic field: a group of words related in meaning.		
Sibilance: a repeated s/sh/ch/z sound.		
Simile: comparison between two things using like or as.		

Keep your eye on the time – these are the last two questions of a 2hr 15min exam!



Comparison vocabulary

Similar	Different
Similarly	Contrastingly
Likewise	However
In the same way	Whereas
Also	Unlike
In addition to	Yet
Moreover	But
Correspondingly	On the contrary
Parallel to this	In antithesis to this
Comparably	In stark contrast
	Juxtaposing this
	On the other hand