

GCSE AQA English Literature:

Power and Conflict Poetry

◆ ——— Paper 2 – Section B (Anthology poetry) ——— ◆



EXAM & TIMING

- Question type: named poem + compare with another poem
- Marks: 30
- Paper 2 total time: 2 hours 15 minutes
- Suggested timing for anthology poetry: 45 minutes
- Suggested 25% extra-time timing: 56 minutes
- Suggested breakdown: 5 mins plan, 35 mins write, 5 mins check
- With 25% extra time: 6 mins plan, 44 mins write, 6 mins check



1 BIG IDEAS

- power of nature
- abuse of human power
- conflict and war
- memory and loss
- identity and belonging
- pride and arrogance
- effects of violence and trauma

2 KEY POEMS TO SECURE

- Ozymandias** – power and pride do not last.
- London** – oppression and control in society.
- My Last Duchess** – power, jealousy and control.
- Exposure** – the horror and futility of war.
- Storm on the Island** – nature's power and fear.
- Bayonet Charge** – panic and the reality of battle.
- Remains** – guilt and trauma after conflict.
- Poppies** – loss, memory and a parent's perspective.
- War Photographer** – distance, suffering and responsibility.
- Checking Out Me History** – identity, power and education.
- Kamikaze** – conflict between duty and family.
- Tissue** – fragility and human power.

3 COMPARISON ROUTES

- 1** Power and pride
Ozymandias / My Last Duchess.
- 2** Nature's power
Storm on the Island / Exposure / The Prelude.
- 3** Effects of war
Exposure / Bayonet Charge / Remains / War Photographer.
- 4** Memory and loss
Poppies / Kamikaze / Remains.
- 5** Identity and control
Checking Out Me History / London / Tissue.

4 CONTEXT

- Romanticism and nature.
- War poetry and the realities of conflict.
- Power, empire and social control.
- Identity, heritage and postcolonial voices.
- Context should support meaning, not be bolted on.

5 WRITER'S METHODS

- Voice and viewpoint** Who is speaking? Their attitude shapes meaning.
- Imagery and symbolism** Vivid language creates ideas and emotion.
- Form and structure** Poem shape, layout and organisation matter.
- Contrast and juxtaposition** Placing ideas side by side to highlight differences.
- Repetition and pattern** Repeats words, ideas or structures for impact.
- Rhyme / rhythm** Sound patterns influence mood and emphasis.
- Caesura and enjambment** Pauses and line breaks affect pace and tension.

6 WHAT A STRONG ANSWER DOES

- ✓ Start with the named poem and stay focused on the task.
- ✓ Choose the best comparison poem.
- ✓ Compare ideas and methods clearly.
- ✓ Use short references from both poems.
- ✓ Explain meanings and effects, not just techniques.
- ✓ Integrate context only where it helps interpretation.

7 MUST-REMEMBER

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| | Know all anthology poems well enough to choose flexibly. | |
| | Compare similarities and differences. | |
| | Link methods to ideas. | |
| | Track tone and perspective. | |
| | Use a short, focused conclusion. | |
| | Avoid forcing a comparison that does not fit. | |

AQA LITERATURE SUCCESS REMINDERS: know the poems well • choose the best comparison • analyse meaning, not just techniques