

PMC

Every question will have a **'language'** element.

Therefore, prepare quotation which illustrate **aspects of the poet's style, like techniques used to create:**

Imagery

1. Metaphors / symbols
2. Similes
3. Personification
4. Juxtapositions
5. Allusions
6. Precision (verb choice / noun-adjective combinations)

Rhythm

1. Alliteration
2. Sibilance
3. Meter
4. Rhyme
5. Assonance

And

Other techniques like:

1. Oxymoron
2. Repetition
3. Enjambment
4. Characterisation
5. Engaging opening lines

'Language' wording from past questions

1. *Vivid imagery*
2. *evocative imagery*
3. *provocative imagery*
4. *natural imagery*
5. *powerful language*
6. *Appealing descriptive style*
7. *A diverse range of imagery*
8. *an engaging style*
9. *a dated style*
10. *a vivid and energetic style*
11. *masterful use of aesthetically pleasing language*
12. *unique approach to language*
13. *effective use of poetic narrative scenes*
14. *transforms the familiar and mundane*

Writing a Poetry Essay

"The ultimate authority must always rest with the individual's own reason and critical analysis." **Dalai Lama**

Minimum requirement:
Prepare 4 poems x 4 poets

Best Practice:
Prepare 5 poems x poets

Completed essay
At least 1,000 words long

- **8 poets** prescribed for study
- **5 questions**
- **Answer 1**

Paper 2

- Section 3
- 50 marks
- 60 minutes

Motifs

Think about the **thematic connections** between poems – if there are connections, use them **to link your discussion** of different poems.

Every question will also have a **thematic** element

You need to think about the

- Message
- Philosophical insights
- Purpose

Of the poem

You must engage with these aspects of the question in a **thoughtful and evidence based approach**

#1 MISTAKE: Paying **LIP-SERVICE** to the Q
#2 MISTAKE: **Rote-learning** answers

Top-tip: **Practise** writing paragraphs, moulding prepared material to the wording of past questions

Examples:

1. **Kavanagh's** search for contentment
2. **Mahon's** examination of the complexity of human nature
3. **Meehan's** exploration of social issues
4. **Yeats'** insights into the struggle for independence
5. **Dickinson's** intense appreciation of the wonder of the natural world
6. **Rich's** exploration of the challenges facing women in her society
7. **Donne's** celebration of the pleasure of love

'Thematic concerns' wording from past questions

1. *...triumphs, trials and limitations of the human condition*
2. *...explore structures and values in society*
3. *...themes are irrelevant in the twenty-first century."*
4. *...fascination with life and its rich experiences*
5. *...insights he draws from history, myth and legend*
6. *...profoundly insightful*
7. *...profound lessons*
8. *...intellectually stimulating*
9. *...analytical*
10. *...themes relevant to contemporary Ireland*
11. *...challenging*
12. *...probe universal aspects of the human condition*

Finally, remember, You are being examined on three things

- 1) Accumulated knowledge
- 2) Expression
- 3) Analytical skills

Most students focus only on #1. **If you want to score well, you must take a measured, balanced approach**, in which you **demonstrate knowledge**, but never forget that **information is only evidence you are using to support your point of view**

Development paragraphs

1. Follow the **RICC** rules
2. Each paragraph needs to have a purpose which is clearly relevant to the Q
3. The paragraphs should make points which are **Separate But Connected**
4. **Quotation** used in support of points being made
5. A clear mix of **Summary and Commentary** within each DP
6. A **CP** (closing paragraph) which refers both to the question and to the key points developed throughout the essay.

Structure - Opening

1. A short, direct and confident **OS (opening sentence)**
2. A **THESIS STATEMENT** which clearly establishes the intended approach of the essay
3. An **OP (opening paragraph)** which contains **Proof of Planning** and establishes **Continuity Links** to connect the **BME (beginning+middle+end)**

Continuity links are important for COHERENCE OF DELIVERY