

enjambment
Alliteration
stanza personification
rhyme onomatopoeia

10

AQA Unseen Poetry Practice Exams

metaphor repetition verse caesura
poet rhythm simile metre



Butterfly

Butterfly, the wind blows sea-ward,
strong beyond the garden-wall!

Butterfly, why do you settle on my
shoe, and sip the dirt on my shoe,

5 Lifting your veined wings, lifting them?
big white butterfly!

Already it is October, and the wind
blows strong to the sea
from the hills where snow must have
10 fallen, the wind is polished with
snow.

Here in the garden, with red
geraniums, it is warm, it is warm
but the wind blows strong to sea-ward,
15 white butterfly, content on my shoe!

Will you go, will you go from my warm
house?

Will you climb on your big soft wings,
black-dotted,

20 as up an invisible rainbow, an arch
till the wind slides you sheer from the
arch-crest

and in a strange level fluttering you go
out to sea-ward, white speck!

David Herbert Lawrence

2. In both 'The Tyger' and 'Butterfly' the speakers describe animals.

What are the similarities and/or differences in the way the poets present these descriptions?

[8 marks]



Practice Paper 10 – Unseen Poetry AQA Syllabus

In Paper 2: Section C of the English Literature exam you will be asked to read and write about two poems you will not have studied previously. This practice paper allows you to practise the skills needed for this part of the exam.

Remember to allow yourself at least 45 minutes of the exam time to answer questions on the unseen poems.

The Tyger

| | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| <p>5 Tyger! Tyger! burning bright, In the forests of the night, What immortal hand or eye Could frame thy fearful symmetry?</p> <p>10 In what distant deeps or skies Burnt the fire of thine eyes? On what wings dare he aspire? What the hand dare seize the fire?</p> <p>And what shoulder, & what art, Could twist the sinews of thy heart? And when thy heart began to beat, What dread hand? & what dread feet?</p> | <p>15 What the hammer? what the chain? In what furnace was thy brain? What the anvil? what dread grasp Dare its deadly terrors clasp?</p> <p>When the stars threw down their spears, And water'd heaven with their tears, 20 Did he smile his work to see? Did he who made the Lamb make thee?</p> <p>Tyger! Tyger! burning bright In the forests of the night, What immortal hand or eye Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?</p> | <p>William Blake</p> |
|--|--|-----------------------------|

1. In 'The Tyger' how does the poet present his attitudes towards the tiger?

[24 marks]

The unseen poetry questions on AQA English Literature Paper 2, Section C are worth a large number of marks. In total, the two questions account for more marks than the question on the poems in the anthology. They give students the opportunity to show their general knowledge about poetry rather than relying on their ability to memorise quotations from set poems for the exam.

The two questions in section C test AO1 and AO2. The first question, dealing with only the first unseen poem, tests both of these assessment objectives and weights them equally for a total of 24 marks. The second question is marked solely for AO2 and is out of 8 marks. This second question asks students to compare the approach of the two poets in relation to a particular theme or set of feelings.

Students should therefore be prepared to:

AO1 – Read, understand and respond to texts. They should try to maintain a critical style throughout their essay and develop an informed response using evidence from the texts.

AO2 – Analyse the language, form and structure used by the poets to create certain meanings and effects. They should be able to use the relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

Students should be advised to keep at least 45 minutes free for this task at the end of the exam. They will be asked to read and analyse two poems they have probably never come across before so a range of appropriate active reading techniques should be explored in preparing for these questions. The use of highlighters and annotations in the extract booklet is completely acceptable and should be encouraged.

The unseen poetry pairs in this booklet have been organised to give a range of poetic styles for practice. They are all texts outside of copyright and so can be photocopied. Some of the poetry pairs are more difficult to access. Please keep this in mind when choosing practice questions for your setting. If students are using the 'Power and Conflict' poetry cluster however, they should not be given the 'Ozymandias' question from this booklet as that text appears in their anthology.



Practice Paper 1 – Unseen Poetry AQA Syllabus

In Paper 2: Section C of the English Literature exam you will be asked to read and write about two poems you will not have studied previously. These poems will be related to one another by theme. This practice paper allows you to practise the skills needed for this part of the exam.

Remember to allow yourself at least 45 minutes of the exam time to answer questions on the unseen poems.

Symphony in Yellow

An omnibus across the bridge
Crawls like a yellow butterfly,
And, here and there a passer-by
Shows like a little restless midge.

5 Big barges full of yellow hay
Are moored against the shadowy wharf,
And, like a yellow silken scarf,
The thick fog hangs along the quay.

The yellow leaves begin to fade
10 And flutter from the temple elms,
And at my feet the pale green Thames
Lies like a rod of rippled jade.

Oscar Wilde

1. In 'Symphony in Yellow' how does the poet present the speaker's feelings about London?

[24 marks]



Ballad of Another Ophelia

Oh the green glimmer of apples in the orchard,
Lamps in a wash of rain!
Oh the wet walk of my brown hen through the stackyard,
Oh tears on the window pane!

5 Nothing now will ripen the bright green apples,
Full of disappointment and of rain,
Brackish they will taste, of tears, when the yellow dapples
Of autumn tell the withered tale again.

All round the yard it is cluck, my brown hen,
10 Cluck, and the rain-wet wings,
Cluck, my marigold bird, and again
Cluck for your yellow darlings.

For the grey rat found the gold thirteen
Huddled away in the dark,
15 Flutter for a moment, oh the beast is quick and keen,
Extinct one yellow-fluffy spark.

Once I had a lover bright like running water,
Once his face was laughing like the sky;
Open like the sky looking down in all its laughter
20 On the buttercups, and the buttercups was I.

What, then, is there hidden in the skirts of all the blossom?
What is peeping from your wings, oh mother hen?
Tis the sun who asks the question, in a lovely haste for wisdom;
What a lovely haste for wisdom is in men!

25 Yea, but it is cruel when undressed is all the blossom,
And her shift is lying white upon the floor,
That a grey one, like a shadow, like a rat, a thief, a rain-storm,
Creeps upon her then and gathers in his store.

Oh the grey garner that is full of half-grown apples,
30 Oh the golden sparkles laid extinct!
And oh, behind the cloud-sheaves, like yellow autumn dapples,
Did you see the wicked sun that winked!

David Herbert Lawrence

2. In both 'The Kiss' and 'Ballad of Another Ophelia' the speakers describe the feeling of losing a loved one.

What are the similarities and/or differences in the way the poets present these feelings?

[8 marks]



Practice Paper 9 – Unseen Poetry AQA Syllabus

In Paper 2: Section C of the English Literature exam you will be asked to read and write about two poems you will not have studied previously. This practice paper allows you to practise the skills needed for this part of the exam.

Remember to allow yourself at least 45 minutes of the exam time to answer questions on the unseen poems.

The Kiss

The snow is white on wood and wold,
The wind is in the firs,
So dead my heart is with the cold,
No pulse within it stirs,

5 Even to see your face, my dear,
Your face that was my sun;
There is no spring this bitter year,
And summer's dreams are done.

The snakes that lie about my heart
10 Are in their wintry sleep;
Their fangs no more deal sting and smart,
No more they curl and creep.
Love with the summer ceased to be;
The frost is firm and fast.

15 God keep the summer far from me,
And let the snakes' sleep last!

Touch of your hand could not suffice
To waken them once more;
Nor could the sunshine of your eyes
20 A ruined spring restore.
But ah-your lips! You know the rest:
The snows are summer rain,
My eyes are wet, and in my breast
The snakes' fangs meet again.

Edith Nesbit

1. 'The Kiss' how does the poet present the theme of lost love?

[24 marks]



Composed Upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802

Earth has not anything to show more fair:

Dull would he be of soul who could pass by

A sight so touching in its majesty:

This City now doth, like a garment, wear

5 The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.

10 Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

William Wordsworth

2. In both 'Symphony in Yellow' and 'Composed Upon Westminster Bridge' the poets describe the city of London.

What are the similarities and/or differences between the ways the poets present their feelings about the city?

[8 marks]



Practice Paper 2 – Unseen Poetry AQA Syllabus

In Paper 2: Section C of the English Literature exam you will be asked to read and write about two poems you will not have studied previously. This practice paper allows you to practise the skills needed for this part of the exam.

Remember to allow yourself at least 45 minutes of the exam time to answer questions on the unseen poems.

Composed Upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802

Earth has not anything to show more fair:
 Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
 A sight so touching in its majesty:
 This City now doth, like a garment, wear

5 The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
 Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
 Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
 All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
 Never did sun more beautifully steep

10 In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
 Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
 The river glideth at his own sweet will:
 Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
 And all that mighty heart is lying still!

William Wordsworth

1. In 'Composed Upon Westminster Bridge' how does the poet present his feelings about the city?



Flower God, God of the Spring

FLOWER god, god of the spring, beautiful, bountiful,
 Cold-dyed shield in the sky, lover of versicles,
 Here I wander in April
 Cold, grey-headed; and still to my

5 Heart, Spring comes with a bound, Spring the deliverer,
 Spring, song-leader in woods, chorally resonant;
 Spring, flower-planter in meadows,
 Child-conductor in willowy
 Fields deep dotted with bloom, daisies and crocuses:

10 Here that child from his heart drinks of eternity:
 O child, happy are children!
 She still smiles on their innocence,
 She, dear mother in God, fostering violets,
 Fills earth full of her scents, voices and violins:

15 Thus one cunning in music
 Wakes old chords in the memory:
 Thus fair earth in the Spring leads her performances.
 One more touch of the bow, smell of the virginal
 Green - one more, and my bosom

20 Feels new life with an ecstasy.

Robert Louis Stevenson

2. In both 'The Enkindled Spring' and 'Flower God, God of Spring' the speakers describe attitudes towards the Spring season.

What are the similarities and/or differences in the way the poets present these attitudes?

[8 marks]



Practice Paper 8 – Unseen Poetry AQA Syllabus

In Paper 2: Section C of the English Literature exam you will be asked to read and write about two poems you will not have studied previously. This practice paper allows you to practise the skills needed for this part of the exam.

Remember to allow yourself at least 45 minutes of the exam time to answer questions on the unseen poems.

The Enkindled Spring

This spring as it comes bursts up in bonfires green,
Wild puffing of emerald trees, and flame-filled bushes,
Thorn-blossom lifting in wreaths of smoke between
Where the wood fumes up and the watery, flickering rushes.

5 I am amazed at this spring, this conflagration
Of green fires lit on the soil of the earth, this blaze
Of growing, and sparks that puff in wild gyration,
Faces of people streaming across my gaze.

And I, what fountain of fire am I among
10 This leaping combustion of spring? My spirit is tossed
About like a shadow buffeted in the throng
Of flames, a shadow that's gone astray, and is lost.

David Herbert Lawrence

1. In 'The Enkindled Spring' how does the poet present the effect of the season of Spring?

[24 marks]



Conveyancing

O, London is the place for all,
In love with loco-motion!
Still to and fro the people go
Like billows of the ocean;
5 Machine or man, or caravan,
Can all be had for paying,
When great estates, or heavy weights,
Or bodies want conveying.

There's always hacks about in packs,
10 Wherein you may be shaken,
And Jarvis is not always drunk,
Tho' always overtaken;
In racing tricks he 'll never mix,
His nags are in their last days,
15 And slow to go, altho' they show
As if they had their fast days!

Then if you like a single horse,
This age is quite a cab-age,
A car not quite so small and light
20 As those of our Queen Mab age;
The horses have been broken well,
All danger is rescinded,
For some have broken both their knees
And some are broken winded.

25 If you 've a friend at Chelsea end,
The stages are worth knowing—
There is a sort, we call 'em short,
Although the longest going—
For some will stop at Hatchett's shop,
30 Till you grow faint and sickly,
Perched up behind, at last to find,
Your dinner is all dickey!

Lon stages run from every yard;
But if you 're wise and frugal,
35 You 'll never go with any Guard
That plays upon the bugle,
"Ye banks and braes," and other lays,
And ditties everlasting,
Like miners going all your way,
40 With boring and with blasting.

Instead of journeys, people now
May go upon a Gurney,
With steam to do the horses' work,
By powers of attorney;
45 Tho' with a load it may explode,
And you may all be un-done!
And find you 're going up to Heaven,
Instead of up to London!

To speak of every kind of coach,
50 It is not my intention;
But there is still one vehicle
Deserves a little mention;
The world a sage has called a stage,
With all its living lumber,
55 And Malthus swears it always bears
Above the proper number.

The law will transfer house or land
Forever and a day hence,
For lighter things, watch, brooches, rings,
60 You 'll never want conveyance;
Ho! stop the thief! my handkerchief!
It is no sight for laughter—
Away it goes, and leaves my nose
To join in running after!

Thomas Hood

2. In both 'Composed on Westminster Bridge' and 'Conveyancing' the poets express their feelings about London. What are the similarities and/or differences in the way these feelings are expressed?

[8 marks]



Practice Paper 3 – Unseen Poetry AQA Syllabus

In Paper 2: Section C of the English Literature exam you will be asked to read and write about two poems you will not have studied previously. This practice paper allows you to practise the skills needed for this part of the exam.

Remember to allow yourself at least 45 minutes of the exam time to answer questions on the unseen poems.

Ozymandias

I met a traveller from an antique land
 Who said: `Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
 Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
 Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
 5 And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
 Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
 Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless
 things,
 The hand that mocked them and the heart that
 10 fed.
 And on the pedestal these words appear --
 "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
 Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
 Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
 Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
 The lone and level sands stretch far away.'

Percy Bysshe Shelley

1. In 'Ozymandias' how does the poet present ideas of power?

[24 marks]



I Remember, I Remember

| | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| | I remember, I remember The house where I was born, The little window where the sun Came peeping in at morn; | | I remember, I remember Where I was used to swing, And thought the air must rush as fresh To swallows on the wing; |
| 5 | He never came a wink too soon Nor brought too long a day; But now, I often wish the night Had borne my breath away. | 20 | My spirit flew in feathers then That is so heavy now, The summer pools could hardly cool The fever on my brow. |
| | I remember, I remember The roses red and white, The violets and the lily cups-- Those flowers made of light! | 30 | I remember, I remember The fir-trees dark and high; I used to think their slender tops Were close against the sky: It was a childish ignorance, But now 'tis little joy |
| 10 | The lilacs where the robin built, And where my brother set The laburnum on his birthday,-- The tree is living yet! | 35 | To know I'm farther off from Heaven Than when I was a boy. |
| 15 | | | |

Thomas Hood

2. In both 'The Piano' and 'I Remember, I Remember' the speakers describe memories of childhood.

What are the similarities and/or differences in the way the poets present these memories?

[8 marks]



Practice Paper 7 – Unseen Poetry AQA Syllabus

In Paper 2: Section C of the English Literature exam you will be asked to read and write about two poems you will not have studied previously. This practice paper allows you to practise the skills needed for this part of the exam.

Remember to allow yourself at least 45 minutes of the exam time to answer questions on the unseen poems.

The Piano (Notebook Version)

Somewhere beneath that piano's superb sleek black
 Must hide my mother's piano, little and brown with the back
 That stood close to the wall, and the front's faded silk, both torn
 And the keys with little hollows, that my mother's fingers had worn.

5 Softly, in the shadows, a woman is singing to me
 Quietly, through the years I have crept back to see
 A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the shaking strings
 Pressing the little poised feet of the mother who smiles as she sings

10 The full throated woman has chosen a winning, living song
 And surely the heart that is in me must belong
 To the old Sunday evenings, when darkness wandered outside
 And hymns gleamed on our warm lips, as we watched mother's fingers glide

Or this is my sister at home in the old front room
 Singing love's first surprised gladness, alone in the gloom.

15 She will start when she sees me, and blushing, spread out her hands
 To cover my mouth's raillery, till I'm bound in her shame's heart-spun bands

A woman is singing me a wild Hungarian air
 And her arms, and her bosom and the whole of her soul is bare
 And the great black piano is clamouring as my mother's never could clamour

20 And the tunes of the past are devoured of this music's ravaging glamour.

David Herbert Lawrence

1. In 'The Piano' how does the poet present memories?

[24 marks]



Egypt's Might is Tumbled Down

Egypt's might is tumbled down
 Down a-down the deeps of thought;
 Greece is fallen and Troy town,
 Glorious Rome hath lost her crown,
 5 Venice' pride is nought.

But the dreams their children dreamed
 Fleeting, unsubstantial, vain,
 Shadowy as the shadows seemed,
 Airy nothing, as they deemed,
 10 These remain.

Mary Elizabeth Coleridge

2. In both 'Ozymandias' and 'Egypt's Might is Tumbled Down' the speakers describe the effects of time.

What are the similarities and/or differences in the way the poets present these effects?

[8 marks]



Practice Paper 4 – Unseen Poetry AQA Syllabus

In Paper 2: Section C of the English Literature exam you will be asked to read and write about two poems you will not have studied previously. This practice paper allows you to practise the skills needed for this part of the exam.

Remember to allow yourself at least 45 minutes of the exam time to answer questions on the unseen poems.

Arms and the Boy

Let the boy try along this bayonet-blade
How cold steel is, and keen with hunger of blood;
Blue with all malice, like a madman's flash;
And thinly drawn with famishing for flesh.

- 5 Lend him to stroke these blind, blunt bullet-heads
Which long to muzzle in the hearts of lads.
Or give him cartridges of fine zinc teeth,
Sharp with the sharpness of grief and death.

- 10 For his teeth seem for laughing round an apple.
There lurk no claws behind his fingers supple;
And God will grow no talons at his heels,
Nor antlers through the thickness of his curls.

Wilfred Owen

1. In 'Arms and the Boy' how does the poet present the speaker's feelings about young men going to war?

[24 marks]



The Broken Heart

He is stark mad, who ever says,
That he hath been in love an hour,
Yet not that love so soon decays,
But that it can ten in less space devour;

- 5 Who will believe me, if I swear
That I have had the plague a year?
Who would not laugh at me, if I should
say,
I saw a flask of powder burn a day?

- 10 Ah, what a trifle is a heart,
If once into love's hands it come!
All other griefs allow a part
To other griefs, and ask themselves but
some;

- 15 They come to us, but us Love draws,
He swallows us, and never chaws:
By him, as by chain'd shot, whole ranks to
die,
He is the tyrant pike, our hearts the fry.

- 20 If 'twere not so, what did become
Of my heart, when I first saw thee?
I brought a heart into the room,
But from the room, I carried none with
me:
If it had gone to thee, I know
Mine would have taught thine heart to
show
More pity unto me: but Love, alas,
At one first blow did shiver it as glass

- 25 Yet nothing can to nothing fall,
Nor any place be empty quite,
Therefore I think my breast hath all
Those pieces still, though they be not
unite;
- 30 And now as broken glasses show
A hundred lesser faces, so
My rags of heart can like, wish, and
adore
But after one such love, can love no
more.

John Donne

2. In both 'First Love' and 'The Broken Heart' the speakers describe the feelings associated with being in love.

What are the similarities and/or differences in the way the poets present these feelings?

[8 marks]



Practice Paper 6 – Unseen Poetry AQA Syllabus

In Paper 2: Section C of the English Literature exam you will be asked to read and write about two poems you will not have studied previously. This practice paper allows you to practise the skills needed for this part of the exam.

Remember to allow yourself at least 45 minutes of the exam time to answer questions on the unseen poems.

First Love

I ne'er was struck before that hour
 With love so sudden and so sweet,
 Her face it bloomed like a sweet flower
 And stole my heart away complete.

5 My face turned pale as deadly pale.
 My legs refused to walk away,
 And when she looked, what could I ail?
 My life and all seemed turned to clay.

And then my blood rushed to my face
 10 And took my eyesight quite away,
 The trees and bushes round the place
 Seemed midnight at noonday.
 I could not see a single thing,
 Words from my eyes did start --

15 They spoke as chords do from the string,
 And blood burnt round my heart.

Are flowers the winter's choice?
 Is love's bed always snow?
 She seemed to hear my silent voice,
 20 Not love's appeals to know.
 I never saw so sweet a face
 As that I stood before.
 My heart has left its dwelling-place
 And can return no more.

John Clare

1. In 'First Love' how does the poet present the effects of falling in love?

[24 marks]



The Volunteer

Here lies a clerk who half his life had spent
 Toiling at ledgers in a city grey,
 Thinking that so his days would drift away
 With no lance broken in life's tournament:

5 Yet ever 'twixt the books and his bright eyes
 The gleaming eagles of the legions came,
 And horsemen, charging under phantom skies,
 Went thundering past beneath the oriflamme.

And now those waiting dreams are satisfied;
 10 From twilight to the halls of dawn he went;
 His lance is broken; but he lies content
 With that high hour, in which he lived and died.
 And falling thus he wants no recompense,
 Who found his battle in the last resort;

15 Nor needs he any hearse to bear him hence,
 Who goes to join the men of Agincourt.

Herbert Asquith

2. In both 'Arms and the Boy' and 'The Volunteer' the speakers discuss going to war.

What are the similarities and/or differences in the way the poets present the theme of men's attitudes to going to war?

[8 marks]



Practice Paper 5 – Unseen Poetry AQA Syllabus

In Paper 2: Section C of the English Literature exam you will be asked to read and write about two poems you will not have studied previously. This practice paper allows you to practise the skills needed for this part of the exam.

Remember to allow yourself at least 45 minutes of the exam time to answer questions on the unseen poems.

The Hyaenas

After the burial-parties leave
And the baffled kites have fled;
The wise hyaenas come out at eve
To take account of our dead.

5 How he died and why he died
Troubles them not a whit.
They snout the bushes and stones aside
And dig till they come to it.

10 They are only resolute they shall eat
That they and their mates may thrive,
And they know that the dead are safer meat
Than the weakest thing alive.

(For a goat may butt, and a worm may sting,
And a child will sometimes stand;

15 But a poor dead soldier of the King
Can never lift a hand.)

They whoop and halloo and scatter
the dirt

Until their tushes white

20 Take good hold in the army shirt,
And tug the corpse to light,

And the pitiful face is shewn again

For an instant ere they close;

But it is not discovered to living men --

Only to God and to those

40 Who, being soulless, are free from shame,
Whatever meat they may find.

Nor do they defile the dead man's name --

That is reserved for his kind.

Rudyard Kipling



The Soldier

If I should die, think only this of me:

That there's some corner of a foreign field

That is for ever England. There shall be

In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;

5 A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,

10 A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England
given;

Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;

And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,

In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Rupert Brooke

1. In both 'The Hyaenas' and 'The Soldier' the speakers describe feelings about war and death.

What are the similarities and/or differences in the way the poets present these feelings?

[8 marks]

1. In 'The Hyaenas' how does the poet present feelings about war and death?

[24 marks]