

Poem & Poet	Contextual information
<b>1. Ozymandias</b> <b>Percy Shelley</b> <b>1817</b>	Narrator meets a traveller who tells him about a statue in the middle of the desert. The statue is of an ancient & cruel ruler from a past civilization – <b>Pharaoh Ramesses II</b> . The poem is about the temporary nature of power. Ultimately, power will fade, art cannot immortalise power & nature will be long-lasting.
<b>2. London</b> <b>William Blake</b> <b>1794</b>	Narrator describes a walk around London & comments on the despair & misery that he sees. <b>Blake was influenced by the French Revolution &amp; wanted social &amp; political equality</b> . He wanted the people to rise up against the powerful ( church, monarchy) & in turn free themselves.
<b>3. Extract from The Prelude.</b> <b>William Wordsworth</b> <b>1850</b>	This is only an extract of the poem & is <b>autobiographical</b> . It is about an over confident narrator who finds a boat & takes it out on the lake. Although confident to begin with & enjoying the scenery, the narrator sees the mountain appear on the horizon & is overwhelmed with its size & power. It causes the narrator to retreat & change his view of nature, he now realises its power. <b>Wordsworth was a romantic poet (Romantics challenged people about they way they thought. They also saw the power of nature over mankind.)</b>
<b>4. My Last Duchess</b> <b>Robert Browning</b> <b>1842</b>	A Duke is showing a visitor a portrait of his Duchess ( former wife) who is now dead. Whilst observing the painting he tells the visitor that the Duchess was flirtatious & displeased him. As he speaks we realise that the Duke is insanely jealous & probably had the Duchess killed. We learn at the end of the poem that the visitor has come to arrange the Duke’s next marriage & is representing the woman he is set to marry. <b>Poem based loosely on the real Duke of Ferrara.</b>
<b>5. The Charge of the Light Brigade</b> <b>Alfred Tennyson</b> <b>1854</b>	<b>A tribute to the British cavalry ( soldiers on horseback) who died during the Crimean War. The men were given an incorrect order to charge into battle with swords, &amp; meet the Russian enemy, who were armed with guns. The cavalry were defenceless- yet still fought bravely.</b> Tennyson honours the soldiers and the way they selflessly faced the Russian army despite knowing their chances of survival were slim.
<b>6. Exposure</b> <b>Wilfred Owen</b> <b>1917-1978</b>	An authentic poem <b>based on Owen’s own experience on the front line. It was a horrendous winter &amp; the men are subject not to enemy attacks but to the brutality of nature.</b> Nature is <b>personified</b> as the main enemy & the men can only wait to die. It is an anti-war poem & stresses the insignificance of man compared to nature. <b>During the Somme, over 60,000 British soldiers died in one night.</b>
<b>7. Storm on the Island</b> <b>Seamus Heaney</b> <b>1966</b>	The narrator describes how a community are waiting to be hit by a storm. It is obvious that they have been hit before because of the landscape of the island (houses squat). The narrator starts off confident but as the storm hits the power of the storm creates feelings of fear & trepidation.. <b>Heaney grew up in a farming community in Ireland; much of his poetry uses agricultural/natural images. He could also be referring to the troubles in Ireland and the conflict with the IRA.</b>

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<b>8. Bayonet Charge</b> <b>Ted Hughes</b> <b>1957</b>	The poem focuses on a single soldier’s experience of a charge towards enemy lines. It describes his thoughts & actions as he tries to stay alive. It is clear that the soldier is not ready for the charge & could have been sleeping. The soldier fears for his life & the patriotic ideals that encouraged him to fight have gone. <b>Hughes was a former RAF serviceman &amp; often looks at man’s impact on nature.</b>
<b>9. Remains</b> <b>Simon Armitage</b> <b>2008</b>	<b>Based on the account of a British soldier who served in Iraq, first published in a series of interviews by Channel 4 called ‘The Not Dead’.</b> A group of soldiers shoot a man who’s running away from a bank raid. His death is described in graphic detail & the soldier who is telling the story can’t get the death of the man out of his head. He didn’t know if the man was armed or not & the reader gets the impression that it was not an isolated incident. Armitage explores the impact of conflict on soldiers.
<b>10. Poppies</b> <b>Jane Weir</b> <b>2009</b>	A mother describes her son leaving home, seemingly to join the army. The poem is about the mother’s emotional reaction losing her son to the war. She fears for his safety & after he leaves her she goes to a familiar place that reminds her of him. <b>Weir is a textile artist as well as poet &amp; textiles feature heavily here.</b>
<b>11. War Photographer</b> <b>Carol Ann Duffy</b> <b>1985</b>	A war photographer is in his darkroom, developing pictures that he has taken in different warzones. As the pictures develop he recalls the death of one man & remembers the cries of his wife. The photographer contrasts his experiences to rural England & focuses on people who do not seem to care about war torn places. <b>Duffy was inspired to write this poem by her friendship with a photojournalist.</b>
<b>12. Tissue</b> <b>Imtiaz Dharker</b> <b>2006</b>	The poem uses tissue/paper as an extended metaphor for life. She describes how life, like tissue is fragile. However, she also discusses some of the literal uses of paper that are intertwined with our lives, such as recording names in the Koran- She then goes onto to discuss how we are made from tissue ( living tissue which is our skin) emphasising that life is fragile. <b>Dharker has Pakistani origins &amp; was raised in Glasgow. Many of her poems looks at issues of identify.</b>
<b>13. The Emigrée</b> <b>Carol Rumens</b> <b>1993</b>	The speaker speaks about a city that she left as a child. The speaker has a purely positive view of the city. The city she recalls has since changed, perhaps it was a scene of conflict, however, she still protects the memory of her city. The city may not be a real place but represent a time, emotion - perhaps the speaker’s childhood. <b>According to Ben Wilkinson (critic), Rumens has a ‘fascination with elsewhere.’</b>
<b>14. Kamikaze</b> <b>Beatrice Garland</b> <b>2013</b>	<b>Kamikaze is the unofficial name given to Japanese pilots who were sent on a suicide mission. The mission was considered one of honour</b> but this poem is about a pilot who aborted the mission. Hi daughter imagines that her father was reminded of his childhood & the beauty of nature & life whilst on the mission. When he returned home he was shunned by his family.
<b>15. Checking Out Me History</b> <b>John Agard</b> <b>2007</b>	The narrator discusses his identity & emphasises how identity is closely linked to history & understanding your own history. <b>In school he was taught British history &amp; not about his Caribbean roots to which he feels resentful.</b> He mocks some of the pointless things he was taught & contrasts the nonsense topics with admirable black figures.

Key term	Definition	Key term	Definition	Key term	Definition
16. Alliteration	Repetition of words in a sentence beginning with the same letter.	29. Repetition	Using the same word, letter or phrase more than once.	40. Rhyme scheme	A pattern in a poem which is identified by the rhyming sounds.
17 Assonance	Repetition of the same sound in words	30. Internal rhyme	A rhyme involving a word in the middle of a line and another at the end of the line or in the middle of the next.	41. Rhyming couplet	Two lines, one after the other, that rhyme.
19. Blank verse	Rhythmical lines of poetry without rhyme	31. Irony	Word used in the opposite way they are usually intended.	42. Rhythm	A repeated pattern or sound in a poem.
20. Caesura	A pause, usually using a piece of punctuation, in the middle of a line of poetry.	32. Juxtaposition	Two contrasting ideas near each other.	43. Sibilance	Repeated 'S' sounds in a poem.
21. Colloquial language	Informal language, like slang.	33. Metaphor	Comparing something to something else which isn't literal.	44. Simile	Comparing two things using 'like' or 'as'.
22. Dramatic monologue	A poem which is said by a fictional speaker which reveals their character.	34. Onomatopoeia	Words which, when said aloud, sound like the noise they are describing ( <i>crash/bang</i> )	45. Stanza	A section of a poem, like paragraph.
23. Emotive	Language or ideas used to provoke emotions	35. Oxymoron	A figure of speech where opposite words are used ( <i>'exploding comfortably'</i> ).	46. Structure	The overall layout of a poem- what happens and in which part.
24. Enjambment	A line of poetry which runs onto the next line with no punctuation at the end.	36. Personification	Describing something by giving it human characteristics.	47. First Person	Writing using the narrative voice of an individual, using the words 'I', 'me', etc
25. Form	How a poem looks and the type of poem it is.	37. Sonnet	A 14 line poem, usually about love, with strict rules about its structure.	48. Third person	A poem that does not use 'I' but may use 'they' instead and refers to others.
26. Free verse	No regular rhyme or rhythm to the lines in a poem, like natural speech.	38. Phonetic spelling	Words which are written as they sound.	49. Tone	This can refer to the speed or pace of a poem as well as the atmosphere the words create.
27. Iambic pentameter	Where each line consists of 10 syllables each with 5 stressed and 5 unstressed syllables.	39. Plosive	Repetition of harsh 'p' or 'b' sounds.	50. Volta	A sudden change in tone or shift in ideas, usually in the middle of the poem.
28. Imagery	Words which create visual descriptions in a poem.			51. Cliché	An overused phrase or comparison.
				52. Hyperbole	Extreme exaggeration.
				53. Semantic field	A collection of words from the same theme e.g war
				54. Chorus	Repeated phrases or sentences to add rhythm.

<b>Themes – in the exam you will be expected to compare two poems which are linked thematically.</b>	<b>59. Effects of conflict</b> The Charge of the Light Brigade, Exposure, Bayonet Charge, Remains, Poppies, War Photographer, Kamikaze	<b>60. Place</b> London, Kamikaze, The Prelude, The Emigree, Storm on the Island	<b>61. Memory and loss</b> The Prelude, My Last Duchess, Poppies, Remains, War Photographer, The Emigree, Kamikaze, London, Exposure
<b>62. Power of nature</b> Ozymandias, The Prelude, Storm on the Island, Kamikaze, Tissue, Exposure	<b>63. Power of humans</b> Ozymandias, London, My Last Duchess, Tissue, Checking out me History	<b>64. Identity</b> My Last Duchess, The Charge of the Light Brigade, Poppies, Tissue, The Emigree, Kamikaze, Checking out me History	<b>65. Reality and brutality of conflict</b> The Charge of the Light Brigade, Exposure, Bayonet Charge, Remains, War Photographer