

CRITICAL ESSAY PRACTICE – POETRY – NATIONAL 5

Remember: the **first sentence tells you WHAT** the question is going to be about and gives you a guide as to which poem you might wish to use. The **second sentence is the important one that tells you HOW** to achieve the aim/answer the question and this is what you are assessed on.

Highlight/underline the **key words** and **use them throughout** to show you are **referring to the question** and thus **showing a line of thought**.

Select **ONE** question and prepare a plan/outline. An introduction and two or three paragraph headings with notes/evidence finished off with a conclusion that refers back to the question and has your personal opinion.

1. Choose a poem where setting in time and place plays an important part. Explain how the poet exploits the setting in order to explore an important theme.

2. Choose a poem which has a sad atmosphere. Explain how the poet creates this atmosphere and go on to explain how this deepened your understanding of the theme of the poem.

3. Choose a poem which made a lasting impression on you. Explain briefly what the poem is about, then, by referring to appropriate techniques, show how the poem has made this lasting impression.

4. Choose a poem which features an encounter or an incident. By referring to appropriate techniques, show how the poet's development of the encounter or incident leads you to a deeper understanding of the poem's central concerns.

5. Choose a poem that creates a character for whom the reader feels sympathy. Show how this how poetic techniques are used to make the reader feel sympathy towards the character.

6. Choose a poem which revealed something to you about human nature. Show how the poet used poetic techniques to deepen your understanding of the theme