

## National 5 - Scottish Texts Study Pack - (Norman MacCaig)



### What do you need to know?

<b>What I Need to Know</b>	<b>I Know This (Tick when confident)</b>
I know all key quotes and corresponding analysis for each of the six poems we have studied.	
I can respond to given questions and obtain full marks (out with timed conditions)	
I know how to structure my response to the 8 mark question.	
I am aware of how much I can write within the time constraints, and can manage my time effectively.	
I know all of the key themes and ideas relating to each poem.	
I can identify how these poems compare with one another.	
I can analyse sentence structure.	
I can analyse imagery.	
I can analyse word choice.	
I can answer an effectiveness question.	
I can answer a tone question.	
I can refer back to the question in my answers.	

### **Task One**

Identify the tones within each of the below poems. You should come up with as many as possible.

<b>Visiting Hour</b>	<b>Aunt Julia</b>	<b>Hotel Room, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor</b>
<b>Basking Shark</b>	<b>Assisi</b>	<b>Brooklyn Cop</b>

### **Task Two**

Note down the key themes and ideas for each of the poems we have studied.

<b>Visiting Hour</b>	<b>Aunt Julia</b>	<b>Hotel Room, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor</b>
<b>Basking Shark</b>	<b>Assisi</b>	<b>Brooklyn Cop</b>

## **Task Three**

Review the steps you should follow to answer each question type. Use this to help you structure your answers. I have broken your answer down into steps – structure your answers in bullet point form if that is easier for you. Put the below steps into a paragraph.

### **How do you answer an imagery question?**

1. State the technique being used (imagery = metaphor, personification, simile)
2. Quote.
3. What is being compared in the image?
4. What does the image suggest (about the things being described)
5. Refer back to the question.

### **How do you analyse word choice?**

1. State the technique being used (word choice)
2. Quote word.
3. What does the word mean and what are the connotations?
4. What does the word suggest (about the thing being described/the text as a whole).
5. Refer back to the question.

### **How do you analyse a sentence structure question?**

1. State the technique being used (short sentence, enjambment, list, rhetorical question, alliteration, inversion, punctuation, hyperbole, repetition etc)
2. Quote.
3. Why is the example of sentence structure used/what does it do?  
Example: repetition is used to emphasise a point/ enjambment is used to show continued thought – sometimes breaks the expected rhythm of a poem)
4. What does the example suggest (about the things being described)
5. Refer back to the question.

### **How do you answer a tone question?**

1. Identify the tone
2. Quote
3. Identify the technique being used – then follow the appropriate steps {see above} to analyse it.

### **How do you answer a 'how effective' question?**

1. State that it is effective.
2. Quote.
3. Identify the technique being used – then follow the appropriate steps {see above} to analyse it.

## How do you answer an 8 mark question? (what are your three sections)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### **Task Four**

Review your understanding of sentence structure. Note down the purpose of each example of sentence structure below:

<b><u>Technique</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose – why is it used?</u></b>
List	
Repetition	
Enjambment	
Alliteration	
Inversion (when two words are switched, making the sentence confusing)	
Rhetorical Question	
Long Sentences	
Short Sentences	
Contrast	

Ellipsis (...)	
Parenthesis (when information is separated from the rest of the sentence by dashes, commas or brackets)	
Exclamation Mark	
Question Mark	
Comma	

### **Task Five**

Plan out your 8 mark response to each of the following 8 mark questions. Use the planning structure to guide you.

#### Questions

**By referring to *Visiting Hour*, and at least one other poem by MacCaig, discuss how MacCaig uses comparison to explore the theme of fragility. Note: comparison → similes/metaphors/personification as two things are being compared.**

#### **COMMONALITY**

- \* Don't quote!
- \* How is the theme/idea/technique explored or used in each poem.

Commonality Statement 1 (on exam poem):

Commonality Statement 2 (on other poem):

**EXTRACT (EXAM BOOKLET POEM)**

Quote

Comment – technique + what does it suggest + word choice analysis + reference to question

Quote

Comment – technique + what does it suggest + word choice analysis + reference to question

**OTHER (OTHER POEM)**

Quote

Comment – technique + what does it suggest + word choice analysis + reference to question

Quote

Comment – technique + what does it suggest + word choice analysis + reference to question

Quote

Comment – technique + what does it suggest + word choice analysis + reference to question

Quote

Comment – technique + what does it suggest + word choice analysis + reference to question

Other examples

**By referring to *Aunt Julia*, and at least one other poem by MacCaig, show how the theme of spirituality is explored.**

**By referring to *Hotel Room, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor*, and at least one other poem by MacCaig, show how the theme of fear is explored.**

## TEXTUAL ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

This section will provide you with questions you should attempt over the Easter break to prepare you for your prelim. I would recommend that you do create your own timed paper from these questions – comprised of two 4 mark questions, one 2 mark question, and one 8 mark question (from the above section) – and complete it under timed conditions (45 minutes).

### Poem One

1. Look at stanza one.  
Through reference to at least two poetic techniques, discuss whether the stanza is effective as an introduction to the poem. (4 marks)
2. By referring to at least two examples of language, show how MacCaig uses contrast to convey the speaker's upset and/or worry. (4 marks)
3. Through reference to poetic techniques, show how the theme of isolation is developed. (2 marks)
4. Consider the tone of this poem – how does the poem change throughout the poem, and how does it demonstrate the key ideas of the text? (4 marks)

### Poem Two

1. Through reference to at least two poetic techniques, show how MacCaig uses nature to develop the main ideas of the poem. (4 marks)
2. By referring to at least two examples of language, show how MacCaig explores human relationships. (4 marks)
3. What is the tone of this poem, and how does it demonstrate the key ideas of the text? (2 marks)
4. By referring to at least two examples of language, show how MacCaig presents the speaker as a young boy. (4 marks)

### Poem Three

1. Look at lines 6-9.  
By referring to at least two poetic techniques, discuss how the presence of evil is established within the poem. (4 marks)
2. Through reference to at least two examples of language, show how MacCaig examines the dark side of human nature. (4 marks)
3. Look at the final stanza.  
How effective is this stanza as a conclusion to the poem's main ideas? (2 marks)
4. By referring to at least two examples of language, explain how MacCaig makes his reader think deeply about a negative aspect of the human experience.

Previous exam questions CR/CE			
CR – 8 mark question topic		CE – essay topics	
2015	Imagery	Setting	Something that makes you think deeply about an aspect of life
2016	Strong feelings are an element of poetry	Person /event described in a memorable way	Powerful emotion
2017	Separation from people/things is important	Strong message	Powerful mood
2018	Language to explore important experiences	Aspect of human experience	Setting
2019	Explores human experience	Memorable poem	Positive, sad or dramatic atmosphere