

Exmouth Community College

KS4 Knowledge Organiser for

English Literature: Eduqas Poetry Anthology

Name

Tutor group

English Teacher

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How to use your knowledge organiser

This booklet has all the most important knowledge that you need for each of the poems in your **poetry anthology**; you need to know these well in order to apply your knowledge to an exam question. A really good way of revising and learning the poems is to self-quiz on them as part of your revision schedule.

What is self-quizzing? When you have studied the poetry aspect of the course, you need to keep the information fresh in your brain. Schedule time into your homework and revision timetable to revisit the poems and then practise the suggested exercises to see how much you can recall, what knowledge you have retained and which elements you still need to revise.

Ideas to use

- 1. Look, cover, write, check and correct**
Read **part of** the organiser carefully, cover it up, write down all that you remember then check what you have missed and add this in.
- 2. Key terms and definitions**
Write out the **key terms** given for each poem, close your KO and look at the poem. Write out an example from the poem of each term.

Ideas to use

- 3. Dual coding**
Draw everything you remember from the poem in picture form or come up with images that capture ideas and themes.
- 4. Concept map**
Turn the information on the poem into a mind map for each of the sections. Add images and quotes.
- 5. Write a quiz and answer**
Construct quiz questions from the material in the knowledge organiser and answer these yourself.
- 6. Summarise the poem**
In your own words write a 200 word summary of each poem; where you can embed short quotations.
- 7. Storyboarding**
Show you remember the poem's story by making a storyboard of the events.
- 8. Construct a paragraph**
Write a paragraph that explains a key theme or element of context from the text and underline the key words you have used.

2. The poems

1. The Manhunt by Simon Armitage: The one about the scarred soldier.



- "frozen river"
- "foetus of metal"
- "unexploded mine"

Content: The wife of a soldier gets to know her husband again after he returns home injured from the war. Her husband is physically scarred by the injuries he sustained in the war, but he also has deeply buried psychological scars as result of his traumatic experiences. The poem traces his physical scars and explores deeper into the "unexploded mine" of PTSD. Physically, they can remain close, but there is a gap between them now emotionally as he struggles to let her in.

Context: *The Manhunt* is a **contemporary poem** and was originally aired as part of a Channel 4 documentary, *Forgotten Heroes: The Not Dead*. In the film, the poem is read by Laura, the wife of Eddie Beddoes, who is the subject of the poem. He served as a peace-keeper in Bosnia before being discharged due to injury and depression. Armitage wrote the poem after interviewing veterans returning from war and as a means of exploring the psychological impact on those who survived intense trauma.

Form: The poem is written in **couplet – long stanzas**, which have lines of varying length, from **Laura's perspective**. At the start, the couplets rhyme, but the **rhyme** breaks down making the poem feel disjointed and conveys the theme of brokenness. It may reflect their struggle to reconnect and how she will have to learn who her husband now is.

Structure: Each **couplet** introduces a different injury and the reader explores the body and mind of the soldier alongside his wife, experiencing the process at the same time. The use of **enjambment** mimics the way she traces the injuries that run continuously across his body and explores the damage done. It demonstrates the slow progress she is carefully making.

Language Features:

- The soldier's body is described by using **adjectives of damage** to show how broken war has left him.
- Parts of the body and mind are described using **metaphors** suggesting his is compiled of broken objects and that part of his humanity has been erased.
- **The verbs** express her tenderness and caution in how she approaches him.
- The final **metaphor of the "unexploded mine"** refers to the tension and stress his memories cause which he has not come to terms with yet.

Key Themes:

- War and its lasting effects
- Love and relationships
- Pain and suffering
- Loss and change

Good to compare with:

- Dulce, Mаметz Wood
- A Wife in London
- London
- As Imperceptibly a Grief

2. Sonnet 43 by Elizabeth Barrett Browning The gushy one about all the different ways of loving someone.



- "depth and breadth and height/My soul can reach"
- "I love thee freely"
- "I shall but love thee better after death."

Content: In this poem, the persona expresses her intense love for her lover, counting all the different ways she loves him. She loves him so deeply that she sees their love as spiritual and sacred. She offers her love freely and without restraint, and at times with a deeply felt passion that she refers to as if was a replacement for her childhood belief and faith. She feels so strongly, that she hopes God will see the purity of their love and allow it to survive beyond death.

Context: The poem is **autobiographical**. Browning, wrote the poem as part of a series of **sonnets** for her lover Robert Browning, which she only showed him after their marriage. Elizabeth's father had forbidden their relationship, but they continued it in secret and eventually married. Browning thought they were so good that she should publish them; however, they were deeply intimate and this was a bit much for a prudish Victorian audience especially as they were written by a woman. Therefore, they were published as translations of a Portuguese poet and called *Sonnets from the Portuguese*.

Form: This poem is a **Petrarchan sonnet**. It is written in **iambic pentameter** and has a strong and specific **rhyme scheme** which conveys a sense of certainty about her love. It is written in **the first person** creating an intimate tone. Usually a sonnet has an **octave** (8 lines) which poses a problem and a **sestet** (6 lines) which answer the problem. This sonnet does not, implying the perfectibility of her love.

Structure: The poem is **direct** and **passionate** in its tone and outlines the different ways she loves him. The **first 8 lines** imply that her love is so great it is almost divine. The **last 6 lines** show that her love will last an entire lifetime and beyond death. The **enjambment** reflects the magnitude of her love and its expansive nature. Whereas, the **exclamations** and **caesura** imply her passion and ecstasy.

Language Features:

- The persona shows the strength of her love through **hyperbole** and **spatial references** to imply the scale of her feelings.
- Throughout the poem **religious imagery** is applied to demonstrate that her love is spiritual and unconditional like her love of God. It is beyond the physical.
- The **repetition** of "I love thee," known as an **anaphora**, conveys the intensely personal and direct nature of her feelings – there is utter conviction about how she feels.

Key Themes:

- Deep and lasting love that is unselfish
- Faith and worship
- Hope beyond death

Good to compare with:

- The Soldier
- Cozy Apologia
- A Wife in London
- Valentine / She Walks in Beauty

3. London by William Blake

The one that describes London and not in a good way.



- "Marks of weakness , marks of woe"
- "the mind-forg'd manacles"
- "Every black'ning Church appalls"

Content: The persona observes the state of London as he walks through the streets. He says that everywhere he goes that the people he sees are affected by misery and despair. The misery seems relentless and no one can escape it – not even the young and innocent. It is as if their minds are imprisoned by desolation and unhappiness. He comments that those in power (like the Church, the monarchy, and the most wealthy) seem to be responsible and don't care about the poverty and destitution that riddles the city like a contagious disease, ruining lives and hope for all.

Context: William Blake came from a humble background, but was able to attend art school and became an engraver. He is viewed as an early **Romantic** poet and had **radical** political views, influenced by the **French Revolution** where the monarchy was overthrown by the people of France. His most famous work is *Songs of Innocence and Experience*. *London* comes from *Songs of Experience*, which focus on the negative aspects of life. In this poem, he illustrates the effects of modernity on people and nature, through the discussion of dangerous industrial conditions, child labour, prostitution and poverty.

Form: The poem is a **dramatic monologue** written in the **first person**. The persona speaks passionately about the horror of modern London. The **ABAB rhyme scheme** and strict **iambic tetrameter**, constrained to **four stanzas** of four lines (or **quatrains**) is relentless. It reflects the unforgiving nature of life and routine in the capital which has become inescapable, and emphasises the unbroken misery he sees.

Structure: The first 2 **stanzas** focus on the people he sees and hears, before he shifts in **stanza 3** to criticise the institutions he blames. **The final stanza** refocuses on the people, in particular the corruption of the innocent and young. Blake uses **enjambment** in stanza 1 to show how everyone is linked by misery, and **repetition** in both stanza 1 and 2 to emphasise that no one is unaffected.

Language Features:

- **Emotive language** is used powerfully throughout the poem to create a **negative semantic field** of horror and misery.
- **Repetition** emphasises that no one is able to escape the pain and suffering.
- **Alliteration** is used effectively to emphasise the horror and mental suffering that leaves the mind manacled.
- **Contrast and oxymorons** serve to stress how the innocent are blighted by corruption.

Key Themes:

- Sense of place**
- Pain and suffering**
- Criticism of power and authority**

Good to compare with:

- Living Space
- The Manhunt
- Dulce
- Ozymandias

4. The Soldier by Rupert Brooke

The one about dying unselfishly for your country.



- "there's some corner of a foreign field/ That is for ever England"
- "A pulse in the eternal mind"
- "hearts at peace, under an English heaven."

Content: In this poem, the persona, a soldier heading to war, talks about the possibility of dying in a foreign country. He claims that this should not be an occasion for sadness, but that by dying he will have made "a corner of a foreign field" a small part of England. He **personifies** England as his mother, who gave birth to him and raised him to become the person he is. He feels that he owes his life to her and therefore unselfishly sacrifices his life. He believes dying will be comforting and that he is only giving back the things that England gave to him and his memory and sacrifice will live on after death.

Context: The poem is **idealistic**. Rupert Brooke was a young, untested soldier, who had attended public school and was Cambridge educated. Athletic and called "the handsomest young man in England," he was part of the Bloomsbury group of authors and becoming known for his poetry. He wrote this poem at the start of the **First World War** as part of a series of **sonnets** and Winston Churchill admired its **selfless patriotism**. Brooke wrote idealistically about the war. He had not seen action and was never to. After embarking for war, he contracted blood-poisoning from a mosquito bite and died on French hospital ship. The poem has become a **symbol for a lost generation of youth**.

Form: This poem is a **sonnet**, traditionally used for love poetry. Rather than a person, this sonnet expresses Brooke's love and devotion to his country. Written in the **first person**, it follows an unwavering **iambic pentameter** and clear **rhyme scheme**, that demonstrates the persona's commitment to England. It is characterised as **Georgian** poetry with **motifs** of nature, youth and innocence.

Structure: The first **8 lines, or octave**, focus on how England enriched his life and he owes it to her. Whereas, the last **6 lines, or sestet**, reflect on how his death is meaningful, and reciprocal. It will bring him peace, and England security. Usually, there is conflict or debate between the two parts of a sonnet, but in *The Soldier* there is only harmony. The structure of the poem embodies the harmonious relationship between man and country.

Language Features:

- England is **personified** through the **extended metaphor** of a mother who has nurtured a son who is willing to die to protect her, embodying ideas of heroic sacrifice.
- **Natural imagery** is used extensively to express his love of the English countryside and creates a **Romantic**, idealised idea of war without pain or suffering.
- **Religious imagery** reveals his sense of faith and belief that his sacrifice will be immortalised by God.

Key Themes:

- Deep and lasting love (for his country) that is unselfish / Nature and Place**
- Faith, belief and worship**
- Attitudes to war and patriotism**

Good to compare with:

- Sonnet 43
- A Wife in London
- Living Space
- Dulce, Mametz Wood, The Manhunt

5. She Walks in Beauty by Lord Byron
The one about the really beautiful woman.



- “She walks in beauty, like the night”
- “all that’s best of dark and bright”
- “A mind at peace... A heart whose love is innocent.”

Content: The persona describes a woman he’s seen, taking her individual body parts in turn. He thinks she’s incredibly beautiful and uses images of dark and light to emphasise how perfect she is. He suggests that her appearance reflects her inner life and personality which shines through. To begin with, he describes her like a ‘cloudless’ and ‘starry’ night creating a sense of mystery and exoticism. To him, her dark hair is perfect and any different it would be ‘impaired.’ He imagines her thoughts to be pure and describes her expression as ‘soft’ and ‘eloquent.’ It’s all his subjective impression though.

Context: Lord Byron was an **English Romantic** poet described as, “mad, bad and dangerous to know.” However, this poem is more restrained and **lyrical** in nature. It comes from a series of poems called *Hebrew Melodies* (religious pieces set to music) which reflects the almost sacred adoration within the poem. The poem was said to be inspired by Mrs Anne Wilmot, wife of Byron’s first cousin. He was struck by her beauty when he saw her at party, and the next morning the poem was written. Like many Romantic poets, he appreciated beauty and to him she epitomises **aesthetic beauty**. The poem is an emotive **tribute** to her perfection.

Form: The poem is **lyrical** in tone and nature, focusing on abstract ideas of beauty and innocence. It is written in **iambic tetrameter** and has a unwavering **ABABAB rhyme** scheme, perhaps expressing the conviction of the speaker’s thoughts. It is written in the **third person**, talking only about the woman, and implicitly conveying the persona’s adoration, but possibly objectifying her as no more than a vessel of beauty.

Structure: The poem is split in **three stanzas** of equal length and is remarkably short for Byron, capturing the intensity of the moment. The poem **begins** by focusing on the woman’s physical/external beauty, describing different aspects in turn; however, it **concludes** by considering it is her inner goodness which is outwardly manifested. Each **stanza is one sentence**, giving a sense of fluidity and reflecting her effortless grace, poise and elegance.

Language Features:

- **Contrast** is used throughout the poem to show how the woman is a perfect balance of opposites. This is achieved through **antithesis** and repeated structures like “one ray” and “one shade.”
- **Imagery of light and dark** is used to emphasise her innocence and radiant purity, which shines through.
- **Sensual language** of the body is balanced **against the moral language** of goodness.

Key Themes:

- Love and adoration of a person**
- Faith and worship**
- Beauty and goodness (of a thing rather than nature.)**

Good to compare with:

- Sonnet 43
- Valentine
- Cozy Apologia

6. Living Space by Imtiaz Dharker
The one about cramped and vulnerable living conditions in Mumbai.



- “There are just not enough straight lines.”
- “Nails clutch at open seams.”
- “fragile curves of white”
- “the bright, thin walls of faith.”

Content: The poem opens by describing an building or some sort of construction that is badly built, crooked and barely held together. It is then revealed that this is someone’s home – although we are never told whose home it is. The persona notices that in this precarious building is a basket of fragile, white eggs, bright with light and representing hope and faith despite the exposure and vulnerability of their lives.

Context: Imtiaz Dharker was **born in Pakistan**, raised in Glasgow and now lives in Britain and India. Her poetry often explores life in India and the difficult conditions in which the poorest live. This poem describes a typical dwelling place in the over-crowded slums of Mumbai (although she doesn’t state this explicitly – so it could be any ramshackle dwelling). On the one hand, the poem highlights the precariousness of such homes. More significantly, however, it praises them as an expression of the miraculousness of life, seeing this living space as evidence of human resourcefulness and determination.

Form: The poem has an **irregular form** using stanzas and lines of different lengths, mirroring the random construction and chaos of the building and the precarious nature of life. There is **no rhyme or rhythm** either – perhaps reflecting the disorder of the ‘living space’ described. It looks disjointed on the page, with lines sticking out and others short and broken, just like the building it describes.

Structure: The poem is split into two parts. The **first stanza** describes a building under stress and the **caesuras** emphasise how loosely connected the different parts are. Even the nails “clutch” desperately. The word “miraculous” **shifts the tone** and, once we know that this is someone’s home, the tone becomes one of wonder. The last two stanzas are **one enjambed sentence**, that shows how such fragile structures sustain life and give hope.

Language Features:

- **Language of disorder**, such as the **verb** “clutch” or “thrust off” emphasise the instability of the building, and **personify** its desperation to stay upright.
- The **key symbolism** is the egg – this symbolises faith and new life. Placing them in this vulnerable position is a leap of faith that reveals courage and a belief in a better future.
- **Contrast between light and dark** that conveys the edge of danger in which they live as opposed to their innocence in this situation.

Key Themes:

- Sense of place**
- Faith, belief and worship**
- Innocence and goodness versus danger and darkness**

Good to compare with:

- London
- The Soldier, Sonnet 43
- Some aspects of The Prelude (place)

7. As Imperceptibly as Grief by Emily Dickinson
The one where she's quietly sad about the end of summer or love – who knows. Your guess is as good as mine!

- "As imperceptibly as Grief/ The summer lapsed away"
- "harrowing Grace"
- "The Dusk drew earlier in -/ The morning foreign shone- "
- "Our Summer made her light escape / Into the Beautiful."



8. Cozy Apologia by Rita Dove
The one where she apologises for her ordinary love as a hurricane approaches.

- "I could pick anything and think of you"
- "with furrowed brow/ and chain mail glinting"
- "thin as liquorice and as chewy"
- "When has the ordinary ever been news?"



Content: On the surface, the poem describes how summer comes to an end so gradually you don't notice that it has ended. A bit like how you stop grieving for someone and move on from your loss. Summer and grief end subtly and that can leave you feeling another loss. The poem may be also about the loss of love or "Our Summer" and how love draws to a close and you have to move on into another season of your life that can be both difficult yet beautiful. It is full of **contradictory emotions**.

Context: Emily Dickinson was barely known as a poet in her lifetime and led a very reclusive life. After her death, her sister discovered a box containing volumes of her poetry and now nearly 2000 poems exist. Her writing is often very **unconventional** and the ideas can be very open-ended. One interpretation of the poem is that the loss expressed within it reflects her **unrequited love** for Charles Wadsworth, an older, married preacher. They spent some, short-lived precious time together, but he moved far away and she became a recluse. The loss at the heart of the poem may reflect her sense of betrayal and heartbreak.

Form: The poem is **one stanza of one sentence**. It has **no discernible rhyme or rhythm**. The lines are often short and frequently connected by **hyphens**, creating pauses and giving the poem a **tone** of melancholy reflection. The disjointed nature of the poem perhaps reflects her own disjointed thoughts and feelings that she is coming to terms with. As a result, the ideas feel confused and mixed, just like her emotions.

Structure: The poem is a **series of metaphors** that reveal the persona's feelings about the way summer fades away gradually. She compares it to the end of grief, twilight, a stolen afternoon, dusk, a bird without a wing and a boat without a keel – at the end it is a woman escaping. This is a **mixed metaphor** and perhaps shows how difficult it is to express the feelings of loss she experiences and that no one idea is adequate.

Language Features:

- **The language of time** is a recurring theme in the poem. The different stages of time might reflect the natural process of grief that eases as time passes.
- **Contradictory images (juxtaposition and oxymorons)** abound in the text, such as "harrowing Grace." The contrasts show the pain of loss versus hope for the future expressed in the final line.
- **Imagery of light and dark** conveys the sadness and despair against optimism and joy.

Key Themes:

- Death and loss / pain and suffering**
- Passage of time**
- Nature and change**

Good to compare with:

- The Soldier, A Wife in London
- Afternoons
- To Autumn

Content: The persona describes how, as a hurricane approaches, she takes refuge in her study and thinks about her partner. She is reminded of him in the everyday objects around her, but also views him more traditionally as her knight in shining armour. She reflects on how modern life is rushed and emotionless, but she has an opportunity to reflect. She thinks about her past, 'worthless' relationships and compares them to the ordinary contentment she feels with her partner. She feels a little guilty about it.

Context: Set against the arrival of Hurricane Floyd, a powerful storm which hit the east coast of the USA in 1999, this factual, real-life context supports the idea this is an **autobiographical poem** and that Dove is talking about her feelings for her husband. It seems to be an affectionate **tribute** to him. The poem notes details of a couple's domestic life as writers, 'Twin desks, computers, hardwood floors,' which she is somewhat apologetic for. **An apologia** is a defence or explanation of something. Her poem seems to be an apology for the domestic comfort and ordinary contentment she feels, as others face danger in the path of the hurricane, but she relishes this moment to be with her husband.

Form: The poem is written in **free verse** creating a **conversational tone**. The number of **syllables** in each line varies reflecting the persona's exploratory train of thought. The **first stanza** uses **regular rhyming couplets** which conforms to the traditional presentation of their love and intimacy. In the **second stanza**, the **rhyme scheme** is disrupted as she thinks of past relationships she regrets, with a return to an **ABAB rhyme** scheme as domestic harmony is restored.

Structure: The poem begins with a personal, **first person** description of the speaker's feelings and her partner and is dedicated to him with " – for Fred." This stanza is **contrasted** with the following one, in which she reflects on previous, disappointing relationships. The final stanza returns to **the present** where she explores their ordinary, domestic lives that will never make the headlines, but are precious "stolen" moments of intimacy.

Language Features:

- **Idealised imagery** is used to present her traditional feelings for her husband through the **metaphor** of the knight. There is a sense of **humorous exaggeration** about her words.
- **Everyday images** and ordinary language is used throughout to show that despite their love being "short of the Divine," it's still precious and comforting to her in the presence of danger.
- **Negative imagery** is used specifically in the second stanza to highlight the worthlessness of her earlier relationships in contrast to the meaningfulness of her present one.

Key Themes:

- Love and relationships**
- Adoration of a person**
- Sense of place and belonging with someone**

Good to compare with:

- Valentine, She Walks in Beauty, Sonnet 43
- Afternoons
- The Manhunt