

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 8

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for this course assessment component.

The candidate was awarded **12 marks**.

Q7. Analyse the effectiveness of the treatment of love in any of its forms (romantic, erotic, maternal, paternal . . .) in three poems.

Poems chosen: *Demeter*, *Little Red Riding Cap* and *Lady Lazarus*

The introduction clearly identifies the three poems and states that there are three different types of love presented. Each poem is dealt with in order, separately, before the conclusion reminds us of the purpose of the essay.

Knowledge and Understanding

Background understanding of *Demeter* is used to clarify meaning. The main theme of love between mother and daughter is understood.

Little Red Riding Cap – There is a straightforward chronological commentary, showing some understanding of the dynamism of sexual love supported by some relevant analysis of technique: “symbolising her cutting apart both aspects of the love they shared” et al

Lady Lazarus – Again serial treatment of poem by way of summary with interpolated analysis.

Analysis

Demeter – There is reference to “free sonnet style” with no further elucidation, more useful reference to assonance and “tough words” and personification. All rather matter of fact, but accurate.

Little Red Riding Cap – mainly explaining rather than analysing.

Lady Lazarus – again, structure is mainly quote and explanation. There is reference to enjambment and personification.

Evaluation

Demeter - References to strength of mother/daughter relationship is perfunctory. In *Little Red Riding Cap* there are several useful signs of evaluation: harsh, sinister, thrilling, playful rhyming. The candidate doesn't fully appreciate the importance of the sexuality of the poem. This is clear in the vague final evaluation. Nor is the balance of attraction between sex and literature/art fully understood, although the reference to the axe is an attempt.

Lady Lazarus – the serial treatment means some of the power of the poem is lost, especially the underlying horror of the wife's impossible position. It would have been helpful if an acknowledgment had been made that this is Duffy's fleshed out take on the reality of resurrection: ie the 'big picture'.

Structure allows for a clear exposition of the content of each poem with points supported by a quote followed by an explanation, many of which might have been condensed or omitted. The intention is to be thorough with few attempts to do more than give a simple explanation of how techniques work.

Technical Accuracy

This demonstrates the minimum level of technical accuracy.

Clearly there is more than limited knowledge, so the range 12-10 is appropriate here. The argument is essentially that these three poems demonstrate three different types of love so there is little sense of any overall linking. In recognition of the clarity in knowledge and understanding and the presence of some useful analysis and evaluation, a mark of 12 is awarded.