

Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each question of this question paper.

Candidate 4

Section 2 – Question 10

Choose a poem which explores love or suffering or hope.

By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet's exploration of love or suffering or hope enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

The candidate was awarded **10 marks** for this essay.

The candidate has chosen to write about the poem *Disabled* by Wilfred Owen and focuses on the suffering of the young soldier. The essay explores how, as a result of his injuries, he is suffering mentally as he feels excluded from mainstream society.

In terms of knowledge and understanding of the text, the essay is adequate. The candidate begins by describing how the young man's life has been 'reduced' as he can only now sit "in a wheeled chair". The candidate gives details of the extent of the young man's physical injuries and how these injuries have impacted on his mental health, as he can 'do nothing for himself'. The candidate comments on the significance of the metaphor "waiting for dark" in highlighting the mental suffering of the young man as he feels that he now has nothing to live for and cannot cope with being reliant on others for help with the most basic tasks. The candidate then goes on to show how the young man's mental anguish is further compounded when he hears the sound of 'young boys playing'. There follows a comment on the use of metaphor to highlight the wish for escape from suffering and how even those who 'are there to help him' seem repulsed by him, in contrast with the popularity he enjoyed prior to being injured. There is an adequate focus on the demands of the question throughout, although the essay ends somewhat abruptly.

In terms of analysis and evaluation, the candidate discusses use of metaphor and word choice, although some of the analysis is more limited, such as "Legless, sewn short at elbow" meaning he is missing both legs and a minimum off one arm.' There is also some limited analysis in the discussion of the phrase "saddening like a hymn" with the candidate saying, 'a hymn is a religious song usually sung at funerals' and how this 'links back to how the man wants his tormented life to be over'. The analysis of the metaphors "waiting for dark" and "gathering sleep" are more successful and the candidate can link these to the idea of suffering, so this does give evidence of an adequate evaluative stance with respect to the text and the task.

Overall, this essay is adequate. The response is relevant to the question, but the analysis lacks complexity and is at times limited. The candidate does not deal with the whole poem, focusing on the first two stanzas, therefore shading into limited textual evidence to support a line of thought. They do however show an understanding of the concerns of the text and deal with the mental and physical suffering of the soldier. As a result, this is placed in the bottom of the 12-10 category and is awarded **10 marks**.