

Commentary on candidate evidence

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

Candidate 3

Question 48

By referring to this extract and to at least one other poem by MacCaig, discuss how contrast is used to explore central concerns.

The candidate was awarded **6 out of 10 marks** for this question.

Commonality

The first point is an attempt to comment on the contrast in *Brooklyn Cop* between the cop at work and at home. The comment makes no reference to central concerns and was awarded 0 marks.

The second comment considered under commonality is listed by the candidate under 'Exam Poem': 'The writer uses a metaphor to describe the cop as being a gorilla ...concrete jungle he patrols each day.' This is an acceptable comment on how contrast is used to explore central concerns. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The third comment considered under commonality is listed by the candidate under 'Other Poem. Aunt Julia': 'Aunt Julia explores feelings of loss using contrast to show the difference between the good, happy memories and the sad memories.' This is an acceptable comment on how contrast is used to explore central concerns. It was awarded **1 mark**.

Extract

The point conveyed by 'These physical descriptions ...walking the beat' and 'Writer reveals the fragile, easily broken ...physical threats and danger' is a detailed/insightful comment on the contrast between "Built like a gorilla" and "Thin tissue over violence", the central concern being the thin boundary between peace and danger. It was awarded **2 marks**.

Elsewhere

The first point is an attempt to comment on the contrast between 'black' and 'white'. The comment is not sufficiently developed and was awarded 0 marks.

The point 'The writer uses repetition to indicate his unwillingness ...impressed by their ability to do so' is an acceptable comment on "I will not feel, I will not feel" and "So much pain", the contrast between the speaker avoiding his emotions and his admiration of the nurses' ability to cope with the emotional stress every day. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The point on Basking Shark is an attempt to comment on the use of contrast but the comment is limited and was awarded 0 marks.

The point conveyed by 'In the "darkness" the writer is happy ...feel safe and cared for at night in bed' and 'In the "black" ...he has lost her and mourns this idea' is an acceptable comment on the contrast between "Absolute darkness" and "absolute black". It was awarded **1 mark**.