

Guidance and Example

8 Mark Questions



Structure - CEO

The 8 Mark Question has a set structure which you must follow:

- Commonality – max. 2 marks
- Extract – max. 2 marks
- Other – max. 4 marks

You must also use bullet points and the same formulas for word choice, imagery, structure and tone questions you have used in the earlier questions and RUAE.

Commonality

This part of your answer acts like a mini-introduction.

You need to link your poems to the topic of the question.

In this case the question is about the “theme of change”, so we need to write a statement which connects the poem with this topic and gives an overview of what the poem is about.

You get one mark for doing this for the poem in the paper, and one mark for doing this for your chosen poem.

Commonality

- In “Before You Were Mine” Duffy explores the theme of change through her description of The change she describes is (1)
- In “.....” Duffy explores the theme of change through her description of The change she describes is (1)

Commonality

- In “Before You Were Mine” Duffy explores the theme of change through her description of her mother’s life before she was born. The change she describes is her mother becoming a parent and losing who she used to be. (1)

AND

- In “In Mrs Tilscher’s Class” Duffy explores the theme of change through her description of her childhood classroom and teacher. The change she describes is growing up. (1)

OR

- In “Originally” Duffy explores the theme of change through her description of moving house from Scotland to England as a child. The change she describes is growing up and changing identities. (1)



Extract

After you have done the commonality, you need to write about the extract (poem in the paper) first.

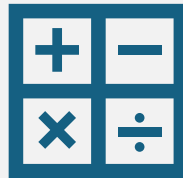
To do this you need to choose a quotation which you think best answers the question and what you have said in your commonality (in this case it should be about the theme of change and how parenthood changed the speaker's mother).

Can you find a quote which does this?

Extract



QUOTE AND TECHNIQUE (1)



ANALYSIS (USING CORRECT
FORMULA FOR TECHNIQUE)



LINK TO QUESTION (1)

Extract

- “your ghost clatters towards me” – metaphor (1)
- Comparing the image of her mother’s past to a ghost. Just as a ghost represents something that has died, so too has the part of her life before she was a mother.
- This shows how the speaker’s mother’s life has changed as the carefree young woman she was has gone. (1)

Other

In this final section of your answer, you will need to draw on your knowledge of your chosen poem. This is why you need to know **all six** poems.

Like for the extract, you need to choose a quote which answers the question/links to your commonality and analyse it. The only difference is you need to do this **twice**.

Can you find **two quotes** from your chosen poem which answer the question?

Other

- Quote and technique (1)
 - Analysis (using correct formula for technique)
 - link to question (1)
-
- Quote and technique (1)
 - Analysis (using correct formula for technique)
 - link to question (1)

Commonality

- In “Before You Were Mine” Duffy explores the theme of change through her description of her mother’s life before she was born. The change she describes is her mother becoming a parent and losing who she used to be. (1)
- In “Originally” Duffy explores the theme of change through her description of moving house from Scotland to England as a child. The change she describes is growing up and changing identities. (1)

Extract

- “your ghost clatters towards me” – metaphor (1)
- Comparing the image of her mother’s past to a ghost. Just as a ghost represents something that has died, so too has the part of her life before she was a mother.
- This shows how the speaker’s mother’s life has changed as the carefree young woman she was has gone. (1)

Other

- “All childhood is an emigration” metaphor (1)
- Comparing childhood to emigration. Just as emigration is a permanent move to a new, unfamiliar place, so too is childhood a process of growing up and changing into someone different.
- The shows the theme of change as Duffy comments on the process of growing up and becoming someone new. (1)
- “my tongue shedding its skin like a snake” simile (1)
- Comparing changing her accent to a snake shedding its skin. Just as a snake sheds its skin to grow and develop, so too has Duffy’s accent changed to sound like those around her.
- This shows the theme of change as Duffy is adapting to her new surroundings. (1)

Practice Questions

- (Originally) By referring to this poem and to at least one other poem by Duffy, discuss how the poet explores the theme of loss.
- (In Mrs Tilscher's Class) By referring to this poem and to at least one other poem by Duffy, show how the poet explores strong feelings.