

Independent Poetry Revision: When, What and How

This document is designed to help you independently revise the 'Power and Conflict' poems. The trick here is starting early and doing little and often. There are 15 poems: far too many to leave revision to the last minute. The following will help you to revise in a structured way.

1. Know where you are

Regularly – e.g. every week – complete the table below to get a sense of which poems you know and which you don't. Write the date at the top of the column and then shade each box either red, amber or green according to the following:

Red: I haven't studied this poem or I have studied it but remember virtually nothing.

Amber: I can remember what literally happens in the poem, but I'm not very clear about deeper meaning. I would struggle to explain *how* the poet conveys her/his ideas.

Green: I know what literally happens in the poem and can explain what the poem is about on a deeper level. I can explain *how* the poet crafts the poem to convey her/his ideas.

	RAG										
Date:											
Ozymandias											
London											
The Prelude (extract)											
My Last Duchess											
Charge of the Light Brigade											
Exposure											
Storm on the Island											
Bayonet Charge											
Remains											
Poppies											
War Photographer											
Tissue											
The Emigree											
Checking Out Me History											
Kamikaze											

The aim is to make sure that you really *know* each poem. This means:

- You know literally what happens in the poem (surface meaning)
- You know the themes/messages/feelings/ideas conveyed/explored in the poem (deeper meaning)
- You understand the context of the poem (e.g. which war, the poet's inspiration, the background to the poem)
- You can explain – **without seeing the poem** – how language, structure and form are used to convey meaning in the poem.
- You know **at least** the key image for the poem and can say how the writer uses techniques to craft the poem for effect.

2. Plan what you're going to revise and when you're going to do it

It's much easier to revise if you've made a plan for what you're going to do and when you're going to do it. The grid below gives you a structure you can use for doing this. Feel free to adapt this. Be warned that if you're not setting yourself specific targets and timescales, you're less likely to do the revision.

If you're wondering which poems to start with, look at the RAG grid you completed and start with the poems you're least confident with.

Week	Which poems will I focus on this week?	Plan: what <i>exactly</i> am I going to do to revise these (be specific)?	When exactly will I do this (day, time)? How long will it take?	How well have I done this week (RAG)?
1				
2				
3				
4				

3. Revise poems using a range of strategies

The grid on the next page can help you to work through a range of revision approaches for a poem: tick them off as you complete them. You don't have to complete all of these tasks to revise a poem. However, be aware that just reading through information is a good starting point, but not an effective method of revision on its own.

The following are good sources for revision:

Your notes	- The annotated copies of poems you have been given. - The knowledge organisers of poems you have been given. - Your own notes (e.g. exercise book, anthology).
A written summary of the poem	There are free online resources available, such as the following: search for 'Bicester school power and conflict' or type in the following web address: http://thebicester.school.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Poetry-Support-Booklet.pdf You can also buy a printed revision guide such as the following: English Poetry Anthology: Power and Conflict (Collins). Other publishers are good too – just make sure that it's a revision guide for AQA Power and Conflict and contains the poems that we've studied (there are old Power and Conflict anthologies that contain different poems). There are plenty of cheap second-hand copies of revision guides available online.
A video summary of the poem	Video revision guides: a search on YouTube for the title of a poem will serve you well. However, you may wish to search specifically for the title of the poem and 'Mr Bruff' – these aren't the most exciting videos you'll ever see but can be useful. The 'Comics and Lit' channel offers animated versions of each poem.

Poetry Revision Grid: tick when completed

[illegible]

Key Images

Imagery	Prompt	Poem
1. 'Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!'	Look on...	Ozymandias
2. 'mind-forged manacles'	Manacles	London
3. 'a huge peak, black and huge... upreared its head'	A huge peak...	The Prelude
4. 'Notice Neptune, though, / Taming a sea horse'	Neptune	My Last Duchess
5. 'Into the jaws of Death, / Into the mouth of Hell'	Jaws	Charge of the Light Brigade
6. 'the merciless iced east winds that knife us'	Merciless	Exposure
7. 'spits like a tame cat / Turned savage'	Cat	Storm on the Island
8. 'In what cold clockwork of the stars and the nations / Was he the hand pointing that second?'	Clockwork	Bayonet Charge
9. 'dug in behind enemy lines'	Dug in	Remains
10. 'The reader's eyeballs prick / with tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers'	Eyeballs	War Photographer
11. 'If buildings were paper, I might / feel their drift'	Paper	Tissue
12. 'I am branded by an impression of sunlight'	Sunlight	The Emigrée
13. 'I carving out me identity'	Carving	Checking Out Me History
14. 'a shaven head full of powerful incantations'	Shaven	Kamikaze
15. 'spasms of paper red'	Spasms	Poppies

See next sheet for advice on *how* to learn these key quotes.

Step 1

1. Cover up the poem names. For each image, write down which poem you think it is from.
2. Check your answers and make any corrections.
3. Repeat this process until you can say which poem all the images are from.

Step 2

1. Write out an image. Check that you've copied it correctly.
2. Write the image out again and again using look-cover-write-check.
3. Repeat this process with all the images.

Step 3

1. Now cover up all the images and just look at the prompt column.
2. Try to write out the image using just the prompt to help you.
3. Check what you've written against the original and correct any errors.
4. Repeat this until you get it right, then move on to the next quote.

Step 4

1. Leave it for a couple of days, then repeat the process of using the prompt above.

Step 5

2. Next, cover the images and the prompts.
3. For each poem, write down the key image from memory.
4. Check your answers, correct and repeat until you can get them all right.

Step 6

1. Leave it for a couple of days, then repeat step 5.

Theme Grid

	Ozymandias	London	The Prelude	My Last Duchess	COTLB	Exposure	Storm on the Island	Bayonet Charge	Remains	Poppies	War Photographer	Tissue	The Emigree	COMH	Kamikaze
Power of nature															
Power of humans															
Conflict															
Loss and absence															
Memory															
Emotion: anger															
Emotion: guilt															
Emotion: fear															
Emotion: pride															
Identity															
Individual experience															
War															
Isolation															

When completing the theme grid, you're looking for topics that the poems really explore in depth. For example, just because a poem might contain a reference to nature doesn't mean that the poem is *about* nature.

Poetry Practice Questions: Power and Conflict

Questions for this section of the exam are likely to contain the words 'power' and/or 'conflict' but this is by no means guaranteed (e.g. 'compare the presentation of nature'). In addition, you may find that the question includes a narrower interpretation of power, so make sure that you are prepared to discuss the following if needed:

- The power of nature
- Political/State power
- Personal power
- The link between power/culture and identity
- Conflict and the effect of this (e.g. warfare)
- Internal (mental) conflicts
- Conflicts within relationships
- Power in/of relationships

How do I plan a response?

2. Highlight the key words in the question.
3. Create a mindmap for the named poem (in relation to the question).
4. Make sure that your mindmap includes big ideas (i.e. what is the poem trying to teach us about the world, human nature etc?).
5. Decide on a second poem that fits well with the question and the named poem.
6. Add this poem to your mindmap making links between this poem and the first (you're looking for similarities and differences here). Again, make sure that you're thinking about big ideas.
7. Make a paragraph plan that builds an argument: what point are you going to make first, second etc.

1. Compare the ways poets present ideas about power in 'Ozymandias' and in one other poem from 'Power and conflict'.
2. Compare how poets presents attitudes towards power in 'My Last Duchess' and other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
3. Compare the ways the poets present political power in 'Checking Out Me History' and one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
4. Compare the ways the poets present the power of humans in 'Tissue' and one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
5. Compare how the poets present powerlessness in 'Storm on the Island' and one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
6. Compare how the poets present the effects of war in 'War Photographer' and one other poem.
7. Compare the ways the poets present identity in 'Checking Out Me History' and one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
8. Compare the ways poets present the power of the natural world in 'Storm on the Island' and in one other poem from 'Power and conflict'.
9. Compare the ways the poets present conflict in 'The Emigreé' and one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
10. Compare the ways poets present war in 'Remains' and one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
11. Compare the ways the poets present conflict in 'Poppies' and one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.

12. Compare the ways poets present the power of emotion in 'Poppies' and one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
13. Compare the ways poets present conflict in 'Kamikaze' and one other poem.
14. Compare the ways the poets present power in 'Bayonet Charge' and one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
15. Compare the ways the poets present nature in 'Exposure' and one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
16. Compare the ways the poets present the effects of conflict in 'War Photographer' and one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.
17. Compare the ways the poets present feelings of powerlessness in the extract from 'The Prelude' and one other poem from 'Power and Conflict'.