



Assessment objectives

A01	Understanding and response
A02	Communication and expression

Valentine by Carol Ann Duffy

Topic:

The speaker gives an onion as a Valentine's Day gift, exploring traditional romantic clichés and emphasising the importance of honesty in a relationship.

Key techniques:

Extended metaphor, metaphor, simile, personification, verbs, imperatives.

Key contextual influences:

Social and cultural relevance of Valentine's Day and romantic conventions; literary traditions of love poetry.

Modern Love by Douglas Dunn

Topic:

The speaker uses sonnet form to explore the quieter, domestic love between themselves and their partner, using ambiguous language to challenge the reader's understanding of what 'love' should look like.

Key techniques:

Sonnet form, nature imagery, ambiguity, personification, verbs, enjambment.

Key contextual influences:

Social and cultural expectations of what love should be; literary traditions of love poetry and sonnet form.

Poetic terms

Noun	Structure
Verb	Imagery
Adjective	Tone
Topic	Themes
Writer's methods	Effect on the reader
Symbols	Rhythm
Context	Rhyme
Form	Stanza
Modifiers	Subtext

Context

All written work is influenced by what goes on in the world around the writer. This is known as context.

Social and cultural	When the writer is influenced by the way people live and what they believe.
Historical	What historical events were happening around the world before and during that time.
Political	How the politics of the time affect the text's production.
Literary	When a writer uses a particular form or genre that has a literary tradition.
Biographical	The life experiences of the writer.

Unseen poetry

This is best shown by:

1. Reading the title.
2. Reading and re-reading the poem.
3. Making some initial notes about what you think the poem is about.
4. Annotating, highlighting and making notes.
5. Finding connections and comparisons with other poetry.
6. Planning your response.

Comparative terms

Language to compare	Language to contrast
Similarly	However
Like	On the other hand
In addition	In contrast
Also	Whereas
Both	Unlike
Links	A difference is...
Neither	On the contrary
The poets' use of	Only one poet...

Comparison is not just about spotting things that are the same or different in a poem. You need to think carefully about what types of similarities or differences exist, how they manifest and why these similarities and differences are relevant.