

# Quick Fire Quiz!

1. What is the structure of *She Walks In Beauty*? Why?
2. *She Walks In Beauty* has a rhyme scheme but what is it and why?
3. What time period does Lord Byron write in? Who else in the Anthology is in this time period?
4. What form does *Valentine* take? Why?
5. What is the extended metaphor in *Valentine*? Why?
6. Carol Ann Duffy is a Poet Laureate, who else in the Anthology has also had this role?



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**Year 11**

**Poetry Masterclass Three**

**April 2024**

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**English Education Advisor**

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  2. She Walks In Beauty has a rhyme scheme but what is it and why?
  3. What time period does Lord Byron write in? Who else in the Anthology is in this time period?
  4. What form does Valentine take? Why?
  5. What is the extended metaphor in Valentine? Why?
  6. Carol Ann Duffy is a Poet Laureate, who else in the Anthology has also had this role?
1. 3 stanzas, 6 lines each, highlighting external to internal beauty.
  2. ABABAB rhyme scheme to reflect the balance in the woman's beauty.
  3. Romantic. Blake, Wordsworth, Shelley and Keats.
  4. Free verse.
  5. The onion.
  6. Simon Armitage and Ted Hughes.

Saturday, 27 April 2024

## LO: Developing Anthology Poetry Skills

### Learning Outcomes

- **Learning Aim A students** will be able to **recall** the poetry in the Anthology.
- **Learning Aim B students** will be able to **identify** and make **inferences** to wider themes and ideas based on Anthology poetry.
- **Learning Aim C students** will be able to **develop** exam technique and approaches to Anthology poetry.

### Keywords

1. Inference
2. Themes
3. Personal Responses

### Why learn this?

Being able to identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas from texts is a key skill being able to take this one step further to explore what the information and ideas might mean or suggest is invaluable.

# Section B: Anthology Poetry

The poems you have studied are:

The Manhunt by Simon Armitage

Sonnet 43 by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

London by William Blake

The Soldier by Rupert Brooke

She Walks in Beauty by Lord Byron

Living Space by Imtiaz Dharker

As Imperceptibly as Grief by Emily Dickinson

Cozy Apologia by Rita Dove

Valentine by Carol Ann Duffy

A Wife in London by Thomas Hardy

Death of a Naturalist by Seamus Heaney

Hawk Roosting by Ted Hughes

To Autumn by John Keats

Afternoons by Philip Larkin

Dulce et Decorum Est by Wilfred Owen

Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Mametz Wood by Owen Sheers

Excerpt from The Prelude by William Wordsworth

You need to **answer both questions** in Section B

➤ Single Poem Question: about **20 minutes**.

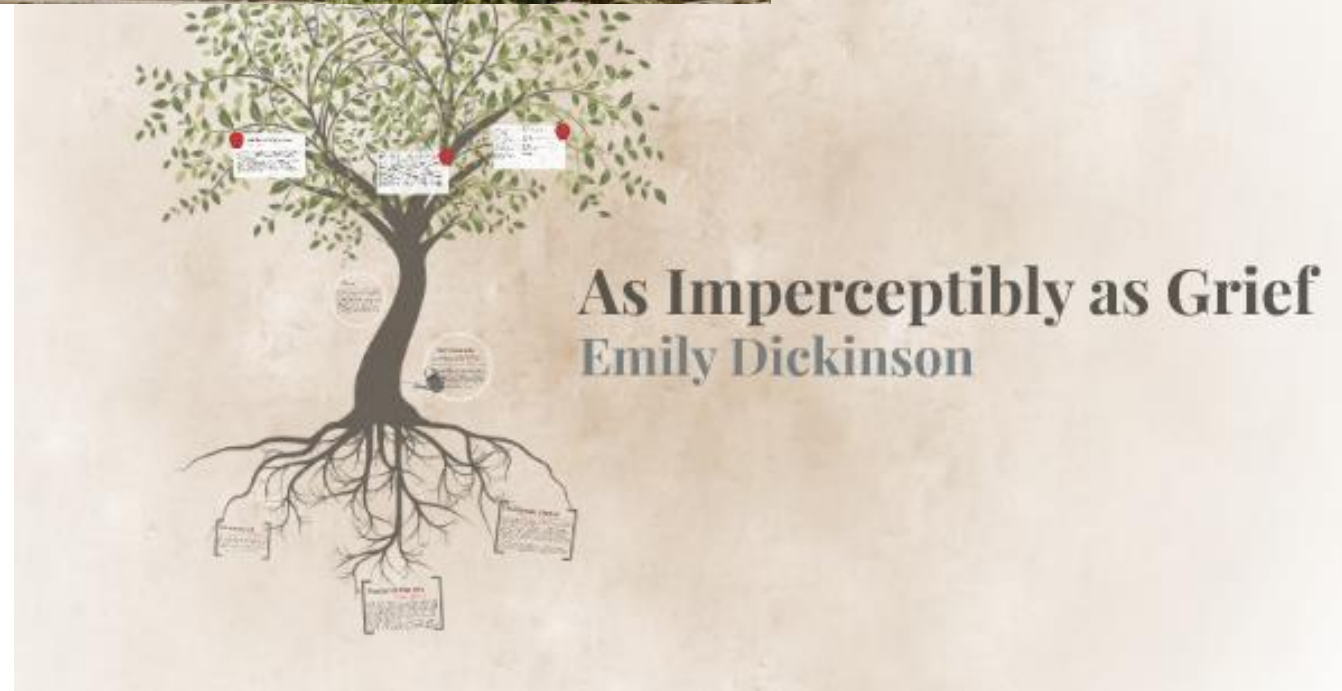
The poem is printed below the questions.

➤ Comparison Poetry Question: about **40 minutes**.

# Section B: Anthology Poetry

## Living Space

IMTIAZ DHARKER





# Living Space: Context



- Imtiaz Dharker (born 31 January 1954) is a Pakistan-born British poet, artist, and video film maker.
- Dharker divides her time between London, Wales, and Mumbai. She describes herself as a "Scottish Muslim Calvinist" adopted by India and married into Wales.
- Living Space is included in Dharker's 1997 collection of poems called 'Postcards from god'.
- Dharker herself has stated that this poem is set in the slums of Mumbai, a major city in India. These are places where people live in extreme poverty and need to improvise to survive.
- The poem highlights the issues facing the poor in the developing world, such as the struggle to survive and live in a safe, secure place.

# Living Space: Overview and Structure

## Living Space

There are just not enough  
straight lines. That  
is the problem.

Nothing is flat

5 or parallel. Beams

balance crookedly on supports

thrust off the vertical.

Nails clutch at open seams.

The whole structure leans dangerously

10 towards the miraculous.

Into this rough frame,

someone has squeezed

a living space

and even dared to place

15 these eggs in a wire basket,

fragile curves of white

hung out over the dark edge

of a slanted universe,

gathering the light

20 into themselves,

as if they were

the bright, thin walls of faith.

- The poem opens by describing **a building that is poorly built and falling apart**. Stanza two reveals that someone lives in the building, despite how dangerous it is. In Stanza three, the speaker notices there's a **basket of eggs** hanging outside, the eggs are described as **fragile**, but they also suggest **hope for the future**.
- The poem has **an irregular form**, using stanzas and lines of different length with no pattern, mirroring the sense of chaos and irregularity in the living space.
- The **lack of regular rhyme and rhythm**, alongside the **enjambment** across both lines and stanzas emphasise the disorder of the place. The final two stanzas are one long sentence, lines 11 to 22, highlighting a **growing sense of wonder and hope**.
- The poem is split into two parts. Stanza one, the unstable building and stanza two and three, the mood shifts and optimism is suggested for the future, despite the difficult circumstances.



# Living Space: Language

## Living Space

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- The poem uses the **language of disorder and chaos** to suggest instability. Verbs like ‘clutch’ and ‘thrust’ emphasise the **dangerous and violent** nature of the structure.
- The eggs in the poem could **symbolise faith**, the belief in a God, or the belief that the situation will change? A leap of faith to keep the eggs outside, despite them being so **fragile** or a representation that faith, like the eggs, can be broken? The eggs could symbolise **new life**, which hints that the future (or the future of the next generation) might be better.
- The contrast of the white of the eggs (**innocence, purity**) and the dark edge (**dangerous, scary**) could represent the nature of the living conditions or could represent that the inhabitants of the living space are not to blame for the situation they find themselves in.

# Living Space: Key Quotes

## Living Space

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straight lines. That  
is the problem.

Nothing is flat  
or parallel. Beams

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into themselves,  
as if they were  
the bright, thin walls of faith.

‘Nothing’ emphasised at the start of the line draws the reader’s attention to the **severity of the problem**. Refers to the physical state of the rundown home described in the poem.

**Symbolism.** The eggs represent hope and the potential for a new or better life. However, they are also ‘fragile’ and easily broken.

A reminder of the instability of the building but also a comment on **inequality in the wider world**.

# Living Space: Exam Questions



## Sense Of Place:

- She Walks in Beauty
- The Solider
- Cozy Apologia
- Death of a Naturalist
- Afternoons
- Excerpt from 'The Prelude'

## Faith and Worship:

- Sonnet 43
- The Soldier
- She Walks In Beauty
- Hawk Roosting
- To Autumn



# As Imperceptibly As Grief: Context

- Emily Elizabeth Dickinson (December 10, 1830 – May 15, 1886) was an American poet. Little-known during her life, she has since been regarded as one of the most important figures in American poetry.
- Dickinson lived much of her life in isolation. Considered eccentric, she wore only white clothing and was known for her reluctance to greet guests and in her later life, even to leave her bedroom. She never married, and most of her friendships were based entirely upon correspondence.
- Although she was a prolific writer, the only publications during her lifetime were 10 of her nearly 1,800 poems and one letter. The poems published were usually edited significantly to fit the conventional poetic rules of the time. Her poems were unique for her era; they contained short lines, typically lacked titles, and often use slant rhyme as well as unconventional capitalisation and punctuation.
- Many of her poems deal with themes of death and immortality, influenced by the sudden deaths of her cousin and her best friend at a young age, not helped by the family home overlooking the town graveyard. Dickinson was obsessed and fearful of death. She also wrote poetry that explored aesthetics, society, nature, and spirituality. She was influenced by Elizabeth Barrett Browning and William Blake.



# As Imperceptibly As Grief: Overview and Structure

As imperceptibly as Grief  
The Summer lapsed away —  
Too imperceptible at last  
To seem like Perfidy —  
5 A Quietness distilled  
As Twilight long begun,  
Or Nature spending with herself  
Sequestered Afternoon —  
The Dusk drew earlier in —  
10 The Morning foreign shone —  
A courteous, yet harrowing Grace,  
As Guest, that would be gone —  
And thus, without a Wing  
Or service of a Keel  
15 Our Summer made her light escape  
Into the Beautiful.

- The poem begins by describing how summer comes to an end so gradually that you don't notice when it finishes. The end of summer seems to **represent the end of grief, or death itself**? The speaker suggests that the grieving process can end so subtly that it creates another sense of loss.
- The poem's **rhythm mirrors the pattern of everyday speech**, making it sound like the narrator's thoughts. The poet uses long dashes rather than conventional punctuation, these create long pauses and enhance the poem's **slow, reflective mood**.
- The use of a **single stanza** adds to the sense of gradual change, there aren't any stanza breaks to split ideas up. However, after line 13, the tone becomes more decisive which could suggest the speaker is coming to terms with the events of the poem?



# As Imperceptibly As Grief: Language

As imperceptibly as Grief  
The Summer lapsed away —

➤ **Natural metaphors** to reveal the speaker's feelings of things fading away gradually.

Too imperceptible at last  
To seem like Perfidy —

➤ The **passing of time** in the poem is shown with the changing seasons which are associated with the different stages of grief. The poem reflects the slow, almost unnoticeable way that time eases grief.

5 A Quietness distilled  
As Twilight long begun,  
Or Nature spending with herself  
Sequestered Afternoon —

➤ **Images of natural light** are present throughout, reminding the reader of the **natural cycle of day and night that will continue forever**. This sense of inevitability could also apply to both life and death and grief and acceptance.

10 The Dusk drew earlier in —  
The Morning foreign shone —  
A courteous, yet harrowing Grace,  
As Guest, that would be gone —  
And thus, without a Wing

➤ The **contradictory imagery** of morning as 'harrowing' and the comparison between summer and grief are surprising but could suggest the different types and stages of grief and the contradictory emotions it can involve.

Or service of a Keel  
15 Our Summer made her light escape  
Into the Beautiful.

# As Imperceptibly As Grief: Key Quotes

As imperceptibly as Grief

The Summer lapsed away

Too imperceptible at last

To seem like Perfidy —

5 A Quietness distilled

As Twilight long begun,

Or Nature spending with herself

Sequestered Afternoon

The Dusk drew earlier in —

10 The Morning foreign shone —

A courteous, yet harrowing Grace,

As Guest, that would be gone —

And thus, without a Wing

Or service of a Keel

15 Our Summer made her light escape

Into the Beautiful.

The narrator establishes a link between summer and grief in the first two lines. This compassion holds throughout the poem, the surface message about summer representing the narrator's thoughts on grief.

Summer and grief are associated with a sense of stillness and being closed off from the world. This is presented as comforting, rather than isolating.

First person plural 'our' suggests this experience is universal. The 'escape' of summer suggested the grief/death has also faded away, 'beautiful' suggests that the end is ultimately positive.

# As Imperceptibly As Grief: Exam Questions

## Passage of Time:

- Death of a Naturalist
- To Autumn
- Ozymandias
- Mamez Wood
- Afternoons



## Change and Transformation:

- Death Of A Naturalist
- To Autumn
- Afternoons
- Ozymandias
- The Prelude.



## Death and Loss:

- The Solider
- A Wife in London
- Hawk Roosting
- To Autumn
- Dulce et Decorum Est
- Mamez Wood

## Pain and Suffering:

- London
- The Manhunt
- A Wife in London
- Dulce et Decorum Est
- Mamez Wood



# How to approach an unseen poem

## **STEP ONE:**

Read the title – consider meaning.

Look at the shape – is it a particular style (e.g. Sonnet), how many stanzas, line shapes.

Read the poem slowly in your head.

## **STEP TWO:**

After reading, make interpretations to consider:

- Speaker and tone.
- Subject and setting.
- Themes.
- Mood (positive/negative/funny)

## **STEP THREE:**

Re-read closely & annotate:

- Repetition/rhythm/rhyme.
- Poetic devices (simile/metaphor/alliteration).
- Language (word) choices – effects and imagery.

## **STEP FOUR:**

Personal response – what is your personal opinion of the poem, its message and effectiveness?

# Exam Questions – Single Analysis Poem

## SECTION B (Poetry)

Answer both question 71 and question 72.

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes on 71, and about 40 minutes on 72.

Read the poem below, Living Space, by Imtiaz Dharker.

**Living Space is a poem about place.** How does Imtiaz Dharker present place in the poem? Refer to the contexts of the poem in your answer. **(15 Marks)**



# Exam Questions – Single Analysis Poem

Track through the poem carefully and focus on the question.

Interpret, comment on meanings and probe subtext.

Focus on imagery, language and the effects they create.

Interweave contextual details.

Only focus on one poem in the first question. Detailed coverage of the set poem is expected.

The poem is printed on the exam paper. Use short quotations from it to support points about meaning and language.

**A01, A02 and A03 are equally weighted in this question.**

# Exam Questions

Choose **one other poem from the anthology** in which the poet **also writes about place**.

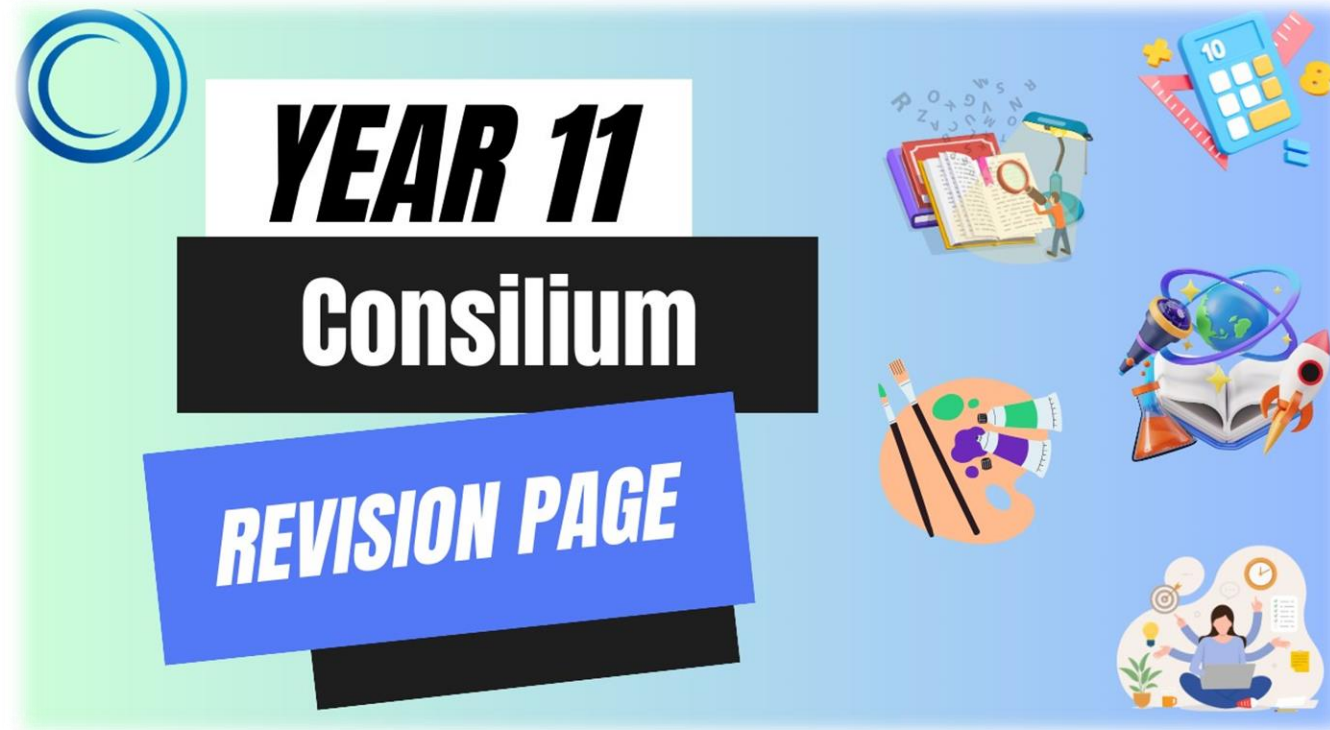
Compare the way the poet **presents place** in your chosen poem with the way Imtiaz Dharker presents place in Living Space. **(25 Marks)**

In your answer to you **should**:

- compare the content and structure of the poems – what they are about and how they are organised
- compare how the writers create effects, using appropriate terminology where relevant
- compare the contexts of the poems, and how these may have influenced the ideas in them.

	Living Space	London
<b>Content</b>	Expresses physical poverty through the lens of a poorly constructed home. Seems to focus on the structural integrity (or lack of) the home, it goes beyond physical details. The rundown home as a springboard to comment on poverty itself, extends beyond the objects that showcase it. End of the poem, it is meant as a commentary on people, both their present states and their future possibilities.	The speaker, a resident of London, observes suffering, weakness, and woe in the faces of people they encounter. The poem delves into themes of death, disappointment, and religion. The vivid imagery paints a damningly hellish picture of the streets of London, revealing sadness and indignation. The first stanza describes the sights around the city, while the other stanzas focus on the sounds the speaker hears.
<b>Structure and Form</b>	Irregular form, using stanzas and lines of different length with no pattern, mirroring the sense of chaos and irregularity in the living space. Lack of regular rhyme and rhythm and enjambment emphasises the disorder of the place. The final two stanzas are one long sentence highlighting a growing sense of wonder and hope.	4 stanzas each containing 4 lines. The rhyme scheme is ABAB throughout. The concise structure mirrors the oppressive environment of the city.
<b>Language</b>	Language of disorder and chaos. Verbs ‘clutch’ and ‘thrust’ emphasise the danger and violence. The eggs symbolise faith, the belief in a God, or the belief that the situation will change? The eggs could symbolise new life, which hints that the future (or the future of the next generation) might be better.	Language is direct, empathetic, and sorrowful. Vivid imagery to convey the misery of city life. "mind-forg'd manacles“ suggests mental imprisonment and the weight of societal constraints. The suffering of chimney-sweepers, the appalling churches, and the soldiers' sighs. Youthful harlots curse and the blight on marriage symbolize societal decay.
<b>Context</b>	Imtiaz Dharker (1954) is a Pakistan-born British poet, artist, and video film maker. She describes herself as a "Scottish Muslim Calvinist" adopted by India and married into Wales. Highlights the issues facing the poor in the developing world, such as the struggle to survive and live in a safe, secure place	Romantic poet, lived in London, which deeply influenced his perspective. Reflects the oppressive reality of 18th-century England, marked by restricted civil liberties and societal norms. Anti-government and anti-religion. The French Revolution led to reactionary restrictions, affecting the lives of ordinary people.

# Revision Top Tips



<https://consilium.frogms.net/app/os#!student-revision/consilium-student-revision-page>

# Questions

Please give any feedback to your English teachers,  
who will pass this on.

**All feedback is appreciated!**

Next week: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April  
5pm – 6pm

➤ Cozy Apologia by Rita Dove

And

➤ Death Of A Naturalist by Seamus Heaney

