

Anthology One: Identity

(b) Looking again at **Here** by R.S Thomas which deals with the theme of a sense of who you are, and at one other poem from the **IDENTITY** anthology which also deals with the theme of the effects of a sense of who you are.

With close reference to the ways each poet uses language, compare and contrast what the speakers in the poems say about a sense of who you are. You should include relevant contextual material.

Candidate Answer: Band 3 (Other Poem - Belfast Confetti)

| Response | Examiner's Comments |
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| <p>In the poem 'Here' it shows the physical and emotional <u>effect</u> on someone who been at war and how he feels trapped and is <u>uncertain</u> where to go. This compares with the poem 'Belfast Confetti' which deals with the <u>sense of who you are</u> due to the war and violence that happened in the troubles. Carson talks about every place he knows full of violence and there is no escape. While Carson was born into an Irish speaking family in Belfast he still talks about the civilians against the British soldiers. R.S Thomas was a young man who believed he was fighting for a good cause, but now realises he has been deceived. Thomas was a clergyman who was involved in religion and this influenced his poetry and beliefs. However Thomas appears to be critical of God as nobody appears to be answering his prayers, 'Does no God hear when I pray?' Throughout his poem there is no specific place named so it could have been set anywhere.</p> | <p>refers to the question</p> <p>engages with the question</p> |
| <p>Thomas' poem has seven stanzas and they each talk about a different theme. There is an AAA rhyme scheme such as 'now/brow/grow' in the first stanza. In the second stanza there is a simile 'I am like a tree' which shows that Thomas has <u>gained knowledge</u> about his life. The tone of this poem is <u>anger</u> at the situation he finds himself in. There is lots of <u>imagery</u> and <u>repetition</u> of blood 'the blood of so many dead?' where Thomas is talking about all those soldiers who have died in war. Thomas' image of 'the clock of my whole' is about time, the future, the past and the idea that your experiences over time have created a <u>sense of who you are</u>. Thomas keeps asking lots of <u>rhetorical questions</u> such as 'Is there I was misled?' as he tries to understand the situation he is in. In the later stages of the poem the tone becomes even more <u>misable</u> as the speaker struggles to find a purpose as he has; 'nowhere to go'. In the final stanza the final rhyming word is 'hurt' which confirms the how unhappy he is in at the end of the poem.</p> | <p>relevant selection of contextual material</p> <p>some understanding of form</p> <p>comments on techniques</p> |
| <p>The poem 'Belfast Confetti' is juxtaposed as usually when we hear the word confetti you think of celebration, however the use of the word confetti here is used as imagery to describe the debris from the bomb and the damage. Lots of the places he remembers have faded in his memory due to the riots and violence; 'Why can't I escape?' 'Balaclava, Raglan, Inkerman, Odessa'. This highlights <u>his confusion</u> using the technique of <u>listing</u> and it <u>creates a sense of him trying to make a sense of who he is</u> as he is trying to <u>escape from this nightmare</u>. The image of the 'labyrinth' is clever because it suggests it is a</p> | <p>key terms engaged</p> <p>understanding of language used for effect</p> <p>some focus</p> |

| | Examiner's Comments |
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| <p>maze and Carson cannot get himself out of it. Throughout the poem there is no structure, the long lines are over structured to give an impression that there is an explosion. Carson uses a <u>metaphor</u>, 'it was raining exclamation marks' <u>symbolising</u> that they can't get away from the violence, by using these punctuation marks, he is suggesting the horror he has seen and how this destruction has shaped him.</p> | |
| <p>Carson is very unhappy in the poem <u>like Thomas</u>, as they are both trying to work out what is happening to them and what they need to do. Like in Thomas poem, there is lots of violence furthermore Carson seems to have lost his surroundings when he says in a rhetorical question; 'Where I am going?' which suggests he has no answer for his confusion. He is also scared as he says 'I was trying to complete a sentence in my head, but it kept stuttering', like Thomas he is perhaps struggling <u>to work out who he is</u>.</p> | <p>some relevant connections</p> <p>relates to the question</p> |
| <p>In conclusion I believe that these experiences and what happens to you helps you work out who you are. And both poems show people losing there way but finding it in the end. I prefer 'Here' because it is unclear what it is about and it got me thinking more whereas Belfast Confetti was very odd and difficult to follow and had lots of army terms. However in both poems I appreciated the images that were written and the use of questions that got me thinking.</p> | <p>summative comments relate to the question and draw obvious comparisons</p> |
| <p>Some comments on language, structure and form. Some relevant comparisons/contrasts are made. Focus on the question is generally maintained with occasional attempts to include relevant contextual material.</p> | |
| <p>Band 3 (mid)</p> | |