

## Anthology One: Conflict

- (a) Looking again at **Mametz Wood** by Owen Sheers which deals with the theme of the effects of conflict, and at one other poem from the CONFLICT anthology which also deals with the theme of the effects of conflict.

With close reference to the ways each poet uses language, compare and contrast what the speakers in the poems say about the **effects of conflict**. You should include relevant contextual material.

### Candidate Answer: Band 3 (Other Poem - Poppies)

Response	Examiner's Comments
<p>Owen Sheers wrote 'Mametz Wood' as a way of showing respect for the welsh soldiers who died in a <u>battle in the First World war</u> whereas Susan Weir wrote 'Poppies' to show how horrible it would be when a mother heard of the <u>death of her son</u> and how she would feel about it. It is linked to Wifrid Owen who died three days before the war was called off. Sheer's poem is about the welsh division who were ordered to take mametz wood a highly fortified wooded area. It is in <u>remembrance of the soldiers</u> who died as their <u>heroic actions</u> where never really given recognition. Both poems effectively portray the <u>effects of war</u> and conflict in many different ways.</p>	<p>appropriate selection of second poem</p> <p>relevant contextual material</p> <p>begins to engage with the key terms of the question and addresses theme and content</p>
<p>The structure and rhythm of both poems are different but both reflect the <u>impact of conflict</u>. In 'Mametz Wood' there is a clear and regular structure to the poem, shown by the punctuation, with a <u>single stanza</u> followed by a pair of stanzas with one stanza to finish. The <u>structure</u> of 'mametz wood' has significant meaning, the irregular and different length of lines represents the uneven ploughed fields in which the soldiers are but also the chits of bone rising out of the ground. There is <u>no clear rhyme</u> scheme in Sheer's poem but there is one important rhyme 'had sung' with 'absent tongues' showing to mark a clear ending not only to the poem but the soldiers lives. These show the reader that the <u>impact of war</u> is inevitable death. In Weir's poem the irregular structure reflects the effects the war as it shows how the mother has lost control of herself and is full of grief. There are four stanzas of different lengths finishing with the mother at her son's war memorial as it says, 'I traced the inscriptions on the war memorial' showing that the poem is about remembrance. The odd rhythm of the poem also shows the mother as full of grief and remembering the times <u>she had with her son</u>.</p>	<p>relevant connection</p> <p>begins to focus</p> <p>addresses some aspects of form and structure</p> <p>focus</p> <p>careful integration of quotation</p> <p>comments on effectiveness</p>
<p>The tone in both poems is <u>a bit different</u>, in Mametz Wood, Sheers reflects the deaths of many soldiers and he is angry at the farmers who are trying to return the land to farming and the fact that they keep turning up bodies with their <u>plough blades</u>. In <u>Poppies</u> there is sadness in the tone and more silence but both poems talk about how war is <u>pointless and ...a waste</u>.</p>	<p>relevant connection</p> <p>comments relate back to the question</p>
<p>Both Sheers and Weir use a range of devices in their poems to describe the effects of war. In 'Mametz Wood' there is lots of <u>harsh language and alliteration</u> particularly the 'b' sound in 'blown', 'blade' and 'broken bird's egg'. There is <u>personification</u> of the 'nesting machine gun' which shows that</p>	<p>considers a range of technical features</p>

	Examiner's Comments
<p>the welsh are unlikely to win and the <u>simile</u> 'like a wound working a foreign body' also shows they are going to die. Sheers uses <u>sounds</u> to highlight the bones found in the area, 'a chit of bone, the china plate of the shoulder blade'. The ch sound sounds like bone therefore further talking about death. <u>The impact that it is conveying</u> is the pain and suffering caused by the <u>injuries and deaths caused by conflict</u> and how destruction it can be. In the last bit the sounds are much softer as the <u>battlefield is peaceful</u> after the battle shown in the 's' sound.</p>	<p>range of appropriate comments on language</p> <p>some comments are insightful</p> <p>comments on language</p>
<p>In weir's poem the assonance of the 'h' sound, 'hoping to hear' <u>implies a sense of sadness</u> as she wishes her son was with her and she longs to play with him 'at being Eskimos like we did when you were little'. There is a <u>metaphor</u> 'catching on the wind' which adds to the <u>sadness</u> as the mother will never hear her son's voice again as he has died. There is also graphic imagery around mending, 'sellotape bandaged around my hand' is like the 'mending' that the mother is going through as she tries to come to terms with the death of her son. Also weir uses lots of images to do with piece such as the doves. <u>Unlike in 'Poppies'</u> where the mother is keen to remember her son, Sheers talks about the pointlessness of war.</p>	<p>relates to the question</p> <p>takes opportunities to make connections</p>
<p>I think these poems recognise that the dead should be remembered and not forgotten, but they do it in different ways. One poet writes about it at home, the other is at the battlefield. I like both of the poems and they are both very sad but I prefer weir's poem because it is <u>less angry</u> and is looking forward for the future. We all need to remember the <u>danger of wars</u> and hopefully it will not happen again.</p>	<p>clear sense of personal engagement</p>

Fairly developed response that addresses some aspects of language, form and structure. Some opportunities are taken to make connections and use appropriate contextual material.

Band 3 (mid)