

Y10 Literature Paper 2 Mock (Sections B and C only).

Section B

Anthology Poetry

26: Compare how poets present the horror of war in *Remains* and in one poem from 'Power and Conflict'.

Remains

by **Simon Armitage**

*On another occasion, we got sent out
to tackle looters raiding a bank.
And one of them legs it up the road,
probably armed, possibly not.*

*Well myself and somebody else and somebody else
are all of the same mind,
so all three of us open fire.
Three of a kind all letting fly, and I swear*

*I see every round as it rips through his life –
I see broad daylight on the other side.
So we've hit this looter a dozen times
and he's there on the ground, sort of inside out,*

*pain itself, the image of agony.
One of my mates goes by
and tosses his guts back into his body.
Then he's carted off in the back of a lorry.*

*End of story, except not really.
His blood-shadow stays on the street, and out on patrol
I walk right over it week after week.
Then I'm home on leave. But I blink*

*and he bursts again through the doors of the bank.
Sleep, and he's probably armed, and possibly not.
Dream, and he's torn apart by a dozen rounds.
And the drink and the drugs won't flush him out –*

*he's here in my head when I close my eyes,
dug in behind enemy lines,
not left for dead in some distant, sun-stunned, sand-smothered land
or six-feet-under in desert sand,*

*but near to the knuckle, here and now,
his bloody life in my bloody hands.*

Section C
Unseen Poetry

27.1: In 'Names' how does the poet present ideas about growing older?

Names

She was Eliza for a few weeks
when she was a baby –
Eliza Lily. Soon it changed to Lil.

Later she was Miss Steward in the baker's shop
5 And then 'my love', 'my darling', Mother.

Widowed at thirty, she went back to work
As Mrs Hand. Her daughter grew up,
Married and gave birth.

Now she was Nanna. 'Everybody
Calls me Nanna,' she would say to visitors.
10 And so they did – friends, tradesmen, the doctor.

In the geriatric ward
They used the patients' Christian names.
'Lil,' we said, 'or Nanna,'
But it wasn't in her file
15 And for those last bewildered weeks
She was Eliza once again.

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27.2: In both 'Names' and 'In Oak Tree Terrace' the speakers describe growing older.

What are the similarities/differences in the ways that the poets present old age?

In Oak Terrace

Old and alone, she sits at nights,

Nodding before the television.

The house is quiet now. She knits,

rises to put the kettle on,

5 watches a cowboy's killing, reads
the local Births and Deaths, and falls
asleep at 'Growing stock-piles of war-heads'.

A world that threatens worse ills

fades. She dreams of life spent

10 in the one house: suffers again
poverty, sickness, abandonment,
a child's death, a brother's brain

melting to madness. Seventy years
of common trouble; the kettle sings.

15 At midnight she says her silly prayers,
And takes her teeth out, and collects her night-things.

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