

Power and Conflict Poetry – key information

Prepared introduction: learn and adapt to the exam question

Planning your essay.

1. Which other poem is also about [key focus]?
2. What are the poets' ideas about [key focus] in the poems? Are the ideas the same throughout the poems?
3. Find at least 3 pieces of evidence to show how the poet shows us ideas about [key focus] in the given poem.

Then write up your essay:

Introduction:

What are the poets' feelings about [key focus]?

In "Poem 1", [Poet 1] presents [key focus] as.... We get the impression that....

In ".....[poem you're using to compare]",[the poet's surname] presents [key focus] as We get the impression that....

Form and structure:

[Poet 1] uses [look at rhyme, rhythm, stanza lengths and the narrative voice] to highlight....

Similarly/In contrast, [Poet 2] uses to highlight

Main part of the essay (you need around 3-4 paragraphs of this):

[Poet 1] uses (find a phrase or a technique from the extract) to highlight that (think about **why** that technique has been chosen)

"....."

The word "....." suggests, which makes us think that [Poet 1] wants the reader to

This links/contrasts with in the poem, where.... [Poet 1]'s message is

This links/contrasts with ... in [other poem] where [poet]'s message is....

Conclusion:

What is the main idea of the two poems? How do the poets present their ideas about [key focus]?

War poems	Conflict poems
Charge of the Light Brigade	Ozymandias
Bayonet Charge	London
Exposure	The Prelude
Remains	My Last Duchess
War Photographer	Tissue
Poppies	The Emigrée
Kamikaze	Checking Out Me History
	Storm on the Island

Key themes:

Nature	Ozymandias The Prelude Storm on the Island Kamikaze Exposure
Identity	Poppies Kamikaze Tissue The Emigrée Checking Out Me History
Individual experiences	War Photographer Poppies Kamikaze The Emigrée Checking Out Me History The Prelude My Last Duchess
Culture	Kamikaze Checking Out Me History London Ozymandias Tissue
Place	London The Prelude Kamikaze The Emigrée
Power of individuals	My Last Duchess Kamikaze Ozymandias
Effect of warfare	Bayonet Charge Charge of the Light Brigade Exposure War Photographer Poppies Kamikaze

Past questions:

1. Compare how the poet presents the effects of war in 'Bayonet Charge' and in one other poem from Power and Conflict.
2. Compare how the poet presents ideas about power in 'Ozymandias' and one other poem from Power and Conflict.
3. Compare how the poet explores ways that people are affected by war in 'War Photographer' and one other poem from Power and Conflict.
4. Compare how the poet explores ideas about conflict in 'Bayonet Charge' and one other poem from Power and Conflict.
5. Compare how the poet explores how people are affected by difficult experiences in 'Remains' and one other poem from Power and Conflict.

Sample statements

<i>Ozymandias</i>	Shelley criticizes the hubristic, ephemeral and futile nature of human power in 'Ozymandias'.
<i>London</i>	Blake criticizes the control of institutions over individuals' freedoms in 'London'.
<i>The Prelude</i>	Wordsworth's autobiographical poem explores the overwhelming dominance and sublime threat of nature on the persona.
<i>My Last Duchess</i>	Browning uses the painted Duchess to demonstrate the objectifying power of the male gaze, suggesting that the patriarchal desire for power and control is sinister, neurotic yet ultimately futile.
<i>The Charge of the Light Brigade</i>	Tennyson idealises patriotic acts of self-sacrifice but also hints at the indoctrinating power of patriotism.
<i>Exposure</i>	Owen suggests the trauma of war causes a profound loss of faith in any higher power or purpose even corrupting nature itself.
<i>Storm on the Island</i>	Heaney's storm reveals the destructive power of nature, but also allegorically represents the often baseless, irrational nature of conflict.
<i>Bayonet Charge</i>	Hughes' poem exemplifies the terrifying, disorientating, traumatic reality of war for soldiers.
<i>Remains</i>	Armitage demonstrates both the dehumanisation that occurs under the conditions of war but also the inability of soldiers to act clinically, suffering instead inevitable psychological disintegration as a result of violence.
<i>Poppies</i>	Weir's nostalgic and emotional response of the persona's reaction to her son leaving criticizes conflict's impact on the family unit in 'Poppies'.
<i>War Photographer</i>	Duffy exposes the commodification of war and criticizes society's apathy towards conflict and trauma while also demonstrating that the chaos and trauma of war can never be fully understood by those living outside of it.

<i>Tissue</i>	Dharker explores the fragility of human power and the ephemeral nature of human constructions through the extended metaphor of paper.
<i>The Emigrée</i>	Rumens uses the narrative of a refugee to demonstrate that nostalgia and memory, even if misplaced, are powerful forces that may even have the power to liberate.
<i>Checking Out Me History</i>	Agard critiques disempowering colonial attitudes in the British education system, suggesting subjugated people must reclaim their own history and identity.
<i>Kamikaze</i>	Garland demonstrates how family happiness can be disrupted by conflict and cultural pressure , but memory has the power to revolt against oppressive political structures.