Poetry CEL Questions – Higher

Answers to questions on poetry should refer to the text and to such relevant features as word choice, tone, imagery, structure, content, rhythm, rhyme, theme, sounds, ideas . . .

2015

1. Choose a poem which takes as its starting point a memorable experience.

Discuss how the poet’s presentation of the experience helps you to appreciate its significance.

1. Choose a poem which encourages you to think differently or to understand something in a new way.

Discuss how the poet’s ideas and techniques led you to change your thinking or understanding.

1. Choose a poem which is written in a particular poetic form or which has a particularly effective structure.

Discuss how the poet’s use of form or structure contributes to the impact of the poem’s central concern(s).

2016

1. Choose a poem in which the poet creates a vivid sense of a particular time or a particular place.

Discuss how the poet’s vivid depiction of time or place adds to your appreciation of the central concern(s) of the poem.

1. Choose a poem with a moral or social or political theme.

Discuss, with reference to appropriate techniques, how the poet’s presentation of the theme deepens your understanding of the poem as a whole.

1. Choose a poem in which the poet effectively creates a character or persona.

Discuss, with reference to appropriate techniques, how the poet’s effective creation of the character or persona enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

2017

1. Choose a poem in which the poet challenges accepted beliefs or attitudes or conventions.

With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s challenge of these accepted beliefs or attitudes or conventions enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

1. Choose a poem which deals with a powerful emotion.

 With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s presentation of this powerful emotion enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

1. Choose a poem which makes effective use of imagery and/or sound to convey central concern(s).

With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s use of imagery and/or sound contributes to the presentation of the poem’s central concern(s).

2018

1. Choose a poem which deals with an issue of importance to human experience.

With reference to appropriate techniques, explain how the issue is presented and discuss how it enhances your appreciation of the poem.

1. Choose a poem which creates a mood of hope or despair or mystery.

With reference to appropriate techniques, explain how the mood is created and discuss how it enhances your appreciation of the poem as a

whole.

1. Choose a poem in which the ending is important in highlighting central concerns.

With reference to appropriate techniques, explain how the ending highlights central concerns and discuss how it enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

2019

1. Choose a poem which makes effective use of a specific place or character or moment in time.

With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s presentation of the place or character or moment in time contributes to your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

1. Choose a poem which deals with conflict or change.

With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s presentation of the conflict or change contributes to your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

1. Choose a poem which is effective because of its use of contrast and/or imagery.

With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s use of these features contributes to your appreciation of the central concern(s) of the poem.

2021

1. Choose a poem which involves an important journey or meeting or memory.

With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s presentation of the important journey or meeting or memory enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

1. Choose a poem which conveys a powerful message or theme.

With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s presentation of this powerful message or theme enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

1. Choose a poem in which the poet conveys a particularly striking mood or atmosphere or emotion.

With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the particularly striking mood or atmosphere or emotion enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

2022

1. Choose a poem which explores a challenging situation or a strong emotion.

With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s presentation of the challenging situation or strong emotion enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

1. Choose a poem which has an uplifting or disturbing or reflective mood.

With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s presentation of the uplifting or disturbing or reflective mood enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

1. Choose a poem which explores an issue of personal or social or moral importance.

With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s presentation of this issue enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

2023

1. Choose a poem which explores love or suffering or hope.

By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s exploration of love or suffering or hope enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

1. Choose a poem which explores an experience or an issue in an effective way.

By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s exploration of the experience or issue enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

1. Choose a poem in which a specific setting in time and/or place is clearly presented.

By referring to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poet’s presentation of the specific setting in time and/or place enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.