

# Seen Poetry Revision Guide :

## Literature Paper 2

Power +  
Conflict

**TIP: Learn this so you have brief summary and then learn six poems ...**

Poem	About (power & conflict)
Ozymandias	Egyptian leader abused his power & was a brutal, violent leader –in conflict with his people - his statue is decaying & he's forgotten (no memory) – irony. Nature: Desert is powerful & destroys this leader.
London	How Victorian London has been taken over by the rich who abuse their power & exploit the poor – Blake warns they will fight back (conflict). Nature been take over (river, land) by wealthy.
The Prelude	Memory of stealing a boat, discovering power of nature – mountain intimidating – anxious about life's journey – conflict nature against man.
My Last Duchess	Duke remembers his dead wife – he was jealous & they were in conflict as tried to control her – he couldn't – now can – controls curtain - painting.
The Charge of the Light Brigade	Speaker remembers how soldiers ordered to charge (power of following orders) when enemy had better weapons, more men – certainly die – argues government must honour them. Conflict soldiers wanted live.
Exposure	Nature (cold, wind, rain) is dangerous (power) for soldiers more than the enemy Germans. Conflict as speaker remembers home wants to return.
Storm on the Island	Speaker grows less certain about how they are 'prepared' against nature as he remembers what a storm can destroy. Power of nature is against man – conflict.
Bayonet Charge	Power of fear as soldier nearly stops charging against the enemy as he grows frightened of death. Conflict wants to do his duty but means death.
Remains	Speaker remembers shot thief he fears abused his power as a soldier as man unarmed, also power of memories as it haunts him – conflict of war (Iraq) also inner conflict as did he use too much force?
Poppies	Speaker is a mother who remembers son leaving for War – pinning poppy on his uniform. Power of memories as she visits places to remember her son – conflict she didn't want son to go to war.
War Photographer	War photographer remembers a photograph took of dying man & how he needed his wife's 'approval' as inner conflict : Is he invading their privacy? BUT wants to inform world of terrors of war – duty – little power as forget
Tissue	Power of memories – make own conflict by trying to control the past which is fragile like paper – break easily. Paper is also powerful as records the past – oxymoronic idea.
The Emigree	Power of memories as misses city grew up in – happy childhood memories but realises that city was dangerous – conflict innocent child, wise adult.
Kamikaze	Daughter remembers father bringing shame on family by not undertaking his soldier duty as a suicide bomber. Her father was captured by beauty of sea (nature) & of life. Father & daughter both have inner conflict about this.
Checking Out Me History	Speaker remembers History taught as school was all British – no Caribbean - it has power & control over his identity & he wants to know about his Caribbean roots.

of a memory  
Power = abuse of hierarchy  
/ attacking  
/ loss of  
/ regaining  
/ discovering

Conflict = opposing views/feelings  
= battle  
/ Fight within  
/ external fight with another  
/ nature against man

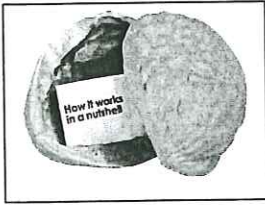
## Linking the poems

The poems can be thought of as belonging to particular groups or themes which might help you revise and plan answers for exam questions.

	Power of humans	Power of Nature	Effects of Conflict	Reality of Conflict	Loss and absence	Memory	Emotion - Anger	Emotion - Fear	Emotion - Pride	Identity	Individual Experienc
Ozymandias	/	/							/		
London	/				/		/				/
Prelude		/				/		/	/		/
My Last Duchess	/					/			/	/	
Charge of Light Brigade			/	/		/			/		
Exposure		/	/	/	/	/					
Storm on the Island	/	/						/			
Bayonet Charge			/	/				/	/		/
Remains			/	/		/		/			/
Poppies			/		/	/		/		/	/
War Photographer			/	/		/	/	/			/
Tissue	/	/								/	
Emigree					/	/				/	/
Kamikaze		/	/		/	/				/	/
Checking Out Me History	/						/		/		/

**Title:** Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley

**The poem in a nutshell....**



The narrator of Shelley's poem says he met a traveller from an "antique" (ancient) land and then tells us the story the traveller told him. The man had seen the remains of a huge statue in the desert. There were two enormous legs without a trunk and next to them lay a damaged "visage" (face). At the foot of the statue were words which reflected the arrogance and pride of Ozymandias. Those words seem very hollow now as the magnificent statue is destroyed and none of the pharaoh's works have lasted.

**Context**

- **Percy Bysshe Shelley** (1792-1822) is one of the most famous poets in all of English literature. He was one of a group of poets who became known as **The Romantics**. He came from a wealthy family, but was expelled from university for writing about atheism (not believing in God) which led to him to fall out with his father who disinherited him.
- Shelley was well known as a 'radical' during his lifetime and some people think *Ozymandias* reflects this side of his character. Although it is about the remains of a statue of Ozymandias (another name for the Egyptian pharaoh Rameses II) it can be read as a criticism of people or systems that become huge and believe themselves to be invincible.

**3 Key Quotes**

Quote	Method	What effect is created?
'king of kings'	Repetition / dramatic irony / juxtaposition	The repetition of 'kings' shows how arrogant Ozymandias was, yet when compared to the crumbling ruins of his statue, the poem undermines him and shows that he did not last forever as he thought he would.
'boundless and bare / The lone and level sands stretch far away.'	Alliteration	Alliteration is used three times in this quote, drawing attention to the words that show the ruin and destruction of time, and how even the mightiest of civilisations will eventually be forgotten and decay into dust.
'Nothing beside remains.'	Caesura	The caesura highlights to the reader how Ozymandias is no longer known and feared, despite his arrogance. The clear and blunt language perhaps also reveals how the narrator is unsympathetic towards the now long-gone ruler.

**Aspects of Power or Conflict**

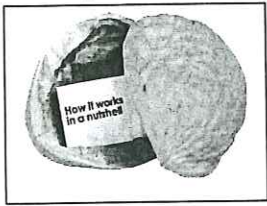
- **Even the mightiest will fall:** Ozymandias thought his works would last forever and would be above everyone else's. Not true. Nothing is left intact and his own statue is in ruins.
- **You can't beat time.** Even a king dies and so will all the things he has built.
- **Pride comes before a fall.** Ozymandias' boasts about his own greatness seem very hollow now.
- **The power of art and words.** The only thing that does last is part of the statue and the powerful words on the inscription

**Poems that can be linked**

My Last Duchess  
Tissue

**Title** London by William Blake

**The poem in a nutshell....**



- Very negative in tone. Reflects Blake’s disillusionment with state.
- A walk through London reveals it to be a place where freedom is restricted and poverty is rife.
- Institutions such as the Church and the monarchy are riddled with hypocrisy as money is spent on their upkeep rather than improving the life chances of the poor.

**Context**

- *London* was published in 1793, four years after the outbreak of the French Revolution. Is Blake calling for the poor people of London to rise up and seize power?
- London was becoming more and more industrial. Blake expresses his concerns on impact for city and its people.

**3 Key Quotes**

Quote	Method	What effect is created?
“And mark in every face I meet/ Marks of weakness, marks of woe.”	Repetition of ‘mark’, emphasises physical misery that London inhabitants display	Reader is forced to acknowledge inescapability of physical damage caused by London. We too feel imprisoned by repetition?
“The mind-forg’d manacles I hear.”	Metaphor	Sympathy from the reader as the restrictions on freedom are caused by the mind.
“And blights with plagues the marriage hearse”	Juxtaposition	Striking for reader as two images, ‘marriage’ and ‘hearse’, aren’t normally associated are placed together. London is a city of duplicity and a difficult environment in which to sustain happiness. An attack on the Church and the hypocrisy of this institution?

**Aspects of Power or Conflict**

**Power** of state – individuals are powerless to restrictions imposed from above ‘chartered streets’

Political **conflict** – Church and King are reinforcing the inequality of society. Poor are victims.

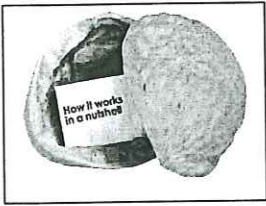
Potential **power** of people – if they were to rise up in revolution.

**Poems that can be linked**

Storm on the Island

Title Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred Lord Tennyson

### The poem in a nutshell....



This poem follows the journey of a light brigade of some 600 British soldiers as they charge head-first into the cannons and gunfire of a much-larger Russian army. The tone of the poem is one of pride; the poet does not mourn the loss of these soldiers nor does he show anger towards the men who gave these wrong orders. Instead, their bravery is celebrated. The poet uses repetition, imagery and a strong rhythm to highlight the army's gallant charge into battle.

### Context

- Tennyson wrote "The Charge of the Light Brigade" in a few minutes on December 2, 1854.
- It is based on the Battle of Balaclava in the Crimean War which was fought from 1853 to 1856.
- On 25 October 1854, Lord Raglan decided to attack the Russians. He sent an order but it was fatally misinterpreted and 673 Light Brigade cavalrymen were sent charging down the valley with Russian guns all around. Between 100 and 200 soldiers are thought to have died.

### 3 Key Quotes

Quote	Method	What effect is created?
'Into the jaws of Death, into the mouth of Hell'	Metaphor	The reader pictures the death and destruction that awaits the soldiers as they ride towards the Russian army. It is as if they are being swallowed by Hell and Death itself.
'Cannon to right of them, Cannon to left of them, Cannon behind them'	Repetition Rhythm	The repetition of the cannons gives the feeling of being surrounded on all sides.  The rhythm created by the repetition and beats of the syllables mimics the rhythm of the horses' feet as they ride towards the Russians.
'Reel'd from the sabre- stroke Shatter'd and sunder'd'	Alliteration (sibilance) Effective language	The alliterative 's' sounds (sibilance) mimics the sound of the sabres (swords) swooshing through the air. Could also be sharp intakes of breath of men in pain and shock.  'Shattered' means broken and destroyed. 'Sundered' means to break into parts. This could refer to the army as a group or to men as individuals.

### Aspects of Power or Conflict

This poem highlights the **reality of conflicts** and the **deaths** that are often a result. It **celebrates the bravery** of soldiers and seeks to **honour and glamorise the sacrifices these men made**.

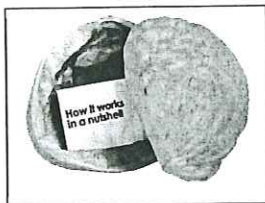
### Poems that can be linked

Bayonet Charge

Exposure

**Title** Remains by Simon Armitage

**The poem in a nutshell...**



Written in first person from the perspective of a soldier, this poem can be seen as having two halves.
In the first, the voice recounts a memory from war in which he and two other soldiers killed looters raiding a bank.
In the second, he explains how the memory of this scene still haunts him. There is a suggestion that he is suffering from PTSD.
The voice of this narrator is powerful as he moves from past to present tense (giving his memories a sense of immediacy) and uses colloquial language. His ordinary tone and use of colloquialisms, brings these horrors closer to the reader, as they are told in this very everyday, ordinary voice. The makes his mental scars more painful for the reader.

- This poem is part of a small collection of poems written for *'the Not Dead'*. This term refers to the ex-service men and women who have survived wars and are now dealing with its after-effects. Each of these poems focuses on a flashback scene that the ex-soldier has struggled to forget.
- *'Remains'* was written for a soldier who served in Basra, Iraq.

**3 Key Quotes**

Quote	Method	What effect is created?
'one of them legs it up the road'	Colloquial language	This use of colloquial language, which occurs mainly in the first half of the poem, makes the description of killing seem casual. In the second half the tone is less casual as he explains his memories and how 'the drugs won't flush him out'. The use of imagery here shows his tortured mind.
'every round as it rips through his life'	Alliteration of the 'r' sound	The harsh 'r' sound reflects the violence of the image. It portrays his memory more vividly as it seems to bring it to life through its sound.
'his bloody life in my bloody hands'	Metaphor	The repetition of 'bloody' shows us that this memory of death keeps returning. It also suggests that his tortured memories of war are flooded with guilt for taking this man's life, making the reader sympathise with him.

**Aspects of Power or Conflict**

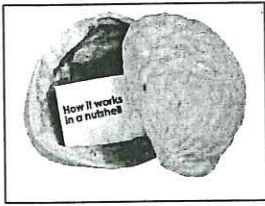
The horrors of war are explored through the voice of a soldier suffering with PTSD. We hear his flashback story of war and then the on-going battle, told in the present tense, of his recurring memories of conflict and killing.

**Poems that can be linked**

*'War Photographer'*, which explores the internal conflict for photographers who shoot with their cameras rather than with guns.

**Title Storm on the Island by Seamus Heaney**

**The poem in a nutshell....**



- The poem describes the extreme force of nature and the impact that the elements have on island life.
- The island's occupants adapt to the demands nature places on their homes and jobs.
- Beginning of poem suggests readiness for storm but as it goes on we see more violent language describing weather and war-like imagery.

**Context**

- Heaney's father was a farmer in rural County Derry and much of Heaney's poetry is about the countryside and farm life of his childhood.
- Storm on the Island could be a metaphor for the political storm that raged across Northern Ireland in the second half of the twentieth century. The storm pummeling the island in the poem could represent the violence in Northern Ireland during the Troubles.

**3 Key Quotes**

Quote	Method	What effect is created?
The sea is described as 'exploding comfortably'	Oxymoron	Striking and unusual description for reader as it seems contradictory. Suggests this is something that it has done before and will do again. Appeals to senses as this is something we can visualise and imagine the sound of.
"the flung spray hits/The very windows, spits like a tame cat/ Turned savage"	Simile	Sea is uncontrollable, unpredictable. Wild like a cat.
"We are bombarded by the empty air"	Image of combat. Powerful, violent verb 'bombard'	Attacked by a threat that cannot be seen. Reinforces unpredictability of attacks and powerlessness to defend against the elements.

**Aspects of Power or Conflict**

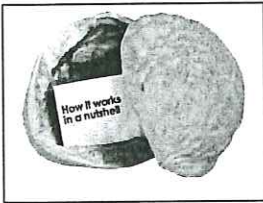
Power of nature. Powerlessness of humans.  
 Conflict in Ireland? Human desires to control and monitor vs. Nature's destructive force.

**Poems that can be linked**

Checking out me History – powerlessness in cultural sense.  
 London – powerlessness of one vs something bigger

**Title:** Kamikaze by Beatrice Garland

**The poem in a nutshell....**



In this narrative poem, Beatrice Garland explores the testimony of the daughter of a kamikaze pilot. Unlike many of his comrades, this pilot turns back from his target and returns home.

The poem vividly explores the moment that the pilot's decision is made and sketches out the consequences for him over the rest of his life. Not only is he shunned by his neighbours but his wife refuses to speak to him or look him in the eye. His children, too, gradually learn that he is not to be spoken to and begin to isolate and reject him.

**Context**

- Beatrice Garland was born in Oxford in 1930 and she recalled being forced to read poetry at school if she misbehaved, but actually quite enjoying it.
- During the Second World War, the term 'kamikaze' was used for Japanese fighter pilots who were sent on suicide missions. They were expected to crash their warplanes into enemy warships. The word 'kamikaze' literally translates as 'divine wind'.

**3 Key Quotes**

Quote	Method	What effect is created?
'green-blue translucent'  'pearl-grey'	Sensory imagery and semantic field of colour	The first section is full of vivid impressions of the senses. There is a semantic field of colour; 'green-blue translucent', 'dark shoals', 'flashing silver' and 'pearl-grey'. The senses of touch ('feathery') and taste ('salt-sodden') are evoked. The impressions remind the pilot he is alive and life is for relishing. There is no mention of the senses in the section of the poem that deals with events after his choice. There is silence and it is 'as though he had never returned'.
"Her father embarked at sunrise"	Use of the verb "embarked" having a double meaning	The first stanza describes narrator's father getting ready for the battle, and how he was all embedded for the Kamikaze attack that Japanese used against the US Navy during the World War Two. The use of verb 'embarked' in the very first line of this stanza has double meaning; first to board a plane and second to embark upon a new adventure. This is a willingly done positive connotation, but reading through the whole poem it comes out the word 'embark' is suitably used in terms of the relevance of the poem's theme.
<i>"till gradually we too learned to be silent, to live as though he had never returned"</i>	Use of enjambment	Towards the end of the poem, the "chattering and laughing" of the previous line is silenced. The use of enjambment presents the daughter's voice as calm, measured language, as though the storyteller is deliberately suppressing or withholding her feelings. The narrating daughter appears at the end to have become sympathetic to her father's actions and regretful of the way she, and other family members, shunned her him for what they had initially judged to be a shameful return. This line demonstrates that the speaker finally accepts that the family had condemned the pilot to a form of living death.

**Aspects of Power or Conflict**

- Central to the poem is the power of society to make individuals conform to its expectations
- Internal conflict (the pilot's internal conflict between carrying out his suicidal duty to society and reacting to the powerful lure of nature)
- Conflict between family members

**Poems that can be linked**

- ✓ *The Émigrée*
- ✓ *Poppies*