

How to write notes on Poetry

FOR EACH POEM YOU WANT TO HAVE WRITTEN DOWN/KNOW

- 2-3 quotes
- 2 bits of its form
- 1 structure technique and example
- 1-2 context

2-3 QUOTES

- Pick quotes from **different themes**, then summarise the analysis from the Lightup hub, using your own words (you'll be able to remember it better this way), but using the key concepts and ambitious vocab from the hub
- Use **3 quotes for the 6 poem** you're most confident with and the ones you think fit into most themes.
- Use **2 quotes** for the other poems

2 BITS OF FORM

- Know **2 pieces of form** (look on each of the poetry documents)
- This one is important as if a poem has **iambic pentameter** in it, but you wouldn't be able to spot it in the exam, all you have to do is remember it and be able to talk about it in the exam!

1 BIT OF STRUCTURE

- You want to be able to know **one bit of structure** to put in your essay to show the examiner you know how to analyse a poem
- If you really are struggling to remember, just try to **remember structure for your 6 chosen poems** as you'd be able to see the structure on the poem they'd give you in the exam (e.g. enjambment is easy to spot as the line has no punctuation, so you could easily spot that in the exam)

CONTEXT

Context should be pretty easy to remember as it just gives you the reason **WHY the poet wrote the poem**. Think about the poem below, London, Blake was particularly anti- oppression and establishment as he was a Romantic poet - we see this clearly in his poetry.



Example of London (from Power and Conflict)

QUOTES & ANALYSIS	FORM	STRUCTURE	CONTEXT
<p><u>"chartered"</u></p> <p>He describes the <u>"Thames"</u>, naturally free flowing, to have become <u>"chartered"</u> connoting restriction. He is scathing of the sheer control the authorities have, it even seeping down into nature- the oppression is so powerful that even nature is not exempt from its detrimental impact. <u>"chartered"</u> refers to rights and privileges= restriction derives from those who are privileged: their privileges enable them to oppress the lower classes for their own benefit (summarise in your own words)</p> <p><u>"in every infant's cry of fear"</u></p> <p>The use of anaphora <u>"in every"</u> mimics the cyclical and sempiternal torturing the citizens in London are subject to- in every crevice of London there is mass suffering, the <u>"infants"</u> not being exempt from this. It is oxymoronic the idea of an <u>"infant"</u>, connoting innocence, and <u>"fear"</u>, connoting terror. These juxtaposing images shows how the innocence of youth has been corrupted and stolen as they have already been tainted by this exploitative setting (summarise in your own words)</p> <p><u>"black'ning church appalls"</u></p> <p>Could literally show how the church has been covered in soot because of the industrial revolution. Symbolically, as <u>"black'ning"</u> connotes staining, it implies how the establishment of the church is tainting and staining the true meaning of religion. Within the bible, Jesus favoured agape (love for all), yet Blake sees how these morals are abandoned by the church as they neglect a love for all and care more for acquiring wealth</p>	<p>Quatrains and regular ABAB rhyme</p> <p>can spot this as the 1st and 3rd line rhyme e.g. <u>'street'</u> and <u>'meet'</u> - emulate the mass oppression and restriction the lower classes were subject to- they were oppressed by establishment chaining them to these <u>"mind-forged manacles"</u>. As the stanza length and rhyme is not broken, Blake uses this to mimic how this control seems unbreakable and sempiternal (ever-lasting) (summarise in your own words)</p> <p>Iambic Tetrameter</p> <p>The consistent iambic tetrameter heightens the motif of oppression that permeates the poem; there is no freedom to escape this control. Blake provides a glimmer of hope when he breaks the iambic tetrameter on <u>"marks of weakness, mark of woe"</u>. He could be implying that there is hope to break free from this oppression if London was to be united against the establishments that controlled them (summarise in your own words)</p>	<p>Mix of enjambment and end stops</p> <p>Blake uses a mixture of enjambment and end-stops to replicate the illusion of freedom London's citizens are given. The enjambment representing this illusion as the line continues, emulating how they believe their lives are free and boundless. This juxtaposes the end stops where the lines are paused and stopped, replicating how the lives of those who live in London are stopped and broken by the authorities that control them.</p>	<p>He was a Romantic poet</p> <p>These poets believed that nature was awe-inspiring but also produced terror. Blake contorts the Romantic sublime ideas of nature through pairing it with the image of corruption- this awe- inspiring connection to nature and the world is being shattered by the oppressive authoritarian control.</p> <p>Blake had two poetry collections</p> <p><u>"the songs of innocence"</u> which focused on the beauty and peace of nature- a typical Romantic trope (recurring theme). His other collection was <u>"the songs of experience"</u>, London belonging too this, which laments the loss of innocence in the face of mass corruption and devastation</p>