

Revision task: Watch the two Unseen Poetry [revision videos](#) and then test your understanding by answering the two questions in this example exam paper.



GCSE
ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 2 Modern Texts and Poetry

Section C: Unseen poetry

Answer **both** questions in this section.

Night Writing by Carol Ann Duffy

Only a neat margin of moonlight
there at the curtain's edge
the room like a dark page.
I lie in bed.

Silence is ink.
The sound of my breath dips in
and out. So I begin
night writing. The stars type themselves
far out in space.

Who would guess,
To look at my sleeping face,
the rhymes and tall tales I invent?
Here be dragons; children lost
in the wood; three wishes; the wicked
and the good.

Read my lips.
The small hours are poems.
Dawn is a rubber.

In 'Night Writing', how does the poet present the speaker's thoughts about dreaming?

[24 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]

Sleep is a Songbird *by Lemn Sissay*

Sleep is a goddess to me now,
A whisper of continuous sentences
Bellowed in the daytime
Like a songbird in the night.

Tender is the pillow that soaks
My tears and wipes them from
My dreams. Consoling is the mattress
Like words of a lost mother.

I insert the needle of sleep
With a sigh of relief,
And hallucinate beauty from pain
And laughs from grief.

I sink like the tomb into the earth,
In wilful relief from all,
And lie cold yet warm,
Cushioned and calm.
Sleep is a songbird to me now.

In both 'Sleep is a Songbird' and 'Night Writing' the speakers describe their attitudes to the effect of sleep.

What are the similarities and/or differences between the ways the poets present these attitudes?

[8 marks]