

How to develop poetry analysis at IGCSE

In order to avoid vague or empty statements, you must be as specific and analytical as you can. Use the following questions to help you develop your response and layer your analysis and interpretation. You can also use this to check your work in order to ensure you are on track to achieving a high mark for analysis.

What – this indicates when you are providing a personal response (*What do you see? What is presented?*)

How – this often refers to method and techniques (*How is this shown?*)

Why – this often refers to poet intention or message (*Why has this been used?*)

Top tips:

1. Layer meaning and interpretation
2. Double up on techniques
3. Link everything back to your point and the question
4. Ensure points are relevant, perceptive and sophisticated


Points - Development and Analysis	Development by linking – take ideas further
<p>What kind of mood/tone is created? How? Why?</p> <p>What do you learn about the speaker/narrative voice/characters/action/relationships/themes? How are these presented? Why?</p> <p>What is the intended effect of...? How is this achieved?</p> <p>What technique is used?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why has it been used? • What is the effect? • How does it reinforce the message? • How does it reinforce your point? • How does it reinforce or reflect the themes? • Can you <u>double up</u> on the techniques used? • What is the effect? • Why was it chosen? <p>What kind of language has been used? Diction/word choice?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the connotations? • How does it affect the reader? • Why has it been used? Why this particular word? • Where is it? Why? • How does it reinforce the message/poet intention? 	<p>Link to context as a way of developing interpretation of meaning:</p> <p>What do you know about the time period? What do you know about the poet? Why was the poem written? Issues that the poet is commenting on.</p> <p>Link to the form:</p> <p>What is the form? What do you know about the features of this form? How do the techniques adhere to the features of the form? Why?</p> <p>Link to poet intention:</p> <p>What is their message? How does your example show this? What do they want you to understand? How do you know? What do they want you to do? How do you know?</p> <p>Key phrases:</p> <p>This suggests This implies This reinforces This reveals This shows</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does it reinforce your point? <p>How is the reader supposed to feel/react? How do you know?</p> <p>What ideas are expressed/presented? How? Why?</p>	
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Poetic techniques and devices



Language	Structure	Form
Allusion Anaphora Anthropomorphism Euphony Imagery Word choice Metaphor Simile Personification Sound devices (assonance, alliteration, consonance, sibilance, plosives, cacophony) Onomatopoeia Word groups (semantic fields) Oxymoron Paradox Pathetic fallacy Hyperbole Mono-syllabic Symbol	Line length Caesura Enjambment What the poem looks like -shape Line lengths Repetition Rhyme scheme or lack of Punctuation Rhythm Circular structure Structure of ideas Tense Juxtaposition End stopped line Holophrastic phrases Asyndeton Polysyndeton	Stanza Type of poem (ballad, elegy, sonnet, epic, lyric, free verse) Poetic voice 1 st person/3 rd person Iambic pentameter Rhyme scheme or lack of



Remember to name the techniques you see in the poem and then say why they were used. What is the effect? How do they reinforce the meaning/message?