EXAM STASH

GCSE ENGLISH POETRY COMPARISON

OZYMANDIAS VS LONDON

ABUSE OF POWER

OZYMANDIAS A ruined statue exposes the gap between a ruler's ambition and what survives.

LONDON A walk through the city reveals suffering and restrictive institutions.

COMPARISON FOCUS	SHARED ARGUMENT (HOW THEY COMPARE)	OZYMANDIAS (SHELLEY)	LONDON (BLAKE)	METHOD (LANGUAGE / FORM / STRUCTURE)	WHAT THE METHOD REVEALS (IN BOTH POEMS)
VOICE & DISTANCE	Both use distinct speakers to explore power, but from different distances.	"I met a traveller"	"The mind-forged manacles I hear:"	Multiple voices vs. first-person and repetition ("hear")	Shelley uses an opening speaker reporting a traveller, then the traveller quotes the ruler, creating distance and undermining his power; Blake uses a first-person walker and repeated hearing to make suffering immediate.
STRUCTURE & TONE SHIFTS	Both move from observation to stronger criticism, ending with a bleak judgement on power.	"sneer of cold command"	"Runs in blood down palace walls."	Tone shift and escalation (across the poem)	Both build from description to condemnation: Shelley shifts from detached observation to the ruler's command, then to irony; Blake's repeated accusations intensify the sense of systemic oppression.
KEY IMAGERY	Both question power through imagery: ruined grandeur or controlled everyday spaces.	"Two vast and trunkless legs of stone"	"each chartered street,"	Contrasting adjectives and controlled space imagery	Shelley's vast yet broken statue shows power as temporary; Blake's 'chartered' imagery shows institutional control shaping everyday life.
ENDINGS & MEANING	Shelley leaves emptiness; Blake presents continuing human suffering.	"Nothing beside remains."	"the marriage hearse."	Short sentence / final oxymoron	Shelley's short sentence answers the boast with emptiness; the final sands widen beyond the statue. Blake's final oxymoron exposes suffering continuing through humain institutions.

RECALL TASK

1. Explain one meaningful similarity between the poems, using evidence.
2. Explain one meaningful difference between the poems, using evidence.