EXAM STASH

POWER & CONFLICT POETRY

POETRY COMPARISON

MEMORY AND THE LASTING EFFECTS OF CONFLICT

AQA GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



REMAINS
SIMON ARMITAGE

- A veteran's memory of a shooting continues to intrude after deployment.
- A shooting that seems finished remains mentally present because responsibility and uncertainty have not ended.



WAR PHOTOGRAPHER
CAROL ANN DUFFY

- Developing photographs makes a photographer confront suffering and distant public reactions.
- Making suffering visible does not guarantee that distant viewers will accept responsibility.

REMAINS – KEY POINTS & EVIDENCE		THE COMPARISON	WAR PHOTOGRAPHER – KEY POINTS & EVIDENCE	
VOICE & DISTANCE	• A direct, colloquial account from a soldier implicated in a shooting. • The voice is immediate and haunted by what he did.	***'probably armed'*** **Method:** Qualification **Reveals:** The threat was never completely certain.	***Both present conflict through different perspectives, shaping how close the reader feels to the events.***	• A more controlled, third-person perspective focusing on a photographer at work. • It creates distance, but still conveys the lasting emotional impact of what he sees.	***'ordered rows'*** **Method:** Metaphor and ordered imagery **Reveals:** The darkroom imposes neatness on representations of suffering.
STRUCTURE & TONE SHIFTS	• The structure moves from a routine account to intrusive memories, ending in personal focus and guilt. • The tone shifts from conversational to graphic, then entrapped.	***'possibly not'*** **Method:** Paired qualifiers **Reveals:** The alternative possibility keeps moral doubt alive.	***Both use structure and tone shifts to show the lasting effects of conflict, from a sense of routine to a deeper, more troubling emotional impact.***	• Four six-line stanzas with a recurring rhyme pattern create control and order. • The tone shifts from solemn concentration to distress, then a bitter detachment.	***'priest'*** **Method:** Religious comparison **Reveals:** The work acquires the gravity of a ritual for the dead.
KEY IMAGERY	• Vivid, physical images show the violence and how it lingers in the mind. • The imagery makes the memory feel inescapable and personal.	***'blood-shadow'*** **Method:** Compound metaphor **Reveals:** A physical trace becomes an image of persistent memory.	***Both use powerful imagery to make the effects of conflict feel real and lasting, showing how violence returns in the mind.***	• Striking, unsettling images capture the process of developing and confronting images of suffering. • The imagery reminds readers that the reality of conflict continues beyond the battlefield.	***'half-formed ghost'*** **Method:** Metaphor **Reveals:** The photograph becomes an unsettling return of a person.
ENDINGS & MEANING	• The short final stanza narrows the focus to the narrator's own responsibility. • The ending shows lasting guilt, suggesting the experience cannot be left behind.	***'bloody hands'*** **Method:** Guilt imagery **Reveals:** The ending makes the narrator's own responsibility impossible to wash away.	***Both endings show that conflict continues to have a lasting effect, but in different ways: personal guilt in Remains and complicated detachment in War Photographer.***	• The final stanza shows the photographer leaving, seemingly 'impassively'. • The ending complicates whether this is professional control, emotional numbness or a defence against the horror.	***'impassively'*** **Method:** Adverb **Reveals:** The ending complicates whether apparent detachment protects or numbs him.

RECALL TASK

1. *Explain one meaningful similarity between Remains and War Photographer, using evidence.*
2. *Explain one meaningful difference between Remains and War Photographer, using evidence.*

