

To compare poems in the anthology, you need to:

- identify comparisons
- understand the links and contrasts between the poems
- develop comparisons, analysing similarities and differences.

Task 1: Identify links between language

The four poems presented below as word clouds are:

- 'Follower' by Seamus Heaney
- 'Before You Were Mine' by Carol Ann Duffy
- 'Mother, Any Distance' by Simon Armitage
- 'Walking Away' by Cecil Day Lewis

Identify as many links as you can between the poems, looking specifically at the word choices and semantic fields.



Task 2: Identify links between poems

Read the statements below. Which two poems would each statement apply to? Tick at least two boxes for each statement.

Both poems ...	'Follower' by Seamus Heaney	'Before You Were Mine' by Carol Ann Duffy	'Mother, Any Distance' by Simon Armitage	'Walking Away' by Cecil Day Lewis
focus on a father/son relationship.				
focus on a mother/child relationship.				
explore the theme of distance.				
have references to nature.				
use extended metaphors.				
use juxtaposition in their language.				
use a semantic field.				
speak directly to a parent.				
present a shift in tone/attitude.				
use enjambment.				
use their structure to represent emotions.				
have a regular rhyme scheme.				
have an irregular rhythm.				

Now choose three of these statements and find evidence for them in the poems.

Task 3: Understand and develop comparisons

Here is an exam style question:

Compare how poets present attitudes towards relationships between parents and children in 'Walking Away' and one other poem.

Choose which poem you will use to compare with 'Walking Away' and complete the planning grid below. This will help you practise choosing appropriate points of comparison between the poems. You are looking for similarities as well as differences.

Comparing poems in the Love and relationships cluster

AQA Anthology: poems past and present

	Poem 1: 'Walking Away'	Poem 2:
Content/themes		
Language		
Techniques		
Structure/form		

Task 4: Writing a response

When you compare two poems in an extended response, you should try to compare the poems throughout. One way of doing this is by taking each of the four elements above in turn and exploring comparisons.

Write a response to the question, using some of the phrases below to help you:

In 'Walking Away' we see that ...
while in ' ... ' this is demonstrated in the line ...

In 'Walking Away' Lewis portrays the idea of ...
The use of the word ... suggests/connotes/implies ...
Alternatively, this could ...

In comparison ...
In contrast to this ...
Similarly ...
On the other hand ...
Conversely ...
Likewise ...
This is unlike ...

