

Achieving a Grade C

# Skill descriptors D-C.

- Grade D skills descriptors.
  - Some extended and supportive comment.
  - A range of comment supported by textual detail.
  - Comment on the effects achieved by the writer.
  - Awareness of feelings, attitudes and ideas.
- Grade C skills descriptors.
  - Some cross references.
  - Effective use of textual detail (each point is backed up by reference or quotation and an explanation is given as to the effect on the reader).
  - Awareness of writers techniques and purpose (you have to explain why the poet has used certain words and the effect of these on the reader).
  - Understanding of feelings, attitudes and ideas. You must prove you can understand the poet's ideas by picking out particular words and suggesting how they make you or others feel.



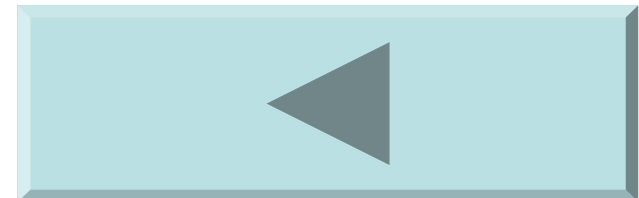
# Response A

- Ferlinghetti describes the posh couple in the Mercedes and the dirty bin men in their truck who have to stop at the traffic lights, because the light's on red. He makes the couple sound elegant and the bin men sound dirty and ugly. The woman is 'casually coiffed' and the man is wearing 'a hip three-piece linen suit'. The bin men would like to be like the couple, but they know they have no chance, Ferlinghetti is saying that in America some people are rich and some people are still very poor, and it's not fair. He starts the lines in different places on the page and it sounds jerky when you read it.
- Tatamkhulu Afrika returns to where he used to live to find that his town has been demolished and there's a 'brash' hotel on the derelict ground. He describes how angry he is when he sees the 'guard at the gatepost'.





# Response B

- Ferlinghetti compares the ‘elegant’ couple in their ‘elegant’ Mercedes to the unattractive, tired and dirty bin men. He describes the bin men on ‘the back stoop’ of their truck at the traffic lights, looking down at the couple ‘as from a great distance.’ This suggests there is a great gap between the lifestyles of the rich and poor in America. Afrika is also concerned about the difference between the rich and the poor, but in ‘Nothing’s Changed’ the rich are white and the poor people are black South Africans – ‘No Sign says it is, but we know where we belong.’ They still feel inferior although apartheid has been abolished.



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- Response A writes about two poems but doesn't compare them. 
- Response B has 'some cross reference'. It compares the feelings of the two poets.
- A Grade C answer must  compare two poems.

Comparison words like 'also' and 'on the other hand' will help you compare and contrast.

# Awareness of writer's purpose



- *'He starts the lines in different places on the page and it sounds jerky when you read it'.*
  - Does this comment on the effects achieved by the writer?
- 

Yes.

Does this response show awareness of writer's purpose?

No.

# What do we have to do to raise this to a Grade C?

- Response A would need to explain the effect on the reader and why he/she thinks the poet has used the technique – *the poet's purpose*. He/she could write:

*He writes the lines on two sides of the page, probably to give the effect that his eyes are looking from the garbage truck to the Mercedes and back again. It sounds jerky when you read it to perhaps show the fact that these two different sets of people live completely different lives. They are not equal.*

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# Understanding of feelings attitudes and ideas

- Ferlinghetti is a poet who writes about the lives of people in the city of San Francisco.

You need to explain the poet's belief that everybody should be equal.

**To boost to a Grade C, explain the poet's feelings.**

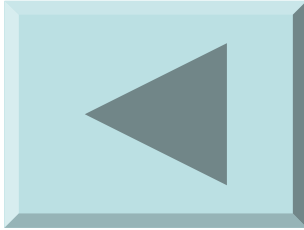
You need to explain why he is angry. He is angry because he thinks people are not treated more fairly, and he would probably expect to find black and white people integrating more.

...at the new hotel. He is angry and he says

He is angry to see the hotel.

# Your turn!

- On your worksheets you have Response C. You will see there is a choice in the boxes as to which skills descriptor has been 'hit'. Underline the correct skills descriptor. What grade is this answer?



- In 'Island Man' Grace Nichols describes a man who now lives in London, although he used to live on a Caribbean island. He still dreams of his beautiful island. Bright colours are used which describe the island – 'blue surf', 'emerald island', but when he begins to wake up the colour of the North Circular is grey. In 'Vultures' the poem begins with the 'greyness and drizzle of one despondent dawn.' He uses alliteration here. The poet makes the vultures seem very ugly – 'bashed-in head', 'a pebble on a stem'. They eat dead corpses and are described as having 'cold telescopic eyes'.

Awareness of feelings

Or

Understanding of feelings

A range of comment supported by textual detail

Or

Effective use of textual detail.

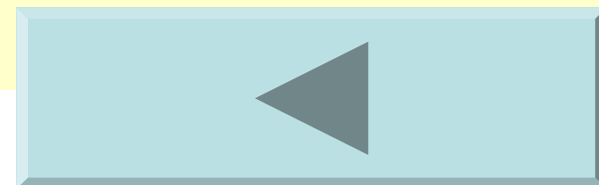
Cross-reference

Yes or No?

Comment on the effects achieved by the writer

Awareness of writer's techniques and purpose.

- Both 'Island Man' and 'Two Scavengers in a Truck' use description effectively. 'Island Man' is about a man who used to live in the Caribbean but now has to wake up in London. He's very unhappy and can't wake up. At the end of the poem it says 'Another London Day' so we know he's in London although most of the poem describes what it's like on his island. 'Two Scavengers' is also about a city but this time it's in America. It describes an 'elegant' couple in a Mercedes who have to stop at the traffic lights behind some bin men who are described as 'grungy' and a 'gargoyle Quasimodo'. This poem uses repetition and alliteration to make the description effective.



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