Assisi by Norman MacCaig

The dwarf with his hands on backwards  
sat, slumped like a half-filled sack  
on tiny twisted legs from which  
sawdust might run,  
outside the three tiers of churches built  
in honour of St Francis, brother  
of the poor, talker with birds, over whom  
he had the advantage  
of not being dead yet.

A priest explained  
how clever it was of Giotto  
to make his frescoes tell stories  
that would reveal to the illiterate the goodness  
of God and the suffering  
of His Son. I understood  
the explanation and  
the cleverness.

A rush of tourists, clucking contentedly,  
fluttered after him as he scattered  
the grain of the Word. It was they who had passed  
the ruined temple outside, whose eyes  
wept pus, whose back was higher  
than his head, whose lopsided mouth  
said Grazie in a voice as sweet  
as a child’s when she speaks to her mother  
or a bird’s when it spoke  
to St Francis.

**45.** Read lines 1-9.

By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the poet uses language to develop the character of the beggar.  **4**

**46.** Read lines 1

By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the poet uses word choice and tone to convey his attitude towards the priest and his explanation.  **3**

**47.** Read lines 18-27.

By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the poet uses imagery to depict the tourists and their actions**. 3**

**48.** By referring to this poem and at least one other poem by MacCaig, discuss how the poet explores social issues / makes social comment in his poetry. **10**