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**