**Example answer to the Scottish Text 8 mark Q**

**Commonality 2**

‘Originally’ contains imagery that conveys its central concerns of change and questions over identity. ‘Valentine’ contains imagery that conveys its central concern of the complexity and imperfection of real love as opposed to the cliched, rather fake version of love we see around Valentine’s day. ‘The Way My Mother Speaks’ also uses imagery to explore ideas of change and growing up.

**Reference to printed poem and comment** 2

In Originally, ‘Shedding its skin like a snake’ vividly describes the way a person can change their accent over time, much as a snake changes its skin, renewing itself. This metaphor explores themes of change and identity during childhood.

**Reference to other poems and comment 4**

In TWMMS the personification “browsing for the right sky” suggests a search for a place where Duffy feels she belongs. This conveys the poem’s themes of nostalgia and detachment from the past, the sense of loss when she remembers her mother’s Scottish accent.

In ‘Valentine’, Duffy uses an extended metaphor when she compares the gift of love to an onion: “I give you an onion”. Just as an onion is capable of making people cry and also creating wonderful tastes, so too love can be miraculous, beautiful, but it can also hurt people badly and be the source of great pain. This conveys the poem’s theme of the reality of love – its complexity, which is very different to the sugar-coated version promoted by Valentine’s day products.