**Sample Questions ‘The Ferryman’s Arms’**

1. The main themes of the poem are introduced in the title and first six lines. Identify one main theme and show how poetic technique is used to introduce this theme. (3)

2. By referring closely to lines 6—20, analyse the use of poetic technique to achieve a change of mood from alienation and uncertainty to one of confidence. (4)

3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the second stanza as a conclusion to the poem. (3)

4. In this poem, Paterson uses an apparently ordinary experience to explore a deeper truth about humanity. By referring to this and another poem or poems by Don Paterson you have studied discuss how he uses poetry to explore the deeper truths behind ordinary experience. (10)

**Sample Questions ‘Nil Nil’**

1. The main themes of the poem are introduced in the title and first seven lines

Identify one main theme and show how poetic technique is used to introduce this theme. (3)

2. By referring closely the rest of stanza 1, analyse the use of poetic technique to establish and maintain the tale of the football clubs decline. (4)

3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the second stanza as a conclusion to the poem. (3)

4. In this poem, Paterson uses an apparently ordinary experience to explore a deeper truth about humanity. By referring to this and another poem or poems by Don Paterson you have studied discuss how he uses poetry to explore the deeper truths behind ordinary experience. (10)

**Sample Questions ’11:00: Baldovan’**

1. Identify how a sense of adventure is established in the first four lines. (2)

2. Identify and explain how the atmosphere is atmosphere is created in lines 24-30. (4)

3. Show how the theme of time is explored in this poem. (4)

4. In this poem, Paterson uses an apparently ordinary experience to explore a deeper truth about humanity. By referring to this and another poem or poems by Don Paterson you have studied discuss how he uses poetry to explore the deeper truths behind ordinary experience. (10)

**Sample Questions ‘Waking with Russell’**

1. What is the difference between the two types of smiles in this poem? (2)

2. How is a contrast created between the poet’s life before Russell was born and now he has arrived? (4)

3. How does Paterson use the traditional love sonnet style to shape this poem? (4)

4. The speaker in this poem reflects on the nature of life. With close textual reference, show how Paterson examines the nature of life or existence in another poem (or poems) that you have read. (10)

**Sample Questions ‘The Thread’**

1. Explain how the thread is used as a theme throughout the poem. (4)

2. How is a sense of energy created through language and/or sentence structure in lines 7-10. (6)

3.This poem explores childhood. How is this idea developed in another poem or poems by Paterson that you have read? (10)

**Sample Questions for ‘Two Trees’**

1. How does Paterson bring a fairytale like element to this poem? (4)

2. How is the splicing and separation of the trees made to sound difficult and then easy? (4)

3. What tone is created in lines 17-22 and how is it effective? (2)

4. The final lines of this poem are ambiguous. With detailed reference to one or more other poems, examine the role ambiguity plays in Paterson’s poetry. (10)

**Leckie Leckie for ‘Nil Nil’**

1. How effective do you find the title in conveying the main ideas of the poem? (2)
2. By referring closely to lines 1-7, analyse the use of poetic technique in portraying the early era of the football club (4)
3. Analyse the effectiveness of the poet’s description of the declining club in lines 10-23 through sentence structure **and** word choice. (4)
4. By referring to this poem and at least one other by Don Paterson, discuss the poet’s use of structure to develop a theme in his work. (10)

**Leckie Leckie for ‘The Thread’**

**Leckie Leckie for ‘Two Trees’**

**2015 Sample missing**

**2015 Prelim for ‘Nil Nil’**

1. By referring to lines 1-7, analyse the use of poetic techniques to convey an ambiguous impression of McGrandle (4)
2. Explain how lines 8-9 act as a turning point in the extract. (2)
3. By referring to lines 10-18, analyse the use of poetic technique to convey the extent of the team’s decline. (4)
4. By referring to the this poem and at least one other by Don Paterson, discuss the way he explores the concept of duality. (10)

**2015 Exam (Two Trees)**

**2016 Prelim for ‘The Ferryman’s Arms’**

1. By referring to at least two examples, analyse how language is used in lines 1—10 to create an unnerving atmosphere. (4)
2. Analyse how the language used in lines 11—13 gives a vivid impression of the pool table. (2)
3. By referring to lines 14—20, analyse how the poet’s use of language conveys the apparent ease of the “immaculate clearance”. (4)
4. Paterson often introduces mysterious, enigmatic elements into his poetry. By referring to this poem and to at least one other by him, discuss his use of this feature. (10)

**2016 Exam (The Thread)**

**2017 Prelim missing**

**2017 Exam for ‘Nil Nil’**

1. Look at lines 1–6 (“From . . . the net;). Analyse how the poet’s language creates a celebratory mood. (2)
2. Look at lines 9–29 (“from here . . . inclines”).By referring to **at least two** examples, analyse how the poet’s use of language creates an atmosphere of decline. (4)
3. Look at lines 41–57. By referring to **at least two** examples, analyse how the poet’s use of language conveys the tragic situation of **both** the community and the pilot. (4)
4. By referring to this extract and to at least one other poem by Paterson, discuss how the poet explores the impact of loss. (10)

**2018 Prelim for ‘Waking with Russell’**

1. Look at lines 1—6. By referring to **at least two** examples, analyse how the poet’s use of language in these lines creates a contrast between father and son. (4)
2. Look at lines 7—9. Explain how the poet develops the idea of “*mezzo del cammin*” in these lines. (2)
3. Look at lines 10—14. By referring to **at least two** examples, analyse how the poet’s use of language brings the poem to a powerful conclusion. (4)
4. Don Paterson employs a variety of verse forms and structures in his poetry. By referring to this poem and to at least one other poem by Paterson, discuss how he makes use of form and/or structure to explore key ideas. (10)

**2018 Exam**

1. Look at lines 1–10. By referring to **at least two** examples, analyse how the poet’s use of language conveys an unsettling atmosphere. (4)
2. Look at lines 11–20. Analyse how the poet’s use of language conveys the speaker’s attitude at this point. (2)
3. Look at lines 21–30. By referring to **at least two** examples, analyse how the poet uses imagery to convey the central concern(s). (4)
4. By referring to this poem and to at least one other poem, discuss how Paterson explores the challenges of human experience. (10)

**2018 Specimen for ‘The Ferryman’s Arms’**

1. Look at the title and lines 1–6. The main themes of the poem are introduced in these lines. Identify **one** main theme and show how poetic technique is used to introduce this theme. (3)
2. Look at lines 6–20. By referring to at least **two** examples, analyse the use of poetic technique to achieve a change of mood from alienation and uncertainty to one of confidence. (4)
3. Look at lines 21–30. Evaluate the effectiveness of these lines as a conclusion to the poem. (3)
4. In this poem, Paterson uses an apparently ordinary experience to explore a deeper truth about humanity. By referring to this and to at least **one** other poem by Don Paterson, discuss how he uses poetry to explore the deeper truths behind ordinary experience. (10)