**Today’s key questions:**

1. Can I read and understand an unseen poem?
2. Can I comment on language, structure, tone, imagery and meaning when discussing a poem?
3. Can I produce a GCSE style answer to an unseen poetry question?

Booster: UNSEEN POETRY

**In ‘’You Get So Lonely Sometimes It Just Makes Sense’, how does the speaker present their feelings about the human experience?**

***You Get So Alone Sometimes It Just Makes Sense***

27.1 Unseen Poetry

**AO1** – Demonstrate your understanding of the poem’s meaning by selecting relevant quotations and discussing them in detail.

**AO2** – Discuss and analyse language devices used and comment on how the poem is structured and set out. Discuss the form of the poem. Remember to use the correct subject terminology and comment on how this links to the poet’s ideas.

1. **Explore connotations of the title.**
2. **Read the poem at least twice.**
3. **Consider the meaning of the poem and identify the poet’s ideas.**
   1. *If you are struggling to do this then look at the words used. Are they negative or positive?*
   2. *Look at the opening and the ending if the poem. What atmosphere is created?*
4. **Analyse the poet’s use of language and structure.**
5. **Select three quotations and analyse key words from them. What is the effect on the reader?**

**STEP ONE: CONNOTATIONS OF THE TITLE**

You Get So Alone Sometimes It Just Makes Sense *by Charles Bukowski*

**STEP TWO: READ THE POEM (Twice)**

darkness falls upon Humanity  
and faces become terrible  
things  
that wanted more than there  
was.  
  
all our days are marked with  
unexpected  
affronts - some  
disastrous, others  
less so  
but the process is  
wearing and  
continuous.  
attrition rules.  
most give  
way  
leaving  
empty spaces  
where people should  
be.  
  
and now  
as we ready to self-destruct  
there is very little left to  
kill  
  
which makes the tragedy  
less and more  
much much  
more.”

**STEP THREE: IDENTIFY THE POET’S IDEAS**

**Grade 4/5**

Bukowski sees life as boring and inherently tragic.

**Grade 7+**

Bukowski is disillusioned with the experience of being human, seeing life as devoid of purpose.

**Grade 6/7**

Bukowski sees little point in other people, suggesting that all relationships invariably fail.

**GRADE 4/5: What is the effect of the phrase “empty spaces”. Perform single word analysis on the word “empty”.**

**GRADE 6: What “tragedy” is Bukowski talking about? What is the effect of the oxymoron “makes the tragedy less”?**

**GRADE 7+: Why does Bukowski use so much enjambment and a completely irregular structure throughout the poem? What is the point of it?**

**STEP FOUR: ANALYSE THE POET’S USE OF LANGUAGE, FORM AND STRUCTURE**

**Stuck? What are the connotations of “mutiny”, “warm”, “fantastic”, “outlaws”, “unimportant”, and “muscle-bound”.**

**STEP FIVE: WHAT IS THE EFFECT ON THE READER?**

**WRITE YOUR QUOTATION IN HERE:**

**HOW DOES THIS IMPACT ON THE READER?**

**HOW DOES THIS IMPACT ON THE READER?**

**WRITE YOUR QUOTATION IN HERE:**

**HOW DOES THIS IMPACT ON THE READER?**

**WRITE YOUR QUOTATION IN HERE:**

**THE NEXT STEP: EXTEND YOUR LEARNING**

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| **In ‘’You Get So Lonely Sometimes It Just Makes Sense’, how does the speaker present their feelings about the human experience?** |  |
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The final question is worth 8 marks. This question will require you to compare the unseen poem from the previous question to a new unseen poem.

It is likely this new poem will be quite short as you will not have a long time to answer it.

**This question is only testing you on AO2, meaning it is seeing if you can compare language, structure, form and other methods used by a writer.**

27.2 (8 marks)

**STEP ONE: CONNOTATIONS OF THE TITLE**

**Alone** by Edgar Allen Poe

**STEP TWO: READ THE POEM (Twice)**

**“Alone”**

From childhood’s hour I have not been

As others were—I have not seen

As others saw—I could not bring

My passions from a common spring—

From the same source I have not taken

My sorrow—I could not awaken

My heart to joy at the same tone—

And all I lov’d—*I* lov’d alone—

*Then*—in my childhood—in the dawn

Of a most stormy life—was drawn

From ev’ry depth of good and ill

The mystery which binds me still—

From the torrent, or the fountain—

From the red cliff of the mountain—

From the sun that ’round me roll’d

In its autumn tint of gold—

From the lightning in the sky

As it pass’d me flying by—

From the thunder, and the storm—

And the cloud that took the form

(When the rest of Heaven was blue)

Of a demon in my view—

**STEP THREE: IDENTIFY THE POET’S IDEAS**

**STEP FOUR: ANALYSE THE POET’S USE OF LANGUAGE, FORM AND STRUCTURE**

**Which words have interesting connotations?**

**Does the poem have a regular structure? Any enjambment?**

**Are there any semantic fields used? Any repeated words?**

**STEP FIVE: WHAT SIMILARITIES ARE THERE WITH THE FIRST POEM?**

|  |  |
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| **In both poems, ‘’You Get So Lonely Sometimes It Just Makes Sense’’ and ‘Alone, the speakers describe their feelings about the human experience. What are the similarities/differences between the ways that the poets present those feelings?** |  |
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