

QUESTION 5: UNSEEN POETRY – CONTEXTUAL**THE LONELINESS BEYOND – Siphso Sepamla**

- 5.1 The word, 'pattering' suggests individuals arriving at random. It also conveys the haste with which they are moving. This gradual arrival of people culminates in a 'torrent' which implies a rush/an overwhelming number of people. (2)
- 5.2 The masses are so emotionally pulverised by their circumstances that they are too tired to disguise their true feelings. Their raw emotions are evident. The words suggest a lack of individuality because the people experience the same sense of hopelessness/exhaustion/despair. (2)
- 5.3 It is ironic that, even though many people are crowded together, the speaker sees their loneliness. This suggests that being part of a crowd does not bring comfort/is not reassuring/does not guarantee an escape from loneliness. Even in the midst of a crowd, people still experience a sense of separation/alienation and aloneness since they are surrounded by strangers. (3)
- 5.4 The mood is oppressive/bleak/lonely/despairing. People retreat into 'holes' like animals seeking security/comfort. Their places of rest are dark and gloomy; hence there is no promise of revival. They only 'rest' in their 'holes', therefore their homes give only temporary respite from what is the main focus of their lives: work. Describing their homes as 'little holes' intensifies the claustrophobic aspect of the mood. Their isolation and vulnerability are emphasised. The image successfully reinforces the bleak mood of the poem.

[Award full marks only if the candidate includes critical evaluation.] (3)
[10]

TOTAL SECTION A: 30

UNSEEN POETRY (COMPULSORY)**QUESTION 5: CONTEXTUAL QUESTION****THE LONELINESS BEYOND – Siphso Sepamla**

Like raindrops pattering
 They come singly and in pairs
 Then as a torrent the rush of feet
 Shuffles onto platforms
 Dragging the last strains of energy. 5

I've seen hearts palpitating
 Behind a single maskless face
 Tired from the hurrying of a city
 Spirits maimed by commands.

I've heard the clicks of tongues 10
 Laughter rising above the grouse of mouths
 That never rest
 From grinding complaints.

Like sheep herded into a kraal
 They crowd numbered coaches 15
 Hopeful of a safe landing.

I've watched the multitudes rub shoulders
 And I've wondered what they do
 With the loneliness beyond;

I've seen throngs of people 20
 Disappear into little holes of resting
 And I've pondered what might be happening
 With the loneliness beyond.

- 5.1 Explain what the words, 'pattering' (line 1) and 'torrent' (line 3) convey about the movement of the people. (2)
- 5.2 What is suggested by the description of the face as 'a single maskless face' (line 7)? (2)
- 5.3 Refer to lines 17–19: 'I've watched the multitudes ... the loneliness beyond'. Explain how the irony in these lines makes a comment about modern society. (3)
- 5.4 Refer to line 21: 'Disappear into little holes of resting'. Critically discuss how the image in this line reinforces the mood of the poem. (3)
- [10]**

TOTAL SECTION A: 30