**Conflict**

**Read the two poems below and then answer both part a) and part b).**

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on part a) and 30 minutes on part b).

**a)** Compare how these poems present thoughts about those who have died in combat.

You should consider:

• ideas and attitudes in each poem

• tone and atmosphere in each poem

• the effects of the language and structure used.

**AND**

**b)** Explore in detail one other poem from your anthology that presents thoughts about those who have died in combat.

***Vergissmeinnicht* by Keith Douglas**

Three weeks gone and the combatants gone  
returning over the nightmare ground  
we found the place again, and found  
the soldier sprawling in the sun.  
  
The frowning barrel of his gun  
overshadowing. As we came on  
that day, he hit my tank with one  
like the entry of a demon.  
  
Look. Here in the gunpit spoil  
the dishonoured picture of his girl  
who has put: Steffi. Vergissmeinnicht.  
in a copybook gothic script.  
  
We see him almost with content,  
abased, and seeming to have paid  
and mocked at by his own equipment  
that's hard and good when he's decayed.  
  
But she would weep to see today  
how on his skin the swart flies move;  
the dust upon the paper eye  
and the burst stomach like a cave.  
  
For here the lover and killer are mingled  
who had one body and one heart.  
And death who had the soldier singled  
has done the lover mortal hurt.

***Futility* by Wilfred Owen**

Move him into the sun—

Gently its touch awoke him once,

At home, whispering of fields half-sown.

Always it woke him, even in France,

Until this morning and this snow.

If anything might rouse him now

The kind old sun will know.

Think how it wakes the seeds—

Woke once the clays of a cold star

Are limbs, so dear-achieved, are sides

Full-nerved, still warm, too hard to stir?

Was it for this the clay grew tall?

—O what made fatuous sunbeams toil

To break earth's sleep at all?