**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 the effects of war on people’s lives.

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 lives transformed by conflict.

***Anthem For Doomed Youth* by Wilfred Owen**

What passing–bells for these who die as cattle?

Only the monstrous anger of the guns.

Only the stuttering rifles’ rapid rattle

Can patter out their hasty orisons.

No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;

Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,

The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;

And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?

Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes

Shall shine the holy glimmers of good–byes.

The pallor of girls’ brows shall be their pall;

Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,

And each slow dusk a drawing–down of blinds.

***In Times of Peace* by John Agard**

That finger – index to be exact –

so used to a trigger’s warmth

how will it begin to deal with skin

that threatens only to embrace?

Those feet, so at home in heavy boots

and stepping over bodies –

how will they cope with a bubble bath

when foam is all there is for ambush?

And what of hearts in times of peace?

Will war–worn hearts grow sluggish

like Valentine roses wilting

without the adrenalin of a bullet’s blood–rush?

When the dust of peace has settled on a nation,

how will human arms handle the death of weapons?

And what of ears, are ears so tuned to sirens

that the closing of wings causes a tremor?

As for eyes, are eyes ready for the soft dance

of a butterfly’s bootless invasion?