**Conflict**

**Question 7**

**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).

1. Compare how these poems present the feelings of the soldiers towards their dead enemy.

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 shows reflects on a killing.

***The Man He Killed* by Thomas Hardy**

"Had he and I but met

By some old ancient inn,

We should have sat us down to wet

Right many a nipperkin!

"But ranged as infantry,

And staring face to face,

I shot at him as he at me,

And killed him in his place.

"I shot him dead because —

Because he was my foe,

Just so: my foe of course he was;

That's clear enough; although

"He thought he'd 'list, perhaps,

Off-hand like — just as I —

Was out of work — had sold his traps —

No other reason why.

"Yes; quaint and curious war is!

You shoot a fellow down

You'd treat if met where any bar is,

Or help to half-a-crown."

***The Target*** by Ivor Gurney

I shot him, and it had to be
One of us - 'Twas him or me.
'Couldn't be helped' and none can blame
Me, for you would do the same.

My mother, she cant sleep for fear
Of what might be a-happening here
To me. Perhaps it might be best
To die, and set her fears at rest

For worst is worst, and worry's done.
Perhaps he was the only son. . .
Yet God keeps still, and does not say
A word of guidance anyway.

Well, if they get me, first I'll find
That boy, and tell him all my mind,
And see who felt the bullet worst,
And ask his pardon,if I durst.

All's a tangle. Here's my job.
A man might rave, or shout, or sob;
And God He takes takes no sort of heed.
This is a bloody mess indeed.