**Conflict**

**Question 8**

**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 concepts associated with a flag.

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 conflict between nations.

***Flag* by John Agard**

What’s that fluttering in a breeze?  
Its just a piece of cloth  
that brings a nation to its knees.  
  
What’s that unfurling from a pole?  
It’s just a piece of cloth  
that makes the guts of men grow bold.  
  
What’s that rising over a tent?  
It’s just a piece of cloth  
that dares the coward to relent.  
  
What’s that flying across a field?  
It’s just a piece of cloth  
that will outlive the blood you bleed.  
  
How can I possess such a cloth?  
Just ask for a flag my friend.  
Then blind your conscience to the end

***The Star-Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key**

Oh say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,

Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof thru the night that our flag was still there.

Oh say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Oh, thus be it ever, when free men shall stand

Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!

Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land

Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation!

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,

And this be our motto: "In God is our trust!"

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

On the shore, dimly seen thru the mists of the deep,

Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,

What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,

As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?

Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,

In full glory reflected now shines on the stream;

'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh, long may it wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!