

## EN333 Poetry and Emotion: exam revision

### Overview of exam

- The exam is 2 hours, in which you need to answer two questions from a choice of eight.
- There is no reading time (reading time is only given in papers that ask you to write a commentary on a passage included in the exam paper).
- You cannot take any reading material into the exam with you.
- The questions are thematic: they do not ask you to comment on a specific poet, but on a theme related to the module.
- In each answer, you are required to respond to the question with reference to between two and four poems (*unless otherwise specified in the question*).

### Revising

- The exam has two objectives: (i) to assess your ability to discuss 'emotion' critically; (ii) your ability to close read poetry.
- Choose 2-4 themes from the list below; choose 4-6 poems that relate to these themes.
- Write out your answers in essay form and use them to revise from.
- If you don't want to/haven't got time to write out full essays, write short 500-word summaries of your potential exam answers, which you can then develop during the exam in the context of specific questions.
- For each potential answer, map out a six-eight paragraph plan detailing your essay.
- Use critics selectively: revise critics' work that speaks to the themes and poets you're revising.
- You may discuss poems/theories/essays by writers not on the module, but include some material discussed on the module in each of your answers.

### Answering the question

- Each answer should be a clearly structured, planned response to the question: do not write down everything you know.
- As with assessed essays, start with an introduction where you outline your argument.
- Remember that an argument is **not** an interesting or complex idea: it is an idea that you have a point about which you wish to prove.
- A good argument is specific rather than general and comprehensive (making an argument means having an angle on your topic and being able to defend this interpretation).

- Do not make general or sweeping claims: think about which poems you're going to refer to in your answer and use them to form the basis of the close reading that supports your argument.
- The questions are deliberately open in order to allow you to answer on what you know rather than what you don't.

### **Revision themes**

- Thinking / feeling
- Reason / feeling
- The listening experience / sound
- Rhythm and metre
- Elegy and emotion
- Feeling and prosody
- Poetry and the sacred
- The body and affect
- Eco-poetics and affect
- Emotion and the senses
- Poetry as experience