Essay Questions

Mean Time

1. What interests you about the ways in which Duffy presents thoughts and feelings about love in this anthology? Refer to at least two poems in your answer. (AEB English Literature A Level 1999)

2. Remind yourself of ‘The Grammar of Light’. Explore the ideas expressed in the poem and the ways in which they are presented. (AEB English Literature A Level 1999)

3. How does Duffy present childhood memories in Mean Time?

4. What is interesting about how Duffy uses different voices in this anthology?

5. Discuss how Duffy presents loneliness/nostalgia/alienation/ the breakdown of relationships/ childhood/ growing up in Mean Time with reference to at least two poems?

The Other Country

1. ‘All childhood is an emigration.’ Choose three poems from this collection and explore them in the light of this statement. (AEB English Literature A Level 1995)

2. What do you find interesting about the way Duffy presents loving relationships in three poems in this collection? (AEB English Literature A Level 1995)