

QUESTION 2: POETRY – CONTEXTUAL QUESTION

Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow.

REMEMBER – Christina Rossetti

1 Remember me when I am gone away,
2 Gone far away into the silent land;
3 When you can no more hold me by the hand,
4 Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
5 Remember me when no more day by day
6 You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
7 Only remember me; you understand
8 It will be late to counsel then or pray.
9 Yet if you should forget me for a while
10 And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
11 For if the darkness and corruption leave
12 A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
13 Better by far you should forget and smile
14 Than that you should remember and be sad.

2.1 Account for the repetition of the word, 'remember' throughout the poem. (2)

2.2 Refer to lines 5–8: 'Remember me when ... then or pray.'

Explain what these lines suggest about the speaker's relationship with her loved one. (2)

2.3 Comment on the significance of the reference to 'the darkness and corruption' (line 11) in the context of the poem. (3)

2.4 Refer to lines 13–14: 'Better by far ... and be sad.'

Critically comment on how the speaker's tone in these lines reinforces the central idea of the poem. (3)

[10]

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2.1 Refer to lines 1–2: 'gone away,/Gone far away'.

How do these words set the initial mood of the poem? (2)

2.2 Explain what the use of the phrase, 'the silent land' (line 2) conveys about the speaker's state of mind. (2)

2.3 Refer to line 4: 'Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.'
Discuss the significance of this description in the context of the poem. (3)

2.4 The speaker of this poem is self-centred.
Do you agree with this statement? Justify your response by referring to imagery and/or diction. (3)

[10]

