

**Sir Thomas Wyatt – Who so list to hount I knowe where is an hynde**

- Examine the view that Sir Thomas Wyatt presents the speaker of the poem as feeling that love is unobtainable.
- Examine the view that Sir Thomas Wyatt's speaker expresses only personal disappointment and weariness in the love chase.
- Examine the view that Sir Thomas Wyatt's poem is primarily concerned with the power of desire.
- Examine the view that the speaker in Sir Thomas Wyatt's sonnet presents women as the objectified adornment of men.

**William Shakespeare – Sonnet 116**

- Examine the view that Shakespeare's Sonnet 116 clearly presents love as an essential part of our physical world.
- Examine the view that in Sonnet 116, Shakespeare explores the notion of love as constant and powerful.
- Examine the view that Shakespeare's Sonnet 116 only explores the qualities of idealised love.

**John Donne – The Flea**

- Examine the view that John Donne presents the speaker in the poem as having a superficial attitude to love.
- Examine the view that Donne's poem 'The Flea' is merely a poem of seduction.
- Examine the view that the speaker in Donne's poem is actually powerless and less persuasive than many readers initially believe him to be.
- Examine the view that John Donne's 'The Flea' is a classic example of a carpe diem poem.

**Andrew Marvell – To his Coy Mistress**

- Examine the view that Marvell's poem is merely one about the power and urgency of desire rather than the purity of love.
- Examine the view that Andrew Marvell's poem is a syllogism solely focused on seduction.
- Examine the view that Marvell's speaker mocks the traditional blazon; presenting a speaker who is far from love-struck and lacks a courtly appreciation of his lover.
- Examine the view that Marvell's poem demonstrates a lack of power for the voiceless female to whom it is addressed.

### **Richard Lovelace – The Scrutiny**

- Examine the view that Lovelace presents the speaker of the poem as having a selfish attitude to love.
- Examine the view that Richard Lovelace’s poem actually places under scrutiny the nature of relationships in general.
- Examine the view that Lovelace’s poem characterises promiscuity as acceptable.
- Examine the view that ‘The Scrutiny’ is little more than a misogynistic fantasy that privileges male desire and objectifies women.

### **John Wilmot – A Song (Absent from thee)**

- Examine the view that Wilmot’s poem only explores the inconstancy of love.
- Examine the view that the speaker in Wilmot’s poem selfishly desires infidelity and is helpless to act otherwise.
- Examine the view that in Wilmot’s poem ‘the relationship between the speaker and his addressee resembles the one between errant sinner and God’ (Marianne Thormahlen, 2000).

### **William Blake – The Garden of Love**

- Examine the view that Blake’s poem is an allegory for the ways in which the established Church of the Eighteenth century controlled people’s actions, thoughts and desires.
- Examine the view that William Blake’s speaker explores how hidden pressures or constraints prevent love, or lead to pain and suffering.
- Examine the view that Blake’s poem is an argument against priesthood.
- Examine the view that Blake’s poem is primarily concerned with moving from a world of innocence to one of experience.

### **Robert Burns – Sone (Ae fond kiss)**

- Examine the view that Burns’ poem explores how young, fleeting love can leave a lasting impression.
- Examine the view that the speaker in Burns’ poem feels love is unformed or pointless.
- Examine the view that the speaker in Burns’ poem has only regret for his lost love on parting.
- Examine the view that Robert Burns’ poem is a sincere expression of the powerful feelings of love.

### **Lord Byron – She walks in Beauty**

- Examine the view that Byron’s poem explores the power of attraction.
- Examine the view that Lord Byron’s poem is clearly attributable to its Romantic origins.
- Examine the view that in Byron’s poem the reverence with which the male speaker talks of his lover is more powerful in nature than just physical attraction.
- Examine the view that the woman in Byron’s poem is idealised spiritually as much as physically.

**Christina Rossetti – Remember**

- Examine the view that Rossetti’s poem is about love after death.
- Examine the view that Rossetti’s sonnet examines the relationship between love, memory and death.
- Examine the view that Rossetti’s poem explores how a relationship can endure beyond death.
- Examine the view that the speaker in Rossetti’s poem is actually about a relationship where a woman is trying to break free from the control of a man.

**Thomas Hardy – The Ruined Maid.**

- Examine the view that Hardy’s poem is a satirical presentation of the ‘ruin’ of young, working class women in Victorian England.
- Examine the view that the speaker in Hardy’s poem has no other way open to her in order to ‘better herself’ and must accept ‘ruin’.
- Examine the view that in his poem, Hardy presents a comic take on the idea of the ‘fallen woman’.

**Thomas Hardy – At an Inn**

- Examine the view that Hardy’s poem explores a platonic relationship.
- Examine the view that Thomas Hardy’s poem is a reflection on love that might have been.
- Examine the view that Hardy’s poem is about vicarious enjoyment in an assumed sexual relationship.
- Examine the view that it is difficult to feel sympathy for the speaker and his frustrations in Hardy’s narrative poem.

**John Keats – La Belle Dame sans Merci.**

- Examine the view that Keats uses the mock medieval ballad style to explore the nature of obsession.
- Examine the view that Keats’ poem only presents the power of addiction.
- Examine the view that in his poem John Keats’s speaker cannot recover from his experience of extreme love.
- Examine the view that Keats’ poem presents women as the powerful seducers or temptresses of men.

**Ernest Dowson – Non sum quails eram bonae sub regno Cynarae**

- Examine the view that Ernest Dowson presents the speaker in his poem as having an obsessive view of love.
- Examine the view that Dowson’s poem epitomises the Decadent notion of transgressive modes of sexuality.
- Examine the view that Dowson’s poem only explores the effect of a lost love affair.