

Autumn

Autumn arrives
Like an experienced robber
Grabbing the green stuff
Then cunningly covering his tracks
5 With a deep multitude
Of colourful distractions.
And the wind,
The wind is his accomplice
Putting an air of chaos
10 Into the careful diversions
So branches shake
And dead leaves are suddenly blown
In the faces of inquisitive strangers.
The theft chills the world,
15 Changes the temper of the earth
Till the normally placid sky
Glowes red with a quiet rage.

Alan Bold

In 'Autumn', how does the poet present the effects of the season of autumn?

[24 marks]

Indicative content

Examiners are encouraged to reward any valid interpretations. Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1

- Description of autumn as a 'robber and wind as 'accomplice'; the abundance of everything that has gone previously has been taken away.
- ideas related to cold and negativity: theft 'chilling' the world; idea of mortality – 'dead leaves'; disruptive effects of season and wind 'air of chaos'
- Effect that nature has upon man – leaves are 'blown/in the faces of inquisitive strangers'
- 'colourful distractions' suggesting some positive aspects to the season
- 'normally placid sky' and 'quiet rage' implies volatility of seasonal change

AO2

- figurative language presenting autumn as a 'robber' an unwelcome visitor with the wind described as his 'accomplice'
- Length of final line and relative brevity of preceding ones; compact single stanza
- Alliteration-grabbing/green, cunningly covering, autumn/arrives
- Powerful verbs – 'grabbing'/'shake'; adjectival choices – 'careful'/'placid'/'colourful'
- Red-notations of fireworks-rage linking visual imagery to emotions

Mark	AO	Typical features	How to arrive at a mark
Level 6 <i>Convincing, critical analysis and exploration</i> 21–24 marks	AO1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical, exploratory conceptualised response to task and text • Judicious use of precise references to support interpretation(s) 	<p>At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be a critical, exploratory, well-structured argument. It takes a conceptualised approach to the task supported by a range of judicious references. There will be a fine-grained and insightful analysis of language and form and structure supported by judicious use of subject terminology.</p> <p>At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have level 5 and be starting to demonstrate elements of exploratory thought and / or analysis of writers' methods.</p>
	AO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of writer's methods with subject terminology used judiciously • Exploration of effects of writer's methods on reader 	
Level 5 <i>Thoughtful, developed consideration</i> 17–20 marks	AO1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoughtful, developed response to task and text • Apt references integrated into interpretation(s) 	<p>At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to include be thoughtful, detailed and developed. It takes a considered approach to the task with references integrated into interpretation; there will be a detailed examination of the effects of language and/or structure and/or form supported by apt use of subject terminology.</p> <p>At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have level 4 and be starting to demonstrate elements of thoughtful consideration and / or examination of writers' methods.</p>
	AO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of writer's methods with subject terminology used effectively to support consideration of methods • Examination of effects of writer's methods on reader 	
Level 4 <i>Clear understanding</i> 13–16 marks	AO1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear, explained response to task and text • Effective use of references to support explanation 	<p>At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be clear, sustained and consistent. It takes a focused response to the task which demonstrates clear understanding. It uses a range of references effectively to illustrate and justify explanation; there will be clear explanation of the effects of a range of writer's methods supported by appropriate use of subject terminology.</p> <p>At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have level 3 and be starting to demonstrate elements of understanding and / or explanation of writer's methods.</p>
	AO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear explanation of writer's methods with appropriate use of relevant subject terminology • Understanding of effects of writer's methods on reader 	
Level 3 <i>Explained, structured comments</i> 9–12 marks	AO1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some explained response to task and text • References used to support a range of relevant comments 	<p>At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be explanatory in parts. It focuses on the task with a range of points exemplified by relevant references from the text; there will be identification of effects of a range of writer's methods supported by relevant use of subject terminology.</p> <p>At the bottom of the level, a candidate will level 2 and be starting to explain and / or make relevant comments on writer's methods.</p>
	AO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained/relevant comments on writer's methods with some relevant use of subject terminology • Identification of effects of writer's methods on reader 	
Level 2 <i>Supported, relevant comments</i> 5–8 marks	AO1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported response to task and text • Comments on references 	<p>At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be relevant and supported by some explanation. It will include some focus on the task with relevant comments and some supporting references from text. There will be identification of effects of deliberate choices made by the writer with some reference to subject terminology.</p> <p>At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have level 1 and be starting to focus on the task and /or show awareness of the writer making choices.</p>
	AO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of writers' methods • Some reference to subject terminology 	
Level 1 <i>Simple, explicit comments</i> 1–4 marks	AO1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple comments relevant to task and text • Reference to relevant details 	<p>At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be narrative and/or descriptive in approach. It may include awareness of the task and provide appropriate reference to text; there will be simple identification of method with possible reference to subject terminology.</p> <p>At the bottom of the level, a candidate's response will show some familiarity with the text.</p>
	AO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of writer making deliberate choices • Possible reference to subject terminology 	
0 marks	Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written		

Response 1

The poet presents the effects in 'Autumn' as very strange, he does this as describing the season to be an 'experienced Robber' this could imply that autumn makes the colour change and that it is talking all of the fresh green leaves and changing them into a brown colour, the autumn season is also where the leaves fall and change, this could also be described as this because it has a 'colourful distraction' which has an affect because we wouldnt know what to look for but the season can be very strange and work its ways around things that we are blind to. The poet uses Pathetic fallacy to talk about the sky and the nature when it says 'glows red with a quiet rage' this implies that red can be a sign of danger and anger but this is a metaphor as we cant hear 'rage' and how a season change can change the 'temper of the earth.'

[COMMENT] [MARK]

Response 2

In the poem 'Autumn' the poet Alan Bold presents the effects of the season as quite unexpected. 'Like a experienced robber grabbing the green stuff' this simile reflects how sudden the change was, as if nobody witnessed it happen, it suddenly just changed. 'Green stuff' may be colour imagery of leaves, as in 'Autumn' the leaves turn from 'green' to a different yellow colour, as well as fallen from the trees. The reference to 'the wind' is his accomplice' is metaphorical to the specific aspects of Autumn weather as leaves turn from 'green' and the weather become quite cold yet very 'windy'. The speaker could be presenting these effects to reveal the different changes within seasons and how it effects the environment.

Another way Alan Bold presents the effects of the season 'Autumn' is through the use of personification. 'The theft chills the world, changes the temperature of the earth' which could reflect the speakers personal feelings towards this season as 'theft' conveys that something has been stolen from someone, which could imply that the speaker is conveying how 'Autumn' stole the good weather and beautiful nature and has left the world in 'chills'. 'Chills' could also be a reference to winter as that is the next season to come and 'Autumn' may just be preparing everybody for the winter. Also the poem is structured with only one stanza which may be the speaker revealing how 'Autumn' is long lasting and feels as if it doesn't end.

[COMMENT] [MARK]

Response 3

The poet presents the effect of the season in a slight comedic tone for example "Autumn arrives like an experianced robber." By saying the the poet puts a picture of a man with a large sack tip-toeing around stealing leaves. He then says

"with a deep multitude of colorfull attractions" he says this becaus when you walk through the woods in autumn you are in a kind of awe from all the deep browns and reds of the leaves what distracts you from the fact that "winter is coming." "the theft chills the world"

by saying this the poet makes it seem like the leaf theif is talking the warmth and happines from the world. Another way he dose this is by saying the sky

"Glows Red with a quite rage."

This also makes it seem like the world is losing warmth and happynes.

[COMMENT] [MARK]

Response 4

Unseen poetry – The poet describes autumn as an experienced robber, he says this because autumn comes every year so that's why it's so experienced in doing what he does every year. The poet tries to tells us that autumn comes every year but covers his tracks to the point where it will look like he was never there. That's how experienced autumn is. Autumn hits us with colourful distractions so we don't even realise it's here. The wind hits us and the branches start shaking, dead leaves are suddenly blown into strangers faces. When autumn hits us our moods suddenly change and the world is much more chilled and it changes the temper of the population on earth. Everyone then waites for the sky to go back to normal. The poet describes Autumn as experienced, beautiful, windy, relaxing and calm time for everyone. He makes it feel like autumn is a calm, relaxing and beautiful time of the year that everyone enjoy.

[COMMENT] [MARK]

Response 5

The poet uses similes to present the effect of the season of autumn. For example, "Like an experienced robber grabbing the green stuff" which connotes that autumn changes all the beautiful and light things into dark colours. The word "robber" is

associated with crimes and bad things which makes autumn seem as though it is a really bad thing. The use of the simile has an effect on the reader as they can relate to “autumn” being a cold and bad thing for everyone.

Additionally, the poet opens his poem with “Autumn arrives” which emphasises that it is here and that no one can do anything about it. The word “arrives” shows that it is already here and that it will be staying for a while like most people do when they arrive to a friend's house or school. They normally stay a long time and so the use of personification is very effective to show that autumn has come to stay for a while.

Furthermore, Bold used the season of autumn to name this poem – “Autumn” because it delegates to the reader that autumn is here and they have to get used to the cold and windy weather that the season normally brings with it. This is effective because it lets the reader know that they should wear their warm clothes as the winds and coldness arrived once again just like every single year.

To end this, the poet uses personification to emphasise the weather and colour of everything in the season of autumn. The last lines, “the normally placid sky glows red with a quiet rage” illustrates the change in the world is complete and everything is dark and cold. The word “red” is a dark colour which describes that everything that was light has changed into darkness. Also, the “quiet rage” emphasises what most readers and individuals feel when they darkness and coldness overpowers and overtakes the light and warmth summer brings to the world.

[COMMENT] **[MARK]**

Response 6

Alan Bold presents the effects of the season of Autumn as a thief and a negative change in ‘Autumn’. He does this through the use of an extended metaphor. The poet describes the reason of Autumn as a criminal/thief throughout the poem. At the beginning of the poem, the simile – “like an experienced robber” – is used to create negative (illegible) associations with this season. “Robber” has connotations of evil and also a criminal, which instantly makes Autumn seem as if it is a bad season. The reader is instantly provided with the opinion that the season is some kind of criminal. This makes the reader want to read on as it makes them curious as to why the season is so bad.

Later on in the poem, the extended metaphor is carried on where it says “the theft chills the world”. This is metaphorical for the change in temperature at the time of the year. The poet is clearly unhappy with the sudden change in heat. The poet may have done this as they perceive Autumn to be a bad season, it takes away the bright colours and warm temperatures.

The poet uses personification to show the negative effects of Autumn. At the end of the poem the narrator says that the sun “Glow red with a quiet rage”. The narrator thinks deeply into the sun’s colour in Autumn, comparing it to anger. This is also pathetic fallacy – his mood and emotions are affected by the sun’s glowing red colour which may be the source of his hatred for Autumn. The reader can then understand that the weather/season is causing him to feel negative.

[COMMENT] **[MARK]**

Response 7

In ‘Autumn’ the poet presents the season of autumn using a range of language techniques and structure to show the reader how much it changes the way everything looks.

Alan Bold begins the poem with only two words on the first line ‘Autumn arrives.’ This sounds blunt and straightforward which shows the reader that this season will always change the appearance of the natural world. Also, because it is so short, the reader may expect the sentence to carry on. The poet may have done this to show how the effects of this season can be unexpected and shocking.

Furthermore, the poet portrays how autumn changes the greenery of our natural surroundings. He uses the simile ‘like an experienced robber’ to create the impression that since autumn arrives every year, it is able to quickly alter the environment as though it was a human. The poet’s use of the noun ‘robber’ creates an image in the reader’s head of autumn as a character secretly changing the colours of the trees and skies. This engages the reader because it almost makes the effects of autumn seem animated and lively.

Moreover, Alan Bold also explores how autumn can be inconvenient and trouble-making. He describes the ‘wind’ ‘putting an air of chaos into the atmosphere. This implies that this season is disliked because it causes trouble by the extreme weather. Here, the poet infers to the reader that the effects of autumn are negative because it creates chaos for people which is clearly undesirable.

In addition, the poet describes how autumn causes the ‘normally placid sky’ to glow ‘red with quiet rage.’ This tells the reader that the season of autumn could bring adverse weather conditions because the description implies that the earth is made angry. ‘Quiet rage’ reinforces this idea and gives the impression that autumn alters the conditions in a negative way. By personifying it, the poet emphasises the effects because the reader is able to relate to it as they understand the way he describes autumn having emotions.

Also, the verb 'glows' could be interpreted as a positive thing as it is generally associated with light and hope. The poet intensifies this idea through the description of 'colourful distractions.' This shows how although autumn takes away warmth and greenery it leaves behind colour and positivity. Additionally, the adjective 'colourful' implies that autumn can be a fun and lively time of year which demonstrates that its effects are joyful and positive.

[COMMENT] [MARK]

Response 8

The effects of the season autumn is clear and leaves represents peace and calmness for blissery winter. "Till the normally placid sky" it's talking about the clear and sunny skies and the weather is relaxed. "And dead leaves are suddenly blown" it means there is no peace and it's being destroyed and the environment it's been lost and people feel upset about it. "Glows red with a quiet rage" the weather is very bad that makes people worried and shocked. The weather is gone and life is well.

[COMMENT] [MARK]

Response 9

In the poem 'Autumn' the poet presents the effects of the season as dark. In the poem 'Autumn arrives like an experienced robber grabbing the green stuff' this metaphor shows the effects of the season as when time changes and weather changes people change and commit crimes. This shows that when the season changes and gets darker so do people. The poem tells us that people are 'grabbing the green stuff' inferring that they are stealing money. This shows the effects of the season autumn as this season is difficult to get money so people result in stealing.

In the poem 'Autumn' the effects of the season is presented as harming. This is seen as 'Branches shake and dead leaves are suddenly blown.' The verb 'shake' shows eventually people will break.

[COMMENT] [MARK]

Response 10

Bold presents the effects of the season of autumn, in the quotation "Like an experienced robber". This quotation is using a simile. It shows that autumn seems to be the worse season as it takes the life from the surrounding away.

Also Bold presents the effects of the season of autumn, in the quotation "And the wind. The wind is his accomplice". This is an enjambment. It shows that the wind causes a lot of trouble and distractions.

Thirdly Bold presents the effects of season of autumn, in the quotation, "Till the normally placid sky glows red with a quiet rage". This uses personification, it shows that autumn can change the mood and the atmosphere. As it also uses Antromorphism.

[COMMENT] [MARK]

Response 11

From the beginning of the poem, the poet, 'Alan Bold', compares autumn to a experienced robber using a simile. This is evident in the lines "Autumn arrives like an experienced robber grabbing the green stuff". The alliteration in the very first line of the poem engages the reader and the pre modifying adjective 'experienced' to describe the robber presents autumn as wise. The imperative 'grabbing' shows that autumn has power over nature and is able to steal the 'green stuff', which the poet is using to refer to leaves. This suggests that autumn has big effects on nature as it removes lots of the life produced by leaves. Also, the power of autumn is emphasised by habitats being left vulnerable to the effects of nature by the removal of the protective cover given by leaves. This therefore presents the effects of autumn as extreme and evil as it is killing animals.

The effects of autumn are presented as long and continuous through the use of enjambment throughout the poem to make the lines carry on. This poetic method makes the idea carry one throughout the poem. Moreover, the continuation of the disastrous effects of war is helped by the use of only two full stops at the end of the endstopped lines. The poet uses the literary device of personification in the lines "The wind is his accomplice, putting an air of chaos into the careful diversions so branches shake". The poet describes the air as chaotic and that it is brought to this state with the help of the "accomplice" the wind. There is an extended metaphor throughout this poem that is suggesting that autumn is a robber and the use of the personal pronoun 'his' to describe the wind develops this extended metaphor. This could suggest that the effects of autumn develop throughout the season. The use of the imperative 'puffing' shows the power that the winds have. The repeated use of imperatives throughout the poem help to emphasise the power and dominance of autumn and the potential disastrous effects it could bring.

Towards the end of the poem, the poet starts to talk about the good things that autumn brings to earth. This is evident in the lines "The theft chills the world". Here, once again, autumn is being referred to as the robber and this is clear in the noun 'theft'. There is a more calm atmosphere now compared to the energetic and frantic atmosphere in the beginning of the poem. The poet uses personification to say that the earth "changes" its "temper". This contrasts to the earlier power of autumn by suggesting that it is soothing to the earth by reducing its temper. Therefore, autumn is being presented as good and essential for the well being of the earth. In the final line the poet uses an oxymoron in the phrase "Glowing red with a quiet rage" to sum up that autumn is a powerful force of nature. The power that it has is portrayed through the use of the word 'rage' and its peace and tranquillity and goodness for the earth is shown through the pre-modifying adjective 'quiet'.

In conclusion, the poet Alan Bold presents autumn as an interesting force of nature as it has good sides and bad sides. I think that personally the poet likes the season of autumn and has intentionally written this poem to show the good side of autumn that most people do not see.

[COMMENT] [MARK]

Response 12

Through 'Autumn', Bold presents the effects of Autumn to be destructive and unwelcome. Bold uses a semantic field of chaos – 'shake' 'blown' 'chills' 'rage' – to suggest that Autumn causes problems and turmoil. The word 'chills' suggests discomfort and a somewhat sinister atmosphere which consumes the 'world', emphasising the huge impact of Autumn. Bold also uses free verse and enjambment, to highlight the lack of control and order that Autumn causes – the overwhelming effects being reflected in the overflowing lines. Bold personifies Autumn – 'cunningly' 'his accomplice' – to suggest that Autumn is purposefully destroying their peace, implying that it is evil and forceful.

Through 'Autumn', Bold presents Autumn to be somewhat reassuring. Bold uses a simile – 'Like an experienced robber' – to describe Autumn's approach. The word 'experienced' implies that it is a re-occurring event, therefore suggesting that the people which Autumn is dawning on are prepared/awaiting its arrival. Bold uses the phrase 'colourful distraction' to suggest that Autumn also brings positive things to distract from all of the chaos it creates. The adjective 'colourful' has connotations of happiness and freedom so we associate these positive ideas with Autumn. Bold uses juxtaposition in the last line – 'quiet rage' – followed by a full stop, which forces the reader to pause and think. 'Rage' suggests violence and anger, however, when paired with 'quiet', we get the impression that it is not disturbing or problematic but maybe even beautiful as it 'Glowing red', with 'glows' having connotations of spirituality and innocence.

[COMMENT] [MARK]