

## Critical Reading Practice - Scottish Set Text (45 minutes)

### War Photographer

In his darkroom he is finally alone  
with spools of suffering set out in ordered rows.  
The only light is red and softly glows,  
as though this were a church and he  
a priest preparing to intone a Mass. 5  
Belfast. Beirut. Phnom Penh. All flesh is grass.

He has a job to do. Solutions slop in trays  
beneath his hands, which did not tremble then  
though seem to now. Rural England. Home again  
to ordinary pain which simple weather can dispel, 10  
to fields which don't explode beneath the feet  
of running children in a nightmare heat.

Something is happening. A stranger's features  
faintly start to twist before his eyes,  
a half-formed ghost. He remembers the cries 15  
of this man's wife, how he sought approval  
without words to do what someone must  
and how the blood stained into foreign dust.

A hundred agonies in black and white  
from which his editor will pick out five or six 20  
for Sunday's supplement. The reader's eyeballs prick  
with tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers.  
From the aeroplane he stares impassively at where  
he earns his living and they do not care.

1. How does Duffy use imagery to convey the sombre atmosphere in the darkroom in stanza one?	2 marks
2. Identify one area of contrast in lines 7 - 12	2 marks
3. What is symbolic about the blood in line 18?	2 marks
4. Identify the speaker's overall tone in this poem. Use two examples from this poem of this tone and analyse them.	4 marks
5. Discuss how Carol Ann Duffy explores feelings of isolation in "War Photographer" and at least one other poem.	10 marks