

## English Assessment - Reflection

Name:	Nina	Date:	Dec 2012
Essay title:	Lack of morality AO1, AO3, AO4 Assessment.		
Checklist: (the basics)	Introduction	✓	AO1
	Focus on the question		AO2
	Spelling/grammar	✓	AO3
	Presentation	✓	AO4
Reflect and self-assess:	<p>Does my introduction hook the reader in?</p> <p>Is my essay well structured and organised, flowing logically?</p> <p>Is my use of language clear, mature and appropriate?</p> <p>Do I show a good understanding of the topic?</p> <p>Is my essay focused on detailed analysis, rather than narrative?</p> <p>Do I go beyond the obvious?</p> <p>Is my argument sustained and developed throughout the essay?</p> <p>Does my conclusion refer to the question?</p> <p>Does my conclusion bring a new and interesting point to strengthen the argument?</p>		
What Went Well:	<p>AO1: Excellent expression, very fluent and engaging! Good use of critical vocab</p> <p>AO3: A good range of interpretations offered throughout → Each poem is explored in good detail</p> <p>AO4: Some context approached well eg: Women / feminism / Fallen woman</p>		
Target:	<p>Ⓣ Remember in the exam you have just 30 minutes!</p> <p>AO3 → Could you have presented a more detailed argument showing the Dulce as a character we can sympathise with?</p>		

①7/21 Top of Band 5, well done! 😊

Student Response: You the space below to reflect on your feedback. You can also note down any questions you have regarding the topic, text, AOs or subject matter.

What steps do you need to take to progress?

Student Signature:

Teacher Signature:

Nina

How far do you agree that the characters in Browning's poems display a disturbing lack of morality so they are impossible to sympathise with?

### My last Duchess

Murdered wife - due to jealousy because of her disrespectful nature.

Really detailed planning, well done.

In the poem my last Duchess it is very hard to sympathise with the Duke because of his immoral and homophobic actions.

We could question the Duke's outrageous remarks as he says he cannot speak what he thinks.

He cannot tell the difference between real life and a painting. "male gaze" reflects position that women were grateful for their beauty.

My gift of a nine-hundred-year-old name. Power, wealth, status, hierarchy. ego is hurt/treated equally.

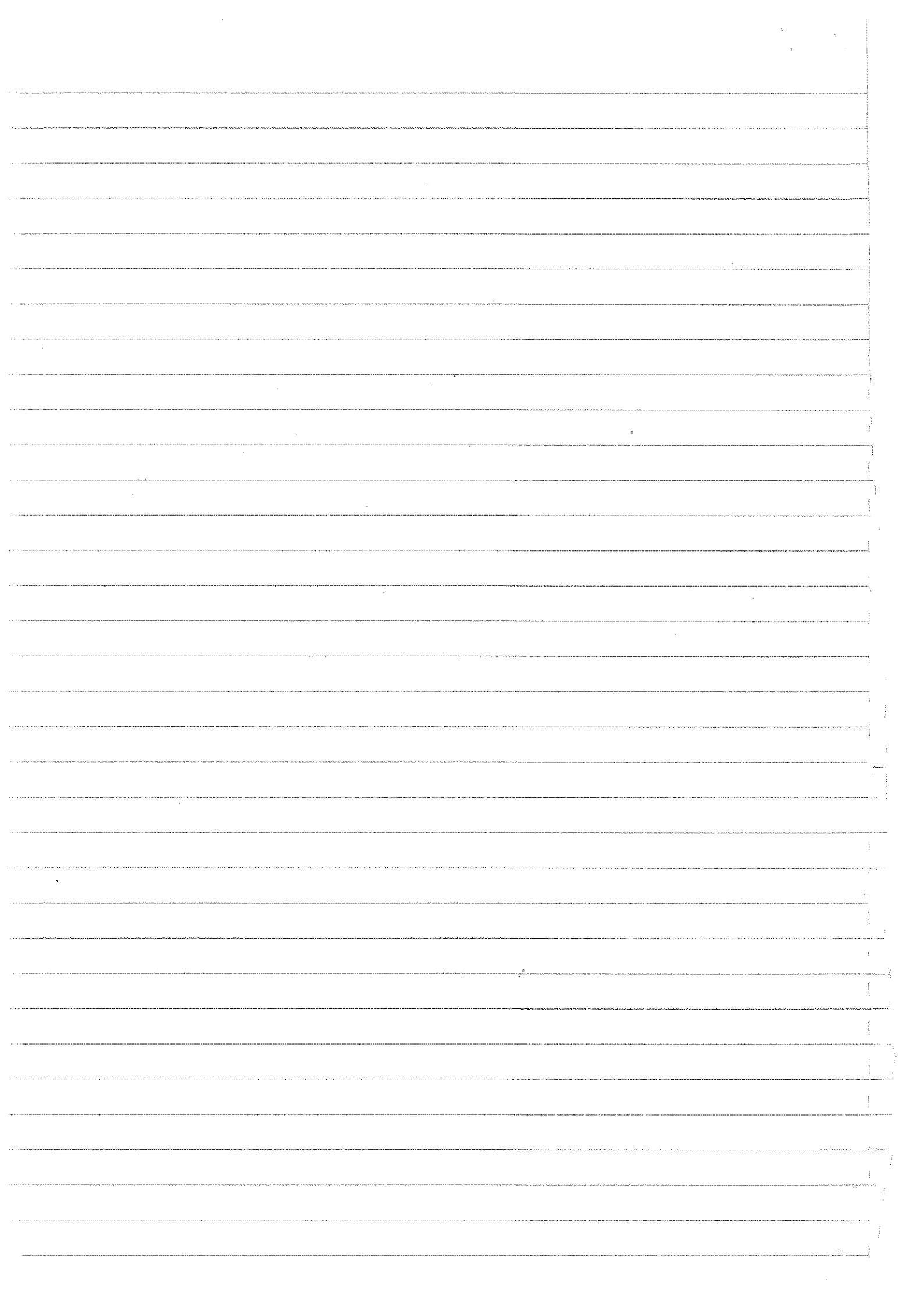
1. Intro. He controls her happiness. Believes he has the right to punish her for her actions and all smiles stopped.

2. "Nephe" - Ironic that he is actually devaluing his wife. Greece.

2. "I gave commands" - As if alive. He doesn't sympathise with.

3. Mythology - God of Seas - He positions himself as God - Taming a sea horse.

3. "The Curtain" - Patriarchal. Even after she's dead he believes he can control who gazes upon her. "I am / I am / I am".

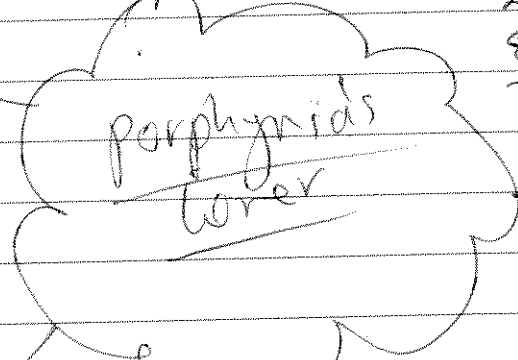


How far do you agree that the characters in Brownings poems display a disturbing lack of morality so they are impossible to sympathise with?

Porphyria's lover - tale of power, passivity and immortality.

Conclusion  
 compare the 2 poems - how we can sympathise with the man in Porphyria's lover. The man in Porphyria's lover were more than of power.

Intro - power, passivity and immortality, explores the 'fallen women' "Porphyria" -> disease. 2 sides to the poem, Euthanasia



main Para three

loved her deeply we can sympathise "Gilded" -> angelic idolises her.

"No pain... felt no pain".

Para one

"no voice replied"

Can't sympathise with him  
 main Para two

"no voice replies"

"In one long yellow string I wound three times her little throat around, And strangled her"

"soaked her ~~hands~~ gloves"

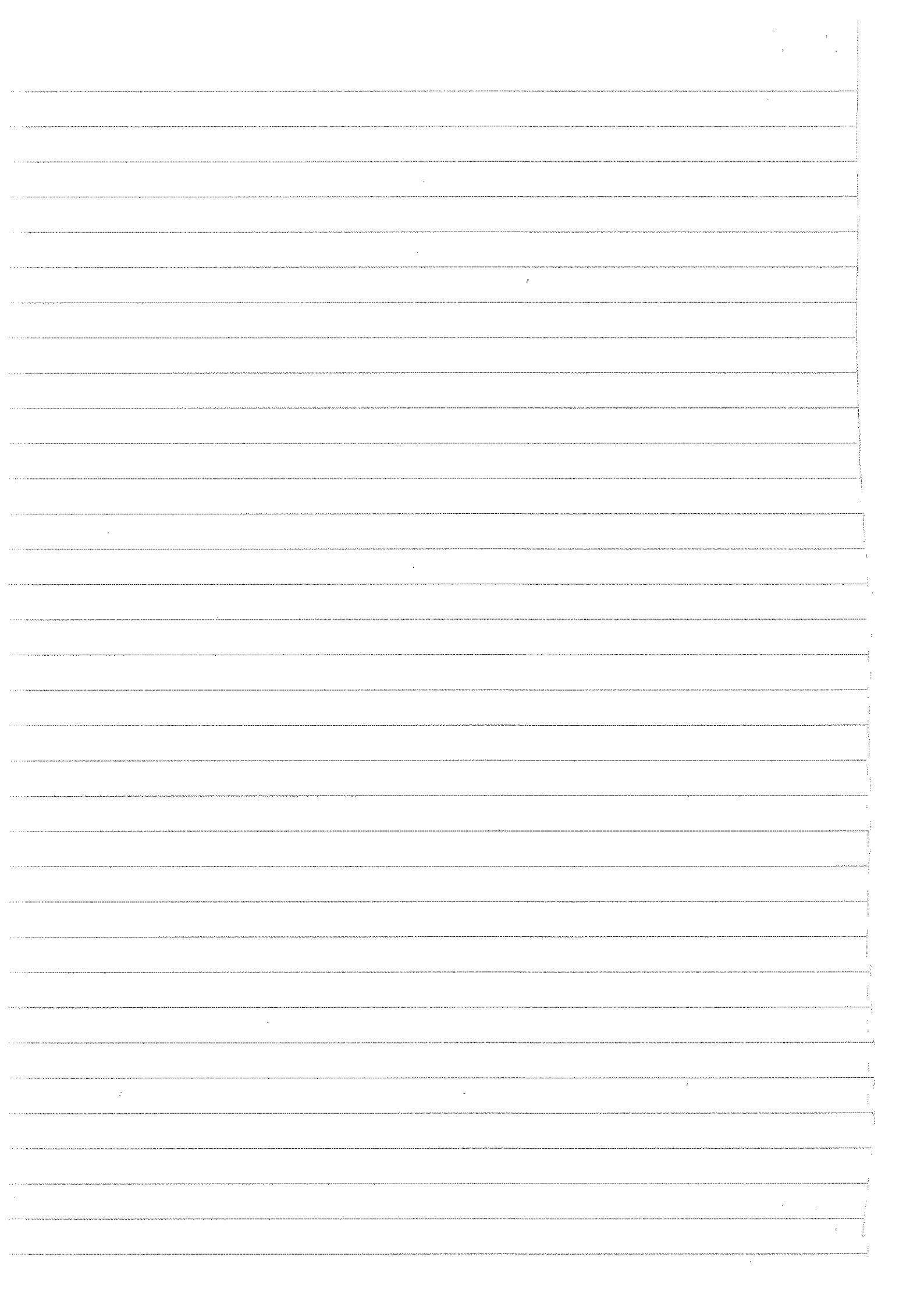
→ ironic  
 → modern readers would not understand

main Para one

"Too weak, for all her heart's endeavor, To set it's struggling passion free from pride, and vainlier ties dissolver."

Power struggle, relationship is played out but it's biased  
 immoral However, killing her will bring to the same level.

Saving her from social stigma and hatred from others. patriarchal society she would be looked down upon for losing her virginity even if she has a high status.



My last Duchess' by Robert Browning is an implicit tale of a Duke who is guiding the reader as well as his invisible audience (an implied listener) in a dramatic monologue through the painting of his deceased wife, whom is unnamed throughout the poem. It is implied that the Duke himself has murdered her out of jealousy, suspicion and betrayal. In doing so, Browning explores the theme of morality and immoral behaviour as the Duke sins through violence. An excellent intro with good focus on Q A01

### ↳ Could you have discussed Sympathy

The Duke struggles to convince the reader that he understands the difference between life and a realistic painting, which may draw him some sympathy as it suggests he is psychologically unstable ~~be~~ which may excuse his sinister behaviour ~~and~~ ~~around~~ ~~his~~ ~~the~~ ~~painting~~ ~~of~~ his late wife. However, it can't rule out his sinful ~~decision~~ decision of taking her life in the first place.

A03  
balance  
to  
argument

A04  
the  
context

"I gave command; when all smiles stopped together." There she stands as if alive." Browning's portrayal of the Duke and his <sup>possessive</sup> disturbing and controlling behaviour does make it difficult for him to receive much sympathy from the reader as he exposes the power, he believes he has over her and her happiness. This reflects the position of women at the time as they were gazed upon for their beauty, which plays Browning discusses the part that art and beauty plays in society and how it can provoke immoral behaviour. ✓ → interesting, can you develop this idea?

Moreover, even after murdering his wife he still controls who "gazes upon" his Duchess. "The curtain I have drawn for you" which invites the reader to

look at her which in many ways shows that ~~we~~ (the reader) are also being controlled by the Duke as he can also only make the decision on ~~whether or not~~ <sup>whether or not</sup> we can look at her. which suggest many people, mostly men, gazed upon her when she was alive and the Duke blinded by his jealousy did not approve and blamed her for it. The Curtain symbolises imprisonment even after death. Iambic pentameter reflects his controlling ways as the monolog is constructed thoughtful which reflects the character. This again does not gain the Duke any sympathy as he controls his atmosphere, us and the monolog itself which creates a sinister

lovely analysis here -> detailed and perceptive

A03  
lear  
inspiration  
of different  
interpretations

The Duke <sup>compares</sup> refers himself to "Neptune", in Greek mythology, ~~is~~ the God of the Seas and refers to his Duchess as a "Sea-horse" in which he 'frames' this exposes the believes the Duke has or lacks of as he claims to be 'God' which explains his actions towards his wife as she behaves disrespectfully nature, or so he <sup>claims</sup> says, and therefore should be punished <sup>+tomed</sup> which doesn't gain him any sympathy because ~~He is not God~~ <sup>He is in fact is not</sup> ~~God~~ he in fact is not God // "My gift of a nine-hundred-year-old name" this reveals that the Duke is patriarchal and very possessive once ~~of~~ again. This may suggest that he not only believes that he has a higher status and power in society, due to his wealth, but also in the relationship itself. which is ironic that he is actually devaluing his wife.

develop this  
idea further



However, we may question the Duke's reliability as the speaker is biased. ~~Moreover~~ The Duke states "Even had you skill in speech - (which I have not)" the parentheses is used, presumably, because the Duke lies to the reader. This is also ~~a~~ ironic and a paradox because the reader knows that the Duke does in fact have "skill in speech" which then questions his reliability. ✓✓ **AO3 argument**

**developed**

Arguably, if the speaker is unreliable we can question if things he states or claims about his wife are true. He may be degrading her and making he seem inferior in their relationship to cover up the pain he feels, the guilt and grief. We know for fact the Duke loved his Duchess and as he has a huge painting of her which he cherishes but ~~and~~ in a very sinister way which many would see as obsessive ~~but~~ however, it could only be the actions of a sinful man who misses his loved one. ✓

**Could you have developed opposing argument that**

similary, "Porphyria's lover" another poem <sup>we should sympathise</sup> by Robert <sup>Lois</sup> Browning <sup>the Duke</sup> raises the theme of morality by narrating a tale enveloped in sins of violence, unconditional love, power and passivity. It explores the term the "Fallen women" and the part beauty, mislead devotion and status plays

**AO1** in society and how these can sometimes shroud immoral acts even by loved ones. Arguably, this poem can be read with the idea that this is <sup>a dramatic</sup> ~~a dramatic~~ monologue of a man who murders his lover, Porphyria, out of disgust due to her loss of ~~former~~ purity and virginity or an act of euthanasia. ~~We come to the~~ Porphyria may have been ill already and suffering and taking her name itself is the name of a deadly disease. Taking her life was not done with hate, anger or revenge in mind, just an act of a love sick man blinded by his affection who did not want his loved ~~to~~ one to suffer. which would gain <sup>himself</sup> the readers sympathy

## You need evidence of Fallen status here.

To weak, for all her heart's endeavor, To set it's struggling passion free from pride, and vainer tries dissembler" ~~fly~~ he does not believe he would be ~~murdering~~ <sup>taking</sup> her life but instead, saving and freeing her ~~and~~ ~~her~~ from social stigma and hatred from others. It was a very patriarchal society, where feminism did not exist therefore, she would be looked down upon for losing her virginity and purity even if she is an upper class lady. Which again draws sympathy towards the man as he does seem to love her unconditionally. She is "too weak" which can again refer to the ~~idea~~ idea that this was an act of Euthanasia as he knows she does not have strength to go on. However, we could see another side to this, it could also be exposing a power struggle, their relationship is being played out he wants to be 'the man' because ~~it~~ was a patriarchal society but her upper class status makes it hard for him to <sup>be in</sup> <sup>of</sup> control the relationship. ~~which then~~ He then tells her to bring them to the same level but it's immoral and disturbing ~~so~~ so it may be ~~revolting~~ revolting to the reader in which they will not sympathise the man's actions.

Furthermore, we ~~can~~ recognise that the man, similarly to the Duke in "My Last Duchess", wants to be in control which leads him to be obsessive and possessive. ~~to reply~~ "No voice replies" this exposes ~~that~~ his belief that he is not obliged to talk to her because she is not a virgin anymore which can be seen very sinister as he may have been the ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> who has taken her purity from her. "In one long yellow string I wound three times her little throat around And strangled her." Porphyria ~~is dying by hair~~ is "yellow", ~~it's not white, it's tainted,~~ stained and lost innocence. Her "little throat" emphasises

her passive, fragile and weak ~~ness~~ state. Moreover, the man distances himself ~~from~~ hinting that 'she killed herself' because it was her hair that strangled her which exposes his unstable mind. He may be blinded with his love and hatred. He murdered the woman he loved and is now suffering in guilt and doesn't want to take responsibility for his actions. This does not ~~to~~ gain any sympathy from the reader, as it's disturbing how one believes death is a suitable punishment for ~~not~~ having a sexual relationship with the one you love.

AOL

"Soiled gloves" this is a common literary motif of the dichotomy of the women. You were either the 'Angel of the house' or 'The fallen woman'. There was no mid ground which was very ironic and ~~hypocritical~~ hypocritical of men to label women in that way. As you have a ~~love~~ <sup>love or</sup> mistress and love them and ~~have~~ are having a sexual relationship <sup>with them</sup> but expect them to be pure or virgins when you marry them? Modern day ~~reader~~ readers would not understand or sympathise the man's actions or agree with his beliefs. However, this ~~is how people were thinking and following~~ is how what men and women believed in and had to follow, which we may not understand with as only 10% of the vic ~~a~~ regularly attend their place of worship. Having less religious beliefs makes it hard for us to relate to the importance of purity and ~~\* expectations~~ expectations on begin a virgin until we are married.

→ ensure you remain focused on the CP

~~The man~~ The man says she 'glided' which suggests she was very angelic, and elegant ~~which~~ and that he idolised her. She was like a female on a pedestal. "No pain felt she; I am quite sure she felt no pain." We wonder if he is trying to reassure us or convince himself? which again could be the result of his ~~imply~~ that he acted imply that ~~he~~ <sup>was</sup> acted an act of euthanasia. That he does care and love her but now struggles to convince himself that death was ~~quicker~~ quicker and less painful ~~death~~ than living in continuous ~~Pain~~ pain as she was "too weak" and "pale" which leads us to believe she was close to death anyway. This also shows us he ~~is~~ is left mentally distorted as he acts in ~~sinister~~ sinister manner ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~he~~ believed that dead, she knew lies "without a stain".

Both the Duke and Porphyria's lover act immorally but it seems that the man in Porphyria's lover would ~~had more~~ gain more sympathy. Even though he acted horrifically and the image of a woman dying from her own hair is disturbing his intentions does not seem to be as possessive and obsessive as the Duke. ~~The~~ The Duke acted from betrayal, anger and suspicion whereas the man did only out of blinded love.