Marking Scheme

1. What is the situation in the poem: what is happening (2)

A disabled beggar is sitting outside a church (1)

He is being ignored by all those around him, even though as Christian’s they should be caring for him (1)

1. In your own words, explain what the beggar described in lines 1 – 4 looks like. (3)

He is tiny (1), has mis-shapen hands (1), his legs are too small and lumpy and disfigured. (1)

1. With reference to the text, explain how the poet tries to create sympathy in the reader for the beggar in lines 1-4. (4)

“dwarf” – handicapped, small, suggests pity

“hands on backwards” – useless

“slumped” – can’t even sit up

“half-filled sack” misshapen and lumpy, disfigured

“tiny twisted legs” – small and useless

“as if sawdust might run” – not even human

1 mark for each reference and for each comment

1. Looks at lines 7-9. What tone do you detect in these lines? (1)

humour / black humour / irony (1)

1. Quote the phrase that shows where the beggar is located, and explain the irony of lines 6-7 (in honour of St Francis, brother of the poor) (2)

“outside the three tiers of churches built in honour of St Francis” (1)

The saint was “brother to the poor” yet no-one is helping the beggar (1)

1. How do these lines help you to understand the poet’s own feelings in the poem? (1)

Successful answers will illustrate that he disapproves (1)

1. What impression do we get of the priest in lines 10-17. Justify your response with reference to the text. (2)

Hypocrite / negative impression

Focussed on spreading word of God to “illiterate” whilst ignoring need for charity in front of him. Sophisticated answers may comment on uselessness of painting “frescoes” to tell stories to those who can’t read – teach to read instead?

1. A rush of tourists, clucking contentedly,

fluttered after him as he scattered

the grain of the Word

Explain fully the comparison, and what impression you think it gives of the tourists.

(3)

Metaphor compares tourists to chickens (1)

Suggests unthinking, stupid, accepting whatever they are told (1)

Tourists are more interested in looking like good Christians than in being good Christians. (1)

1. MacCaig, in Assisi, is making a statement about the apathy (uncaring or disinterested nature) of society. Quote the phrase from ll 18-27 which you think best sums up this apathy. (1)

“It was they who had passed the ruined temple outside” (1)

1. Identify one area of contrast within the poem, and explain what point

MacCaig is trying to make. (2)

Dwarf is outside “three tiers of churches” and is himself describe as a “ruined temple”

He is ugly but his voice is sweet and innocent

Rich tourists ignore poor beggar

Caring nature of Christianity contrasted against hypocrisy of organised religion

(any one contrast, supported with evidence, for two marks)

Total marks - 21