**SCOTTISH TEXT (POETRY)**

Read the poem below and then attempt the following questions.

***Assisi* byNorman McCaig**
The dwarf with his hands on backwards
sat, slumped like a half-filled sack
on tiny twisted legs from which
sawdust might run,
outside the three tiers of churches built
in honour of St Francis, brother
of the poor, talker with birds, over whom
he had the advantage
of not being dead yet.

A priest explained
how clever it was of Giotto
to make his frescoes tell stories
that would reveal to the illiterate the goodness
of God and the suffering
of His Son. I understood
the explanation and
the cleverness.

A rush of tourists, clucking contentedly,
fluttered after him as he scattered
the grain of the Word. It was they who had passed
the ruined temple outside, whose eyes
wept pus, whose back was higher
than his head, whose lopsided mouth
said Grazie in a voice as sweet
as a child's when she speaks to her mother
or a bird's when it spoke
to St Francis.

**Questions MARKS**

1. In the opening stanza, MacCaig describes the beggar in some detail.

1. Show how **two** of the examples of the poet’s language in stanza one help

 the reader to feel sympathy for the beggar. **4**

1. How does the description of the beggar introduce the main concerns or

ideas of the poem?  **2**

2. Show how any **two** examples of the poet’s use of language in stanza two or stanza three effectively contribute to the main ideas or concerns of the poem. **4**

3. How effective do you find any aspect of the final stanza as a conclusion to the poem? Your answer might deal with ideas and / or language. **2**

4. Poetry often observes people or places. Referring closely to this poem and to at

 least one other by MacCaig, show how the poet uses observation of people or places  **8**

 in his poems.