**8. Literature Paper 2: Section C – Unseen Poetry**

**27.1. In ‘Alpine Letter,’ how does the poet present ideas about love? [24 marks]**

**Alpine Letter**

Love? If you’d asked me yesterday, I’d say

love is a saw that amputates the heart.

I’d call it my disease, I’d call it plague.

But yesterday, I hadn’t heard from you.

So call it the weight of light that holds one soul

connected to another. Or a tear

that falls in all gratitude, becoming sea.

Call it the only word that comforts me.

The sight of your writing has me on the floor,

the curve of each letter looped about my heart.

And in this ink, the tenor of your voice.

And in this ink the movement of your hand.

The Alps, now, cut their teeth upon the sky,

and pressing on to set these granite jaws

between us, not a mile will do me harm.

Your letter, in my coat, will keep me warm.

*Ros Barber*

* Spend 30 minutes answering the question.
* Analyse the language used in the poem.

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**27.2. In both ‘Alpine Letter’ and ‘Miles Away,’ the poets discuss romantic love. What are the similarities and/or differences between the ways the poets present their ideas about love? [8 marks]**

**Miles Away**

I want you and you are not here. I pause

in this garden, breathing the colour thought is

before language into still air. Even your name

is a pale ghost and, though I exhale it again

and again, it will not stay with me. Tonight

I make you up, imagine you, your movements clearer

than the words I have you say you said before.

Wherever you are now, inside my head you fix me

with a look, standing here whilst cool late light

dissolves into the earth. I have got your mouth wrong,

but still it smiles. I hold you closer, miles away,

inventing love, until the calls of nightjars

interrupt and turn what was to come, was certain,

into memory. The stars are filming us for no one.

**Carol Ann Duffy**

* Spend 15 minutes answering the question.
* Compare ideas across both poems.

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