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

**Piano**

Softly, in the dusk, a woman is singing to me;

Taking me back down the vista of years, till I see

A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the tingling strings

And pressing the small, poised feet of a mother who smiles as she sings.

In spite of myself, the insidious mastery of song

Betrays me back, till the heart of me weeps to belong

To the old Sunday evenings at home, with winter outside

And hymns in the cosy parlour, the tinkling piano our guide.

So now it is vain for the singer to burst into clamour

With the great black piano appassionato. The glamour

Of childish days is upon me, my manhood is cast

Down in the flood of remembrance, I weep like a child for the past.

*D. H. Lawrence*

**27.1. In ‘Piano,’ how does the speaker present ideas about the significance of memories? [24 marks]**

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

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**27.2. In both ‘Piano’ and ‘With rue my heart is laden,’ the poets discuss regret and memory. What are the similarities and/or differences between how the poets present their feelings about the past? [8 marks]**

**With rue\* my heart is laden\***

With rue my heart is laden

For golden friends I had,

For many a rose-lipt maiden

And many a lightfoot lad.

By brooks too broad for leaping

The lightfoot boys are laid;

The rose-lipt girls are sleeping

In fields where roses fade.

*A.E. Houseman*

\*Rue = sadness

\*Laden = weighed down

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

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