

TASK 3

Section A: POETRY

Read the poems below, then answer the questions that follow.

Question 1: ESSAY QUESTION

AN AFRICAN THUNDERSTORM

[David Rubadiri](#)

From the west
Clouds come hurrying with the wind
Turning sharply
Here and there
Like a plague of locusts
Whirling,
Tossing up things on its tail
Like a madman chasing nothing.

Pregnant clouds
Ride stately on its back,
Gathering to perch on hills
Like sinister dark wings;
The wind whistles by
And trees bend to let it pass.

In the village
Screams of delighted children,
Toss and turn
In the din of the whirling wind,
Women,
Babies clinging on their backs
Dart about
In and out
Madly;
The wind whistles by
Whilst trees bend to let it pass.

Clothes wave like tattered flags
Flying off
To expose dangling breasts
As jagged blinding flashes
Rumble, tremble and crack
Amidst the smell of fired smoke
And the pelting march of the storm.

By close reference to the use of **sound devices**, **figurative language** and **setting**, write an essay of 250–300 words (about ONE page), in which you examine how successfully the poem paints a picture of an approaching storm.

[10]