

## 2019 Junior Certificate English – Section A – Showing Critical Appreciation

I found the poet's reaction to the lamb very surprising. In the first stanza,

Break your answer into paragraphs. One point equals one paragraph.

Durcan says that he had 'nowhere to hide' when he came 'Face to face with a lamb'. I was puzzled by this comment as a lamb is certainly not a threat, so I could not understand why Durcan would want to hide from it.

Reflect the wording of the question in your opening sentence.

In the third stanza, Durcan says that when the lamb peered up at him he felt 'as guilty' as if he were caught out telling his grand-daughter a lie. Again, I was astonished by the poet's reaction: what had he done that could possibly make him feel this way?

Quote accurately to support your points. Work quotes into the fabric of the sentences.

I believe most people would be happy to see a sweet little lamb, yet

A brief summary can tie your answer up neatly, if you have time.

Durcan's feelings when he meets it are entirely negative. At first reading, this seems a very strange reaction to such an attractive and harmless little creature.

You cannot refer to a poet by their first name only. 'Paul' would be incorrect here.