

'Explain how Owen portrays interesting ideas that deepen our understanding of human experiences'. 29/30

Wilfred Owen's poetry deepens one's understanding of human suffering and brutality of World War One by depicting the violence and degradation inflicted upon soldiers in warfare. The suffering and degradation of young soldiers are apparent throughout his poem Anthem for Doomed Youth where the horrific experiences of young soldiers are highlighted, to illicit an emotional response from the audience. Similarly, in the poem Dulce Et Decorum Est, the brutality of war are enhanced through exploring the soldier's brutality where the horrors of war are

A soldier's unique human experiences at war can transcend the audience to visual their sufferings and further gain a deeper sense of understanding and empathy. This is apparent in Owen's poem Anthem for Doomed Youth, where the soldier's harsh unique human experiences of war and degradation of young soldiers are explored throughout the poem. In the title, the juxtaposition between the positive connotations of 'anthem' with the negative connotations of 'doomed youth', implies the pre-determined fates of young soldiers as they enter the horrific event of World War One. Furthermore, the juxtaposition creates an ironic image in the audience's head as 'youth' represents long-life compared to war which features death. The degradation of young soldiers are evident in the simile 'What passing-bells for those who die as cattle', doubles as a rhetorical question which highlights the insignificance of young soldiers as a gruesome image of soldier's being slaughtered like cattle are evoked. Through this dehumanising simile, Owen further degrades the soldier's illustrating how the unique human experiences of war has caused the once young and innocent soldiers in a destructive manner as their innocence and youth was shredded from them. Through this line, Owen stresses the pointlessness of war as he questions the audience, on whether the genocide of innocent men was worth it or not. The harsh realities of war is enhanced in the 'stuttering rifles' rapid rattle', as the consonance of the letter 't' increases the pace of the sentence, highlighting the harsh realities of war by further replicating the sound of machine guns. This auditory imagery in conjunction with the fast paced sentence displays the chaos and danger in war further allowing the audience to visualise and sympathise towards the soldiers. In conclusion, through the use of distinctive elements, a composer is able to transcend the suffering's of soldier's through his work to evoke an empathetic response from the audience.

Similarly, in Dulce Et Decorum Est, Owen explores the same unique human experiences as he highlights the horrors of war through the emphasis on death. The simile and distinct imagery, 'Bent double, like old beggars under sacks' emphasises the severe pain and exhaustion suffered by soldiers, through the comparison to 'old beggars'. The comparison of soldiers to 'beggars' and 'hags' whom are on the lower hierarchical scale of society illustrates an image which reveals the soldier's low body posture, as 'bent double' reveals their exhaustion in war. Furthermore, the negative connotations of the simile reinforces the negative impacts of war, as the youthful men age prematurely as they are confronted with the harsh realities of war. This illustrates the terrifying consequences of warfare on the soldiers as they are traumatised by the gunfire's and bombings experiences in World War One. The truncated sentence in conjunction with the use of exclamation marks in 'Gas! GAS! Quick, boys' exhibits the panic within the situation as the soldier's attempt to flee from terrifying gas attacks. This further highlights the harsh realities of war, as soldier's experience daily traumatic experiences from the use of warfare like gun fires, bombs and gas attacks. Owen evokes a sense of empathy from the audience, as he explicitly illustrates the barbaric environment in which the soldiers experience. Through this, he allows the audience to visualise the pain and grief in which the families of the young soldiers feel as their loved ones undergo a terrifying experience at war. Moreover, the degrading mentally and physical health of young soldiers, are apparent through the realism as 'He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning' where the auditory imagery of suffering explores the harshness of war in which the soldiers experience as they drown from a metaphorical 'sea' of pain and trauma. The trio of verbs further highlights that wartime casualties are never-ending forever 'haunting' the soldiers after war. To conclude, the harsh realities of war allow the audience to gain a sense of understanding, thus gaining a sense of empathy from the audience.

In conclusion, the unique human experience of war itself, enables Owen to utilise his own first-hand experiences as a soldier to evoke an emotional response from the audience. Owen unveils the horrific events which occurred during World War One as it exposes the harsh realities of war and the degradation of young soldiers. This allows the audience to deepen their understanding of human suffering as Owen provides the audience insight into war. In Anthem for Doomed Youth the audience gains a deeper understanding of the soldiers, as Owen highlights the soldier's suffering at war as they are degraded in war. Similarly in Dulce Et Decorum Est the audience is provided insight into war, further eliciting an emotional response as the audience empathise towards their sufferings.