



▲ Bosnian cellist Vedran Smailovic

▼ SIMILARITIES

Both poems give details from daily life, such as 'crunch of snow under the tires', 'empty canisters of gas'.

▼ DIFFERENCES

The titles, 'Bright Lights...' has apparently positive connotations but 'Corpse' creates an immediately negative impression.

WRITING A SUCCESSFUL ANSWER

► How does the writer use contrast to convey his message in the poem?

Below are two examples of opening paragraphs that respond to this question. Which do you think is better? Annotate the samples with your observations, referring to the wording of AO2 (see page 209) as you do so. What improvements would you make to both answers?

EXAMPLE STUDENT ANSWER A

'The Bright Lights of Sarajevo' is a poem by Tony Harrison that is set in the background of the Bosnian war. This war went on for many years and resulted in lots of casualties. The writer wants to show that he is against war and uses contrast for this purpose. The biggest contrast he uses is colour. He describes the city in detail as well.

EXAMPLE STUDENT ANSWER B

Set against the Bosnian war, this poem delivers a strong message about the devastation caused by war and the way people are able to rise above it. For this purpose he mainly uses contrast as a technique. Firstly, he creates the world of Sarajevo by day and by night. This helps the reader to visualise the contrasting times of day.