

# Knowledge Organiser

## Section A Part (i) Questions

AO Focus: AO1 and AO2 only

*Paradise Lost Book IX (Oxford Student Texts)*



**USE ONLY THE SPECIFIED EDITION:  
(Oxford Student Texts)**

### 1 Select

5 Extracts of about 20 lines from different parts of Book IX. Extracts do not have to exist between two full stops but choose samples that can coherently stand alone. See past papers for examples.



### 2 Process

In each of the extracts you have selected:

- check that you have understood unusual usage or archaic language – words such as “shunned” line 330; “lascivious” Line 1014 or “wantonly” Line 1015 which are usually explained in the notes
- re-read the extract with extra emphasis upon the punctuation to help you understand the meaning and the tone of the language
- look for image or language patterns e.g. “abundance”/“store”/“provision” in lines 620 to 623 “taste”/“savour”/“palate” in lines 1017 to 1020
- consider the effect of repetitions such as “foul” in Lines 328-331 and other rhetorical devices such as anaphora, antithesis and apostrophe see more here: <https://bit.ly/2VbK8hO>
- think about the effects of stark contrasts in language and imagery such as line 326 where “happy” and “harm” occur in the same line
- consider the ways in which epic similes create meaning and tone
- look for evidence of Milton’s attitudes in his choices of language.

### 4 Exercise

Choose two topics from your list of approaches and write the first 100 words of a response to both. Take careful note of the ways in which you shape your response differently but relevantly (from the very start) in each case. If you have a study partner ask for comments on your work. If you are working alone, leave your responses for 24 hours and then see what improvements you could make.

#### Do

- start directly and relevantly
- look for patterns of language and imagery
- show your understanding and appreciation of Milton’s particular style and techniques
- show understanding of Milton’s nuanced attitudes
- make and support points succinctly
- use technical terminology for economy and to demonstrate understanding/appreciation
- take care with your expression, judge the impact of your own language and aim to be provisional rather than assertive e.g. “Milton seems...”; “It is possible that Milton...”

#### Don’t

- start at the first line and work through
- write descriptively or narratively
- write lengthy and redundant introductions e.g. “This poem written in the seventeenth century by the Puritan poet, John Milton to “justify the ways of God to men...”
- make extended references to context
- try to take account of other readings
- use overlong quotations or copy out large portions of the text
- use technical terms descriptively and for their own sake.

### 3 Approaches

Take one of the extracts you have selected and consider the different angles from which it might be approached. Under the heading “**Analyse the ways in which Milton presents...**” You could also build upon this list as far as you can:

- conflict
- marriage
- the 3 main characters
- ideas about God
- the effects of sin
- landscape and setting
- the idea of free will
- shame
- deceit.