Contextual Questions and answers – *The Garden of Love*

1. Describe in your own words, why “The Garden of Love” is capitalised. (2)
   *It is the name of a place; an allusion to the Garden of Eden.*

2. Explain what the use of “I” (line 1) suggests about this poem. (2)
   *The speaker is discussing his personal experiences.*

3. Discuss the allusion the speaker makes in line 1. (3)
   *The allusion is to the Garden of Eden, where man dwelt in innocence. Children were playing innocently, joyously and carefree.*

4. Account for the use of the colon in line 2. (2)
   *A pause before the explanation of what the speaker sees has replaced his “Eden” to emphasise “what he had never seen”.*

5.1. Identify what has been constructed on the approach to the garden. (1)
   *A Chapel*

5.2. Explain how what you identified in line 4 can be considered metonymy. (3)
   *The Chapel represents the church as an organisation or religion.*

6.1. What does the word ‘midst’ (line 3) mean in the context of the stanza? (1)
   *In the middle of the Garden.*

6.2. Discuss the significance of this position. (2)
   *It has taken the place/divided the fields where the children played.*

7.1. Comment on the connotative and denotative meanings of the “green” (line 4). (3)
   *Denotative – the colour
   Connotative – fertility, growth, spring*

7.2. How do we know that the speaker had positive memories in the Garden? (2)
   *He makes reference to play and sweet flowers.*

8. Provide a suitable word to describe the tone of line 4 and give a reason for your choice. (2)
   *Nostalgic – thinking back on his youth.*

9. Give two reasons why the speaker cannot enter the Chapel. (2)
   *The gates are shut and “Thou shalt not enter” is written over the door.*

10. Account for why this new building does not seem very welcoming. (3)
    *It is forbidding in appearance and has massive gates. Priests are on patrol and the beginning phrase of the commandments – “Thou shalt not” is written over the gates.*

11.1. Comment on the reference to “Thou shalt not” (line 6). (3)
    *It is the opening phrase of the 10 commandments and is an indication of forbidden behaviour.*

11.2. What is significant about where this phrase is written? (2)
    *It is written over the church door. It shows that certain behaviour not acceptable. It indicate conditional entry to the Church/Christianity.*

12. How does the speaker feel about the presence of this chapel? Justify your answer. (3)
    *He is upset about it/negative. He turns away from the Chapel to face the Garden.*

13. Discuss the significance of lines 7-8. (3)
    *Use of the word “bore” – past tense. No longer has flowers. Turn away from the unwelcoming Church just to see the “sweet flowered” garden no longer exists.*

14. Comment on the diction used in line 8. (3)
    *Many – proliferous/sweet (beauty, nostalgia)
    Bore - past tense of “bear” (no longer blooming flowers)*

15. Explain, in your own words, the image created in lines 9-10. (3)
    *Stark, horrifying. Growth replaced by death.*

16. Discuss the metaphor used to describe the Priests in lines 11-12. (3)
    *The Priests were walking up and down patrolling the grounds just like guards who forbid/control access to property.*
17. What do you understand by the expression “walking their rounds” (line 11)? (2)
   They were patrolling, keeping people out.
18. With reference to the diction used, comment on the tone of lines 11-12. (3)
   The tone is forbidding. “Walking their rounds” is threatening and the purpose to keep people out.
19. Provide a suitable in-context synonym for “binding” (line 12). (2)
   Handcuffing/restricting
20. Explain why “briars” is a suitable “thing” to use for the binding (line 12). (3)
   Briars have thorns that grip and restrain.
21. Which lines create a sense of death and hopelessness? Give reasons for your answer. (3)
   “And I saw ...where flowers should be.”
22. Suggest and discuss reasons for why the poet has used the repetition of “And” at the beginning of lines 2, 5-6 and 9-12. (4)
   To place emphasis on all the changes he observes as he looks at the Garden.
23. The speaker seems to paint a negative picture of what the garden has become. Without changing the ‘facts’, discuss how a different (positive) impression could have been created. (4)
   If the Church had been painted in a positive light, more welcoming, less forbidding there could have been a sense of positivity. The graveyard could have been described with more poignancy.
25. ESSAY: With regards to the use of imagery, diction and structure, discuss the theme of nostalgia and the despair in change. (10)
26. ESSAY: With regards to the use of stanzas and rhyme, comment on the effectiveness of the structure of poem. (10)