**In *Blessing*, how does the poet present ideas about being poor?**

**Blessing**

The skin cracks like a pod.

There never is enough water.

Imagine the drip of it,

the small splash, echo

in a tin mug,

the voice of a kindly god.

Sometimes, the sudden rush

of fortune. The municipal pipe bursts,

silver crashes to the ground

and the flow has found

a roar of tongues. From the huts,

a congregation : every man woman

child for streets around

butts in, with pots,

brass, copper, aluminium,

plastic buckets, frantic hands,

and naked children

screaming in the liquid sun,

their highlights polished to perfection,

flashing light,

as the blessing sings

over their small bones.

**Imtiaz Dharker**

**To consider when planning an answer:**

* What does the title make you think about?
* Who is the speaker and who is being addressed?
* What happens in the poem?
* Where is it set? Does this change? When is it set? Does this change?
* How is it arranged? When and why does the poet start a new stanza? Is there a regular rhythm? What is the rhyme scheme? Why has the poet used these?
* How does the poet use sounds? What sort of imagery is used? Is there anything interesting about the language? Can you recognise any poetic techniques? Why has the poet used these?
* What do you think the poem is really about? What is the poet’s attitude to his or her theme?
* How does the poem make you feel and what do you think of it?