**Section C: Unseen poetry**

**Answer both questions in this section.**

**To a Daughter Leaving Home**

When I taught you

at eight to ride

a bicycle, loping along

beside you

as you wobbled away

on two round wheels,

my own mouth rounding

in surprise when you pulled

ahead down the curved

path of the park,

I kept waiting

for the thud

of your crash as I

sprinted to catch up,

while you grew

smaller, more breakable

with distance,

pumping, pumping

for your life, screaming

with laughter,

the hair flapping

behind you like a

handkerchief waving

goodbye.

 Linda Pastan

In ‘To a Daughter Leaving Home’, how does the poet present the speaker’s feelings about her daughter?

[24 marks]

**Poem for My Sister**

My little sister likes to try my shoes,

to strut in them,

admire her spindle-thin twelve-year-old legs

in this season’s styles.

She says they fit her perfectly,

but wobbles

on their high heels, they’re

hard to balance.

I like to watch my little sister playing hopscotch,

admire the neat hops-and-skips of her,

their quick peck,

never-missing their mark, not

over-stepping the line.

She is competent at peever\*.

I try to warn my little sister

about unsuitable shoes,

point out my own distorted feet, the callouses,

odd patches of hard skin.

I should not like to see her

in my shoes.

I wish she could stay sure footed,

sensibly shod.

 Liz Lochhead

*\*peever – another name for the game of hopscotch*

In both ‘Poem for My Sister’ and ‘To a Daughter Leaving Home’ the speakers describe feelings about watching someone they love grow up.

What are the similarities and/or differences between the ways the poets present those feelings?

[8 marks]