

Example statements to debate – *Songs of Innocence and Experience*

A Blake is a poet for whom the spiritual world is more important than the everyday, physical world.

B Blake's poems are extremely complex.

C For Blake, innocence is good and experience is bad.

D The *Innocence* poems are just as much about repression, injustice and corruption as the *Experience* poems.

E The most useful way of reading the *Songs* is the historicist approach, which reads the poems by considering the political and social context of Blake's times.

F If you read too much into the *Songs*, you fail to appreciate the way they work at a simple level, as satisfying short poems, intended for children.

G The *Songs of Innocence* are spoken by innocent narrators, whose view of the world is not necessarily that of the poet.

H The most important theme in Blake's poetry is that of freedom and repression.

I In the *Songs* there is only really one voice – that of Blake the poet, or bard.

J The *Songs of Innocence* are childish.

K The *Songs of Innocence* are more complex than the *Songs of Experience*.