Structure-

Lack of order – reflects mind/ goes off topic then re-visits them. Implies struggle – unstable mind. Cannot control his mind – keeps going back to sleep/death.

Sleep recurring throughout – discussed as though it’s an escape even though it is death. Recurrence of dreams – suggests he doesn’t want to live but doesn’t want to die.

Imagery-

‘a sea of troubles’ – metaphor for troubles – vast and deep. ‘Sea’ suggests it is threatening/ drowning/ overwhelming

Whips and scorns – suggests time is a weapon – he is hurt/damaged by the everyday problems – just living is a problem

Imagery shifts between life and death > find examples

Weighing up between images

‘puzzles the will’ – suggestion of a maze; trapped

‘pale cast of thought’ – like a sky, rain – pale suggests sickness/ illness

‘the undiscovered country’ – death – views as a negative thing

Image patterns – sickness/ travelling and moving/ fight

Antithesis/ opposition – (antithetical images)

To be or not to be /To die, to sleep – inner conflict – life or death

To die, to sleep – doesn’t know whether he wants something permanent

Suffer/take arms – conflict – fight or give in (verb choices)

Most significant is ‘to be or not to be’ – the ‘rub’ – oppositions clash throughout – questions remain unanswered

Repetition/ doubling

To die to sleep- holds audience but also a way he can keep himself on track; circling ideas; re-occurring

‘we’ ‘us’ – generalising pronouns – empathise – human condition/ universal

‘to die to sleep ‘ – anxiety and uncertainty – a way of seeing if he is really sure

‘slings and arrows’ ‘whips and scorns’ – emphasises the negative; trying to convince himself – hyperbole (exaggeration)

Verse form/ metre

Key words – be not be – life and death

Questions of existence – to die or to sleep interrupts/ disruption >>>>>>

Enjambment – throughout – confusion / thoughts

Caesura – breaks in thought

Punctuation

Frequent/ changing – conflicting

Brackets – undiscovered country – trying not to think about it –

Lack of full stops – struggles to find conclusion – trail of thought never ending