Choose One:

1.) One scholar of Irish literature has commented that with all the commentary on the woes of Ireland, “Poetry and lamentation are virtually synonymous in Irish literature.” Explain what you think the writer means by this and then analyze three poems in light of this assertion. Be sure to compare and contrast the works in their methods and treatment of lamentation; is lamentation perhaps a means to particular ends?

2.) Some scholars regard O’Bruadiar as the last of the distinctly bardic poets. Using three of his poems as examples, support this claim; how is he different from more modern poets and what exactly about his work shows the imprint of the bardic tradition?

3.) One scholar has argued that Irish poets seem “incapable of rendering experience in abstract terms; their minds veer inflexibly to the concrete and specific.” Analyze the pertinence of these remarks in three of the poems we have read. Be sure to support your assertions with specific evidence.

N.B.
Remember that your job is to analyze the material you select. Extensive plot summary is unnecessary; if necessary, summarize selectively and with a clear purpose.