

# The Magicians of Edinburgh

## Before Listening, Watching, Reading

Indicate Edinburgh on the map



- Think of a town or city that you know. How much has it changed in 1 year, 10 years and 40 years?
- The writer expresses surprise that the City of Edinburgh 'managed to hit the 21st century - running' with the question 'How come?' Why is the writer surprised?
- Why might 1970s Edinburgh have shocked a visitor?
- Why are banks, insurance and pensions companies the only entities to retain 'sorcerers' (magicians) these days?
- What little moments of magic happen every day on the streets?
- Between which two buildings would you be standing if you 'were perfectly positioned between God's Law and Man's'?
- 'we are the magicians' refers to whom a) the sorcerers b) the city residents c) the bankers

## After Listening, Watching, Reading

- Look at your answers in 'Before Listening' again. Do you want to change any now that you have heard the poem?
- What significance do the following have in the poem? Explain.



- Contrast 1970s Edinburgh with what you will find now.
- What is the significance of the final lines of the poem?
- How do we know that the poet is a resident of the city?

### Explain

'How come there's shopping 24/7'

'The Hogmanay Party'

'a wave of the corporate wand'

'Sir Sean Himself'

'I see our city shaped by the sky / and the sky by our city'

'we are the magicians and we make the city'