The sense of stanza 2 runs on to stanza 3. The onlookers, including the poet himself, sense the solving emptiness that lies just under all we do...

Mortality, death are never far away.

We, the onlookers "for a second get it whole". Using colloquial language here, Larkin emphasises our momentary and bleak appreciation of what death, the final solution, means. We recognise the tenuousness of human life.

"Poor soul"

They whisper "at their own distress" shows how we are aware of the unpredictable inevitability of our own deaths.

We are distressed not by someone else's accident but because we have been reminded that our own lives might end at any moment.

Stanzas 4 & 5

As the ambulance departs in "deadened air," the patient loses his individuality and family ties and attachments. "sudden shut of loss" powerfully emphasises the finality of the departure of the ill person.

(NB. alliteration, rhythm of monosyllabic words) His particular, unique life is beginning to disintegrate, dissolve. Life as he and those close to him knew it is "nearly at an end."

From the moment the ambulance departs on its journey, the hold of the patient's former life begins to loosen. He is "Far from the exchange of love"

and is "Unreachable inside a room..." (the ambulance)

The "traffic" allows the ambulance to move quickly past but this means more than other vehicles on the roads. "Traffic" also means the daily activities or intercourse of human life which step aside to allow one human being to proceed with the last stage of his metaphorical journey from life to death.

The ambulance attends the final accident or event in the series of accidents/events that make up the "unique random blend" of an individual life.

"Brings closer what is left to come" means death itself.

"dulls to distance all we are" refers to our lives at present.

NB. tone of stately gravity and urgent seriousness in the general statements these last two stanzas make about human life.

"And sense the solving emptiness that lies just under all we do and for a second get it whole So permanent and blank and true."