

Analysis and Evaluation Booklet

- This booklet contains a range of A&E tasks which you will complete over the course of this session.
- The passages and questions reflect the format you will encounter in the final examination in May.
- In each case, there are two passages, with questions on the first passage followed by a comparison question worth 5 marks focusing on key areas of agreement/disagreement.

The questions test your ability to respond to three key aspects:

Understanding

These questions focus on ideas and require you to answer **in your own words**. You may be asked to summarise key ideas from a section of the text.

Analysis

These questions ask you to comment on the **language** used by the writer, providing analysis of techniques such as imagery, word choice, sentence structure, tone etc.

Evaluation

These questions expect you to be able to offer some **personal response** to the ideas/opinions of the writer and/or the way in which the writer has conveyed these ideas. The **effectiveness** of the writing will often be the focus and your answer should always be supported by evidence and explanation.

- Paper 1- *Despite Google***
- Paper 2 - *Comets and Asteroids***
- Paper 3- *Talented Immigrants***
- Paper 4- *The Lethal Assumption***
- Paper 5- *The Shape of Things to Come***

The following two passages focus on the importance of preserving libraries.

Passage 1

In the first passage George Kerevan, writing in The Scotsman newspaper, responds to the prospect of an "online library".

Read the passage below and attempt the questions which follow.

The internet search engine Google, with whom I spend more time than with my loved ones, is planning to put the contents of the world's greatest university libraries online, including the Bodleian in Oxford and those of Harvard and Stanford in America. Part of me is ecstatic at the thought of all that information at my fingertips; another part of me is nostalgic, because I think
5 physical libraries, book-lined and cathedral-quiet, are a cherished part of civilisation we lose at our cultural peril.

My love affair with libraries started early, in the Drumchapel housing scheme in the Fifties. For the 60,000 exiles packed off from slum housing to the city's outer fringe, Glasgow Council neglected the shops and amenities but somehow remembered to put in a public library —
10 actually, a wooden shed. That library was split into two — an adult section and a children's section. This was an early taste of forbidden fruit. Much useful human reproductive knowledge was gained from certain books examined surreptitiously in the adult biology section.

At university, I discovered the wonder of the library as a physical space. Glasgow University has a skyscraper library, built around a vast atrium stretching up through the various floors. Each
15 floor was devoted to a different subject classification. Working away on the economics floor, I could see other students above or below—chatting, flirting, doodling, panicking—all cocooned in their own separate worlds of knowledge. Intrigued, I soon took to exploring what was on these other planets: science, architecture, even a whole floor of novels. The unique aspect of a physical library is that you can discover knowledge by accident. There are things you know you
20 don't know, but there are also things you never imagined you did not know.

There is a stock response to my love affair with libraries: that I am being too nostalgic. That the multi-tasking, MTV generation can access information from a computer, get cheap books from the supermarket and still chatter to each other at a thousand decibels. Who needs old-fashioned library buildings? And why should councils subsidise what Google will provide for
25 free?

There is some proof for this line of argument. The number of people in Scotland using their local public library falls every year, with just under a quarter of Scots now borrowing books (admittedly, that was 34 million books). As a result, local authorities have reduced their funding for new books by 30 per cent. Of course, fewer new books mean fewer library users, so
30 guaranteeing the downward spiral.

It may well be that public demand and technical change mean we no longer need the dense neighbourhood network of local libraries of yore. But our culture, local and universal, does demand strategically situated libraries where one can find the material that is too expensive for the ordinary person to buy or too complex to find online. Such facilities are worth funding

35 publicly because the return in informed citizenship and civic pride is far in excess of the money spent.

Libraries also have that undervalued resource—the trained librarian. The ultimate Achilles' heel of the internet is that it presents every page of information as being equally valid, which is of course nonsense. The internet is cluttered with false information, or just plain junk. The library, with its collection honed and developed by experts, is a guarantee of the quality and veracity of the information contained therein, something that Google can never provide.

Libraries have another function still, which the internet cannot fulfill. Libraries, like museums, are custodians of knowledge—and should be funded as such. It has become the fashion in recent decades to turn our great national libraries and museums into entertainment centres, with audio-visuals, interactive displays and gimmicks. While I have some enthusiasm for popularising esoteric knowledge, it cannot always be reduced to the level of a child's view of the universe. We have a duty to future generations to invest in the custodians of our culture, in particular its literature and manuscripts.

Of course, I can't wait for Google to get online with the Bodleian Library's one million books. Yet here's one other thing I learned from a physical library space: the daunting scale of human knowledge and our inability to truly comprehend even a fraction of it. On arriving at Glasgow University library, I did a quick calculation of how many economics books there were on the shelves and realised that I could not read them all. Ever. From which realisation comes the beginning of wisdom—and that is very different from merely imbibing information.

Adapted from an article in The Scotsman newspaper, December 2003

Passage 2

In the second passage Ben Macintyre, writing in The Times newspaper, responds to the same news, and considers the future of the "traditional library".

PARADISE IS PAPER, PARCHMENT AND DUST

I have a halcyon library memory. I am sitting under a cherry tree in the tiny central courtyard of the Cambridge University Library, a book in one hand and an almond slice in the other. On the grass beside me is an incredibly pretty girl. We are surrounded by eight million books. Behind the walls on every side of the courtyard, the books stretch away in compact ranks hundreds of
5 yards deep, the shelves extending at the rate of two miles a year. There are books beneath us in the subterranean stacks, and they reach into the sky; we are entombed in words, an unimaginable volume of collected knowledge in cold storage, quiet and vast and waiting.

Perhaps that was the moment I fell in love with libraries.

10 I have spent a substantial portion of my life since in libraries, and I still enter them with a mixture of excitement and awe. I am not alone in this. Veneration for libraries is as old as writing itself, for a library is more to our culture than a collection of books: it is a temple, a symbol of power, the hushed core of civilisation, the citadel of memory, with its own mystique, social and sensual as well as intellectual.

15 But now a revolution, widely compared to the invention of printing itself, is taking place among the book shelves, and the library will never be the same again. This week Google announced plans to digitise fifteen million books from five great libraries, including the Bodleian.

20 Will we bother to browse the shelves when we can merely summon up any book in the world with the push of a button? Are the days of the library as a social organism over? Almost certainly not, for reasons psychological and, ultimately, spiritual. Locating a book online is one thing, reading it is quite another, for there is no aesthetic substitute for the physical object; the computer revolution rolls on inexorably, but the world is reading more paper books than ever.

25 And the traditional library will also survive, because a library is central to our understanding of what it is to be human. Libraries are not just for reading in, but for sociable thinking, exploring and exchanging ideas. They were never silent. Technology will not change that, for even in the starkest heyday of Victorian self-improvement, libraries were intended to be meeting places of the mind, recreational as well as educational: The Openshaw branch of the Manchester public library was built complete with a billiard room. Of course just as bookshops have become trendy, offering brain food and cappuccinos, so libraries, under financial and cultural pressure, will have to evolve by more actively welcoming people in to wander and explore . . . and fall in
30 love.

Adapted from an article in The Times newspaper, December 2003

Questions

Marks

1. Re-read lines 1-6.
 - a) In your own words, identify **two** contrasting emotions the writer has about the plan to put the great university library on-line. 2
 - b) Analyse how the writer's word choice in these lines helps to convey his view of the importance of "physical libraries" (line 5). Refer to **two examples** in your answer. 2
2. Re-read lines 7-12.

Evaluate the extent to which the writer thinks Glasgow Council gave the library in Drumchapel a high priority. Refer closely to the text in your response. 2
3. By referring to both imagery and word choice in lines 13-20, analyse how the writer conveys the "wonder of the library as a physical space" 4
4. Re-read lines 21-25.

Analyse how the writer's language conveys his attitude to the "MTV generation". You should refer in your answer to such features as sentence structure, word choice, tone... 4
5. Re-read lines 31-41.
 - a) Identify **four reasons** the writer presents in favour of maintaining traditional public libraries. You should use your **own words** as far as possible. 4
 - b) Analyse how the writer's use of language in lines 37-41 emphasises the contrast between his attitude to libraries and his attitude to the internet. 2
6. Analyse how the use of language in lines 42-48 suggests that the writer has some reservations about the entertainment aspect of present day libraries and museums. 2
7. Evaluate the final paragraph's effectiveness as a conclusion to the passage as a whole. 3
8. Both writers express their views about the importance of traditional libraries. Identify key areas on which they agree. In your answer, you should refer in detail to both passages.

You may answer in continuous prose, or in a series of developed bullet points. 5

PASSAGE 1

The first passage is the Introduction to a book called "IMPACT! The Threat of Comets and Asteroids" by Gerrit L Verschuur, a well-known scientist. He explores past impacts caused by comets and asteroids and goes on to look at the probability of further collisions. He raises questions about the future of the human race and asks what, in light of the knowledge we have, we should do now.

THE THREAT OF COMETS AND ASTEROIDS

The discovery that a comet impact triggered the disappearance of the dinosaurs as well as more than half the species that lived 65 million years ago may have been the most significant scientific breakthrough of the twentieth century. Brilliant detective work on the part of hundreds of scientists in analysing clues extracted from the study of fossils, and by counting the objects in near-earth space, has allowed the dinosaur mass-extinction mystery to be solved. As a result we have gained new insight into the nature of life on earth.

A lot has been learned about the nature of cosmic collisions and this new knowledge has given a remarkable twist to the story of our origins. We now recognise that comet and asteroid impacts may be the most important driving force behind evolutionary change on the planet. Originally, such objects smashed into one another to build the earth 45 million years ago. After that, further comet impacts brought the water of our oceans and the organic molecules needed for life. Ever since then, impacts have continued to punctuate the story of evolution. On many occasions, comets slammed into earth with such violence that they nearly precipitated the extinction of all life. In the aftermath of each catastrophe, new species emerged to take the place of those that had been wiped out.

We have now recognised the fundamental role of comet and asteroid collisions in shaping evolutionary change and this recognition means that the notion of "survival of the fittest" may have to be reconsidered. Survivors of essentially random impact catastrophes—cosmic accidents—were those creatures who just happened to be "lucky" enough to find themselves alive after the dust settled. It doesn't matter how well a creature may have been able to survive in a particular environment *before* the event—being thumped on the head by a large object from space *during* the event is not conducive to a long and happy existence.

Our new understanding of why the dinosaurs and so many of their contemporary species became extinct has revealed the earth as a planet not specifically designed for our well-being. From time to time, life is rudely interrupted by shattering events on a scale we can barely imagine.

For more than two centuries the possibility that the earth might be struck by comets has been debated and three questions have been raised from the start: will a comet again hit the earth; might comet impact lead to the extinction of mankind; is it possible that the flood legends from so many world cultures could be explained by past comet impact in the oceans which triggered enormous tsunamis? In recent years most scientists have come to accept that the answer to the first two questions is probably yes.

The third of these questions has begun again to excite interest, but here the implications of an affirmative answer reach beyond the scientific. Great prejudice exists both for and against the idea that the legendary "Flood" was a real event triggered by asteroid or comet impact. To accept this possibility challenges the long-held beliefs of many people who see the event as having religious significance. However, recent breakthroughs in our understanding of cosmic collisions have cast new light on what might lie behind ancient beliefs, legends, sagas and myths that tell of terrible floods that once ravaged the world.

40 Once we appreciate that impact catastrophes have shaped life as we know it, and that such events will happen again in the future, how will this awareness alter the way we see ourselves in the cosmic context? Will we let nature take its course and trust to luck that our species will survive the next violent collision? Or will we confront the forces that may yet influence the destiny of all life on earth?

45 Many details referred to in our story are still controversial. Debate is particularly heated as regards the role of impacts in directing the course of human history. All of this is very exciting. The whole topic is in a state of ferment, a symptom that something significant is brewing.

50 Ultimately we must ask ourselves whether we find the risk of future impact to be sufficiently great to merit doing something to avoid it. Many dangers posed by living in a modern technological society are far more likely to cost us our lives, but that is not the point. Rare comet or asteroid impacts may cost *all* of us our lives. So how will the threat of comets and asteroids fit into our thinking? We can only answer this question after we have learned a great deal more about the nature of the danger.

PASSAGE 2

The second passage is adapted from an article in a national tabloid newspaper.

ASTEROID COULD BLAST US BACK TO DARK AGES

It would destroy an area the size of Belgium in one and a half seconds and plunge the world back into the Dark Ages. The giant lump of space rock racing towards Earth today at 75,000 miles an hour would unleash a force 20 million times more powerful than the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. If it ends up crashing into us on 21st March 2014, that is.

- 5 Asteroid QQ47, two thirds of a mile wide, was first spotted by astronomers in Mexico ten days ago and is hurtling towards us at twenty miles a second. A direct hit by the huge asteroid would send billions of tons of dust into the sky, blocking out the sun, causing plant life to perish and livestock to starve. The effect on human life, too, would be devastating. But perhaps we needn't worry too much—because scientists say the chances of it hitting us are just 1 in
10 909,000.

Astrophysics expert, Dr Alan Fitzsimmons of Queen's University, Belfast, who advises the UK NEO (Near-Earth Objects) Information Centre in Leicester, is optimistic that Earth will come through the latest asteroid scare unscathed: "In all probability, within the next month we will know its future orbit with an accuracy which will mean we will be able to rule out any impact."

- 15 Others are, however, convinced that it is only a matter of time before we face Armageddon. Liberal Democrat MP and sky-watcher, Lembit Opik, says: "I have said for years that the chance of an asteroid having an impact which could wipe out most of the human race is 100 per cent." He has raised his worries in the Commons, successfully campaigned for an all-party task force to assess the potential risk and helped set up the Spaceguard UK facility to track near-earth
20 objects. He admits: "It does sound like a science fiction story and I may sound like one of those guys who walk up and down with a sandwich-board saying the end of the world is nigh. But the end is nigh."

- Asteroids have long been a source of fascination for scientists and range in size from tiny dust particles to huge objects nearly 600 miles across. More than 100,000 asteroids have been
25 classified since the first was spotted by Italian astronomer Guiseppe Piazzi in 1801. Some contain carbon-bearing 'compounds and scientists think they could hold the key to creation. Giant meteors hitting the planet could have delivered chemicals which kick-started life on Earth.

- But now asteroid QQ47 could end man's fragile reign. Spaceguard director, Jay Tate, explains:
30 "In the longer term the problem of being hit by an asteroid will be the amount of material that is injected into the Earth's atmosphere. Within two or three days the surface, of the Earth will be cold and dark. And it is the dark which will be the problem, because the plants will begin to die out. At best guess, we will probably lose about 25 per cent of the human population of the planet in the first six months or so. The rest of us are basically back in the Middle Ages. We have
35 got no power, no communications, no infrastructure. We are back to hunter-gathering."

Although there are hundreds of undiscovered asteroids hurtling around, bookmakers are willing to take bets at odds of 909,000 to 1 that QQ47 will snuff out mankind. After all, as one bookmaker says happily: "If the asteroid does wipe out life on Earth, we probably won't have to worry about paying out to winning customers."

Comets and Asteroids

N6 Analysis and Evaluation

Questions

1. Re-read lines 1 – 6
Identify what important discovery has been made about comet impact and one method scientists have used to gather evidence for their discovery. 2
2. Re-read lines 7 – 15
Analyse how the writer's use of language emphasises the significance of cosmic collision in evolutionary change. Refer to at least two different features in your answer. 4
3. Re-read lines 16 – 22
 - a. According to the writer, explain why the theory of "the survival of the fittest" should be revisited. 2
 - b. Analyse how the writer's use of language conveys his strength of feeling regarding the necessity to revisit this theory. You should refer in your answer to such features as word choice, tone, contrast, sentence structure ... 4
4. Re-read lines 27 – 39
 - a. In what way does the sentence which begins on line 36 ("The third of these questions ...") act as a link at this stage in the passage? 2
 - b. Explain how the "third of these questions" leads into an area which is "beyond the scientific". You should use your own words as far as possible. 2
5. Re-read lines 40 – 44
Identify the two possible course of action specified by the writer with regards to future "impact catastrophes". 2
6. Re-read lines 45 – 48
By referring to at least one example of each, analyse how the writer's use of imagery and sentence structure effectively conveys the excitement of the debate. 3
7. Evaluate the final paragraph's effectiveness as a conclusion to the passage as a whole. 2
8. Consider the entire passage
Identify a likely purpose and audience for this passage and justify each answer with close reference to the text. 2

Question of both passages

9. Both writers express their views about the importance of comet and asteroid collisions with the earth. Identify key areas on which they agree. In your answer, you should refer in details to both passages. 5

Total = 30

END OF QUESTION PAPER

PASSAGE 1

The first passage is an article in The Herald newspaper in June 2002. In it, journalist and broadcaster Ruth Wishart offers some thoughts on attitudes to immigration to Scotland.

CAN BRITAIN AFFORD TO KEEP TALENTED IMMIGRANTS OUT?

If you hail from Glasgow you will have friends or relatives whose roots lie in the Irish Republic. You will have Jewish friends or colleagues whose grandparents, a good number of them Polish or Russian, may have fled persecution in Europe. You will eat in premises run by Italian or French proprietors. It is a diverse cultural heritage enriched by a large and vibrant Asian population and a smaller but significant Chinese one.

It was not always thus.

The city census of 1831 found 47 Jewish citizens, a community which grew and prospered as it became an integral part of Glasgow's merchant growth. The first Asian immigrants were no more than a few young men, largely from poor and rural backgrounds, whose early employment as door- to-door salesmen gave no hint of the entrepreneurial flair their heirs and successors would bring to so many trade sectors in the city.

The early Italians found the route to Glaswegian hearts through their stomachs as they set up chains of chip shops and ice-cream parlours; the Chinese, too, helped the local palate become rather more discerning when they began to arrive in numbers half a century ago.

All of these immigrant populations have two things in common: they were economic migrants and their effect on their adopted homeland has been, almost without exception, a beneficial one. That is a lesson from history some of our more hysteria -prone politicians would do well to ponder as they devise evermore unfriendly welcomes for those who would come here today to live and work.

This week the Home Secretary was assuring his French counterpart that Britain would clamp down even more severely on those working here illegally. At the same time plans are advanced for "accommodation centres", which will have the immediate effect of preventing natural integration, while children of immigrants are to be denied the harmonising effect of inter-racial schooling. Meanwhile, ever more sophisticated technology is to be employed to stem the numbers of young men who risk their lives clinging to the underside of trains and lorries, or are paying obscene sums of money to the 21st century's own version of slave traders—those traffickers in human misery who make their fortunes on the back of others' desperation.

Yet at the heart of this ever more draconian approach to immigration policy lie a number of misconceptions. The UK is not a group of nations swamped by a tidal wave of immigration. Relatively speaking, Europe contends with a trickle of refugees compared with countries who border areas of famine, desperate poverty, or violent political upheaval. The countries of origin of the highest numbers coming here change from year to year, depending on the hotspots of global conflict. A significant proportion of refugees want nothing more than to be able to return to that homeland when conditions allow.

But, whether they are transient or would-be settlers, they face an uphill battle trying to find legal employment. People with real skills and talents to offer us find themselves in the black economy,

or unemployed, because of a sluggish system of processing applications, allied to regulations which preclude the legal marketplace.

- Surely the most sensible way to “crack down” on illegal workers is to permit legal alternatives.
- 40 Not just because of woolly liberalism—though that’s a perfectly decent instinct—but because of enlightened self-interest. Recently, I was reading an analysis of what was happening to the economy in the Highlands and Islands. The writer welcomes the fact that the population of that area has gone up 20% in one generation. But he goes on to say that “labour shortages of every kind are becoming the biggest single constraint in the way of additional economic expansion.”
- 45 He adds: “In principle the solution to this problem is readily available in the shape of the so-called asylum seekers or economic migrants that our country, like most countries, seems determined to turn away.”

- While, for the most part, immigrants to the Highlands and Islands have recently come from England, the future lies in casting the net much wider. That would be, after all, yet another
- 50 Scottish solution to a Scottish problem, given that this nation regularly suffers from population loss, exporting tranches of economic migrants all over the world every year. It’s been something of a national hobby, which is why there is almost no corner of the globe where you won’t stumble over a Caledonian society enthusiastically peopled by folks who will do anything for the old country bar live in it.

- 55 Yet Ireland has managed to attract its young entrepreneurs back to help drive a burgeoning economy. We must try to do likewise. We need immigrants. We cannot grow the necessary skills fast enough to fill the gap sites. We need people with energy and commitment and motivation, three characteristics commonly found among those whose circumstances prompt them to make huge sacrifices to find a new life.

- 60 Round about now, families all over Scotland will be waving their newly graduated offspring off on the increasingly popular gap year between university and real life. Most of them will have a ball, finding enough work to keep the adventure on the road as they travel. Some of them won’t come back at all, having found a good job or a soulmate elsewhere. Provided they stay on the right side of the law, very few of them will be harassed by customs officials, locked up in
- 65 detention centres while their papers are checked, or deported for overstaying their welcome. If you’re one of us and sort of solvent, come into the parlour, there’s a welcome there for you.

PASSAGE 2

The second passage is adapted from an essay in The Guardian newspaper, also in June 2002. In it, Anne Karpf explores past and present press coverage of immigration issues.

WE HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE

There's a melancholy little game that staff at the Refugee Council sometimes play. They show visitors press cuttings about refugees and asylum seekers from the 1920s, 1930s and today, and ask them to guess when they were published. Most people get it wrong. They assume that Jewish refugees were welcomed, at least in the 1930s, with a tolerance that has traditionally been seen as a beacon of Britishness. They're shocked to discover that rabid intolerance has a strong British pedigree.

And the press has persisted in peddling incorrect figures about immigration. One newspaper's assertion in 1938 that there were more Jews in Britain than Germany ever had, was plain wrong. Similarly, the tabloids' current depiction of Britain as an international magnet for asylum seekers is totally misleading. Most of the world's refugees do what they've always done: they move from one poor country to another, usually a neighboring one. Only a tiny percentage makes it to the richer countries: 5% to Europe, and less than 1% to Britain. A regular peruser of the press today, however, with its loose talk of "swamping" and "floods", would be stunned to learn that, of 15 EU countries, Britain stands at number 10 in the number of asylum seekers per head of population.

The asylum seeker has become a composite, almost mythical figure. Despite the allegedly vast numbers of them now in the country, most British people have never actually met one, making it all the easier to dehumanise them.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn once said: "How YOU are with someone to whom you owe nothing is a grave test." At the moment, Britain is failing that test, especially in its press coverage. The reporting of prewar Jewish asylum seekers is shocking because we know how that story ended. But instead of using hindsight to idealise, we can use it to illuminate. Let us learn this much at least: hostile reporting of asylum seekers dispossesses them yet again. Refugees seek asylum from hate or destitution, and then run into it once more. As the daughter of postwar Polish Jewish asylum seekers, I'm stupefied by how the collective memory can be so short, bigotry so blatant, and how, with all the recent interest in the Holocaust, basic connections can fail to be made. Are we doomed always to stigmatise the stranger? Must compassion only ever be extended after the event?

Talented Immigrants

Questions

1. Re-read lines 1 – 5.
 - (a) From the first paragraph, identify two signs that immigration has had an impact on Glasgow. 2
 - (b) Analyse how the writer's use of language in lines 1 – 5 emphasises her attitude to the people she is describing. 2
2. Re-read lines 7 – 14.

According to the writer in lines 7 – 14, what similarities can be found among immigrants to Glasgow? 2
3. By referring to at least two features of language in lines 15 – 29, analyse how the writer conveys her disapproval to both politicians and their proposals. 4
4. Re-read lines 28 – 38.
 - (a) From lines 28 – 34 identify two misconceptions about immigration. 2
 - (b) By referring to at least two features of language in lines 28 – 38; analyse how the writer conveys her attitude towards these misconceptions. 4
5. Re-read lines 39 – 54.
 - (a) Identify three important points which develop the argument about immigration. You should use your own words as far as possible. 3
 - (b) By referring to at least two features of language in lines 48 -54, analyse the effectiveness of the solution offered by the writer. 4
6. Evaluate the final paragraph's effectiveness as a conclusion to the passage as a whole. 2
7. Both writers express their views about immigration. Identify key areas on which they agree. In your answer, you should refer in detail to both passages. You may answer this question in continuous prose or in a series of developed bullet points. 5

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

PASSAGE 1

In February 2009, a BBC presenter was sacked after complaints about her use of racist language. Writing in "The Scotsman" newspaper, Joyce McMillan defends the decision and explains why we must not accept such language.

THE LETHAL ASSUMPTION

When I was a child growing up in the 1950s, every self-respecting infant in our neck of the woods possessed both a teddy bear and a golliwog. The origins of both toys, and of their names, were largely obscure to us. Teddy was said to have something to do with the portly figure of King Edward VII, and Golly — well there were no black children round our way, so I suppose we just thought of him as an
5 imaginary figure, like those strange-looking characters from Disney cartoons who inhabit the toy counters today.

But that was then, and this is now. Back then, black people were still being systematically denied access to housing and employment in this country purely on the grounds of their colour. Back then, as President Barack Obama pointed out in his inaugural address, his own father would have struggled to be
10 served in many restaurants and diners in Washington. Back then, we were at the tail-end of a whole aeon of history — at least 2,000 years — in which white people of European origin, with their economic and political systems, had come to dominate the entire globe and had come to believe, by and large, that they did so because of their natural superiority to other races.

And it is against this background, it seems to me, that we should discuss this week's almighty media hoo-ha over the case of Carol Thatcher, who — in a post-show drinks session at the BBC — is said to have repeatedly referred to a French tennis player of African background as looking like a golliwog, despite protests from those present.
15

It's possible to argue, of course, about whether the BBC has over-reacted in sacking Ms Thatcher from the show (a stern public reprimand might have been sufficient), but what is clear is that the row has
20 come as a godsend to sections of the media, in a week otherwise dominated by gathering economic gloom. On one hand, it offers the commercial media yet another chance to continue their any-excuse rough-housing of the BBC. On the other hand, it offers a classic opportunity to claim mass public outrage over "political correctness gone mad"; although in truth only 2,000 people—a tiny 100th of 1 per cent of the BBC's weekly audience in Britain—actually bothered to register a complaint about Ms Thatcher's
25 departure.

And somewhere beyond all the hidden agendas, there also lies a serious debate about the limits of free speech in a society trying to move on from a racist and colonialist past. Nevertheless it's a debate in which some thoroughly depressing views have been expressed this week, by those who seek to defend Carol Thatcher's remarks. For, as newspapers with genuinely diverse teams of senior writers are now
30 beginning to point out, black people in Britain almost universally find the idea and the image of the "golliwog" offensive.

It is easy enough to see why: the toy represents a grotesque caricature of the "negro" as a comic figure—a little less than human, a little more than scary. And for any white person with any manners, and any sense of history, that objection should be enough to rule the word, and the thing itself, out of
35 polite company in Britain for good; not banned by law, of course, but simply excluded by decent choice, and by common courtesy towards the feelings of people who are, or should be, fully included in our national conversation.

“Oh, but this happens to every ethnic group,” comes the loud riposte from conservative middle-Britain. “Look, only the other day in Australia, Jeremy Clarkson called the Prime Minister ‘a one-eyed Scottish idiot’. You just have to laugh it off. And why is it unacceptable to mock Muslims, but somehow OK to send up Christian beliefs? It’s political correctness gone mad!”

But to those who make that most feeble of arguments, and ask that most disingenuous of rhetorical questions, I can only say: read some history, wake up to reality, and try to grasp what it has meant to be black or Asian on the face of this planet in recent times.

45 To poke fun at Gordon Brown is obviously to do what good comedy should do, in poking fun at one of the most powerful men on earth, and at a member of an ethnic or cultural group—the Lowland Scots—who have played a hugely influential role in forming the world in which we live, and in profiting from its development.

50 But for a white person to poke fun at a black man for his hair, his skin colour, his looks, his faith—that is to raise historical spectres of a completely different order. That is to restate, and to seek social acceptance for, the lethal assumption of racial superiority “we” are normal, “they” look funny — that was bred in our bones, until less than a generation ago, and which each of us now has to observe in ourselves, and fight to overcome, every day of our lives, if we are interested in continuing our journey towards a world in which human beings are finally valued and respected for themselves, in all their
55 diversity.

And although, in a free country, we may say what we like without incurring the wrath of the law, we must also be prepared to take the consequences when we choose to insult a large part of the public, in a spasm of churlish nostalgia for a past we should be glad to leave behind, and in pursuit of the kind of barren and backward-looking joke that makes laughter die on the lips.

PASSAGE 2

In this article in “The Times” newspaper, Matthew Syed also defends the decision to sack the presenter, and explores theories of subconscious racism.

STEP INSIDE MY SKIN

In April 2004 Ron Atkinson, the television commentator and former Manchester United manager, described the Frenchman Marcel Desailly as a “lazy nigger” after a Champions League match between Chelsea and Monaco. This week it was revealed that Carol Thatcher had encroached upon similar territory, using the word “golliwog” to describe a tennis player at the Australian Open while watching
5 the match in a BBC hospitality room. The uproar in both cases was swift and decisive: Atkinson was sacked by ITV, and Thatcher was removed yesterday from her role in the BBC’s *The One Show*.

This zero tolerance approach to “racist” language is not to everyone’s liking. When my colleague Murad Ahmed wrote a piece condemning Prince Harry for using the word “Paki” he was swiftly taken to the cleaners by readers posting comments on the Times website. Here are a few examples: “The whole PC
10 brigade reminds me of Orwell’s 1984. Next stop, Language Police.” (Rob, Milton Keynes) “You tend not to see Australians crying when labelled ‘Aussies’.” (Martin, Manchester) “People with red hair get called names their whole lives. Stop whining. All male groups do this. They call their friends names, they insult them affectionately.” (John, Inverness)

15 But Rob, Martin and John, your views—so reasonable and well expressed—are urgently and importantly wrong; Murad and the BBC are right.

Look at the experience of racial minorities today. In the United States, blacks earn less than 75 per cent of whites; are twice as likely to be in poverty; and by the end of eighth grade their score on standardised tests is equivalent to white pupils still in fourth grade. Similar economic and social gaps exist in other Western nations where immigrants and whites go head to head in education and the job market.

- 20 This is a damning indictment, but of who or what? The Harvard Implicit Association Test (TAT) provides a clue. This is a test that measures the role our unconscious associations play in our beliefs and behaviour. Racism, you see, exists on two, independent levels. First we have our conscious attitudes, the things we choose to believe and the values we endorse. But the TAT measures our racial attitudes on an unconscious level: the immediate, automatic associations that tumble out before we have even had a chance to think. These biases are a powerful predictor of behaviour and unlock the mystery of why racial minorities continue to underachieve on almost every measure of social progress more than three decades after non-discrimination legislation reached the statute book. No such bias, incidentally, exists towards Aussies or ginger-nuts.
- 25
- 30 Rob, Martin and John, here's my point. Words like Paki, nigger and golliwog are not iniquitous because of tone, context or intent. Their power lies in their capacity to reinforce an inner bias so potent that few of us can rid ourselves of its influence; so powerful that it continues to shape the life chances of minority groups even in societies virtually bereft of overt bigotry; so wounding that those of us in minority groups still shudder at their mention.
- 35 Just pause for a moment and imagine if your success and failure in life — your ability to educate your kids, to buy the house of your dreams—was determined, to a measurable degree, by something as arbitrary as skin colour. Imagine if you could never be quite sure if the girl in accounts gave you the brush-off, not because she didn't fancy you, but because of subliminal prejudice. Imagine if there was a 300-year history in which racist words had been used to persecute your ancestors. Wouldn't you want society to take a stand against all that?
- 40 That is why the BBC was right to sack Thatcher and TTV was right to fire Atkinson. And I, for one, feel a deep sense of gratitude that I live in a society where so many, of all colours, are prepared to take a stand.

End of passages

THE LETHAL ASSUMPTION'

Questions on passage one

Re-read lines 1 – 6

1. Show how the writer's use of language in lines 1-6 makes the children growing up in the 1950s seem very innocent. (3)

Re-read lines 7-13

2. (a) Give two examples of inequality faced by black people in the 1950s. Use your own words as far as possible. (2)
(b) Show how the writer's sentence structure in lines 7-13 emphasises her argument that blacks were treated unfairly. (2)

Re-read lines 18-25

3. In your own words, explain clearly two separate reactions to the BBC's sacking of Carol Thatcher. (2)

Re-read lines 26-37

4. By referring to at least two features of language in lines 32-37, analyse how the writer conveys her strong feelings of disapproval about the word "golliwog". (4)

Re-read lines 38-44

5. (a) With reference to the text, identify and explain the attitude of "conservative middle Britain" as illustrated in lines 38-41. (2)
(b) Analyse how the writer's use of language creates a critical tone, conveying her contempt for "conservative middle Britain". You should refer in your answer to word choice and sentence structure. (4)

Re-read lines 49-55

6. (a) In your own words explain what the writer means by the "lethal assumption of racial superiority bred in our bones". (2)
(b) What changes in our attitude does the writer suggest we must make? (2)

Re-read lines 56-59

7. Explain how effective you find the ideas of the final paragraph as a conclusion to the text as a whole. (2)

Question on both passages

8. Both writers express views about the unacceptability of racist language. Identify key areas on which they agree. In your answer you should refer to detail on both passages. You may answer this question in continued prose or in a series of developed bullet points. (5)

The following two passages focus on the problem of obesity

PASSAGE 1

In the first passage the writer explores the problem of obesity in the modern world.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

When the world was a simpler place, the rich were fat, the poor were thin, and right-thinking people worried about how to feed the hungry. Now, in much of the world, the rich are thin, the poor are fat, and right-thinking people are worrying about obesity.

5 Evolution is mostly to blame. It has designed mankind to cope with deprivation, not plenty. People are perfectly tuned to store energy in good years to see them through lean ones. But when bad times never come, they are stuck with that energy, stored around their expanding bellies.

10 Thanks to rising agricultural productivity, lean years are rarer all over the globe. Pessimistic economists, who used to draw graphs proving that the world was shortly going to run out of food, have gone rather quiet lately. According to the UN, the number of people short of food fell from 920m in 1980 to 799m 20 years later, even though the world's population increased by 1.6 billion over the period. This is mostly a cause for celebration. Mankind has won what was, for most of his time on this planet, his biggest battle: to ensure that he and his offspring had enough to eat. But every silver lining has a cloud, and the consequence of prosperity is a new plague that brings with it a host of interesting policy dilemmas.

20 There is no doubt that obesity is the world's biggest public-health issue today—the main cause of heart disease, which kills more people these days than AIDS, malaria, war; the principal risk factor in diabetes; heavily implicated in cancer and other diseases. Since the World Health Organisation labelled obesity an epidemic in 2000, reports on its fearful consequences have come thick and fast.

25 Will public-health warnings, combined with media pressure, persuade people to get thinner, just as such warnings finally put them off tobacco? Possibly. In the rich world, sales of healthier foods are booming and new figures suggest that over the past year Americans got very slightly thinner for the first time in recorded history. But even if Americans are losing a few ounces, it will be many years before their country solves the health problems caused by half a century's dining to excess. And everywhere else in the economically developed world, people are still piling on the pounds.

30 That's why there is now a worldwide consensus among doctors that governments should do something to stop them. There's nothing radical about the idea that governments should intervene in the food business. They've been at it since 1202, when King John of England first banned the adulteration of bread. Governments and the public seem to agree that ensuring the safety and stability of the food supply is part of the state's job. But obesity is a more complicated issue than food safety. It is not about ensuring that people don't get poisoned: it is about changing their behaviour.

35 Should governments be trying to do anything about it at all?

There is one bad reason for doing something, and two good reasons. The bad reason is that governments should help citizens look after themselves. People, the argument goes, are misled by their genes, which are constantly trying to pack away a few more calories just in case of a famine around the corner. Governments should help guide them towards better eating habits.

40 But that argument is weaker in the case of food than it is for tobacco—nicotine is addictive, chocolate is not—and no better than it is in any other area where people have a choice of being sensible or silly. People are constantly torn by the battle between their better and worse selves. It's up to them, not governments, to decide who should win.

A better argument for intervention is that dietary habits are established early in childhood. Once people get fat, it is hard for them to get thin; once they are used to

45 breakfasting on chips and fizzy drinks, that's hard to change. The state, which has some responsibility for moulding minors, should try to ensure that its small citizens aren't mainlining sugar at primary school. Britain's government is gesturing towards tough restrictions on advertising junk food to children. That seems unlikely to have much effect. Sweden already

50 bans advertising to children, and its young people are as porky as those in comparable countries. Other moves, such as banning junk food from schools, might work better. In some countries, such as America, soft-drinks companies bribe schools to let them install vending machines. That should stop.

A second plausible argument for intervention is that thin people subsidise fat people through

55 contributions to the National Health Service. If everybody is forced to carry the weight of the seriously fat, then everybody has an interest in seeing them slim down. That is why some people believe the government should tax fattening food—sweets, snacks and take-aways. They argue this might discourage consumption of unhealthy food and recoup some of the costs of obesity.

60 It might; but it would also constitute too great an intrusion on liberty for the gain in equity and efficiency it might (or might not) represent. Society has a legitimate interest in fat, because fat and thin people both pay for it. But it also has a legitimate interest in not having the government stick its nose too far into the private sphere. If people want to eat their way to grossness and an early grave, let them.

Adapted from an article in The Economist magazine in December, 2003

PASSAGE 2

In the second passage Susie Orbach, a clinician who has worked for many years with people suffering from eating problems, suggests that there are different views on the "obesity epidemic".

FOOLISH PANIC IS ABOUT PROFIT

At primary school, my son's lunch-box was inspected and found to fail. It contained chocolate biscuits. The school, believing it was doing the right thing, had banned sweets, chocolates and crisps in the name of good nutrition.

5 After school and in the playground, away from the teachers' eyes, sweets and chocolates were traded. They became the marks of rebellion and the statements of independence. Eating foods they suspected the grown-ups would rather they didn't, made those foods ever so much more enticing. They weren't just food but food plus attitude.

10 The school was well-meaning—just misguided. Its attitude, like most of what permeates the obesity debate, has turned good intentions into bad conclusions. Despite endless thoughtful discussion on the subject, we are left with a sense that obesity is about to destabilise the NHS, that dangerous fat is swamping the nation.

15 That there is a considerable increase in obesity is not in question. The extent of it is. For many, obesity is a source of anguish and severe health difficulties. But the motivation of some of those who trumpet these dangers associated with obesity needs to be questioned. There is considerable evidence that there is serious money to be made from a condition in search of treatment, and the categorisation of fat may just fit this bill perfectly. In the US, commercial slimming clubs and similar groups contributed millions of dollars to Shape Up America an organisation which was part of a strategy to turn obesity into a disease which can be treated by the pharmaceutical, diet and medical industries. Medicine is, after all, an industry in the US.

20 So sections of the market aim to profit from the notion that we are all too fat. We need to contest that. It isn't the case. Evidence from the professional journals shows that fitness, not fat, determines our mortality. You can be 50 fat, fit and healthy.

25 We are in danger of being too willing to mimic the US dogma on the demonisation of fat and of particular foods. This matters because it creates a climate in which the government may fail to ask fundamental questions about whose interests are served by the introduction of hysteria around obesity; particularly who profits and who hurts. A corrective to the scare tactics is needed. People should consider, for example, the simple fact that the new rise in obesity is not simple growth, but is partly due to the body mass index (BMI) being revised downwards in the past six years. If you are Brad Pitt, you are now considered overweight. If you are as substantial
30 as Russell Crowe; you are obese. Overnight 36 million Americans woke up to find that they were obese. The hidden psychological effects of this attack on our body size are enormous. We are not going to protect the next generation by simply exhorting them to eat so-called good foods.

35 There is a lot to be done. We need to address what food means in people's emotional lives. We need to transform the culture of thinness. We need to recognise that we as a society are deeply confused about eating and dieting. And we need to realise that parts of this confusion has been cynically promoted by those who now are selling us the obesity epidemic.

Adapted from an article in The Observer newspaper in May, 2004

Questions on Passage 1

1. Re-read lines 1-7

- (a) From the first two paragraphs, identify the changing attitude towards food that the writer suggests and explain what he believes is the cause for obesity today. 2
- (b) From lines 1-3 identify two ways by which the sentence structure emphasises the change. 2

2. Re-read lines 8-15

Analyse how the writer's use of imagery in lines 12-15 emphasises the writer's attitude towards this change. You should refer in your answer to at least two examples. 2

3. Re-read lines 16-20

By referring to at least two features of language analyse how the writer conveys the seriousness of the health problem. You should refer in your answer to such features as sentence structure, word choice, imagery, contrast, tone... 4

4. Re-read lines 21-27

From these lines identify one cause for hope and one cause for concern. You should use your own words as far as possible. 4

5. Re-read lines 28-59

- (a) From lines 28-34 identify what the purpose was of government intervention in the past, and what is a further purpose of intervention now. 2
- (b) From lines 36-59 identify one negative aspect and two positive aspects for government intervention in the food industry. You should use your own words as far as possible. 2

6. Re-read lines 44-53

By referring to at least one example, analyse how the writer's use of language emphasises the argument for intervention to address dietary habits which are established early in life. 3

7. Re-read lines 55-56

By referring to the sentence here analyse how the writer's use of imagery or sentence structure helps to convey the writer's ideas. 2

8. Evaluate the final paragraph's effectiveness as a conclusion to the passage as a whole. 2

Question on both passages

9. Both writers express their views on the problem of obesity in the modern world. Identify key areas on which they agree and/or disagree. In your answer, you should refer in detail to both passages. 2

You may answer this question in continuous prose or in a series of development bullet points. 5