Open to review

Everyone is a critic—mostly unpaid. I am paid. Reviewing is my career. My income is dependent upon the tools of my trade: words, wit and wisdom. Film reviews are my specialty, followed closely by biographies.

I find my work immensely satisfying but feel reviewers, generally, are misunderstood—maligned even. The very nature of our work is criticism, positive and negative. Often the negative criticisms are the ones by which a reviewer is mostly remembered! While seasoned reviewers tend to have a formula ensuring objectivity and impartiality, barbed comments—those single, indulgent departures from the formula, enticing litigation—sell. A few recent ‘one-liners’ spring to mind (authors shall remain anonymous).

The plot thickened; pity the characters weren’t there to see it happen.

An unwelcome departure from the writer’s previous ventures into mediocrity.

‘Shambolic’ is a word too infrequently applied to films of this style.

This was Benson’s debut as a playwright. Described in advertising as a satirical work, the tragedy unfolded scene by scene.

At times like these I draw inspiration from my friends and family; the book provided none.

It [the movie plot] lumbered along, collapsed, and writhed on the ground while the main characters watched.

These are the comments which gain reviewers that barbarous reputation. Single lines embedded in lengthy well-constructed reviews. The tantalising snippets that are remembered—that come back to bite!

Spare a thought next time you ponder a review. The literary critic has performed a community service, providing a considered opinion about entertainment offerings (burnt or otherwise), possibly saving you time and money in the process. If occasionally you meet a razor sharp comment, enjoy it, but recognise it as a stylistic departure!
1. ‘Open to review’ is a deliberate pun and refers to the idea that reviewers
(A) need to be balanced in their criticisms.
(B) pass judgement after attending ‘opening nights’.
(C) should not hide anonymously behind unfavourable comments.
(D) are judged for their own work as much as they judge the work of others.

2. Which option best captures the ideas in paragraph two?
(A) Positive reviews are not very entertaining.
(B) Reviewers should be wary about their nasty remarks.
(C) Critics deliberately provoke circumstances which may lead to legal action.
(D) Readers tend to react more to the incisive negative comments in a review.

3. The tone of the ‘one-liners’ in paragraph three is
(A) acidic.
(B) tactful.
(C) tasteful.
(D) poignant.

4. The statement ‘An unwelcome departure from the writer’s previous ventures into mediocrity’ implies that
(A) the writer’s style lacks verve but a positive review could provide motivation to improve.
(B) the writer’s international experiences have had a positive influence on the latest work.
(C) the writer’s present offering is an innovative work that has produced a stunning result.
(D) the writer’s prior work was pedestrian and the change in approach is less than successful.

5. What does the writer mean when she says that some comments may ‘come back to bite’?
(A) The authors of the texts are likely to be deeply hurt by the comments.
(B) The comments will cloud the judgement of the future audiences of the texts.
(C) The reviewers who made the comments could find themselves getting into trouble.
(D) The comments do not lose their power no matter how many times they are repeated.

6. The writer’s use of the term ‘community service’ is intended to be
(A) caustic.
(B) flippant.
(C) derisive.
(D) defamatory.
7. Which statement about reviewers’ comments would the writer most likely agree with?

(A) Comments that are highly scathing would be rejected by readers.
(B) Reviewers rely too much on sensationalism to attract their readers’ attention.
(C) Experience gives reviewers the confidence to be more colourful in their comments.
(D) Although reviewers strive to be objective, personal feelings sometimes get in the way.

For questions 8 to 10 choose the words which best fit the style and meaning of the passage.

**Clarence House**

The weather next morning was dull, but at least it was dry and warm, and Tranmere’s narrow streets were packed with sauntering holidaymakers. Dylan set out again for Clarence House. This time, however, he found the enormous gates closed. ____(8)____, but secured with lock and chain.

‘Odd,’ he muttered to himself.

Or was it? Perhaps the man he had seen yesterday had departed and this was great-uncle Marcus’s guarantee ____(9)____.

The sound of an approaching car interrupted Dylan’s thoughts—and at the same time answered a few questions. ____(10)____, he recognised it immediately as the one parked outside Clarence House yesterday. As it slowed and came to a halt, Dylan recognised the man at the wheel.

8. (A) Once opened  
   (B) And not only closed  
   (C) He had not expected that  
   (D) Although it was not open to everyone

9. (A) against further invasion of his privacy.  
   (B) to avoid further invasion of his privacy.  
   (C) prevention of further invasion of his privacy.  
   (D) protecting from further invasion of his privacy.

10. (A) Meanwhile a car swept past him  
      (B) Since the car tore down the road  
      (C) Just then a car clearing the bend  
       (D) For as the car came round the corner
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Sources
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The following year levels should sit THIS Paper:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Year 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brunei</td>
<td>Pre-University 2</td>
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<td>Hong Kong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Junior College 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Grade 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOW TO FILL OUT THIS SHEET:

- Rub out all mistakes completely.
- Print your details clearly in the boxes provided.
- Make sure you fill in only one oval in each column.

EXAMPLE 1: Debbie Bach

FIRST NAME LAST NAME
DEBBIE BACH

EXAMPLE 2: Chan Ai Beng

FIRST NAME LAST NAME
CHAN AI BENG

EXAMPLE 3: Jamal bin Abas

FIRST NAME LAST NAME
JAMAL BIN ABAS

Are you male or female?
- Male
- Female

Does anyone in your home usually speak a language other than English?
- Yes
- No

School name: ____________________________

Town / suburb: ____________________________

Today’s date: ______/____/____ Postcode: ________
TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Example:
Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word.

I want you to give this important matter prompt attention.

(A) quiet
(B) careful
(C) immediate
(D) deliberate

Immediate is the word closest in meaning to prompt in this sentence, so you would fill in the oval o, as shown.

START

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2 o o o o o
3 o o o o o
4 o o o o o
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6 o o o o o
7 o o o o o
8 o o o o o
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>KEY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF SKILL</th>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Interpret a pun in the title of a persuasive text</td>
<td>TD</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Synthesise a part of a persuasive text to identify the writer’s main argument</td>
<td>RF</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Identify the tone of quotations used in a persuasive text</td>
<td>RF</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Interpret a quotation used in a persuasive text</td>
<td>RF</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Interpret an idiom used in a persuasive text</td>
<td>VOC</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Infer the writer’s intention in using a particular phrase in a persuasive text</td>
<td>RF</td>
<td>Medium/Hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Synthesise a persuasive text for the writer’s opinion of the subject</td>
<td>RF</td>
<td>Hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Identify the best option to complete a description with subject reference in previous sentence</td>
<td>SYN</td>
<td>Medium/Hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Identify the prepositional phrase to best complete a sentence</td>
<td>SYN</td>
<td>Medium/Hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Identify the correct clause to complete a sentence</td>
<td>SYN</td>
<td>Medium/Hard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**LEGEND**

- **Area** refers to the particular curriculum area or strand assessed by the question.

- **RL Reading – Literary** questions which require students to comprehend and interpret texts such as stories, poems, extracts from novels, reviews, plays

- **RF Reading – Factual** questions which require students to understand and interpret information and argument texts, including texts which incorporate diagrams, tables and images from a range of curriculum areas, e.g. reports, editorials, advertisements, explanations

- **TD Textual devices** questions which require students to recognise and to interpret textual devices which include figurative and rhetorical language (e.g. metaphor, rhetorical question, pun) and text conventions (e.g. use of different font sizes and types, captions)

- **SYN Syntax** questions about accuracy and clarity within sentences or texts (e.g. pronoun reference, tense) and the recognition of grammatical terms (e.g. noun, main clause)

- **VOC Vocabulary** questions about the meaning of words or phrases
**Level of difficulty** refers to the expected level of difficulty for the question.

- **Easy**: more than 70% of candidates will choose the correct option
- **Medium**: about 50–70% of candidates will choose the correct option
- **Medium/Hard**: about 30–50% of candidates will choose the correct option
- **Hard**: less than 30% of candidates will choose the correct option