

Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation

Homework Booklet





Understanding Questions

Using your own words

Question 1

An extract from an article in the Independent newspaper, in which Johann Hari writing about the impact of the Internet describes it as being the same as the invention of the printing press over 500 years earlier:

It is increasingly clear that the Internet is going to be a transformative moment in human history as significant as the printing press. A decade after Johannes Gutenberg invented it, even the most astute watchers could have only begun to squint at the changes the printing press would spur. In time, it made popular nationalism possible, because linguistic communities could communicate with each other independently, in one language, and form a sense of community. It dissolved the medieval stranglehold of information held by churches and Kings, making it possible for individuals to read the Bible for themselves – and to reject violently the readings used by authority to strengthen its rule. Communications technologies rewire our brains; they make us into a different species.

Question: In what two ways, according to the writer, was the invention of printing ‘a transformative moment in human history’? Answer using your own words. [2 marks]

Question 2

An extract from an article in The Times newspaper in which Janice Turner looks at different ways of improving ‘public good manners’:

The consensus on what constitutes public good manners has broken down to the extent that Transport for London is now running a multimillion-pound campaign just to remind us not to eat stinking burgers on the tube and to give up our bus seats for old folk.

I suppose we should be grateful that, instead of threatening more penalties, they are calling upon our better nature. The Government, on the other hand, seems to live under the delusion that if just one more pleasure is prohibited, another set of draconian rules introduced, 1,000 more speed cameras installed, a CCTV mounted on every corner, human beings will at last fall into line.

Question: What, according to the writer, is the fundamental difference in approach between Transport for London and the Government? Answer using your own words. [2 marks]

Question 3

An extract from an article in the Irish Times newspaper, in which Fintan O'Toole discusses recent developments in film-making in the USA, particularly an increase in long sequences without dialogue. He starts by describing the 2008 Disney film Wall-E

The film *Wall-E* is over-rated. After the first 20 minutes, the Pixar animation is essentially a standard Disney cartoon. It is technically brilliant, slick and witty, but it follows the well-worn formula of cute anthropomorphic creatures (albeit robots instead of animals) struggling against overwhelming odds, finding love, winning through and delivering the anticipated change of sentimental uplift.

But those first 20 minutes are really something. It is not just the relative courage of the dystopian vision of an uninhabitable earth or the visual richness of the imagery. It is the fact that a company as mainstream as Disney has returned to wordless storytelling. The fascination of *Wall-E* is that it is stunning up to the point when dialogue is introduced, after which it becomes clever but familiar entertainment.

Question: Why does the writer prefer the first 20 minutes of the film to the rest of it? Answer using your own words. [4 marks]

Question 4

An extract from an article in the Scotsman newspaper on 25 March 2011, in which Joyce McMillan writes about Elizabeth Taylor, a famous actress in the 50s and 60s who died that week:

Of course, those born since the 1970s may find celebrity on the Taylor scale hard to understand. The whole concept of celebrity has been degraded, over the last two decades, by an avalanche of media coverage which makes no pretence of interest in the actual work that well-known people do, but instead focuses entirely and insidiously on the personal lives, and most particularly the personal appearance of anyone who has ever been in the public eye for anything, from behaving like an idiot on reality television, to having sex with a Premier League footballer.

Question: What three main criticisms does the writer make of the way the media treat celebrities today? Answer using your own words. [3 marks]

Answers on page 14

Summarising Questions

Question 1

An extract from an article in The Times newspaper on 1 July 2009 (during the Wimbledon Tennis Championships) in which Magnus Linklater considers whether Andy Murray should be seen as a 'Scottish or British champion':

There is something frankly adolescent about the need to define sporting heroes, politicians, pop stars or celebrity cooks by their nationality first and their achievements second. Surely by now we have outgrown the mentality that saw the need to report the sinking of the *Titanic* with the headline "Aberdeen man dies in liner tragedy" or to detect a centilitre of Scottish blood in a newly elected American president, thus showing that he owed his achievements less to his grasp of democratic principles than to his fortune in having had a great-uncle from Stornoway.

Question: What key point is the writer making in this paragraph about Scottish people? [1 mark]

Question 2

An extract from an article in Scotland on Sunday newspaper on 29 March 2009, in which Dani Garavelli compares two figures who were prominent in the news at the time: Sir Fred Goodwin, former Chief Executive of the failed Royal Bank of Scotland, and Jade Goody, the reality TV star who had just died:

Fred 'The Shred' Goodwin and Jade Goody may have come from very different backgrounds, but they have more in common than the passing similarity of their surnames. Both creatures of the zeitgeist, the Paisley-grammar-schoolboy-turned-banker and the Essex chav-turned-reality-TV-princess knew how to play a world which turned on greed and fame to their advantage, and made bucketloads of filthy lucre as a result. Focused and ambitious, they seemed untroubled by the distress of those on whose backs they trod as they clambered to the top. Both ruthless; both self-obsessed; both fallible. Yet Jade was mourned as a national treasure and lauded by everyone from the Prime Minister to the Archbishop of Canterbury, while the smashing of windows at Sir Fred's £2m Edinburgh mansion as part of a hate campaign by a group called Bank Bosses Are Criminals was greeted with unconcealed glee.

Question: Summarise three key similarities and one key difference the writer points out between these two people. [4 marks]

Answers on page 15

Linking Questions

Question 1

An extract from an article in The Times newspaper, in which Ben Macintyre explores the argument that museums should return items to their 'home country':

Six million people visited the British Museum last year, from all over the world, free. They flock to the blockbuster exhibitions; but they also come to explore, to fall into unexpected conversations with distant, ancient, foreign peoples. And that, of course, was exactly what the museum's creators imagined when it was founded by Act of Parliament in 1753: a great cornucopia of different civilisations, an encyclopaedic storehouse of universal knowledge, displaying the great cultures side by side, with equal veneration, to enlighten not just an elite, but the world.

That simple, brilliant idea is now under assault from the concept of "cultural property", a struggle over ownership of the past. In the past half-century, but gathering pace in recent years, so-called "source countries" have successfully begun to reclaim and repatriate artefacts from museums around the world. The governments of Italy, Greece, Egypt, China, Cambodia and other geographical homes of ancient civilisations argue that antiquities in foreign museums are national property, vital components of national identity that should be returned "home" as a matter of moral urgency.

Question: Referring to specific words and phrases, show how the sentence 'That simple . . . of the past' acts as a link between the two paragraphs. [2 marks]

Question 2

An extract from an article in The Times newspaper, in which Richard Morrison reflects on the number of pubs that are closing, but doubts the claim that it is all the fault of the supermarkets:

According to the publicans, it's all the fault of the supermarkets, who offer alcohol at astonishingly irresponsible cut-prices and make getting drunk at home (or in the street) so much cheaper than going to the pub that, in these turbulent economic times, there's really no contest for the impoverished serious drinker.

But fashionable though it is to lay the blame for all social ailments at the doors of the giant supermarkets, this particular thesis doesn't quite add up.

After all, supermarkets also flog coffee, yet the invasion of every high street by Starbucks, Costa, Caffe Nero and all those other interchangeable coffee chains suggest that people are quite happy to frequent establishments selling exorbitantly priced beverages if the ambience is congenial and the clientele civilised. The coffee shops appeal to people who would nowadays never dream of spending an hour in the local boozier.

Question: Referring to specific words or phrases, show how the second paragraph acts as a link between the other two paragraphs. [2 marks]

Answers on page 15



Analysis Questions

Word Choice Questions

Question 1

An extract from an article in the Sunday Times newspaper, in which Minette Marris argues that the BBC is no longer providing 'Public Service Broadcasting':

Public service broadcasting means a network that produces a range of well-made programmes, particularly in less popular genres, which are financed according to their intrinsic needs and not the size of the audiences. Chasing ratings is not what the BBC should be doing. Yet the BBC schedules are stuffed with cheap, populist rubbish, which can hardly be said to be needed since commercial producers make them with even greater enthusiasm and vulgarity. Intoxicated with the popularity of such genres, BBC1 and BBC2 have allowed them to run rampant like some nasty kind of pondlife and crowd out other programmes.

Question: Show how the writer's word choice in this paragraph makes clear her disapproval of the type of programmes currently on the BBC schedules.

Question 2

An extract from an article in the Guardian newspaper, in which Hadley Freeman is very critical of the way some of the media write about eating disorders.

When I was a teenager, I spent almost three years straight in psychiatric hospitals being treated for severe anorexia nervosa. Unlike some newspaper columnists, I do not feel compelled to talk about my personal experiences with the mental health profession in every article I write. In fact, I try to avoid talking about them altogether, mainly because I hope that I have something more to offer than my history.

However, the nonsense that has been spouted of late in the media about eating disorders is too ubiquitous and too stupid, even by the low standards of the media's usual coverage of the illness. And while I would never claim that my personal experience makes me an expert on the subject, maybe it gives me a different perspective than, say, a lazy news reporter churning out clichés under a deadline or a columnist in search of easy outrage.

Question: Show how the writer's word choice in the second paragraph makes clear her contempt for sections of the media.

Question 3

An extract from an article in The Times newspaper, in which Janice Turner reflects on how the younger generation appear unable to live without the latest gadgets:

We had a power cut on Tuesday evening. I sat in the dark, oddly relaxed. No e-mail. No telly. Not enough torchlight to read by.

Meanwhile, my younger son thrashed from room to room, between Wii console, computer and TV, fretting that the shows he had Sky-plussed wouldn't record, scrabbling to see how much charge was left in his brother's laptop so that he might, at very least, watch a movie.

When I laughed at his techno-junkie despair he exclaimed in white-hot fury: "It's all right for you. To me it's ... it's like living in poverty."

Question: Show how the writer's word choice in the second paragraph conveys how much the loss of electricity affected the writer's son.

Question 4

An extract from an article in The Times newspaper, in which Richard Morrison is critical of too much homework in schools:

Homework has a lot to answer for. It doesn't mess up every child. But the mental oppression of leaving school for the day, and then facing hours of slog, alienates many. Piling mountains of homework on children is the surest way to turn education into drudgery.

In the 40 years since I last wore a blazer, the culture of excessive homework has become far worse, denying children the time to discover the infinite richness and possibilities of life. The narrowing of the curriculum over the past 30 years – pushing art, sport and drama to the margins – is shocking.

Question: Show how the writer's word choice in these paragraphs makes clear his disapproval of homework.

Answers on pages 15-17

Imagery Questions

Question 1

An extract from an article in the Guardian newspaper in March 2011, in which Tony McNulty writes about the importance of the Census:

It's time for the 2011 census and I would urge everyone to fill the forms in as best they can and understand that this is really important exercise. The census is all about providing the state with key demographic data so that it can understand the nature of our communities much better than it does. It is a snapshot of the UK on one particular day in one particular year – but the data gathered has profound ramifications for all communities and for some time to come.

Question: Show how the writer's use of imagery clarifies what he is saying about the census.

Question 2

An extract from an article in the Scotsman newspaper, in which Joyce McMillan argues against those who blame all society's ills on youth crime:

Britain, at the moment, is a nation full of respectable citizens – people who have played by the rules all their lives – who are waking up at night in a sweat of fear over whether they will be able to pay the bills, keep up with the mortgage, and even hang on to their jobs, as recession bites; and it is understandable that they feel frightened, betrayed and angry. It is, though, neither pleasant nor smart of them to take the tabloid bait which suggests they should focus that anger on a small minority of street-kids who break the rules, rather than on those actually responsible for the current state of the global economy.

Question: Show how the writer's imagery makes clear how 'respectable citizens' are reacting to youth crime.

Question 3

An extract from an article in the Herald newspaper, in which Ian McWhirter has been describing the long term effects of damage to a nuclear reactor.

The cost of cleaning up the mess at Fukushima is going to be immense. The long tail of a nuclear accident stretches across decades. Estimates of the cost of the Chernobyl disaster in 1986 vary around £200bn, and the sarcophagus that was built around the still radioactive mass is already needing to be replaced. By comparison, the Gulf of Mexico oil spill is a fleeting event.

Question: Show how the writer's imagery contributes to his description of the severity of a nuclear accident.

Answers on page 18

Sentence Structure Questions

Question 1

An extract from an article in the Scotsman newspaper, in which Gillian Bowditch amines Scottish attitudes to alcohol:

What surprises me most is just how much we are deceiving ourselves. For previous generations, alcohol was the most toxic substance around and they treated it with caution and respect. Our society's increased affluence and the supermarkets' role in demystifying wine, have lulled us into believing that alcohol is a wholly benevolent product. We are on the brink of conning ourselves that drinking very high quantities of alcohol on a very regular basis is not only normal but an essential part of staying young and sexy.

The normalisation of excessive drinking is everywhere. Look at something as anodyne as messages on greeting cards. Look at the effect Ibiza culture is having back home. Look at the rise of the superpub. Look at the space and prominence supermarkets give to alcohol. Look at television.

We won't change the culture overnight, but we could start to change direction. It's not just about drinking less; it's about thinking more.

Question: Show how the writer's sentence structure in the second and third paragraphs emphasises the points she is making.

Question 2

An extract from an article in the Herald newspaper, in which Melanie Reid describes a police operation in the West of Scotland that seized large quantities of drugs and arrested many dealers. She goes on to explain that new dealers will appear within hours, often with contaminated drugs:

Conventionally, after a huge police effort like this, the response is to sit back in one's armchair happy in the knowledge that the streets have been cleared of an evil scourge that ruins lives. Good has triumphed over evil. Credits roll.

Except that real life doesn't always work that way. Drugs raids, to put it bluntly, don't tend to work in reality. They look good on telly. They help senior police officers reach targets. They reassure the public. They may stop a few clubbers enjoying ecstasy this coming weekend. There the benefits end. Unless there is a massive input of drug rehabilitation resources to coincide with the raids (and there almost never is). Without that, these police operations leave communities ultimately worse off, with more crime, more misery and more death.

Question: Show how the writer's sentence structure in both paragraphs adds impact to the points she is making.

Question 3

An extract from an article in the Herald newspaper in March 2011, in which Ron Ferguson describes his reaction when things went wrong with the 21-foot high digital clock in Trafalgar Square to mark the 500th day before the 2012 Games:

I must admit I laughed aloud when I heard that the digital clock which had been counting down to the Olympics had stopped. Four British Olympic champions started the clock, amidst fireworks and popping of corks; within 24 hours, the display was stuck at 500 days and 7:06:56.

But why laugh because a clock stopped?

It's something to do with ambivalent feelings about modern technology. I enjoy the good things that technology brings, but fear its pervasive, beguiling power. Its innovative drive seems almost miraculous as it delivers benefits, but its liberating tendencies often turn into forms of domination.

a) Show how the sentence structure in the first paragraph draws attention to the stopping of the clock.

b) Show how the sentence structure in the third paragraph develops the idea of the word "ambivalent" in the first sentence.

Question 4

An extract from an article in the Sunday Times newspaper, in which Jeremy Clarkson writes about the way traditional television no longer appeals to children:

When I was eight, I watched Marine Boy because on a wet Thursday afternoon in October there was absolutely nothing else to do. Now, kids have got YouTube, Xbox, MSN, MySpace, text, e-mail, PSP, DVD and Sky+. All the world's ones and noughts have been harnessed for their edification and you're not going to drag them back to the box with a bunch of jolly-what-tally-ho Enid Blyton kids in big shorts getting into scrapes with smugglers. That was then, and it's as gone as the ruff and tuberculosis.

Question: Show how the writer's sentence structure helps clarify the point he is making.

Answers on pages 18 and 19

Writer's Language Questions

Question 1

An extract from an article in the Scotland on Sunday newspaper, in which Joanna Blythman, writing about the announcement that two pandas are coming to the Edinburgh Zoo, wonders if zoos are about education or entertainment:

But then entertainment is what zoos are all about. The main thing that distinguishes them from the discredited circuses of yesteryear is their spurious educational credentials. But what does a child really learn from watching a wretched polar bear sitting disconsolately on some concrete rock? What ecological awareness is gleaned from he looking with frustrated, stereotypic movements? Don't ask me. I refused to take my children to a zoo because I find them so depressing. But they went with school anyway, and found them depressing.

Question: Show how the writer's use of language makes clear her disapproval of zoos. Refer in your answer to word choice and sentence structure.

Question 2

An extract from an article in the Herald newspaper, in which Ian Bell defends JK Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books, against criticism that she is too concerned with money:

JK Rowling will never win the Nobel prize for Literature. On any technical level, her writing is not brilliant. But what use is brilliant writing if – the usual result – it isn't read? Fiction isn't supposed to be grand opera. It has only recently pretended to be an art.

Dickens knew all about these things. He offended his betters by making absurd amounts of money. He flogged cheap editions on railway platforms. They called him a hack, and denounced "Dickensian" as a marketing game. He didn't deny a word of it. His only answer was that he was a writer, first and last: his job was to make people read.

Rowling's glory is that she caused an epidemic of childhood reading in a digital world.

Question: Show how the writer's use of language highlights the points he is making in this extract. Refer to at least one appropriate language features in each paragraph.

Question 3

An extract from an article in the Observer newspaper, in which Barbara Ellen challenges a claim that middle-class children are likely to be more 'academically gifted' because of their parents' genes:

Behind most "academically outstanding" middle-class children, there are likely to be frazzled, micromanaging parents, working very hard to ensure their child gets ahead. I know this, because I've dark, complicated dance that goes on behind closed doors between coaxing, bribing, begging, not to mention the threats and groundings when they don't play ball.

For their sins, "maxi-strength" parents know this. Get a glass of wine down them and the truth pours out. Few of them would pretend that their little darlings did it all alone. Or deny the power of the £50-per-A-bribe (sorry, deal) they made with them at the last minute. They know to what extent they've been the trashing webbed feet beneath the gliding swan of their child's academic success.

Question: Show how the writer's use of language conveys the extent to which middle-class parents are involved in their children's academic success. Refer to a range of appropriate language features in your answer.

Question 4

An extract from a blog on the website of the Herald newspaper on 10 August 2011, in which Kate Higgins reflects on the riots and looting in London and other cities:

We think that we can treat young people with contempt, demand respect when it has not been earned, consign them to a lifetime of poverty, disregard their need for education and nurture, cut their services first and hardest, and cast them on to the scrapheap of life in order to preserve our own cosy lifestyles.

Consequently, young people are rioting not just because they can, but because it is all they can do. Hope is an unfamiliar companion, the idea of generational justice is laughable and nihilism is the order of the day. They have no fear because they have no future.

Question: Show how the writer's use of language in these paragraphs makes clear her sympathy with the young people she is describing. Refer to sentence structure, word choice and imagery in your answer

Answers on pages 19-21

Tone Questions

Question 1

An extract from an article in the Independent newspaper, in which Terence Blacker explains how some land developers will do well from an announcement in the Budget:

A few years ago, spivs working in the development sector hit on a cracking new wheeze. They bought fields outside towns and villages where plans to develop had been denied by the local council. Then they sold small housing plots, assuring would-be-buyers that, sooner or later, planning restrictions would be relaxed, earning the investor a fat profit. It was certainly a nice little earner for the developer. Councils responded to these schemes with outrage, but buyers poured in.

Now, thanks to the Government, the land-sharks who worked the deal will soon be in the money.

Question: Show how the writer creates a tone of contempt for the developers.

Question 2

An extract from an article in The Times newspaper, in which Richard Morrison is critical of what schools do to young people:

At the same time the fetish with league tables has forced teachers to turn schools into fact-cramming, rote-learning factories in which narrowly focused lessons are reinforced by stacks of homework. Our education system is now a blinkered, as grindingly utilitarian, as in the era mocked by Dickens in *Hard Times*. Is it any wonder that so many school-leavers have no pastimes except shopping, watching telly and binge-drinking?

Question: Show how the writer's angry tone is conveyed.

Question 3

An extract from an article in The Times newspaper, in which Rachel Sylvester is unimpressed that MPs have started using Twitter:

Hey there! The Prime Minister is using Twitter. It's true. You can, on the Downing Street website, read a blow-by-blow account of the Prime Minister's day. If that thought isn't terrifying enough, dozens of other politicians have also signed up to the social networking site that lets users answer (in 140 letters or fewer) the question: "What are you doing now?"

Middle-aged MPs hope they will look youthful and "in touch" if they use the latest web tool. But there is a slight Dad-on-the-dancefloor feel to some of their attempts. The content is all too enhanced by the revelation that the Schools Minister, is "snowed under with paperwork" or that the Opposition housing spokesman is "contemplating taking my eldest son to play football in the rain" or that a nondescript MP "can't find the TV remote control"?

Question: Show how the writer creates a tone that makes fun of the idea of politicians using Twitter.

Understanding Questions

Using your own word questions – Answers

Question 1

1. It increased people's sense of national/racial identity – because it allowed them to share ideas in a common language.
2. It reduced the ability of organised religion and monarchs to control information and/or increased people's freedom to think for themselves/disagree with those who tried to control them – because they could read the Bible for themselves.

Question 2

1. Transport for London are asking/encouraging people to behave in a certain way.
2. The Government is legislating/compelling/threatening punishment if people don't behave in a certain way

Question 3

At least two from each list.

First 20 minutes

- Brave/bold idea of showing an earth in which everything is bad
- And which won't support life
- The film is beautiful to look at
- The narrative is told without speech

Rest of film

- Enjoyable and clever
- But it is just a typical Disney cartoon/animation/production
- It follows a standard pattern
- A struggle eventually won by underdogs
- A happy, over-romantic, slushy ending.

Question 4

Any three from:

- The media are not concerned with what celebrities actually do for a living (i.e. explaining 'no pretence of interest in the actual work' in your own words)
- The media are only interested in what happens in celebrities' private lives (i.e. explaining 'focuses entirely ... on the personal lives' in your own words)
- The media take special interest in celebrities' looks (i.e. explaining 'most particularly the personal appearance' in your own words.
- The media's definition of a 'celebrity' is too wide (i.e. explaining 'anyone who has ever been in the public eye for anything' in your own words).

Summarising Questions – Answers

Question 1

(Scots have to accept that) people should be appreciated for what they do, for their accomplishments, and not for which country they come from.

Question 2

Similarities – Any three from:

- They both symbolised the spirit of the age
- They were absolutely determined to succeed
- They accumulated/achieved wealth with no concern for others
- They both had weaknesses

Difference

Goody is regarded with love/admiration; Goodwin is reviled.

Linking Questions – Answers

Question 1

- ‘That simple brilliant idea’ refers to the creators’ idea of having a wide range of exhibits from all over the world.
- ‘now under assault’ introduces the idea that this idea is being attacked by those who believe that all artefacts belong in their country of origin.

Question 2

- ‘Blame’ refers to the claim in the first paragraph that supermarkets selling alcohol cheaply is why so many pubs have closed.
- ‘Doesn’t quite add up’ introduces the idea that, according to the writer, there is a flaw in their argument, which he exposes in the next paragraph.

Analysis Questions

Word Choice Questions - Answers

Question 1

Possible answers:

“stuffed”	suggests the schedules are filled to overflowing and it is done in a careless, thoughtless way
“cheap”	suggests not just inexpensive but low quality
“populist”	suggests indiscriminating, appealing to the lowest common denominator

“rubbish” suggests totally valueless, no better than junk waste

“pondlife” suggests unpleasant, destructive, parasitical, lowest of the low

“crowd out” suggests aggressive, bullying, disregard for others.

Question 2

Possible answers:

“nonsense” suggests it is completely false, meaningless

“spouted” suggests that the stories are pouring out in an uncontrolled way, that the media are like some bore who rambles on and on

“(too) ubiquitous” suggests they can’t be avoided, they overrun the media

“stupid” unequivocal description of the stories as brainless, almost insultingly so

“lazy” the reporters make minimal effort, not really concerned about the substance of the story

“churning out” suggests relentless production of something all the same, in large quantities

“ clichés” suggests the stories are predictable, old, tired, generalised

“easy (outrage)” the reporters are looking to stir up controversy without making much effort, they are lazy, undemanding.

Question 3

“thrashed” suggests uncontrolled, frenzied, slightly aggressive movement

“fretting” suggests anxious, nervous state of mind

“scrabbling” suggests desperate, frantic, near-hysterical

“at very least” suggests he is prepared to accept/welcome whatever he can.

Question 4

“oppression” suggests it is tyrannical, psychologically damaging

“slog” suggests it is laborious, unpleasant, unrewarding task

“piling” suggests an endless accumulation, work stacking up

“mountains” suggests enormous, daunting amount, something to be climbed with difficulty

“drudgery” suggests dull, repetitive, tedious, unrewarding chores

“culture”	(in this context) can suggest a misguided belief in something, where people accept it without thinking about it
“denying”	suggests young people are being prevented, kept away from something
“narrowing”	suggests reduction, weakening, lack of breadth, lack of attention to more important matters
“shocking”	suggests he finds it genuinely deplorable, disturbing, upsetting.

Imagery Questions – Answers

Question 1

“snapshot” just as a snapshot captures a picture (of people/places at a certain moment) which can be looked at/studied as often as you like in the future, so the census provides a description of what the country was like on one day.

Question 2

“a sweat of fear” their fear is like the result of a nightmare which has caused them to panic and wake up bathed in sweat, as if youth crime was invading their rest – suggest youth crime is psychologically disturbing

“bait” just as a bait is designed to lure fish/animals so that they can be captured, so the tabloid press offers its readers the simplistic solution that youth crime is the source of all their problems and thus traps them into a wrong belief.

Question 3

“long tail” just as the tail on some animals can be a lengthy extension of the animal itself (or the tail of a comet extends significantly after the comet itself), a nuclear accident has many effects long after the event itself

“sarcophagus” comparing the concrete encasing of Chernobyl to a massive (ancient) burial tomb emphasises the idea of the death and something enormous which is designed to last for a long time.

Sentence Structure Questions – Answers

Question 1

- Short simple sentence to open paragraph 2 unambiguous statement of the situation acts as a clear introduction to the ‘evidence to follow’
- Repeated use of ‘Look at...’ suggests widespread availability of evidence, the problem is everywhere, almost overwhelming

- (Repeated) use of imperative suggests writer is urging reader to wake up, pay attention
- Repetition/balance in “change...change” draws attention to the concession “We won’t ... but we could”
- Semicolon in last paragraph balances the two ideas, emphasising there’s more to it than just reducing consumption
- “Drinking less... thinking more” parallel structure (and use of rhyme and rhythm provides a final flourish, again emphasising there are two things to be done.

Question 2

- Positioning of “Conventionally” prominently placed at the very beginning to remind us that she is going to describe the “usual” response – and implying strongly that she is going to show the inaccuracy of this
- “Good has triumphed over evil. Credits roll” simple sentences implying the simplicity of the thinking; making it sound like a film (fiction)
- “They look... They help... They reassure...” listing structure to point out all the (superficially) food things that raids achieve, as if building up to the truth of what really happens
- “There the benefits end” short, abrupt sentence interrupts the flow of all the “benefits”, points out bluntly that these “benefits” are minimal
- “(And there almost never is)” parenthetical reinforcement of how rarely anything worthwhile follows from raids.
- Repetition of “more” emphasises the bleakness of the situation after raids.

Question 3

- a) Semicolon in the second sentence creates balance/contrast between “started” and “stuck” and/or creates balance/contrast between the excitement (“fireworks...popping of corks”) of the launch and the way the clock became “stuck”
- b) Two-part structure of second and third sentences the idea of being in two minds (“ambivalent”) is mirrored in the “I enjoy... but fear”/“innovative drive... forms of domination” structure which balances good aspects with bad ones.

Question 4

- List (YouTube ... Sky+) makes clear the sheer number of alternatives to traditional TV
- “When I was... / “Now...” contrasting opening of the first two sentences draw attention to the change over time
- “That was then...” brief, assertive final sentences sums up how far in the past the traditional seems.

Writer's Language Questions – Answers

Question 1

Word choice answers:

“Spurious”	suggests claims to educational value are bogus, misleading
“Wretched”	suggests animal in miserable, ill-treated
“Disconsolately”	suggests animal is sad, without companionship
“Concrete rock”	suggests zoo environment is harsh, unnatural
“Listless”	suggests animal is lethargic, lacking spirit
“Frustrated”	suggests animal is irritated, suffering because of confined environment
“Stereotypic”	suggests animal is limited to the predictable, forced to conform.

Sentence Structure answers

- (rhetorical) questions hectoring tone, demanding the answer “None” as if bullying the reader
- “Don’t ask me” blunt, dismissive short sentence as if not prepared to engage in debate .
- “And found them... depressing” deliberately delaying final word teases the reader before revealing the “surprise”, which is in fact predictable
- Repetition of “depressing” to emphasise just how disheartening zoos are, not just to her but to her children.

Question 2

- Rhetorical question: “But what use is ...” invites reader to agree with point that “art” in fiction is pointless if hardly anyone reads it
- Parenthesis: “ – the usual result-“ underlines point that arty books aren’t widely read by adding in that this is in fact what usually happens
- “Absurd amounts of money” emphasises just how enormous his earnings were and how little his “betters” were unable to understand it
- “Flogged” use of colloquialism tends to suggest how little Dickens cared for “proper” behaviour
- “Glory” suggests magnificence, splendour, making clear his admiration for her achievements

- Imagery of “epidemic” just as an epidemic spreads quickly and affects large numbers of people, so Rowling caused a huge upsurge in the number of children reading books (despite the challenge from digital media).

Question 3

- Inverted commas at “academically gifted” makes it clear that their academic qualities are questionable and implies there is some other reason for their success
- “Frazzled” suggests the parents will work to the point of desperation and near-exhaustion to help their children
- “Micromanaging” suggests parents are involved in controlling every little aspect of the child’s life, possibly suggests bringing a business model to it.
- “Dark, complicated dance” imagery suggests some kind of ritualistic pattern, agreed steps in which success depends on the two partners figuring out how to work together
- List of activities in the “dance” suggests how extensive/ complex it is; also preponderance of present participles suggest much activity
- Use of “maxi-strength” humorous comparison to some kind of industrial cleaner, etc. suggests these are the parents who consciously put in as much effort as possible
- “bribe (sorry deal)” open admission that the children are offered financial inducements despite the tongue-in-cheek “correction” in parenthesis
- “the thrashing webbed feet beneath the gliding swan” just as a swan is said to look calm and elegant on the surface despite frantic movements below, so the apparent ease of the child’s achievement is really thanks to the efforts of the parent.

Question 4

- List: “treat... with contempt, “demand”, “consign”, “cut”, “cast” emphasises the large number of negative ways in which adults treat young people.
- Word choice within the list all suggest lack of care/ consideration, all suggest dismissive treatment, idea of throwing them aside
- “scrapheap” suggests they are treated as rejects, as not worthy of attention, as just so much garbage
- “own cosy lifestyles” highlights the contrast with adults’ smug contentment
- Structure of “not just ... but” emphasises the hopelessness of their position by adding the idea that they have no alternative
- “Hope is an unfamiliar companion” personification of “hope” as someone they rarely meet or get to know emphasises the bleakness of their position

- “Laughable” conveys their view of justice as something unattainable and ridiculous
- “Nihilism” suggests the total rejection of hope, the belief that there are no principles worth believing in, the desire to overthrow existing institutions
- Structure of final sentence careful balancing of “no fear” and “no future” around “because” makes clear she thinks there is a simple, very bleak explanation – made more powerful by the alliteration (“fear/future”) almost as if it’s an undeniably true statement.

Tone – Questions – Answers

Question 1

A general comment could be made about how the extensive use of slang expressions (“spivs...cracking new wheeze ... fat profit ... nice little earner ... land-sharks ... in the money”) makes the developers sound cheap, coarse, unreliable, etc.

Or individual word/expressions could be explored to arrive at the same conclusion, for example:

- “Spivs” shady, criminal characters
- “Wheeze” as if it’s all a joke, not a serious business proposition
- “Fat profit” sounds greedy, grotesque
- “Nice little earner” sounds like the language of a petty criminal
- “Land-sharks” makes them sound predatory, ruthless
- “In the money” sounds smug, self-interested.

Question 2

- “Fetish” use of word usually associated with some sort of perverted obsessions shows just how much contempt he has for the league tables
- “Fact-cramming, rote-learning” two compound words which make the schools sound aggressive, relentless – the words are squeezed together in a way to suggest the grinding oppression involved
- “Factories” comparing schools to factories shows he sees them as being designed simply to churn out “product”, soulless, mechanical, utilitarian
- “Blinkered... grindingly utilitarian” suggesting they have no vision, are simply there to do a job and do it oppressively
- Reference to Dickens scathing reminder that over 150 years ago this approach to education was being seen as worthy of mockery

- Final sentence rhetorical question demanding agreement with his angry summation of the effect on school-leavers. Almost despairing tone of “Is it any wonder...”. Deliberately chooses “uncultured” activities as examples of what they’re reduced to, with the “binge drinking” almost symbolic of teenage irresponsibility.

Question 3

- Use of “Hey there!” at start – imitates and mocks the bright, breezy, informal style of Twitter which seems out of place when talking about the Prime Minister.
- “If that thought isn’t terrifying enough...” – exaggeration (it’s hardly terrifying) to show how ridiculous she thinks it is.
- “Dad-on-the-dancefloor” – idea of someone who looks out of place, trying to be something he’s not, trying to be trendy, embarrassing, etc; makes the politicians sound very silly.
- “Less twitter than witter” – wordplay to suggest the politicians are “wittering on”.
- The examples of politicians’ Twitter messages are uniformly banal, showing how absurd it is for people involved in running the country to be indulging in such nonsense.