

PRUEBA/PROVA: CELEBRITY NEWS

EXAM and ANSWERS – including SMART TIPS

Celebrity news

1 In her quest to meet the rich and famous, Emma has bribed security guards, donned disguises,
2 and even climbed through windows! But she does not think of herself as a criminal. “I’m just
3 doing my job. I only get paid for good stories, so I have to take extreme measures if I want to earn
4 a decent income!”

5 Emma Worth writes for a famous gossip magazine. She is one of a growing number of journalists
6 who are using their skills to hunt and capture the so-called ‘glitterati’ unawares, in the
7 hope of getting an exclusive – and preferably shocking – scoop.

8 Gossip-mongering is nothing new. Indeed, sensationalist stories about the royal family (the A-list
9 of their time) were published only a century after the invention of the printing press – in 1453!
10 However, in recent years, our celebrity obsession seems to have escalated. Last year, *Heat* and
11 *Closer*, the two best-selling UK gossip magazines, sold over a million copies every week, and new
12 celebrity publications and websites pop up every month. Even the traditionally more ‘serious’
13 press are turning to celebrities to boost sales. For example, the broadsheet newspaper *The*
14 *Telegraph* now has a regular gossip column called ‘The Spy’.

15 But many people are critical of celebrity gossip hunters like Emma. Some stars complain that they
16 are being denied a basic right to privacy, and even that their lives have been ruined by press
17 intrusion. And, according to one highly-regarded news reporter, “Our appetite for gossip means
18 that there is less media coverage of more important issues, such as politics and the environment.
19 I didn’t join the profession to write kiss-and-tell stories. We need to stop taking this trivia so
20 seriously!”

1. Say whether the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE according to the text. Copy the evidence from the text. No marks will be given without the evidence. (1.5 points)

a) Emma worries about breaking the law.

FALSE. “*She does not think of herself as a criminal.*” (line 2)

SMART TIP: topic vocabulary

The words in a statement may not be exactly the same as the words in the text, even though they mean similar things. Here, the expression *break the law* and the noun *criminal* both belong to the topic set ‘crime’. Revising key topic sets will help you prepare more effectively for your exam.

b) People in the 1500s were just as interested in gossip as we are today.

FALSE. “*...in recent years, our celebrity obsession seems to have escalated.*” (line 10)

SMART TIP: checking comparative and qualifying expressions

It is important to pay attention to any comparative or qualifying expressions in statements, as these can influence the meaning. According to the text, it is true that in the century after the invention of the printing press people were interested in gossip. But the next line states that we are *more* interested in gossip today, not *just as* interested. Accordingly, the statement is false.

c) *Closer* is a very popular UK gossip magazine.

TRUE. "Heat and Closer, the two best-selling UK gossip magazines ..." (lines 10–11)

2. ANSWER the questions below. COPY no more than 10 words and/or a number from the text to answer each question. (1.5 points)

a) What does Emma Worth do?

Emma Worth writes for a famous gossip magazine.

b) How many copies did Heat and Closer sell last year?

Over a million copies every week.

c) What issues do some think are more important than gossip?

Politics and the environment.

3. WRITE a synonym (=), an opposite (≠), a definition or a sentence for each of the following words to show that you understand their meaning in the text. Use your own words. (1 point)

a) income (line 4)

c) to boost (line 13)

b) growing (line 5)

d) to deny (line 16)

Suggested answers:

a) = or Definition: salary/wages/earnings OR the money you get/earn for doing work; no suitable opposites; Sentence (example): He must have a good income if he can afford that sports car!

SMART TIP: choosing your answer

Sometimes, not all of the four types of answer (synonym, opposite, definition, sentence) are equally suitable. In 3a) for example, it is not easy to find a suitable opposite, so you need to give an alternative type of answer. Always choose whatever type of answer seems easiest to you. You will not get any points if you attempt a more difficult answer but get it wrong!

b) = or Definition: increasing OR that is getting bigger; ≠ shrinking/decreasing; Sentence (example): I watched the film with growing interest, and by the end I didn't want it to finish.

SMART TIP: using the correct part of speech

Make sure that your answer matches the correct part of speech of the word, as well as the meaning. Some words may have the same spelling for different parts of speech. Here, *growing* could be an adjective or a verb form – make sure that you check the text to see which form you need to define.

c) = or Definition: to increase/encourage/raise OR to get more; ≠ to reduce/discourage/prevent/stop; Sentence (example): If you want to boost your final grades you need to do more homework.

d) = or Definition: to not allow/permit, to refuse OR to stop someone from having something; ≠ to allow/permit; Sentence (example): The teacher denied us any breaks on the school trip.

SMART TIP: checking your work

If you have chosen to write a definition or give an example sentence, always check your work carefully afterwards. Is your spelling correct? Does your answer make sense?

4. Read this conversation between two people. Complete their conversation. Write the numbers (1–6) and each complete sentence on your exam paper. (1.5 points)

Waitress: Hello. (1) *Would you like* to see a menu?
Customer: Thank you.
Waitress: Here (2) *you are*.
Customer: We (3) *would like to* have two ham and cheese pizzas please.
Waitress: Of course. Would you (4) *like something to* drink?
Customer: Yes, (5) *we'd like a* coke and a water please.
Waitress: A large (6) *or a small* water?
Customer: Small please.
Waitress: Can I get you anything else?

5. Read the following situations and WRITE what you would say in each one to show that you understand the context of the situation. Write between 10 and 25 words. (1.5 points)

- a) The sky is very black and cloudy. Predict what you think is going to happen.
Suggested answer: I think it's going to rain.
- b) Your friend is taking an exam tomorrow and she is very nervous. Give her some advice.
Suggested answer: You should go to bed early and get a good night's sleep.
- c) You are in foreign city and you want to find the nearest bank. Ask someone for directions.
Suggested answer: Could you tell me where the nearest bank is please?
- d) You are on a train and you want to ask if a seat is free.
Suggested answer: Excuse me, is this seat free/taken?

6. Write a composition of about 120–150 words on the following topic. (3 points)

What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a celebrity?

Suggested answer:

Many people want to be famous, but there are both advantages and disadvantages to fame.

On the one hand, celebrities are often followed by the press, which must be quite stressful. They have to look good all the time, and be careful about what they say, otherwise they might have to read very unflattering articles about themselves.

On the other hand, famous people get to wear great clothes, meet other stars, and go to exclusive parties. What's more, of course, they are often quite wealthy!

In my opinion, the advantages of fame outweigh the disadvantages. However, I agree that it is not always easy being a celebrity.

SMART TIP: using paragraphs

You will receive points for the way you organize your writing, as well as for the accuracy of your work. Each time you talk about a new subject, use a new paragraph. When you are asked to give advantages and disadvantages, or give reasons for or against a topic, use four paragraphs:

- 1) introduction;
- 2) negative OR positive reasons (not both);
- 3) positive OR negative reasons (the opposite to paragraph 2);
- 4) conclusion and your opinion.