PRUEBA/PROVA: CELEBRITY NEWS

EXAM and ANSWERS – including SMART TIPS

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

Emma Worth writes for a famous gossip magazine. She is one of a growing number of journalists who are using their professional skills to hunt and capture the so-called 'glitterati' unawares, each hoping to score an exclusive, and preferably shocking, scoop.

Celebrity news is a huge market. Last year, *Heat* and *Closer*, the two best-selling UK gossip magazines, sold over a million copies every week. Even the traditionally more 'serious' press are turning to celebrities to boost sales. For example, the broadsheet newspaper *The Telegraph* now has a regular gossip column called 'The Spy'.

But gossip hunters have been censured. Some famous people complain that they have been denied a basic right to privacy and respect, and even that their lives have been ruined. And, according to a highly-regarded reporter, "More important issues, such as politics and the environment, are being neglected. We need to stop taking this fluff so seriously!"

I. Read the text. Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer. NO marks are given for only true or false. NO marks are given for T or F. (2 POINT: 0.25 points for each correct answer)

a. Emma worries about breaking the law.
FALSE. "... she does not think of herself as a criminal." (Paragraph 1)

> **SMART TIP: topic vocabulary**
> The words in a question may not be 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. *Closer* is one of the most popular gossip magazines in Britain.
TRUE. "Last year, Heat *and* Closer*, the two best-selling UK gossip magazines, sold over a million copies every week." (Paragraph 3)*

c. Broadsheet newspapers are only concerned with serious news, not celebrity news.
FALSE. "... the broadsheet newspaper The Telegraph *now has a regular gossip column." (Paragraph 3)*

> **SMART TIP: referring to the text**
> Make sure you always refer to the text when giving your answers. The text may not always give the answer you would expect!
> For example, a broadsheet newspaper is usually defined as "a serious newspaper, giving most coverage to news and key political issues." However, the text states that broadsheet newspapers now cover celebrity gossip, too. An answer is only correct if it is stated in the text.

d. One journalist is unhappy about our modern obsession with gossip.
TRUE. "... according to a highly-regarded reporter, 'More important issues ... are being neglected. We need to stop taking this fluff so seriously!'" (Paragraph 4)

II. LEXICON/PHONETICS

A LEXICON. (1 POINT: 0.25 points for each correct answer)

Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

1. salary, wages *income (paragraph 1)*
2. follow, pursue *hunt (paragraph 2)*

> **SMART TIP: word use**
> Knowing how a part of speech is used can help you find the correct word in the text. Here, *"follow"* is a very common verb, so you know that you need to find another verb in the text. You know that this verb form is commonly used after the pronouns *"I", "we", "they",* or the word *"to",* so try searching for these combinations in the text. The correct answer, *"hunt",* appears immediately after the word *"to"* in paragraph 2.

3. spoiled, damaged *ruined (paragraph 4)*
4. trivia, unimportant things *fluff (paragraph 4)*

B PHONETICS. (1 POINT: 0.25 points for each correct answer)

1. Write two words from the text that include the same vowel sound as "blue" /u;/. (0.5 points)

(two of the following): *to, through, doing, exclusive, scoop, news, two, boost, newspaper*

> **SMART TIP: spelling**
> English spelling is often very irregular, so you cannot always rely on it to help you to choose the correct sounds. *Blue* has the same sound as *exclusive*, but not as *number*. Make sure that you make a note of the pronunciation when you learn new words and revise them regularly.
> If you are not sure about the pronunciation of a word in an exam:
> a) First read the rest of the text. Can you find another word with the correct sound that you *are* sure about? Use this one instead!
> b) If you cannot find an alternative, then read the word again carefully and try to "say" it in your mind. Does it sound right? Does it contain the sound you are looking for? If not, read the whole text again and try to find a more suitable word.

2. Is the "-n-" pronounced /n/ or /ŋ/ in "taking"? (0.25 points) /ŋ/
3. Write a word from the text that includes the same consonant sound as "nation" /ʃ/. (0.25 points)

(one of the following): *professional, shocking, broadsheet, censured.*

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS: 0.5 points for each correct answer)

Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given.

1. You'll miss the film if you don't leave now.
Unless *you leave now, you'll miss the film.*
2. "Smile, or I'll take a bad photo!"
He told her *to smile, or he would take a bad photo.* OR *that he would take a bad photo if she didn't smile.*
3. That woman's daughter is a celebrity.
That is the woman *whose daughter is a celebrity.*

SMART TIP: relative clauses
Revise relative pronouns before your exam (*who/*that for people, *which/that* for things, *when* for time, *where* for places, and *whose* to express possession).
Look carefully at the sentences you need to join and decide whether you need to use a defining or non-defining clause.
The sentence above is a defining clause because it contains essential information about the woman.
Remember that you do not need to use commas for a defining relative clause.

4. The article was read by thousands of people.
   Thousands of people *read the article.*
5. Emma regretted interviewing the celebrity.
   Emma wished *that she hadn't interviewed the celebrity.*
6. She was famous but she was still a really nice person.
   Even though *she was famous, she was still a really nice person.*

SMART TIP: beginning a sentence with a linking clause
Remember that when we start a sentence with a linker (*"Even though"*), we usually put a comma at the end of the clause. Always check your punctuation carefully as well as your grammar and spelling.

IV. COMPOSITION (3 POINTS)
Write a composition of at least 125 words on the following topic:

What is your opinion of celebrity news? Explain your views.

Many different answers are possible. Here is one suggested model.

What is your opinion of celebrity news?

I rarely read celebrity gossip, as I think it is somewhat superficial and boring. I would rather read more enjoyable and educative articles about sport or the news.

Some people argue that a little bit of gossip can be fun, but I disagree. I think that celebrities have a right to privacy, and we should treat them with more respect. We do not need to know every detail about their lives, and all this information is often quite dull to read!

In conclusion, I think newspapers and magazines ought to publish less celebrity gossip. Journalists could then write about more interesting things instead.

SMART TIP: checking your grammar
You must check your grammar carefully as you will receive points for the correct use of language. Try to use a variety of grammatical structures. However, if you are not sure about how to use a particular language point, it is better to think of an alternative. For example, if you are not sure how to use *ought to* correctly, you could write "... newspapers and magazines *should* publish ..." instead.