OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

# PROVA: CELEBRITY NEWS

## ANSWER KEY – including SMART TIPS

## PART 1: READING COMPREHENSION

1. Emma has worn disguises because

***a)*** *she wants to interview celebrities*

> **SMART TIP: finding key words**
> It is a good idea to identify key words in a question, because these words are sometimes repeated in the text. The word "disguises" in question 1 is repeated in the first line of the text, which makes it easy for you to find and read the relevant information.

2. Which of these facts is true about gossip journalists?

***b)*** *They can make a lot of money.*

> **SMART TIP: topic vocabulary**
> Sometimes, the words in a statement and the words in the text may be slightly different. It can be a good idea to think of words or expressions with similar meanings. For example, the text mentions Emma wants "to **earn** a decent **income**." These words relate to the topic of **money**, and the word "money" appears in option b. It is a very good idea to revise topic sets of vocabulary to help you prepare for an exam.

3. In the 1500s, people

***d)*** *could read gossip about kings and queens.*

> **SMART TIP: comparative expressions**
> Look at any comparative forms or expressions carefully. For example, option c (*"...were just as interested in gossip as we are now"*) is incorrect because it includes the comparative expression *just ... as ...* . The text states that "our celebrity obsession seems to have escalated", which means that we are *more* interested in gossip now than in the past.

4. The latest gossip is

***a)*** *published in different media forms.*

5. Celebrities complain that

***c)*** *they are not always treated respectfully.*

6. Celebrity gossip can be unkind because

***a)*** *it focuses on celebrities' problems and crises.*

7. People might become tired of celebrity gossip because

***a)*** *celebrities are everywhere.*

8. Which of these facts do we know to be true about the 'highly-regarded reporter'?

***d)*** *He does not want to write about celebrity news.*

> **SMART TIP: avoiding assumptions**
> Never make assumptions; always find evidence for your answers in the text. All of the options in question 8 might be true, but only one is actually stated in the text.

## PART 2: WRITING

**Choose ONE topic. Write about number 1 or 2. Minimum length: 100 words.**
[4 points]

1. You are a gossip writer and you want to write a story on a celebrity (the celebrity can be
real or imaginary). You meet the celebrity and ask him or her about his or her experience with the press. The celebrity tells you how he or she feels about the press. Write a dialogue you have with the celebrity.

2. You are a celebrity who is annoyed about the way a journalist chased you to get a story. Write a formal letter complaining to the newspaper the journalist works for.

Many different answers are possible. Here are two suggested models.

***1. You are a gossip writer and you want to write a story on a celebrity (the celebrity can be
real or imaginary). You meet the celebrity and ask him or her about his or her experience with the press. The celebrity tells you how he or she feels about the press. Write a dialogue you have with the celebrity.***

*Journalist: Good morning, Aimee. Let me say that I'm you're biggest fan!*
*Celebrity: Thank you! I wish all journalists were that kind.*
*Journalist: Yes, I know you've had some problems with the press recently. Could you tell me about your experiences?*
*Celebrity: Oh, it's been awful. As you know, I'm dating a footballer at the moment, and the gossip hunters follow us everywhere. It's starting to get me down.*
*Journalist: Hmm. But some gossip hunters argue that they actually help celebrities, by giving them lots of publicity.*
*Celebrity: Maybe, but the coverage is mainly negative. For example, last week they interviewed all my friends to find out if either Ben or I had ever taken drugs! We hadn't of course, but the press only care about sensationalism, not the truth.*
*Journalist: It seems you have very strong views on the subject, Aimee. Many thanks for sharing them with me.*

**SMART TIP: Making your dialogue sound natural**
When you write a dialogue, think about how people normally speak. When two people are talking, the speaker changes regularly. Speakers tend to use more informal language (e.g. *get me down* instead of *make me feel depressed*); short forms (e.g. *you've, it's*) and they might use "fillers" to organise their ideas (for example *Let me say ..., Oh, Well, Hmm*). Read through your dialogue carefully after you have written it to check that it sounds natural.

***2. You are a celebrity who is annoyed about the way a journalist chased you to get a story. Write a formal letter complaining to the newspaper the journalist works for. Address your letter to the Editor.***

*Dear Editor,*
*I am writing in order to complain about an experience I had recently with a journalist from your newspaper.*
*I have realised for some time now that the journalist has been following me and taking pictures of me as I go about my daily life. However, the other day I had just picked up my children from school when I realised the journalist was in a car behind us. The car started to go faster and came up to the side of my car. While driving the journalist started taking pictures of me and my children.*
*As you will realise, this was an extremely dangerous situation. The journalist put the lives of my*

*children in danger just to get some photographs.*
*While I understand that journalists often have to go to great lengths to get a story, I feel that there have to be some limits. Putting people's lives at risk is never acceptable. I would like your newspaper to accept responsibility for this incident and apologise publically.*
*Yours sincerely,*
*Robin Daly*

**SMART TIP: opinion expressions**
When you are asked to give your opinion, introduce your ideas with opinion expressions, such as *I think / believe; In my opinion, It is my view that*. Support your opinions with examples or evidence. If you want to give several examples or explanations, remember to use linkers of addition, such as *moreover,* or *furthermore*. Read your work through carefully afterwards to check that your composition has been organised logically and clearly.