

PRUEBA: CELEBRITY NEWS

ANSWER KEY – including SMART TIPS

SMART TIP: exam conditions

Remember, in your examination you will have an hour and a half to answer all of the questions, and you will not be allowed to use a dictionary or other reference materials. Any questions that you do not answer will be marked as incorrect, so make sure you write answers for all of the questions, even if you are not sure.

1. Choose the correct answer a, b or c. (3 points; 0.5 each)

1. Emma sometimes uses extreme measures because ...
 - a. she is obsessed with celebrities.
 - b. she wants to get close to celebrities.*
 - c. she is a criminal.
2. For Emma, being a gossip hunter is a way to ...
 - a. show off her writing skills.
 - b. get other's respect.
 - c. earn money.*
3. Which statement is true?
 - a. Magazine readers are extremely interested in the lives of the rich and famous.*
 - b. *The Telegraph* is a famous gossip magazine.
 - c. Most journalists work together with famous people to get their stories.
4. What is 'The Spy'?
 - a. a popular gossip magazine
 - b. part of a serious newspaper that deals with gossip*
 - c. a serious newspaper
5. Some celebrities criticize gossip hunters because ...
 - a. they don't write about important news.
 - b. they think trivia is serious.
 - c. they don't give celebrities any privacy.*
6. Which of these best summarises the view of a highly-regarded news reporter.
 - a. gossip columns are a great way to make money
 - b. celebrities get publicity in gossip columns
 - c. important news gets covered less in the media because of the obsession with gossip*

2. Answer these questions in no more than 5 words. (1 point; 0.25 each)

- Who is Emma Worth? *A gossip writer/a gossip hunter/a gossip writer/a journalist*
- What does Emma receive money for? *Writing sensational/good stories*
- What are *Heat* and *Closer* examples of? *Best-selling gossip magazines*
- Why are serious newspapers starting to print celebrity gossip? *To increase sales/to sell more newspapers*

3. Find a word in the text for these definitions. (1 point; 0.25 each)

- salary, wage (paragraph 1) *income*
- follow, pursue (paragraph 1) *hunt*
- increase (paragraph 2) *boost*
- in an unhappy manner (paragraph 3) *bitterly*

Smart tip: looking for related words

When you first read a definition, think of words you know that are similar. You might remember that 'salary' and 'wage' relate to *money*, so it is a good idea to read the paragraph for other words and expressions relating to this topic. In one sentence, Emma uses the 'money' words *get paid* and *earn* which gives you a clue that this is a good place to look for the answer.

Smart tip: identifying the correct verb form

When you need to find a synonym for a verb, make sure that you search for the correct *form*. There is another verb in paragraph 2 which, in the infinitive form, also means 'increase': *escalate*. However, in the text this word appears in the past simple form, not the infinitive form: *escalated*. For this reason, the correct answer is *boost*, as the word and its synonym are BOTH in the infinitive form.

Smart tip: common suffixes

Revise common prefixes and suffixes before your examination. The definition in d. tells you that you need to find an adverb (many adverbs mean 'in an X manner'). If you remember that most adverbs end in *-ly*, this will help you in your search for the correct answer.

4. Rephrase the following sentences so that their meaning is as similar to the original as possible. (1 point; 0.25 each)

- Emma said that *she was just doing her job and that she only got paid for good stories.*
[Reported speech]
- If I didn't *take extreme measures, I wouldn't earn a decent income.*
[2nd conditional]
- The journalists, *who are using their professional skills to hunt the glitterati, are hoping to score an exclusive scoop.*
[Relative clause]
- Some stars complain that their *lives have been ruined by press intrusion.*
[Passive]

5. Write an opinion article of 150 words on this topic: Being famous has many advantages and disadvantages. Do you agree? Mention both positive and negative aspects of being famous and say whether you think there are more advantages than disadvantages (specify the number of words at the top right-hand side of your essay). (3 points)

Suggested answer:

148 words

Many people want to be famous, but there are both advantages and disadvantages to fame. The question is, though, do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

On the one hand, celebrities are often pursued wherever they go by reporters and photographers, which must be quite stressful. They might have to read very unflattering articles about themselves, and have to be careful about what they say and do.

On the other hand, the press helps give famous people publicity, which in turn increases their fame and wealth. Most famous people do not have to worry about the basic things in life. Their lives are easier than most people. Besides, they get to wear great clothes and go to exclusive parties where they can meet other famous people.

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

6. You have just seen a celebrity. Write a text message to your friend Lenny telling him about the incident. Say who the celebrity was, where you saw him or her and what happened. (Write between 35 and 50 words). (1 point)

Suggested answer:

Lenny, I've just got off the plane! You'll never believe who was sitting right next to me! Emma Chamberlain! We spoke to each other the whole journey. And she promised to keep in touch with me! I feel like I'm in a dream. It's the most exciting thing ever!

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.