

## PROBA: CELEBRITY NEWS

Read the text and the instructions for the questions very carefully. Answer all the questions in English.

### CELEBRITY NEWS

1 In her quest to meet the rich and famous, Emma has bribed security guards, donned disguises, and even  
 2 climbed through windows! But she does not think of herself as a criminal. 'I'm just doing my job. I only get  
 3 paid for good stories, so I have to take extreme measures if I want to earn a decent income!' Emma  
 4 Worth writes for a famous gossip magazine. She is one of a growing number of journalists who are using  
 5 their professional skills to hunt and capture the so-called 'glitterati' unawares, each hoping to score an  
 6 exclusive, and preferably shocking, scoop.

7 Gossip-mongering is nothing new. Indeed, sensationalist stories about the royal family (the A-list of  
 8 their time) were published only a century after the invention of the printing press – in 1453! However,  
 9 in recent years, our celebrity obsession has escalated. Last year, *Heat* and *Closer*, the two best-selling  
 10 UK gossip magazines, sold over a million copies every week, and other publishers are keen to take  
 11 advantage of the boom. Even the traditionally more 'serious' press are turning to celebrities to boost  
 12 sales. For example, the broadsheet newspaper *The Telegraph* regularly features a gossip column called  
 13 'The Spy'.

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

### Questions

1. Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points, using your own words whenever possible. (approximately 50 words; 1 point)
2. Indicate whether the following statements are true or false (T / F), according to the text, and copy that part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1 point, 0.25 points each)
  - i) Emma worries about breaking the law.
  - ii) *Closer* is a very popular UK gossip magazine.
  - iii) Broadsheet newspapers are only concerned with serious news, not celebrity news.
  - iv) Not all journalists are in favour of celebrity gossip.
3. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the following. (1 point: 0.25 points each)
  - a) salary, wages
  - b) follow, pursue

- c) spoiled, damaged
- d) narratives revealing private, confidential information

#### 4. Pronunciation (1 point)

Write down five words from the text with the same single vowel sounds as *teacher* /ə/. If the word you find has more than one syllable, underline the syllable containing the target sound.

#### 5. Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. (1.5 points: 0.5 points each)

- a) I have to take extreme measures if I want to earn a decent income.  
In order ...
- b) Many people are critical of gossip hunters.  
Gossip hunters have ...
- c) He said, 'I'm going to interview her here tomorrow.'  
He told us ...

#### 6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a celebrity? (approximately 120 words; 3 points)

