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[illegible]

text)? WHAT is the main idea in the extract? WHERE do the events in the extract take place? WHEN do the events in the extract take place? WHY has the text been written? HOW does the writer express himself or herself? What type of language has the writer used? As you read, consider both the literal and figurative meaning of words, phrases and sentences. For example, 'The story touched my soul' does not literally mean that a story touched your soul, but figuratively that it had an emotional effect on you. Step 3 - Answer the questions Read the questions. As you read through them, jot down any answers that immediately come into your mind in the 'rough work section' of your answer book. Take a minute to think about what each question asks you to do. Here are some tips for answering comprehension questions: The mark allocation indicates the number of points required. For example, if the question is for 2 marks, you need to make two points. Look for the key words or topic sentence in each paragraph - it often suggests what each paragraph is about. (Sometimes a paragraph does not have a topic sentence.) Do not copy directly from the text, unless you are asked to quote. Try to answer the questions in your own words, using full sentences. If you are asked to give a synonym or antonym of a word, use the same part of speech and tense as the original word. For example, replace a noun with a noun (joy - happiness); and a verb with a verb (look - stare; looked - stared). Avoid starting sentences with conjunctions such as "but" or "because". Do not confuse TRUE/FALSE questions with YES/NO questions. Do not write T/F for TRUE/FALSE. Always back up a TRUE/FALSE or YES/NO answer with a reason unless the question specifically says that all you need to do is give the one-word answer. When asked to quote a phrase, remember that a phrase refers to a group of words without a verb, for example, 'in the morning'. If asked to quote consecutive words, keep to the required number of words. Activity 1 Text A The key words have been underlined in the first five paragraphs to show you how to do this. Read TEXT A and answer the questions that follow. In South Africa, more than 8 million children currently receive social grants from the state. The Department of Social Welfare regards 1.5 million children as orphaned or vulnerable, but only 500 000 of these children have been placed in foster care, leaving a large number still waiting to be placed. Another cause for concern is that 20 000 households in our country are headed by children. Only 1 900 children are adopted in South Africa every year. Poverty is often a root cause of child abandonment, threatening the hopes and dreams of these innocents. A mended pair of pants still shows its damage, and so it is with children who adapt to their environment but carry scars with them throughout their lives. Yet every so often someone comes along and does a great patch-up job. They say home is where the heart is. For the children of House Jerome, in Irene, the joy on their faces is proof of this. At first glance, you would not know that many were abandoned in dirty toilets or on rubbish dumps. 15 The family home of Basil and Dehlia Fernie serves as a shelter for abandoned babies and children seeking crisis care. Living in a household with 10 children who are not your own seems like a job for an abnormal person. Why would anyone choose this lifestyle? For the past 28 years they have opened up their home to more than 300 children; nurtured and cared for them. Their 20 purpose is to provide a stable place of safety which will help prepare these children for long-term foster families or potential adoptions. The Fernies are a happy couple with a good sense of humour. After many years of being involved in children's ministries, they established House Jerome as a means to help children in need. With four biological children 25 already, their home became a playground filled with love and dedication. I notice Basil drinking coffee out of a mug with a picture of a teddy bear on it. What seems like a job that could truly drive a person insane is, in actual fact, the source of peace and contentment in their lives. One such example is the story of Jerome. At only ten days old, he was taken to House Jerome and set up for a possible adoption. It is just coincidence that 30 the little boy carried the same name as the shelter. This encouraged the Fernies to adopt him as their own. Jerome was one of the first adoptions by a family from a different race. A decision that was unheard of before the 1994 elections has become a worldwide trend in recent years. Jerome confesses his upbringing was never focused on growing up with white parents. "I 35 am here, this is me and this is my home. My family is just as normal as yours." Jerome has had to face a number of challenges in his life, such as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), academic failure and a struggle with drug addiction. Now 19, he is an optimistic young man about to write his matric. Dehlia notes that even though these children come with baggage, you cannot blame 40 rejection for a child's wrongdoings. In the end, it was her love and commitment that saw Jerome through his teenage troubles. The family works closely with social workers to ensure a detailed screening process is done before all placements, and the majority are given the gift of a happy ending. While some come and go, for Basil and Dehlia the joy lies in seeing how the 45 child has grown and knowing they played a role in making a difference. [Adapted from Centr'd, Spring 2010] Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD): A condition causing people not to be able to concentrate on something for a long period of time. HINT! When asked to refer to a paragraph, it means you must go back to that paragraph in the extract to find the answer 1. Refer to paragraph 1. Who is responsible for giving the numbers of 'orphaned or vulnerable children'? (1) 1.1. A large number of children are awaiting foster care or adoption. Identify another social problem mentioned in this paragraph. Do NOT quote. (1) 1.2 Choose the correct answer to complete the following sentence. By using the word 'only' in line 6, the writer is emphasising that the number of children adopted is ... acceptable. too small. incorrect. too large. (1) 2. Refer to paragraph 2. 2.1 Using your OWN words, explain what is meant by the you must go back to that paragraph in the extract to e.g. phrase 'root cause'. Refer to BOTH words. (2) 2.2 Explain why the writer compares 'a mended pair of pants' to children who 'carry scars with them'. (2) 3. Refer to paragraph 3. Quote FIVE consecutive words from the text that support the idea that the children of House Jerome are satisfied. (1) 4. Refer to paragraph 4. Using your OWN words, say what Basil and Dehlia Fernie's TWO long-term aims are in providing shelter for abandoned children. (2) 5. Refer to paragraph 5. 5.1 Why is it important for the Fernies to have a good sense of humour? (1) 5.2 Is the following statement TRUE or FALSE? Give a reason to support your answer. The Fernies do not have any children of their own. (2) 6. Refer to paragraph 6. 6.1 Do you think the picture of the teddy bear on Fernie's mug is suitable? Give TWO reasons for your answer. (2) 6.2 Write a synonym for 'insane' (line 28). (1) 7. Refer to paragraph 7. 7.1 What encouraged the Fernies to adopt Jerome? (1) 7.2 What was unusual about Jerome's adoption? (1) 8. Refer to paragraph 8. 8.1 Write down any TWO difficulties Jerome has had to face in his life. (2) 8.2 In lines 41 - 42 it is stated: '... you cannot blame rejection for a child's wrongdoings'. Do you agree? Give a reason to support your answer. (2) 9. This passage does not have a title. 9.1 Provide a suitable title of no more than SIX words for this passage. (1) 9.2 Explain why you have chosen this particular title. (2) [25] ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY 1. HINT! To answer question 2.2, you must not copy sentences directly from the text. Your "OWN words" does not mean your own opinion. It means you must re-write the text according to how you understand it. A TRUE or FALSE answer must always be supported by a strong reason. If you only write the word TRUE or FALSE, you will get no marks. Any Two of these answers to question 8 will earn you 2 marks. e.g. Answers to Activity 1 1. The Department of Social Welfare ✓ OR Social Welfare Department ✓ OR Social Welfare ✓ (1) 1.2 About 20 000 households are headed by children. ✓ OR Many children are in charge of households/ families. (1) 1.2 B/ too small ✓ (1) 2.2.1 It is the basic reason for child abandonment. ✓ OR thing that leads to child abandonment. (2) 2.2 When trousers are mended the stitches can be seen and they look like a scar. In the same way, children who have been damaged may have emotional scars. ✓ (2) 3. 'the joy on their faces' ✓ (1) 4. They prepare children to go to foster homes or to be legally adopted. ✓ ✓. (2) 5.5.1 They need a sense of humour because their job is serious and difficult. ✓ OR They need a sense of humour because seeing the funny or lighter side of life helps them to keep going. (1) 5.2 False. They have four of their own children. ✓ ✓ (2) 6.6.1 Yes, it is suitable because their house is filled with children and children like teddy bears. He is able to relate to the children and it shows that he likes the children. ✓ ✓ OR No, the picture is not suitable because Fernie is a grown-up and he should project a grown-up image and not use a mug that looks childish. ✓ ✓ (2) 6.2 mad ✓ or abnormal ✓ or crazy ✓ (1) 7.7.1 Jerome had the same name as the shelter. ✓ (1) 7.2 He was from a different race. ✓ (1) 8. He had Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). ✓ He failed at school. ✓ He was addicted to drugs. ✓ (2) 8.2 Yes, Jerome is a perfect example of overcoming rejection as he made a success of his life. ✓ ✓ OR No, Jerome might be one example of someone overcoming rejection but sometimes the damage is lasting or permanent. ✓ ✓ (2) 9. Help for the vulnerable. ✓ OR House Jerome offers hope. ✓ (1) 9.2 The title 'Help for the vulnerable' expresses that the extract is mainly about people who are helping vulnerable children. ✓ ✓ OR The title 'House Jerome offers hope' shows that the extract is about a place called House Jerome which is giving hope to desperate children. ✓ ✓ (2) [25] HINT! These are examples of the types of answers that will earn you marks When you are asked for your opinion, you can agree OR disagree with the question. You must also give a reason for your answer. For more practice on writing comprehensions, go to these past exam papers: November 2010, page 3, Question 1 November 2011, page 3, Question 1 November 2012, page 3. 3. Text B: Visual text A visual text is a picture or image that is linked to words. Facial expression: How people's faces show emotion, for example, a smile shows happiness. Body language: How people move, stand or sit, and what they do with their hands to show how they feel. Gesture: How people use their hands to show emotion or to emphasise what they are saying. The second part of the comprehension question is Text B. Text B is a visual text - it has a picture and some text, followed by some questions. Steps to writing the visual comprehension question in the exam When you read a visual text, follow these steps: Step 1 - Look at the picture Look at ALL the details in the picture. For example: What is the content of the picture? If there are people in the picture, what are they doing? Where are they? The facial expressions of the people in the picture; The body language of the people in the picture; The gestures the people are using in the picture; The use of light and darkness in the picture; The positioning of each part of the picture - what is in the front, background or centre of the picture?; and Think about the mood created by the picture. Look at the picture (Link the picture and the words) Read the words Step 2 - Read the words and link them to the picture Read the words in the heading of the picture and the words below the picture. Look at the picture again. Think about how the words support what you see in the picture. Step 3 - Answer the questions Read the questions for Text B and answer them. Activity 2 Look closely at the image and the text below, and then answer the questions that follow. Text B JOURNEY TO CONFIDENCE When you are self-assured, you can tackle challenges head-on. But self belief does not come naturally to everyone. Sometimes you need some help on the way to a more confident you. In Text B, the words and the picture are always linked. To answer question 1, write down the question number and the correct letter and/or words. Remember practice makes perfect! Practise writing comprehensions to do well in the exam. Questions 1. Refer to the following: '... you can tackle challenges head-on.' The word 'head-on', in the context of TEXT B, means ... facing challenges directly. hitting challenges with your head. thinking about challenges often. avoiding challenges. (1) 2. In your OWN words, explain what is meant by 'journey to confidence'. (2) 3. How is the idea of self-confidence supported by the picture? (2) [5] 'Head-on' is a saying or idiom. It means to face something directly Answers to Activity 2 1. A/ Facing challenges directly. ✓ (1) 2. Confidence is not achieved easily. ✓ It takes some time to become confident. ✓ (2) 3. The girl is smiling and looking confident. ✓ She is not afraid to hang on a rope in mid-air. ✓ (2) [5] 4. What is expected from you in the exam? In the exam, the comprehension question is worth 30 marks out of 80 marks for Paper 1. You must answer both parts of the comprehension question - Text A and Text B. Text A is an extract of between 600 and 700 words. You will need to read the extract carefully and then answer the questions based on the extract. Text A is worth 24 marks. Text B is a visual text. It includes a picture, for example, a photograph or a drawing. It will also include some words related to the picture. Text B is worth 6 marks. The exam is two hours long and your should spend about 50 minutes on the comprehension question. For more practice on visual comprehensions, go to these past exam papers: November 2011, page 6, Question 1 November 2012, page 6, Question 1 Feb/March 2013, page 6, Question 1 Last modified on Monday, 02 August 2021 08:49