

**PROBA: CELEBRITY NEWS**

**ANSWER KEY – including SMART TIPS**

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)

Suggested answer (many correct answers possible): *Celebrity gossip is very popular and journalists are keen to write sensationalist stories. However, not everyone feels positively about celebrity news. Some celebrities say that gossip hunters do not respect their privacy. Other people argue that gossip writing is published at the expense of more important news stories.*

**SMART TIP: keeping to the word limit**

When you have finished writing, always count the number of words that you have used.

**Too few words?** Have you included all the necessary information? What other information could you add? Do your sentences make sense? If not, could you improve them by adding useful linkers, expressions, adjectives or adverbs?

**Too many words?** Have you included unnecessary information? What information could you cut? Could you shorten your sentences by joining them together with linkers or relative clauses? Could you reduce the number of adjectives or adverbs in your work?

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.  
*False. 'She does not think of herself as a criminal.'* (line 2)

**SMART TIP: topic vocabulary**

The words in a question may not be exactly 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.

- ii) *Closer* is a very popular UK gossip magazine.  
*True. 'Heat and Closer, the two best-selling UK gossip magazines ...'* (lines 8-9)
- iii) Broadsheet newspapers are only concerned with serious news, not celebrity news.  
*False. '... the broadsheet newspaper The Telegraph now has a regular gossip column ...'* (lines 11-12)

**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 many broadsheet newspapers now cover celebrity news, too. An answer is only correct if it is stated in the text.

- iv) Not all journalists are in favour of celebrity gossip.  
*True. 'According to one highly-regarded news reporter, "Our fascination with gossip means that there is less media coverage of more important issues".' (lines 16–17)*

**3. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the following.  
(1 point: 0.25 points each)**

- a) salary, wages  
*income (line 3)*
- b) follow, pursue  
*hunt (line 5)*
- c) spoiled, damaged  
*ruined (line 15)*
- d) narratives revealing private, confidential information  
*kiss-and-tell stories (line 18)*

**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.  
(Any five from the following)

*Number*  
*Journalist*  
*Over*  
*Regular*  
*Censured*  
*Reporter*

**SMART TIP: reading the whole text**

There may be more than one correct answer for pronunciation questions. Do not worry if you cannot find a correct answer straightaway. Continue reading the whole text carefully and slowly until you find the answer you need.

**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 *to earn a decent income, I have to take extreme measures.*

**SMART TIP: linkers**

Remember to revise common linking expressions as well as key grammar points before your examination. Make a note of *a)* what they mean and *b)* how they are used. You will lose points if you use the linker incorrectly, for example if you forget to use *to + infinitive* after 'in order'.

Other useful linkers to learn include: *also, although, as, as a result, as long as, as well (as), because (of), but, consequently, despite (the fact that), however, if, in spite of (the fact that), providing that, since, so (that), so ... that, such ... that, therefore, (even) though, to, unless, what's more*. For more useful linkers, see your course book.

- b) Many people are critical of gossip hunters.

Gossip hunters have *been criticized by many people*. OR have *received criticism from many people*.

- c) He said, 'I'm going to interview her here tomorrow.'

He told us *that he was going to interview her there the next day*.

**SMART TIP: reported speech**

You may be asked to rewrite a sentence in reported speech in your exam. Remember to check the following: 1) correct use of the reporting verb; 2) correct tenses; 3) correct pronouns; 4) correct time and place expressions (if any). Students often forget to change pronouns and time and place expressions when they write reported speech, so remember to use this checklist every time!

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

**Suggested answer**

*Many people want to be famous, but there are both advantages and disadvantages to fame.*

*On the one hand, celebrities are often followed by reporters and photographers, which must be stressful. They probably worry a lot about what the press will say about them, and might have to read unflattering articles about themselves.*

*On the other hand, famous people get to wear great clothes, meet other famous people, and go to exclusive parties. Moreover, most of them are usually quite wealthy, and many of them could probably choose to retire if they really wanted to.*

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

**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.

**SMART TIP: using linkers and other useful expressions**

Learn useful expressions and linkers to help you organize your ideas and make your writing more interesting. The composition above includes some linking expressions to express contrast (*on the one hand ... on the other hand; however*), and add ideas (*and; moreover*). It also includes expressions for giving an opinion (*In my opinion, I agree that*).