

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. Read and follow ALL instructions carefully.
2. This paper consists of THREE sections:
 - SECTION A: Comprehension (30 marks)
 - SECTION B: Summary (10 marks)
 - SECTION C: Language (30 marks)You are required to answer questions from all three sections.
3. Use your time carefully. Suggested time management:
 - Section A: approximately 50 minutes
 - Section B: approximately 30 minutes
 - Section C: approximately 40 minutes
4. Draw a 2cm wide margin on the right-hand side of each page of your answer booklet.
5. Leave a line after each answer.
6. Answer ALL questions.
7. Rule off after each section.
8. Number each answer exactly as the question paper is numbered.
9. Pay special attention to spelling and sentence construction.
10. It is in your own interests to write and present your work neatly.

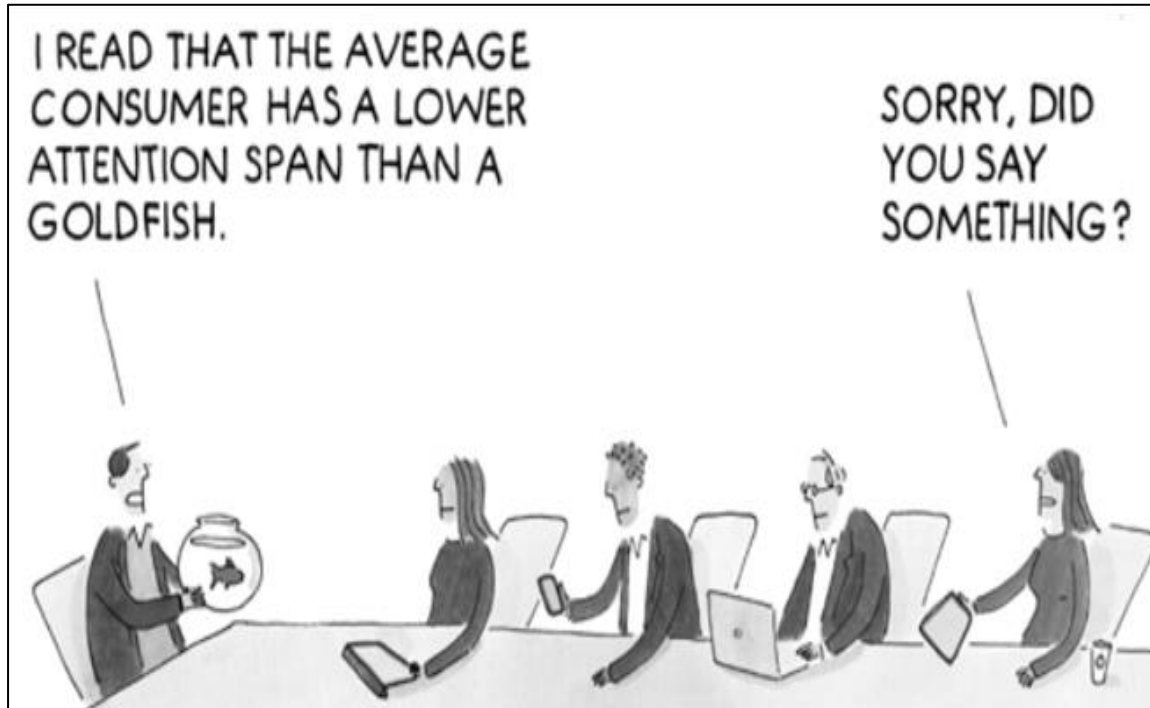
SECTION A: COMPREHENSION
QUESTION 1**TEXT A****A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S STREAM**

- 1 In this age of Netflix and streaming services, almost everyone — especially college students — is hooked on monitors. It's never been easier to watch TV shows and movies. However, accompanying this ease is an increase in shortened attention spans among viewers, including other negative side effects.
- 2 In a shocking study conducted by Microsoft Corp, viewers now have a shorter attention span than a goldfish. The study revealed that people generally lose interest in an activity after eight seconds — the attention span of a goldfish is nine seconds (The study took 3 months to complete)!
- 3 A possible explanation for this decrease in attention spans includes the sheer amount of media consumers are offered. With the birth of the internet and streaming giants like Netflix and Hulu, viewers are swamped with choices. This overabundance of options leads creators to competitively market increasingly interesting and gripping material. With a variety of choices to choose from, viewers are becoming pickier about what they spend their time watching.
- 4 If a show doesn't automatically capture attention, viewers are likely to drop it for something more interesting. While Netflix is the prime example of this, this also translates to other services, such as Hulu and Prime Video.
- 5 One Twitter user responded to a thread about what life before Netflix was like. Her tweet read, "I feel sorry for Netflix era kids," and went on to explain the joys and excitement of rushing home to catch the latest episode of a TV show or having a sibling scream "it's back on!" after you made a dash for a bathroom break or to get a snack.
- 6 Because media is online and available 24/7, the way viewers consume media has changed drastically. Cliff-hangers aren't as gripping since Netflix puts up the "continue watching" option immediately after.
- 7 There are many things lost in this new era of Netflix and streaming services. For one, because everything is digital, there's a greater importance laid on internet connectivity. If the internet is down, one has to say goodbye to a Netflix night.
- 8 Another issue with streaming services is the unreliability of their shows. Netflix is notorious for taking shows down every month, only to replace them with something new. This leads to high stress and a drive to finish shows immediately, even if it means binge-watching them.
- 9 A problem many viewers have experienced is the increase in Netflix original content, along with the decreased availability of non-Netflix shows. Many viewers have noticed this trend, as Netflix loses the licenses for certain movies and shows. While this is accepted by many, some viewers might decide that a subscription to Netflix is no longer worth the cost.

- 10 It's 2023, and media and technology have transformed enormously since the early 2000s. Society has traded old technology for new, replacing CD players with iPods and flip phones with smart phones. Now, it's the age of Netflix and streaming services, and we have yet to fully understand what that means for our future.

[Adapted from www.nytimes.com]

TEXT B:



Source: marketoonist.com

Questions:

- 1.1 Suggest why the title of the passage is appropriate. (2)
- 1.2 Explain what the phrase 'hooked on' (line 2) conveys about the effect of Netflix and streaming services on their viewers. (2)
- 1.3 Refer to paragraph 2.
Comment on why the word 'shocking' (line 5) is appropriate in context. (2)
- 1.4 Refer to paragraph 3.
Suggest why the attention span of viewers has decreased in recent times. (3)
- 1.5 Refer to paragraph 4.
State in your own words why it is so easy for viewers to abandon Netflix. (2)

1.6 Refer to paragraph 5.

Explain why the Twitter user believes that Netflix users are missing out on the full TV experience. (2)

1.7 Refer to paragraphs 7 and 8.

Why has binge-watching shows on streaming platforms become a common practice? (3)

1.8 Refer to paragraph 9.

Provide reasons why Netflix original content is not always accepted as an option by viewers. (3)

1.9 'media and technology have transformed enormously since the early 2000s' (line 34).

Discuss the accuracy of the above statement by referring to paragraphs 7 and 10. (3)

1.10 In your view, is the final sentence ('Now, it's the ... for our future'), an effective conclusion to the article? Motivate your response. (3)

QUESTION: TEXT B

1.11 Does the comic have a favourable view on the attention span of people? Give one visual and one textual reason to support your response. (2)

QUESTION: TEXTS A and B

1.12 To what extent does TEXT B support the message conveyed in paragraph 2 of TEXT A? Justify your response by making reference to both paragraph 2 of TEXT A and TEXT B. (3)

TOTAL SECTION A: 30 MARKS

SECTION B: SUMMARY
QUESTION 2

Instructions:

1. Summarise TEXT B in a fluent paragraph on **what comes next after Game of Thrones**.
2. Your summary should include SEVEN points and be no longer than 90 words in length.
3. Use YOUR OWN WORDS as far as possible.
4. Indicate your word count accurately at the end of the summary.

Game of Thrones Is the End of an Era. So What Comes Next?

- 1 The biggest TV series in the world ended recently, and even though seemingly every network with a major budget is trying to make the next *Game of Thrones*, so far there's nothing to take its place. Is the end of *Game of Thrones* the end of the culture that dominated our daily lives and will live on in our collective memory? Or can something different like *Avengers* movies and TV series', or even the Oscars, step in to take its place?
- 2 There are no spoilers here – but it's no secret that the final episode of *Game of Thrones* marked the end of an era for television. 19.3 million People watched the final episode, which was a new record for creators HBO. It may also be the end of a kind of shared TV event that's disappearing in an era of on-demand streaming services that produce similar fantasy content like *The Witcher* and *Willow*.
- 3 The final season was criticized by some fans partly due to production mistakes, and a petition calling for HBO to remake it has, so far, collected more than a million signatures. Fans also grumbled on social media about rushed plot twists, unexplained loose ends and beloved characters doing things that didn't seem true to their nature.
- 4 Even so, record audience figures make *Game of Thrones* valuable property for parent company AT&T as it launches its own streaming service to regain viewers abandoning traditional cable TV. Unsurprisingly, a spin-off series of G.O.T. is already on TV: *House of the Dragon*. And a second season is already in production.
- 5 In any case, *Game of Thrones* isn't quite over. The *Game of Thrones* TV series took the story beyond the original novels long ago. George R.R. Martin, made rich by the success of the novels and TV series, has yet to complete his own ending to a saga that – like all classics – leaves fans craving more. And there are still plenty of successful fantasy novels that have yet to reach television screens...

Adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com>

Total Section B: 10 Marks

SECTION C: ADVERTISING
QUESTION 3

TEXT C



Source: <https://livingocean.co.za/>

The text in small font reads as follows:

NO PLASTIC PLEASE
**“GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE BAG
CHANGE STARTS WITH YOU”**
Ben Player – 3 x World Champion Bodyboarder

72%
OF PLASTIC FOUND
IN THE OCEAN IS
**SINGLE USE
PLASTIC**

NO Plastic PLEASE

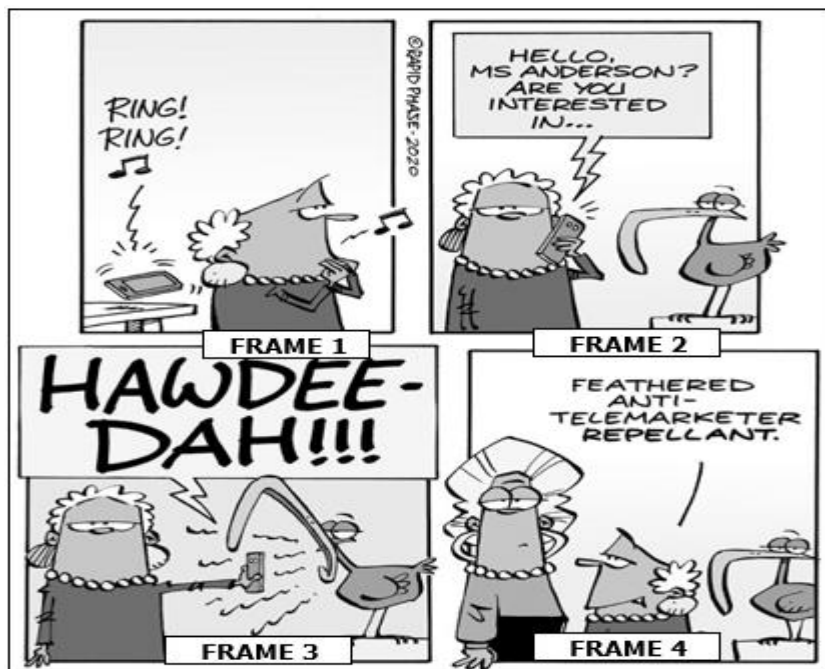
LIVING OCEAN
www.livingocean.org.au

- 3.1 Explain why Ben Player has been chosen to promote this advertisement. (2)
- 3.2 'GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE BAG'.
How is this statement reinforced by the accompanying picture? (2)
- 3.3 '72% OF PLASTIC FOUND IN THE OCEAN IS SINGLE USE PLASTIC'
Comment on the impact of this statistic on the intended audience. (3)
- 3.4 Is the name of the organization that sponsored this advertisement (*Living Ocean*) appropriate? Explain your reasoning. (3)

SUB-TOTAL: 10 MARKS

SECTION C: CARTOON ANALYSIS
QUESTION 4

TEXT D



QUESTIONS: TEXT D

- 4.1 Refer to FRAME 1.
Identify the sounds being made as signified by the music notes (🎵). (2)

4.2 Refer to FRAME 2.

With reference to her facial expression, comment on Ms Anderson's reaction to the call she receives. (2)

4.3 Refer to frame 3.

Discuss what BOTH the visual and verbal elements convey about the sound made by the bird. (3)

4.4 Refer to the cartoon as a whole.

Explain how humour is created in FRAME 4. (3)

SUB-TOTAL: 10 MARKS

**SECTION C: LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT
QUESTION 5**

The story of Brad Pitt starring in a film in exchange for a cup of coffee

1 The world of cinema and superheroes often surprises us with moments that seem out of the ordinary. Today we'll discuss the story behind the hiring of Brad Pitt for a cameo in a famous film for Marvel, in which the actor was only paid a symbolic cup of coffee.

5 For those unfamiliar with *Deadpool 2*, it is a 2018 film directed by David Leitch, which stars a rebellious and irreverent superhero. The film is known for its numerous cameos and jokes that make fun of cinema and culture nerds. And it is in this context that the scene with Brad Pitt appears.

10 The protagonist assembles a group of superheroes known as X-Force and among them is one particular member: Vanisher. In the only scene in which he appears, Vanisher is electrocuted by crashing into a street lamp after he had jumped from the plane with Deadpool and the X-Force. This unfortunate event allowed viewers to see - for the first and only time - the face of Brad Pitt playing Vanisher.

15 What follows are the words of Ryan Reynolds when he was at San Diego Comicon. He explained how he convinced Brad Pitt to take part in the scene: "The agent told me that all Brad required to make the cameo was a cup of coffee from Starbucks, and I asked 'Did he mean a whole franchise or a single cup?'"

20 Ryan Reynolds continued: "He told me he only wanted one, which is the same as 'I'll do it for free'. It was the best gesture anyone could make. I loved it. What could be more irresponsible than taking one of the brightest stars in the film world and giving him a role where he appears without saying a word, and invisible, except in three frames of the film?"

Adapted from: <https://www.gossiptrip.it>

- 2.1 Identify the parts of speech of the following words:
- 2.1.1 paid (line 3) (1)
- 2.1.2 Leitch (line 4) (1)
- 2.2 In line 4, *Deadpool 2* is written in italics. Provide an alternative way to indicate that it is the title of a film. (1)
- 2.3 Provide a synonym for the word 'numerous' (line 5). (1)
- 2.4 Provide the noun form of 'electrocuted' (line 9). (1)
- 2.5 Identify the function of the dashes in line 11. (1)
- 2.6 'Did he mean a whole franchise or a single cup?' (Lines 15-16).
Rewrite the above sentence in indirect (reported) speech.
Begin with: I asked... (2)
- 2.7 Identify the function of the apostrophe in `I'll` (line 17). (1)
- 2.8 Identify and correct the spelling error in paragraph 5. (1)

SUB-TOTAL: 10 MARKS

TOTAL SECTION C: 30 MARKS

GRAND TOTAL: 70 MARKS