

Hillcrest High School

Grade 10

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE P1 NOVEMBER 2025

This paper consists of 11 pages

MARKS: 70

TIME: 2 Hours

EXAMINER: Mr L.Piccione

MODERATOR: Mrs N. Atkinson

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:

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow

TEXT A

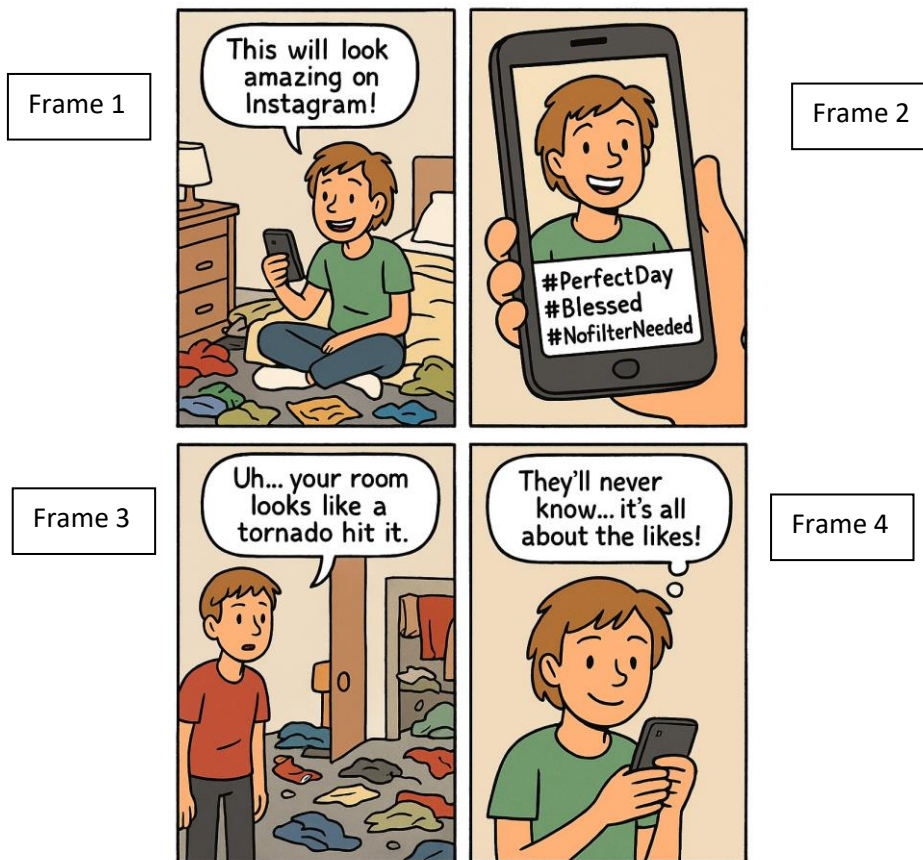
Main Character Energy: Confidence or Performance?

- 1 We all have that one character we wish we could become. Maybe it’s Regina George from *Mean Girls* or Blair Waldorf from *Gossip Girl*. Maybe it’s a celebrity like Wonyoung from IVE, or even someone closer to home—like that girl in class who always looks effortlessly put together, or a stranger at a café you can’t stop staring at.
- 2 Somewhere between TikTok edits and Tumblr-era quotes, “main character energy” emerged: the idea that you are the star of your own story while everyone else is just background. Once a niche internet joke, the phrase now describes confidence, drama, and attention all at once.
- 3 But is it really just harmless fun? Or is there something heavier behind it? Because the deeper you look, the clearer it becomes: the pressure to always stand out, to always perform. And that’s where things get complicated.
- 4 We all want our lives to look like a rom-com. But then reality hits: movies are fictional. Why compare a very real life to one written for the screen? People romanticize coffee runs, rainy walks, or dramatic music in the background as if life is a movie. Yet most of the time, life is just rushing to school, messy hair, and ordinary routines.
- 5 That doesn’t mean our lives are bad. We just believe so because we compare them to carefully staged images online. TikTok and Instagram users make even the most boring routines look cinematic: a five-minute walk becomes a moody montage, a coffee becomes a ritual with perfect lighting and an aesthetic caption. It looks effortless, but behind the scenes, it’s often curated and exhausting.
- 6 That’s when the pressure kicks in. When everyone’s life looks so polished, you feel like yours should too. Every outfit has to be Instagram-worthy, every hangout needs to be story-time material, every “boring” day must somehow feel poetic. And honestly? That’s exhausting.
- 7 The problem with treating life like a performance is that you stop living it for yourself. Instead of laughing with your friends, you wonder if it’s TikTok-worthy. Instead of enjoying your coffee, you stress about how it looks on camera. What looks like confidence can actually be anxiety over how others perceive you. People stop living for joy and start living for recognition.
- 8 This need for control runs deep. In a world that feels unpredictable, being the “main character” becomes a way to create order. Think about Regina George or Blair Waldorf—their power came from controlling how others saw them. Today, the modern version is curating the perfect Instagram story to send the message that you are confident and worth noticing.
- 9 But once life becomes a performance, authenticity slips away. Instead of asking what makes you happy, you ask what looks best online. Journaling, drinking coffee, or taking a walk—things meant to bring peace—become moments of self-surveillance.
- 10 The pressure to constantly embody main character energy feels empowering at first but often becomes another cage, built out of likes, comments, and filters. What seems like freedom is actually another form of control.

- 11 And eventually, it burns out. Trying to be “the most interesting person in the room” can create anxiety, burnout, and even isolation. Coffee runs become about reels, hangouts become about Instagram stories, and life is filtered through an imaginary audience instead of your own eyes. What looks like confidence is often just fear of being seen as ordinary—and that constant performance always comes at a cost.
- 12 Not every day needs to be cinematic. Some of the happiest people don’t feel the need to prove their lives are special. They enjoy quiet moments and feel no shame in being “ordinary.” Maybe that’s the point: sometimes the real joy is in being the background character, the one not trying so hard to be noticed.
- 13 But here’s the twist—you can still be the main character of your own life without seeking validation. Being the “main character” doesn’t mean being perfect, aesthetic, or impressive. It means owning your story, enjoying life as it is, and shaping it around what makes you happy.
- 14 The truth is, you become the main character the moment you stop performing and start living. Confidence comes from choosing joy in the ordinary, writing your own script, and finding meaning even when no one else is watching.

(Source: Adapted from: <https://www.theteenmagazine.com>)

TEXT B



(Source: <https://chatgpt.com/c/68db85af-db14-832e-a1a2-444840bae0e8>)

Questions:
REFER TO TEXT A

- 1.1 **REFER TO PARAGRAPH 1**
Identify two examples of people the writer lists as possible “main characters” (2)
- 1.2 **REFER TO PARAGRAPH 2**
- 1.2.1 According to the text, where did the idea of “main character energy” come from? (1)
- 1.2.2 Explain, in your own words, what is meant by “main character energy”. (2)
- 1.3 **REFER TO PARAGRAPH 4** (2)
Why does the writer state that comparing real life to movies is unrealistic?
- 1.4 **REFER TO PARAGRAPH 5** (2)
What is the writer’s attitude towards social media? Justify your answer with reference to the text.
- 1.5 Provide an antonym for the word “boring” (paragraph 5). (1)
- 1.6 Describe how you would stage a five-minute walk or having a coffee on Instagram or TikTok to make it look cinematic. Give at least TWO details and explain your reasoning. (3)
- 1.7 **REFER TO PARAGRAPHS 6 AND 7**
What negative impacts come from trying to be the “main Character”? (2)
- 1.8 **REFER TO PARAGRAPHS 6**
Provide a synonym/synonymous phrase for exhausting. (1)
- 1.9 **REFER TO PARAGRAPH 10**
What does the author mean when describing life as a “cage built out of likes, comments, and filters”? (2)
- 1.10 **REFER TO PARAGRAPH 12**
What does the author suggest about finding happiness and confidence in the ordinary moments? Support your answer with evidence from the text. (3)
- 1.11 **REFER TO THE TEXT AS WHOLE.**
Do you agree that real confidence comes from “choosing joy in the ordinary” rather than performing for others? Justify your opinion. (3)
- 1.12 **REFER TO TEXT B**
Explain the contrast between the boy’s room in frame 1 and the image he portrays on social media (frame 2). (2)
- 1.13 What is the message conveyed in the cartoon? (2)
- 1.14 **REFER TO BOTH TEXT A AND TEXT B**
To what extent does **TEXT B** reinforce the message of **paragraph 5 of TEXT A**? Be sure to refer to both texts in your answer. (3)

TOTAL SECTION A: 30 MARKS

SECTION B: SUMMARY

QUESTION 2: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Text C provides insight into the importance of self-confidence. Summarise, in your own words, **the advantages of developing self-confidence.**

Instructions:

1. You must write a fluent paragraph.
2. Your summary should include 7 points.
3. Your summary should be no longer than 90 words in length.
4. Use YOUR OWN WORDS as far as possible.
5. Indicate your word count accurately at the end of the summary.

TEXT C:

THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE

To achieve even the smallest of goals, and to get through life's daily duties and responsibilities, you have to have some self-confidence. Very importantly, developing a self-confident attitude allows you to wade through the push and pull of different voices and opinions. Relying on other people to guide you and following their opinions robs you of your individuality, makes you unsure of yourself and can lead to depression.

Self-confidence is an attitude that you hold about yourself and that allows you to move forward and achieve your goals. An article on self-confidence from the counselling centre at the University of Illinois defines self-confidence as having a positive attitude, but with realistic views. They note that a self-confident person has a general sense of control of her own life, and can do what she wishes, plans and expects. Self-confidence means that even if things don't go your way, you still believe that eventually, somehow, some way, they will.

Research at the University of Illinois notes that when parents play a significant role in the instilling of self-confidence in children, this encourages self-reliance. If you did not have your parents' help, you could not accomplish this yourself. Mentally visualising yourself in great detail as a confident person, is a great way to start being confident.

In his book, *Unleash the Champion*, Denny Dicke says that visualising is the most effective tool for building confidence and belief. After repeatedly visualising yourself being and acting confident, and achieving what you wish by confidently going after it, Dicke notes that when it does come time to move with confidence, you will act confidently because your mind sees this as familiar ground.

Becoming self-confident does not mean you are unrealistic about yourself and your situation. You understand that you are not Superman, but being confident means still moving forward toward achieving your goals and satisfying your desires, even when things don't seem to be going your way. Jennifer Capriati, the 1992 Olympic gold medal winner in singles tennis, said to herself, 'I can do this! I am the best!' Positive self-talk can really help get you through times of doubt, and help you to maintain that feeling of self-confidence.

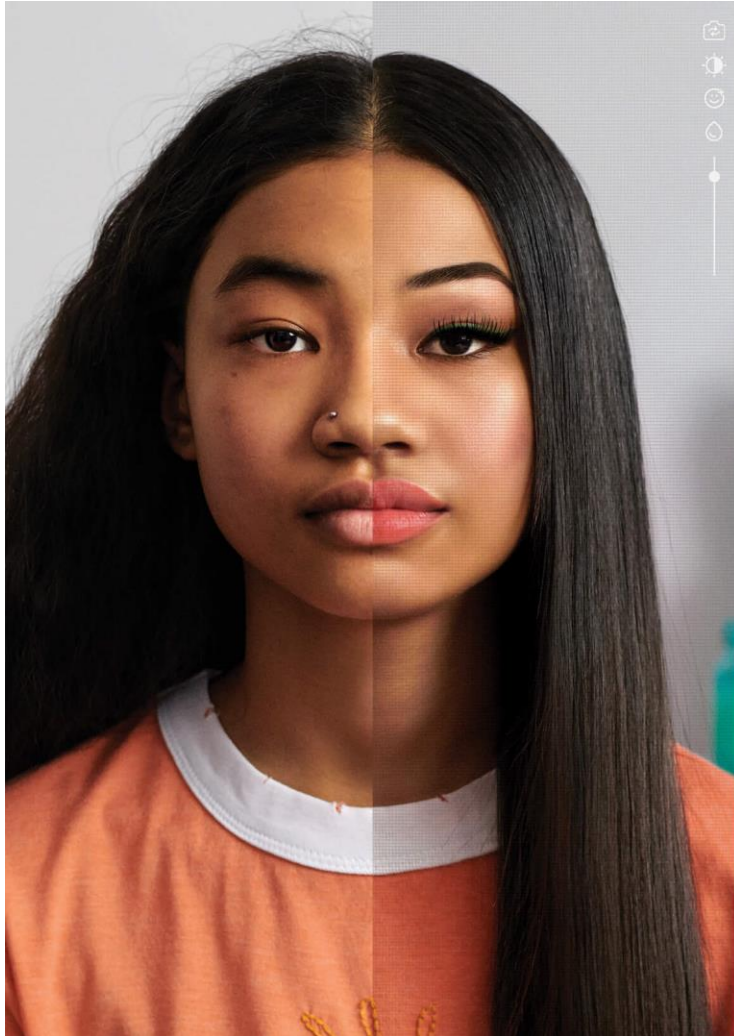
[Adapted from <http://www.livestrong.com>]

TOTAL SECTION B: 10 MARKS

SECTION C: TEXTUAL INTERPRETATION

QUESTION 3: ADVERTISING

TEXT D



Face editing
removes
blemishes,
freckles and
confidence.

This is a representation of how far retouching apps can distort beauty. Harmful and readily available, 80% of girls are already using them by the age of 13. It's no wonder their perception of beauty and their self-esteem are so distorted. Help reverse the damage. Download our new Social Media Confidence Kit. [Dove.com/confidence](https://dove.com/confidence)



Let's **Change** Beauty 

Face Editing removes blemishes, freckles and confidence.

This is a representation of how far retouching apps can distort beauty. Harmful and readily available, 80% of girls are already using them by the age of 13. It's no wonder why their perception of beauty and their self-esteem are so distorted. Help reverse the damage. Download our new social media confidence kit.

[Dove.com/confidence](https://dove.com/confidence)

QUESTIONS – TEXT D:

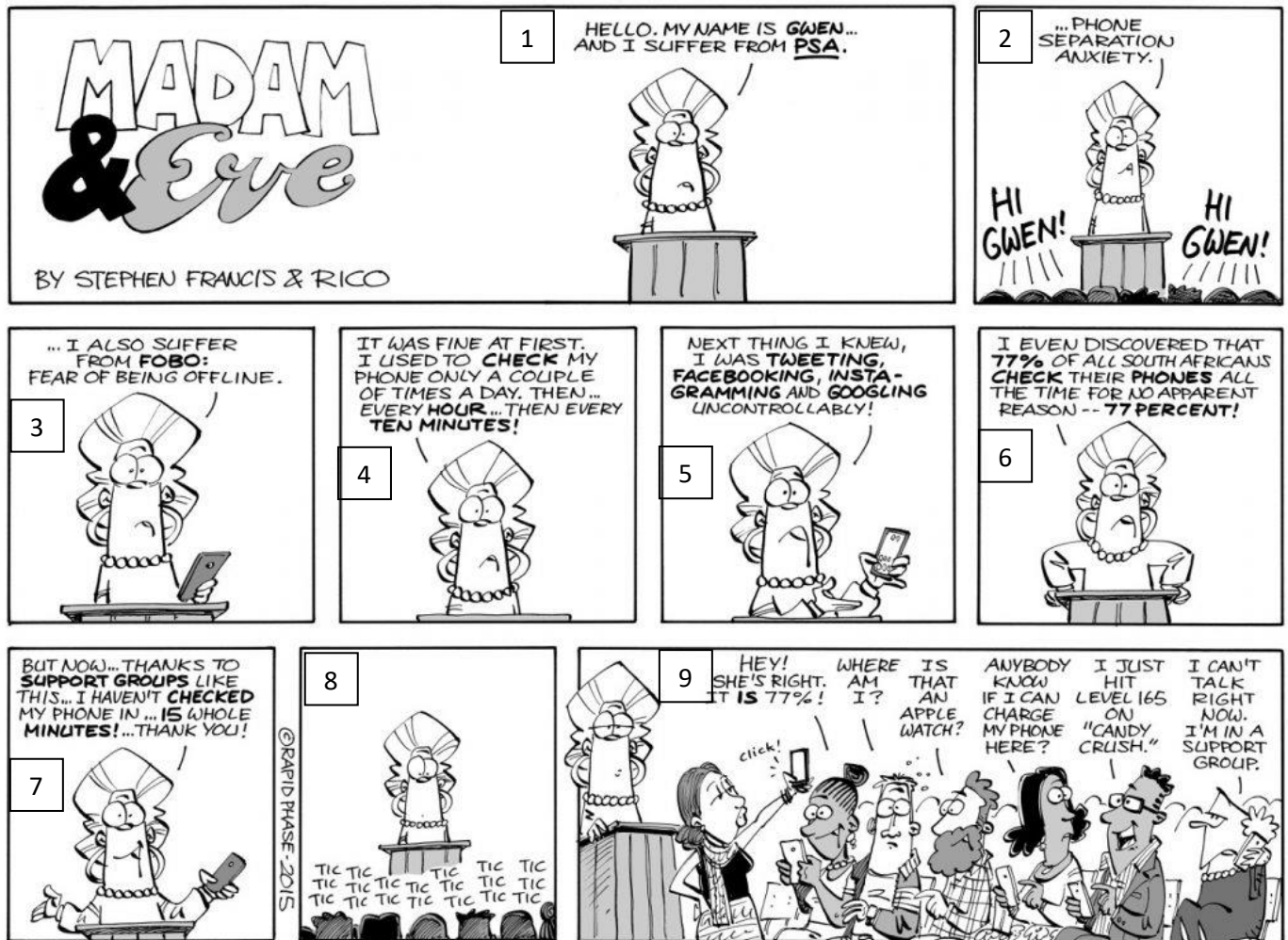
- 3.1 What is Dove asking the audience to do in this advert? (1)
- 3.2 Who is the primary target audience for this advert? (1)
- 3.3 How does the image support the message: “Face editing removes blemishes, freckles and confidence.” (3)
- 3.4 Quote the slogan. (1)
- 3.5 Evaluate the effectiveness of this advert. Refer to the advert in your answer and consider AIDA principles. (2)
- 3.6 Convert the following sentence to the passive voice: (2)
- Retouching apps can distort beauty.

[10]

SECTION C: CARTOON ANALYSIS

QUESTION 4:

TEXT E



Source: <https://mg.co.za/cartoons/2015-10-16-phone-separation-anxiety/>

NOTE: Gwen is the lady who is standing at the podium

QUESTIONS TEXT E:

- 4.1 REFER TO FRAME 1 AND 2 (1)
What does “PSA” stand for?
- 4.2 Where is Gwen? (1)
- 4.3 What does Gwen’s escalating phone behaviour suggest about her relationship with her phone? (2)

4.4 **REFER TO FRAME 6.**

How does Gwen feel in this frame? Refer to the visual clues to support your answer. (2)

4.5 **REFER TO THE CARTOON AS A WHOLE.** (2)

Explain the irony in the cartoon.

4.6 **Consider the following sentence: “I can’t talk because I’m in a support group”** (2)

Rewrite the above sentence in indirect speech, starting with **She said...**

[10]

SECTION C: EDITING SKILLS

QUESTION 5:

The following text may contain deliberate errors.

TEXT F

The Mindset of a Protagonist

1 Most young people today talk about "Main Character Energy," but what exactly is it? The concept,
2 popularized by social media, suggests you should live your life as if a camera follows you around. This
3 idea is more perplexed than simply being selfish; it encourages self-awareness and positive self-focus.
4 A main character know they have agency; they don't let things happen to them. They actively chase
5 their goals, overcome their flaws, and inspire people around them. They also embrace their quirks,
6 understanding that differences are often a source of strength.

7 The most important thing to remember is that this energy is not about being arrogant or attention-
8 seeking. A true main character is not perfect, and their journey often involves mistakes and errors. To
9 cultivate this mindset, begin by dressing better and treating yourself with more respect. You should
10 also practice "active seeing" – noticing the beauty and detail in your everyday life. This perspective shift
11 changes everything. The world is waiting for your story to unfold. It's time to stop waiting for
12 permission to shine.

Source: <https://gemini.google.com/app/293cb0278a9a9537>

QUESTIONS TEXT F:

- 5.1 Identify and correct the malapropism in **PARAGRAPH 1** by rewriting the sentence. (2)
- 5.2 **REFER TO LINE 3: "encourages self-awareness and positive self-focus."**
Identify and explain the use of the punctuation marks in this line. (2)
- 5.3 Correct the concord error in **PARAGRAPH 1**. (1)
- 5.4 **CONSIDER THE SENTENCE FROM LINES 4-5: "They actively chase their goals, overcome their flaws, and inspire people around them."**
Name the parts of speech of the underlined words. (3)
- 5.5 Correct the redundancy error in **PARAGRAPH 2** by rewriting the sentence. (1)
- 5.6 **REFER TO LINES 8-9: "To cultivate this mindset, begin by dressing better and treating yourself with more respect."**
What type of sentence is this? (1)

SUB-TOTAL SECTION C: 10 MARKS

TOTAL SECTION C: 30 MARKS

GRAND TOTAL: 70 MARKS