

PART 1

For questions 1-18, read the three texts below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

Ivo's Job

The life of a deputy literary editor is not an especially enviable one. The job had been handed to him as a sop. Angus had promised to make him a political columnist, but the present (1) was hard to shift. Few people seemed to realize that in any practical sense it was Ivo who (2) the real power. It was Ivo who unless Marian (3) her foot down - decided who got what to review, Ivo who manipulated the wheel of fortune, Ivo who laid out the page. Yet it was his boss to whom those (4) work or coverage usually demanded to speak and, really, almost everyone wanted to review these days. Anyone with something to sell, or something to hide, anyone long in the (5) or fresh out of college, rang Marian. Marian, however, spoke only to those she considered her social equals, which caused many people to take considerable (6)

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|--------------|----------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 A bearer | B incumbent | C keeper | D denizen |
| 2 A wielded | B presided | C availed | D dominated |
| 3 A laid | B put | C set | D brought |
| 4 A pleading | B endeavouring | C aspiring | D soliciting |
| 5 A tooth | B face | C mouth | D nose |
| 6 A insult | B outrage | C offence | D resentment |

Not *That* Famous

A few weeks before Christmas 1962 I joined an unknown group of guys who were learning to play blues music. Four months later, a small provincial newspaper wrote an article about us; I kept it. Then we made a single, which did (7) well. I have a son, Stephen, who was then eighteen months old. I was proud of him, and wanted him to be proud of me when he grew up. I decided to keep some small (8) of my limited success for him to see when he was old enough to understand. I bought a scrapbook, which was soon filled. I bought another - and another and another. Items were coming (9) and fast. Stephen didn't really show much interest in my career until he was seven years old. During his first week at boarding-school, a boy asked the (10) question: 'What does your dad do?' Stephen replied in all (11) : 'He's in the Rolling Stones.' When Stephen arrived home the next weekend he took me (12) and said shyly, 'I didn't know you were *that* famous! Neither did I son, neither did I!

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|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 7 A moderately | B ordinarily | C marginally | D barely |
| 8 A memorials | B recollections | C reminiscences | D mementoes |
| 9 A hard | B long | C sweet | D thick |
| 10 A destined | B irrefutable | C inevitable | D fated |
| 11 A oblivion | B innocence | C negligence | D disregard |
| 12 A apart | B on | C aside | D up |

Travel Books of the Year

The best travel books of this year (13) into three main categories; purely informational, narrative, and what, for (14) of a better term, I'll call 'anecdotal'. Between these broad categories, however, the boundaries are blurred. One problem with putting travel writers into genres is that they are (15) to be pigeon-holed. Many of them see their role as a mixture of the documentary and the creative. Some (16) to be more like novelists, employing some of the elements of fiction writing. Others regard themselves as sociologists, exploring the customs and

mores of other societies. At the end of the day, what (17) is how readable or useful the book is, and in many cases, how well it is presented. However, it is quite clear that travel and books were (18) for each other.

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|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 13 A land | B line | C sort | D fall |
| 14 A want | B absence | C shortage | D need |
| 15 A wary | B loath | C cautious | D resistant |
| 16 A allege | B hold | C claim | D contend |
| 17 A counts | B reckons | C bears | D signifies |
| 18 A given | B cut | C lent | D made |

PART 2

You are going to read four extracts which are all taken from book introductions. For questions 19-26, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Politicians

This book began when I accepted a suggestion to try my hand as a political journalist nine years ago. What makes this servitude so wonderfully bearable is that, unfashionable as it now is to say so, I'm rather fond of British Members of Parliament. They can be dreadfully silly, of course, and there are days when they irritate beyond measure. Occasionally, even, comes a moment when an MP's speech or behaviour arouses genuine anger, goading me into an attempt at lofty condemnation. But I always regret it. It rarely reads well the next day. There are other journalists to ride high horses and my mission, I think, is to remind readers that their MPs are often more laughable than they are wicked and that, through the laughter, we may discern the outlines of arguments, ambitions, even principles. MPs are mostly human, rarely scaling the heights nor often touching the depths to which the famous figures of history fly. Only a handful among them are of unusual intelligence but many are effective and most are hard-working. Like us, really. What distinguishes them is an almost child-like desire for attention. Writers who think themselves clever wink at us and confide that an MP must be noticed to get on. The reverse is true. Most successful politicians are remarkable for having avoided notice until the last moment: ambushing us unawares. Our most noticeable politicians have generally wrecked what might have been a serious political career by their craving for attention.

19 What does the writer say about the majority of his political writing?

- A It portrays MPs in a favourable light.
- B It is written more impulsively than that of other journalists.
- C It combines serious points with mockery.
- D It involves him suppressing his true opinion of MP's actions.

20 What has the writer noticed about British politicians?

- A They become more ambitious the further they rise in politics.
- B If they are well known, they seldom fulfil their potential in politics.
- C They are conscious that they should seem like ordinary members of the public.
- D If it is predicted that they will succeed, they try not to attract much attention.

Diaries

I have kept a sporadic diary since the early 1970s. I am most conscientious about it when I'm busy writing something else, so that as a rule when work is going well (or at any rate going) the diary goes well too. If there are problems, the diary gets the complaints, but this querulous litany makes for dull and (on my part) somewhat shamefaced reading. So that side of things doesn't figure much in these extracts. My diaries are written on loose-leaf sheets and a year's entries make a pretty untidy bundle. The writing is often untidy too; immediacy in my case doesn't make for vivid reporting, which is why I've not had any scruples about improving and editing, though I've never altered the tone or sentiments of what I've written at the time.

Most of these diaries were originally published elsewhere, where for reasons of space they had to be compressed, the extracts run together and the gaps between eliminated. What had been a series of jottings became a continuous, if disjointed narrative. In this version I've restored my original spacing, as one of the pleasures of reading diaries, it seems to me, is that they are in bits - are like conversations, in fact, even if the conversation is with oneself.

21 The writer says that he has made some changes to his original diaries because

- A he deliberately left out some important details when he was writing them.
- B he did not always describe events well at the time of writing them.
- C he has decided that they present an inaccurate view of his working life.
- D he has come to see certain situations differently with hindsight.

22 The writer says that published diaries should

- A enable the reader to identify with the person who wrote them.
- B include a variety of styles of writing.
- C bear some resemblance to a continuous story.
- D move in a disconnected way from subject to subject.

Muhammad Ali

In October 1988, I met with Muhammad Ali and his wife, Lonnie, at their request to explore the possibility of writing this book. 'People don't know the real Muhammad,' Lonnie told me at our first session. 'All they see is the man the media have exposed them to, but there are so many more sides to Muhammad. I want people to understand who Muhammad is, what he stands for, what he's accomplished throughout his life.' This book is an attempt to achieve that goal. There have been more words written about, more photographs taken of, and more attention lavished upon Ali than any athlete ever. Yet for all his years in the spotlight, the true Ali is largely unknown. Stories about him have been embellished and retold to the point

line 9

where they assume biblical proportions. People worldwide recognize his face. Yet, even as the Ali chronicles grow, new generations are born, and to them Ali is more legend than reality. This book is not an attempt to mythologize Ali. It's an effort to show him as he was and is: a superb human being with good qualities and flaws. In his twenties, he was

line 14

arguably the greatest fighter of all time.

line 15

But more importantly, he reflected and shaped the social and political currents of the age in which he reigned. Inevitably, that age passed. Ali evolved from a feared warrior to a benevolent monarch and ultimately to a benign, venerated figure.

line 18

23 Which of the following does the writer say about Ali?

- A His reputation has prevented important aspects of him being known.
- B His importance beyond sport is only just beginning to be analysed.
- C He deliberately allowed an inaccurate image of himself to be portrayed.
- D He felt that he had attracted more attention in the past than he deserved.

24 Which of these words indicates that the book will not include only positive views of Ali?

- A embellished (line 9)
- B flaws (line 14)
- C arguably (line 15)
- D venerated (line 18)

Comedy

Every comedian at some time or other desires to play Hamlet. Every humorous columnist has, in the bottom of his trunk, a tragic play that some day he hopes to see produced. Just as very few comedians play Hamlet, so very few of these plays are produced. Perhaps it is for the best. However, the point that I am trying to bring out is that all humorists are serious people at heart. The fact that they have to be continually funny makes them so. They also realize that humor is regarded in a light vein; that for a thing to be really worthwhile it must have depth. Basically their humor contains this quality and knowing it they endeavor to bring it out in serious material. Generally they fail, for they only know the field of comedy. The path of the drama, the tragic, is new to them and they stumble and fall over strange objects. I have received several good offers to conduct a humor column, but so far have refused them all. I realize how difficult it is to be funny and I believe that the place for me to be funny is on the stage. There I do not have to add new material for every performance and my voice and mannerisms add to the comedy. Conducting a column I would not have these and I would have to be funny in cold type, and far too often to suit me. Yes, sir, this business of being funny is far too serious.

25 According to the writer, what do comedians and humorous columnists have in common?

- A a desire to include more serious elements in their comedy
- B resentment at how difficult it can be to be funny
- C personalities which are at odds with what they do for a living
- D a belief that their attempts at serious work will be rejected

26 The writer's view of himself is that

- A he would be unable to make a humor column funny enough.
- B he would try to be too serious if he wrote a humor column.
- C his attitude to comedy would change if he wrote a humor column.
- D his talents would be more suited to a column that was not a humor column.

PART 3

You are going to read an extract from a novel. For questions 34-40, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

PARENTHOOD

Paul watched the television above the bar. An army of turtles waddled up a beach, cumbersome helmets dragged through the fine sand to deposit a clutch of smooth, white eggs in the dunes. He saw the wriggling reptilian babies emerge sticky from the broken shells and repeat the journey in reverse, thousands of tiny helmets trundling inexorably over the moonlit dunes towards the breakers. Those who escaped being flipped over on their backs and pecked to death by wading birds were finally swallowed up in the surf. There was no pleasure involved in this reptilian cycle of birth and death. The turtles survived purely because there were so many of them, and the oceans were so vast, that one or two were bound to slip through unnoticed.

He wondered why they bothered, and presumed it could only be because they had no choice. Their genes forced them ever onwards - life would not be denied. Previous generations had imposed their will upon their distant descendants, and the descendants wearily obeyed. If, by chance, a turtle was born in whom this instinct towards multiplication was misformed or absent, a turtle whose instincts directed them not towards reproduction but towards reflection on the purpose of reproduction, say, or towards seeing how long it could stay underwater on one breath, then this instinct would die with the turtle. The turtles were condemned to multiply purely by the breeding success of their own ancestors. There was no escape for them. Multiplication, once set in motion, was unstoppable. At the present moment, the balance of his own inclinations tilted more towards sleep, the cessation of thought, hibernation, vegetation. Had he been one of those tiny helmets, he would, at that moment, have flipped over belly-up in the sand and simply awaited the releasing beak.

Parenthood had taken him by surprise. The books, the articles, the classes, had not prepared him for the intensity of it all. Snap decisions to be made, everybody looking to him for the answers, and no way of knowing if he had made the correct guess, no way of finding his way back to the main track if he took a wrong turning. Last night he had been half a couple. He had lived with others all his life. It was easy - you had rows, you had resentments, but if they became too frequent or too boring, or if the compensations ceased to be adequate, you just left, and tried again with someone else until you found someone you could put up with. He could not remember how it had all

changed. Perhaps it had been the doors of youth and liberty creaking shut behind him, or the demands that were suddenly being made of him, the faces turning towards him when a decision was required. Or perhaps it was just the steaming concoction of his emotions, his hormones, his thoughts slopping around his veins with the coffee and nicotine. Whatever it was, something had obliged him to seek out a tranquil place in order to restore some order to his metabolism.

Then there was the feeling that he had been duped - the one feeling that he hadn't been warned of - when he saw mother and baby together and realized that the reason why everyone made such a big deal of fatherhood these days was simply because it was such an implausible state. Mothers and babies were the world. Fathers were optional extras, accessories. If some strange virus colonized the Y-chromosome and poisoned all the men, the world would carry on. It would not be a very exciting world perhaps, rather bland and predictable, but women would find some way to reproduce, and within a generation or two it would be difficult to believe that there had ever been men at all. They would appear in the encyclopaedias somewhere between dinosaurs and Romans. Future generations of little girls would try, in vain, to understand what it had been that men had done, how they had contributed. What use had they been? He had suddenly seen his role exposed as that of a footnote. The books had warned him of this feeling, of jealousy, of irrelevance and superfluity. They had said it was natural, that he would get over it. What they had not said was that it was natural because it was so manifestly, poignantly true, or that he would get over it only by stopping thinking about it. Fathers deceived themselves. Mothers and babies held it all together. The men came and went, interchangeably, causing trouble and bringing presents to make up for it. He turned his attention to the television. The tiny helmets he had watched clawing their way down towards the surf had become parents themselves now. You could tell they were the same turtles, because the scientists had painted fluorescent hieroglyphics on their shells. They returned to the beach on which they had hatched, and the credits rolled.

34 What did Paul notice about the turtles in the first paragraph?

- A their reluctance to return to the sea
- B their behaviour with their young
- C the effort they made to survive
- D the tiny proportion of young who survived

35 Paul assumed that if a turtle did not wish to reproduce,

- A it would be punished by other turtles.
- B it would end up doing so anyway.
- C this attitude would not spread to other turtles.
- D this would not come as a surprise.

36 His thoughts turned towards going to sleep because

- A he knew that he was unlikely to get much in the near future.
- B he had been left mentally exhausted by becoming a parent.
- C he had become weary of his actions being criticized.
- D he felt that that was what many of the turtles probably wanted to do.

37 What did he feel he had been forced to do since last night?

- A accept that he was not really cut out for living with other people
- B find a way of making himself feel better physically
- C identify precisely what had caused his life to change so radically
- D remind himself of how he had felt prior to this

38 In what way did he feel that he had been duped?

- A He had expected his role to be one that differed from that of most men.
- B He had not been informed about how women changed when they became mothers.
- C He had not been told the truth by women about how they really regarded men.
- D He had thought fatherhood was treated as a major subject because fathers were important.

39 He felt that the books had failed to warn him that his feeling of irrelevance

- A would not fade away naturally.
- B would not be shared by others.
- C would be replaced by worse feelings.
- D would reduce him to inactivity.

40 What is implied about events on the television programme?

- A They made him more depressed than he would otherwise have been.
- B They made him feel that turtles were better off than humans.
- C They reflected his own lack of joy at becoming a father.
- D They gave him a chance to escape from his own thoughts.