**Assessment Task for Reading**

**Topic: Beryl’s Book Blog**

This assessment task focuses on developing senior secondary students’ reading skills.

This set of materials contains the following:

* **The reading text**
* **A set of questions**
* **Suggested answers**
* **Annotated text**

**Reading Text**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5  10  15  20  25  30  35  40  45  50  55  60  65  70  75 | **Beryl’s Book Blog**  I have been having rather a Japanese week - first it was Shugoro Yamamoto’s novel *The Flower Mat*. In it she presents us with a morally uplifting heroine whose husband’s family is ruined when he tries to expose corruption in eighteenth century Japan. Ichi devotes herself to her mother-in-law and uses her weaving skills to save the family. Yes, a real Confucian lady, all very admirable but rather tiring! Another Japanese book I am reading is Haruki Murakami’s *1Q84*. It is a big book and I haven’t finished it yet, but I am really engrossed and I just can’t take my eyes off it. Though I don’t have anything to recommend this week, my avid fans have already posted a number of book recommendations, which are particularly suitable for teenagers. Check them out and feel free to leave your comments right below each of them.  By Greg Chan, 21 July  ***Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck**  I can still remember everyone in the book (it’s not long, but a bit tricky as a lot of it is dialogue in non-standard English). George and Lennie are the central figures. Lennie is very strong but has the mind of a child and gets himself innocently into a lot of trouble. George is his friend and guide, and in the end his killer, but even that is done out of love to protect Lennie. There’re the upright Slim, the work leader, the mean-hearted and spoilt Curley, his discontented wife, and Crooks, an old man who for a moment sees hope in his new friendship with George and Lennie only to lose it all as the tragic events unfold. There’s something wrong with you if you finish reading with a dry eye.   |  | | --- | | Cherry’s comments: I shall certainly add that to my ‘to read’ list - but only for a day when I am feeling strong and happy! |   By May Lam, 20 July  ***My Heart’s All Yours* by Amelia Long**  It was a favourite of mine - along with all of Amelia’s books - she seemed to publish new ones all the time. In this one the heroine is almost strangled to death by a long, giant python when she is lost in a jungle, but she is saved by Henry, a very handsome traveller. Then a volcano erupts and she falls into the volcanic crater but in the end all comes right. They get married and live happily ever after. Some pages you feel such fear and tension, and others are filled with romance and love. I don’t know why nobody films the novel.   |  | | --- | | Eason’s comment: I think I do – where on earth did you find such a book? |   By Thomas the Ironman, 19 July  ***Foundation Series* by Issac Asimov**  I had to think hard about this - there were so many good books to choose from. After struggling for quite a while, I finally decided to recommend Isaac Asimov’s *Foundation Series*,the one that impressed me most. The place to begin is the *Foundation Trilogy* - in these books you read about a genius living in a great galactic empire stretching across the Milky Way. He foresees its coming end and sets up two foundations far apart to preserve knowledge and civilisation during the dark period before another empire emerges. This is epic story-telling - there’re space travel, wonderfully different planets, all sorts of scientific ideas and theories, and robots. The last are very important and there are four other robot books which are set in the same empire. There are also all sorts of stories relating to the empire. It’s a brilliantly created world you enter and come to love.   |  | | --- | | Alyssa’s comment: If you like things like *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Twilight Saga* and the Harry Potter books, it sounds well worth exploring. |   By Fay Li, 19 July  ***Animal Farm* by George Orwell *& To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**  Books can change the world as has been shown many times. I like books which have a strong message. *Animal Farm* is a delightful fable and also a powerful satire. The way the pigs take over the animals’ revolution against humans and make the farm even more oppressive than before is a real warning about the need for people to protect their freedoms. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is another good story which also exposes the horrors of racism and shows us how one can be a good person.   |  | | --- | | Oscar’s comment: I have no argument with the selections. Great choices! |   By Peter the Rabbit, 17 July  ***Sherlock Holmes’ Series by* Conan Doyle**  Definitely my all-time favourite reading was the Sherlock Holmes stories. And of course you can follow them up with all the films that have been made of the great detective. Conan Doyle was just so good at thinking up stories and producing amazing solutions to crimes that seem insolvable. The language is a bit dated now but just tell yourself that you’re improving your vocabulary while reading.   |  | | --- | | Jenny’s comment: Not quite my cup of tea, but certainly millions would disagree with me. |   By Bill Jackson, 16 July  ***The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams**  This book is utterly brilliant. I don’t know how many times I read it. Some friends and I related everything around us to some part of the book. It is simply so clever and funny. I laughed so much every time I read it. Marvin the Paranoid Android is a very depressed robot. And there are some mice, which are actually hyper-intelligent, pan-dimensional beings! You’ll learn that the answer to the secret of the universe is the number 42, and that the poor old Earth is going to be demolished to make way for a new spaceway! Incredible stuff.   |  | | --- | | Connie’s comment: Personally I didn’t get beyond page 20… |   By BB Chang, 15 July  ***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen**  Nobody can afford to miss *Pride and Prejudice* and the rest of Jane Austen’s novels. Of course, the stories are classic and the characters marvellous, but above all is the elegance of the writing. There is nothing else quite like it in the English language.   |  | | --- | | Pauline’s comment: It is a fabulous novel! Beautiful language and engaging plot! | |

**END OF READING TEXT**

**Questions**

**Read Beryl’s Book Blog and answer questions 1-16. Blacken the circle when appropriate.**

1. Why does the writer say she has been having rather a Japanese week?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Who is *Ichi* (line 3)?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the first paragraph, what is the tone of Beryl?

A. academic

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

B. descriptive

C. repetitive

D. informal

1. Which word can replace ‘engrossed’ (line 7)?

A. annoyed

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

B. bored

C. captivated

D. gross

1. Who are the ‘avid fans’ Beryl refers to (line 8)?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the description of *Of Mice and Men* by Greg Chan and Cherry, decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)? (6 marks)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Statements | T | F | NG |
| 1. The book is difficult to understand because it uses slang words. | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |
| 1. There are only five characters in the book. | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |
| 1. Lennie is a child. | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |
| 1. George, Lennie and Crooks remain good friends at the end of the story. | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |
| 1. George kills Lennie. | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |
| 1. Cherry read the book she recommended when she was down. | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

1. Which of the following is likely the cover of *My Heart’s All Yours*?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| C:\Users\Bruce\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\RPNVBNCG\MC900057217[1].wmf | C:\Users\Bruce\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IQ1K0U85\MC900326484[1].wmf | C:\Users\Bruce\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\PFUEEII5\MC900337992[1].wmf | C:\Users\Bruce\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\RPNVBNCG\MP900314076[1].jpg |
| A | B | C | D |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

1. With reference to the description of *Foundation Series* by Thomas the Ironman and Alyssa, *c*omplete the following book review with ONE word only. (7 marks)

|  |
| --- |
| Isaac Asimov is a great (i)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of science fiction. Among all his works, I found *Foundation Series,* which consists of(ii)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ books, most (iii)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The story is set in a galactic empire in which an exceptionally (iv)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ man sets up two foundations far apart for the (v)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of knowledge and civilisation. In these books, you can find all the elements of science fiction (vi) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ space travel, different planets and robots. If you have a (vii) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Twilight Saga*, you should also love *Foundation Series*. |

1. What does ‘its’ mean (line 38)?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. In the descriptions of *Animal Farm* and *To Kill a Mocking Bird* by Fay Li, find a word which means ‘cruel and dictatorial’.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Who is Conan Doyle (line 59)?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What does it mean when Bill Jackson says ‘Some friends and I related everything around us to some part of the book’ (lines 66-67)?
2. They told everyone about the different parts of the book.
3. They compared people and events around them with the book.
4. All their writing and projects were about the book in some way.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

1. They continually reread chapters of the book.
2. What does Connie think about *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Match the comments below with the ones who are likely to give them. Use each letter ONCE only. One comment is not used and you should select ‘Not Applicable’. (7 marks)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Greg Chan | 1. May Lam | 1. Bill Jackson | 1. Fay Li |
| 1. Peter the Rabbit | 1. BB Chang | 1. Not Applicable | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Comments | Person |
| 1. The style of writing of the author is unique. |  |
| 1. Whenever I read the book, I feel down and my eyes are blind with tears. |  |
| 1. I have read this book a thousand times and it still brings me joy. |  |
| 1. This is the classic plot for Hollywood movies. Who wouldn’t like it? |  |
| 1. I love this series as I enjoy solving puzzles and mysteries. |  |
| 1. I always believe one can be a better person through reading the books. |  |
| 1. How do you compare this with the Harry Potter series? |  |

1. Match the following questions with the appropriate book titles. Put the letters in the appropriate boxes. Some letters are not used while some can be used more than once. (8 marks)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Of Mice and Men | 1. My Heart’s All Yours | 1. Foundation Series | 1. Animal Farm |
| 1. To Kill a Mocking Bird | 1. Sherlock Holmes stories | 1. The Hitchhiker Guide to the Galaxy | 1. Pride and Prejudices |

Which book

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| i) | is said to be short? |  |
| ii) | involves politics and democracy? |  |
| iii) | is said to use old-fashioned language? |  |
| iv) | is said to be very sad? |  |
| v) | seems to be silly and exaggerated? |  |
| vi) | did the recommender take a long time to select? |  |
| vii) | has a traditional ending? |  |
| viii) | is about discrimination and prejudice? |  |

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**Suggested Answers to the Reading Task**

1. Why does the writer say she has been having rather a Japanese week?

It is because she has been reading two books, both of which are works of Japanese authors.

1. Who is *Ichi* (line 3)?

Ichi is the morally uplifting heroine whose husband’s family is ruined in the novel *The Flower Mat*.

1. According to the first paragraph, what is the tone of Beryl?

A. academic

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⚫ |

B. descriptive

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D. informal

1. Which word can replace ‘engrossed’ (line 7)?

A. annoyed

|  |  |  |  |
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| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⚫ | ⭘ |

B. bored

C. captivated

D. gross

1. Who are the ‘avid fans’ Beryl refers to (line 8)?

The readers of Beryl’s blog.

1. According to the description of *Of Mice and Men* by Greg Chan and Cherry, decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)? (6 marks)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Statements | T | F | NG |
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| 1. There are only five characters in the book. | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⚫ |
| 1. Lennie is a child. | ⭘ | ⚫ | ⭘ |
| 1. George, Lennie and Crooks remain good friends at the end of the story. | ⭘ | ⚫ | ⭘ |
| 1. George kills Lennie. | ⚫ | ⭘ | ⭘ |
| 1. Cherry read the book she recommended when she was down. | ⭘ | ⚫ | ⭘ |

1. Which of the following is likely the cover of *My Heart’s All Yours*?

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| A | B | C | D |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
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| ⭘ | ⭘ | ⚫ | ⭘ |

1. With reference to the description of *Foundation Series* by Thomas the Ironman and Alyssa, *c*omplete the following book review with ONE word only. (7 marks)

|  |
| --- |
| Isaac Asimov is a great (i) author / writer of science fiction. Among all his works, I found *Foundation Series*,which consists of(ii) three books, most (iii) impressive. The story is set in a galactic empire in which an exceptionally (iv) intelligent / clever man sets up two foundations far apart for the (v) preservation of knowledge and civilisation. In these books, you can find all the elements of science fiction (vi) like space travel, different planets and robots. If you have a (vii) liking for *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Twilight Saga*, you should also love *Foundation Series*. |

1. What does ‘its’ mean (line 38)?

The great galactic empire’s

1. In the descriptions of *Animal Farm* and *To Kill a Mocking Bird* by Fay Li, find a word which means ‘cruel and dictatorial’.

Oppressive

1. Who is Conan Doyle (line 59)?

The author / writer of Sherlock Holmes stories

1. What does it mean when Bill Jackson says ‘Some friends and I related everything around us to some part of the book’ (lines 66-67)?
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|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| ⭘ | ⚫ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

1. They continually reread chapters of the book.
2. What does Connie think about *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*?

She thinks the book is trashy / boring / uninteresting and she could only finish up to p.20.

1. Match the comments below with the ones who are likely to give them. Use each letter ONCE only. One comment is not used and you should select ‘Not Applicable’. (7 marks)

|  |  |  |  |
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| Comments | Person |
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| 1. When I read the book, I felt down and my eyes were blind with tears. | A |
| 1. I have read this book a thousand times and it still brings me joy. | C |
| 1. This is the classic plot for Hollywood movies. Who wouldn’t like it? | B |
| 1. I love this series as I enjoy solving puzzles and mysteries. | E |
| 1. I always believe one can be a better person through reading the books. | D |
| 1. How do you compare this with the Harry Potter series? | G |

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|  |  |  |  |
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Which book

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
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| iv) | is said to be very sad? | A |
| v) | seems to be silly and exaggerated? | B |
| vi) | did the recommender take a long time to select? | C |
| vii) | has a traditional ending? | B |
| viii) | is about discrimination and prejudice? | E |

**END OF SUGGESTED ANSWERS**

**Annotated Text**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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I don’t know why nobody films the novel.   |  | | --- | | Eason’s comment: I think I do – where on earth did you find such a book? |   By Thomas the Ironman, 19 July  ***Foundation Series* by Issac Asimov**  I had to think hard about this - there were so many good books to choose from. After struggling for quite a while, I finally decided to recommend Isaac Asimov’s *Foundation Series*,the one that impressed me most. The place to begin is the *Foundation Trilogy* - in these books you read about a genius living in a great galactic empire stretching across the Milky Way. He foresees its coming end and sets up two foundations far apart to preserve knowledge and civilisation during the dark period before another empire emerges. This is epic story-telling - there’re space travel, wonderfully different planets, all sorts of scientific ideas and theories, and robots. The last are very important and there are four other robot books which are set in the same empire. There are also all sorts of stories relating to the empire. It’s a brilliantly created world you enter and come to love.   |  | | --- | | Alyssa’s comment: If you like things like *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Twilight Saga* and the Harry Potter books, it sounds well worth exploring. |   By Fay Li, 19 July  ***Animal Farm* by George Orwell *& To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**  Books can change the world as has been shown many times. I like books which have a strong message. *Animal Farm* is a delightful fable and also a powerful satire. The way the pigs take over the animals’ revolution against humans and make the farm even more oppressive than before is a real warning about the need for people to protect their freedoms. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is another good story which also exposes the horrors of racism and shows us how one can be a good person.   |  | | --- | | Oscar’s comment: I have no argument with the selections. Great choices! |   By Peter the Rabbit, 17 July  ***Sherlock Holmes’ Series by* Conan Doyle**  Definitely my all-time favourite reading was the Sherlock Holmes stories. And of course you can follow them up with all the films that have been made of the great detective. Conan Doyle was just so good at thinking up stories and producing amazing solutions to crimes that seem insolvable. The language is a bit dated now but just tell yourself that you’re improving your vocabulary while reading.   |  | | --- | | Jenny’s comment: Not quite my cup of tea, but certainly millions would disagree with me. |   By Bill Jackson, 16 July  ***The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams**  This book is utterly brilliant. I don’t know how many times I read it. Some friends and I related everything around us to some part of the book. It is simply so clever and funny. I laughed so much every time I read it. Marvin the Paranoid Android is a very depressed robot. And there are some mice, which are actually hyper-intelligent, pan-dimensional beings! You’ll learn that the answer to the secret of the universe is the number 42, and that the poor old Earth is going to be demolished to make way for a new spaceway! Incredible stuff.   |  | | --- | | Connie’s comment: Personally I didn’t get beyond page 20… |   By BB Chang, 15 July  ***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen**  Nobody can afford to miss *Pride and Prejudice* and the rest of Jane Austen’s novels. Of course, the stories are classic and the characters marvellous, but above all is the elegance of the writing. There is nothing else quite like it in the English language.   |  | | --- | | Pauline’s comment: It is a fabulous novel! Beautiful language and engaging plot! | | Q.1  Q.2  Q.3  Q.1  Q.4  Q.5  Q.6i, 15i  Q.6iii  Q.6v  Q.6iv  Q.14ii, 15iv  Q.6vi  Q.7  Q.15v  Q.14iv, 15vii  Q.15v  Q.15vi  Q.8ii, 8iii  Q.8iv, 9  Q.8v  Q.8vii  Q.10, Q.15ii  Q.15viii  Q.14vi  Q.11, 14v  Q.15iii  Q.12, 14iii  Q.14iii  Q.13  Q.14i |

**END OF ANNOTATED TEXT**