**Assessment Task for Reading**

**Topic: Review of *Alien Interview***

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**

**Review of *Alien Interview***

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| 5  10  15  20  25  30  35  40  45  50  55  60  65  70  75  80 | **Book title:** *Alien Interview*  **ISBN:** 9780615204604  **Editor:** Lawrence R. Spencer  **Publisher:** Lawrence R. Spencer  **Year of publication:** 2008  **Total no. of page:** 320  **[1]** *Alien Interview* presented a collection of letters, official transcripts classified as Top Secret by the U.S. Army Air Force, and personal notes from Matilda O’Donnell MacElroy that were entrusted to Lawrence Spencer in August 2007. These materials centre on the same topic – MacElroy’s interview with an alien being after the Roswell Incident in July 1947. Spencer explained from top to bottom how he got hold of the materials from Mrs MacElroy and presented the materials verbatim wherever possible to keep its completeness and originality except for necessary sequencing and supplementary commentary added as footnotes.  **[2]** Spencer stated explicitly in the disclaimer that the book should be considered a work of fiction although specific dates, locations, names and incidents described in *Alien Interview* might be factual in nature. The personal letters from Mrs MacElroy presented later in the book, however, suggested that the disclaimer was more than a mere statement dismissing the factual nature of the materials. It was an amulet protecting Spencer from any possible death threats that would come along with the disclosure of these materials. The release of the materials could lead to catastrophic consequences as it might jeopardise the vested interests of some political, religious and economic parties which were shielded by the label “national security”. Spencer also claimed that he had destroyed all the original documentation from Mrs MacElroy. The claim, however, does not seem logical because the editor left nothing to prove the authenticity of the source while trying to create the impression that he was portraying real events.  **[3]** Spencer organised the notes and transcripts of the interviews into 16 chapters mostly in chronological order. A few chapters, however, are put together according to different themes. The editor took the liberty to insert footnotes and commentary to the original scripts where he found additional information or supplementary explanation might help readers understand the historical context and clarify certain terms and events. The footnotes, which take up half of the book, appear in the appendix at the end of the book. The first six chapters document the first few interviews Mrs MacElroy had with the alien being, Airl, and explained how Airl could later communicate telepathically with Mrs MacElroy in English. The subsequent seven chapters are organised according to different themes, namely ancient history, recent history, time line of events, biology, science, immortality and the future. These chapters recount a series of events in the long history on the earth from another perspective. Airl also provided interesting points of view towards different religions, which devoted theists may want to skip.  **[4]** Matilda O’Donnell MacElroy was a flight nurse of the U.S. Women’s Army Air Force. In July 1947, there was a crash in Roswell, New Mexico. As a medic, Mrs MacElroy was assigned to the crash site to offer medical assistance. A survivor was found conscious but the survivor didn’t look quite the same as us. The survivor had a head disproportionately huge with a flexible skull. The concave nose, deeply-set large eyes and black skin convinced Mrs MacElroy the being lying in front of her did not belong to the same planet as she did. While no other personnel on-site managed to communicate with the alien being, Mrs MacElroy was somehow able to communicate with the survivor in the form of telepathy. The ability of being able to communicate telepathically with the big head had given the nurse the duties of communicating and interviewing the alien being in the following six weeks.  **[5]** According to one of the personal letters Mrs MacElroy wrote to Spencer, the interview transcripts provided insights into some questions that had never been answered, including:   * Who are we? * What is our purpose on the earth? * Is mankind alone in the universe?   According to Airl, the earth was a relatively isolated and unstable planet which was not suitable for any sustainable civilisations. The planet was, therefore, used as a prison planet where all the beings on this planet were trapped with force screens generated by some electronic monitoring machinery. All the human beings on the earth were souls inhabiting biological bodies. Once the flesh the soul inhabiting expired and ceased to function, the soul would be given overwhelming electronic shocks to wipe out all the memories of this life. The clean slate would then be assigned to inhabit a new body and start a new cycle of life all over again. The process would continue, unless the electronic monitoring systems were destroyed, for eternity. The only soul which managed to overcome the amnesia system and escape from the prison planet in the history of the earth was Laozi, a Chinese philosopher and the writer of the famous *Tao-te Ching.*  **[6]** The book receives polarising views. Readers either love it or hate it. Readers who gave high ratings considered the book enlightening and a “must read” item as it was thought-provoking, encouraging them to question their own belief systems and assumptions about science and religions. Readers rating the book low considered it a hoax. They regarded the claim of destroying the original documentation as the evidence of a cover-up. They also found that most of the terms and concepts were directly borrowed from the work of Lafayette Ronald Hubbard, a science fiction author and the founder of the Church of Scientology. Some even suggested that the PDF format of the book being available on the Internet for free download was a marketing strategy to create a fan base for its sequel, “The Domain Expeditionary Force Rescue Mission”, which definitely cost more than just a few clicks.  **[7]** *Alien Interview* is definitely an intriguing read. Despite my reservations over the authenticity of the source of information, the concepts and theories suggested provide a new perspective for answering some philosophical questions such as “who are we?”, “where did we come from?” and “where are we going?”. I wouldn’t go to great lengths to say it is a “must read” but I would recommend the book to people who are eager to answer the above questions with an open mind. For devoted believers of deity, *Alien Interview* serves well as a science fiction read. There is no harm appreciating creativity and imagination, is there? |

**END OF READING TEXT**

**Questions**

**Read the text Review of *Alien Interview* and answer questions 1-17. Blacken the circle when appropriate.**

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| 1. | According to paragraph 1, who gave the editor the materials for the book? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | A. | | | Lawrence R. Spencer | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  |
|  | B. | | | U.S. Army Air Force | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  |
|  | C. | | | Matilda O’Donnell MacElroy | | | | | | | A | | B | | | C | | | | | D |
|  | D. | | | Roswell | | | | | | | ○ | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | | ○ |
|  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | Which of the following words can replace the phrase “got hold of” (line 5)? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | A. | | | maintained | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  |
|  | B. | | | obtained | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  |
|  | C. | | | attained | | | | | | | A | | B | | | C | | | | | D |
|  | D. | | | sustained | | | | | | | ○ | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | | ○ |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | Fill in the blank with ONE word and keep the original meaning of the following sentence. The first letter has been provided.  *Spencer explains from top to bottom how he got hold of the materials from Mrs MacElroy …*  Spencer explains t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ how he got hold of the materials from Mrs MacElroy… | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 4. | According to paragraph 2, who would possibly cause harm to Spencer? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 5. | According to paragraph 3, how is the content of the book organised? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | (i) | | | Based on the time sequence of the receipt of the materials | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (ii) | | | Based on the time sequence of the events | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  |
|  | (iii) | | | Based on themes | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  |
|  | (iv) | | | Based on alphabetical order | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  |
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|  | A. | | | (i) & (ii) | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  |
|  | B. | | | (ii) & (iii) | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  |
|  | C. | | | (iii) & (iv) | | | | | | | A | | B | | | C | | | | | D |
|  | D. | | | only (ii) | | | | | | | ○ | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | | ○ |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. | What does the word “which” refer to? (2 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | (a) which (line 26) | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | |
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|  |  | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | |
|  | (b) which (line 33) | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | |
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| 7. | Why did the writer say “which devoted theists may want to skip” (lines 33-34)? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *The writer thought that …* | | | | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  |
|  | A. | | | theists may not be interested in it. | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  |
|  | B. | | | theists may be amused by it. | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | | |  |
|  | C. | | | theists may be upset by it. | | | | | | | A | | B | | | C | | | | | D |
|  | D. | | | theists may not be angry about it. | | | | | | | ○ | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | | ○ |
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| 8. | According to paragraph 4, why was Mrs MacElroy sent to the crash site in Roswell? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 9. | In paragraph 4, what are the other three words/phrases the writer used to refer to the survivor at the crash site in Roswell? (3 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (i) | | | |  | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (ii) | | | |  | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (iii) | | | |  | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 10 | According to paragraph 5, what were the reasons that the earth was used as a prison planet? (2 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 11. | What do the following phrases refer to? (2 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | **Phrases** | | | | | | **Meaning** | | | | | | | | | | |  | | | |
|  | the flesh (line 56) | | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | |  | | | |
|  | the clean slate (line 58) | | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | |  | | | |
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| 12. | This flow chart shows how “the process” (line 59) in paragraph 5 worked. Fill in each blank with a word or phrase from paragraph 5. You should make sure that your answers are grammatically correct. (4 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| A human being was a  (i) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which lived in a physical body.  The body occupied by a soul stopped  (ii) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when it expired.  The soul without a body would receive very strong (iii) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to remove all the memories.  The soul without  (iv) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would be given a new body and a new cycle of life started. |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 13. | According to paragraph 6, what were the reasons readers gave *Alien Interview* low ratings? (2 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 14. | In paragraph 3, find ONE word which has a similar meaning to “believers of deity” (line 79). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 15. | What is the purpose of saying “There is no harm appreciating creativity and imagination, is there” (lines 80-81)? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | A. | | | To encourage devoted believers of deity to read *Alien Interview* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | B. | | | To encourage readers to appreciate the creativity and imagination displayed in *Alien Interview* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | C. | | | To encourage devoted believers of deity to think about questions such as “who are we?” and “we did we come from?” | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | D. | | | To question the authenticity of *Alien Interview* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | |  | | | | | | | A | | B | | | C | | | | | D |
|  |  | | |  | | | | | | | ○ | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | | ○ |
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| 16. | According to paragraphs 1 - 6, are the following statements True (**T**), False (**F**) or Not Given (**NG**)? (6 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  | | | | | | | | | | **T** | | | **F** | | | | | **NG** | |
|  | (a) | The materials from Mrs MacElroy were published verbatim. | | | | | | | | | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | | ○ | |
|  | (b) | The writer does not understand why Spencer destroyed all the original documentation. | | | | | | | | | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | | ○ | |
|  | (c) | There were other alien-beings found at the crash site in Roswell. | | | | | | | | | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | | ○ | |
|  | (d) | Mrs MacElroy was able to communicate with Airl in oral English. | | | | | | | | | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | | ○ | |
|  | (e) | Laozi managed to keep the memories of his past life. | | | | | | | | | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | | ○ | |
|  | (f) | *Alien Interview*’s sequel is not free of charge. | | | | | | | | | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | | ○ | |
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| 17. | According to paragraph 7, which of the following statements best describe the writer’s view on *Alien Interview*? Put a tick ☑ in the appropriate box. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  |  | “I have doubts about the concepts and theories suggested in the book | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | but it is definitely a must read for everyone.” | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  | | | | | | | | | |  | |  | | | | | | |  |
|  |  | “The source of information leaves me skeptical but it does shed some | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | light on questions which people have always been finding answers to.” | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  | | | | | | | | | |  | |  | | | | | | |  |
|  |  | | “This is a great science fiction book that opens my mind.” | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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**END OF QUESTIONS**

**Suggested Answers to the Reading Task**

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| 1. | According to paragraph 1, who gave the editor the materials for the book? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | A. | | | Lawrence R. Spencer | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |
|  | B. | | | U.S. Army Air Force | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |
|  | C. | | | Matilda O’Donnell MacElroy | | | | | | | A | | B | | | C | | | | D |
|  | D. | | | Roswell | | | | | | | ○ | | ○ | | | ● | | | | ○ |
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| 2. | Which of the following words can replace the phrase “got hold of” (line 5)? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | A. | | | maintained | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |
|  | B. | | | obtained | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |
|  | C. | | | attained | | | | | | | A | | B | | | C | | | | D |
|  | D. | | | sustained | | | | | | | ○ | | ● | | | ○ | | | | ○ |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | Fill in the blank with ONE word and keep the original meaning of the following sentence. The first letter has been provided.  *Spencer explains from top to bottom how he got hold of the materials from Mrs MacElroy …* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Spencer explains | | | | | thoroughly | | how he got hold of the materials from | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Mrs MacElroy … | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | According to paragraph 2, who would possibly cause harm to Spencer? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | The political, religious and economic parties whose vested interests | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
|  | would be jeopardised due to the release of the materials | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
| 5. | According to paragraph 3, how is the content of the book organised? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | (i) | | | Based on the time sequence of the receipt of the materials | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (ii) | | | Based on the time sequence of the events | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |
|  | (iii) | | | Based on themes | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |
|  | (iv) | | | Based on alphabetical order | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |
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|  | A. | | | (i) & (ii) | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |
|  | B. | | | (ii) & (iii) | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |
|  | C. | | | (iii) & (iv) | | | | | | | A | | B | | | C | | | | D |
|  | D. | | | only (ii) | | | | | | | ○ | | ● | | | ○ | | | | ○ |
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| 6. | What does the word “which” refer to? (2 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | (a) which (line 26) | | | | | the footnotes | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | |
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|  | (b) which (line 33) | | | | | interesting points of view towards different religions | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | |
|  |  | | | | | by Airl | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | |
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| 7. | Why did the writer say “which devoted theists may want to skip” (lines 33-34)? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *The writer thought that …* | | | | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |
|  | A. | | | theists may not be interested in it. | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |
|  | B. | | | theists may be amused by it. | | | | | | |  | |  | | |  | | | |  |
|  | C. | | | theists may be upset by it. | | | | | | | A | | B | | | C | | | | D |
|  | D. | | | theists may not be angry about it. | | | | | | | ○ | | ○ | | | ● | | | | ○ |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
| 8. | According to paragraph 4, why was Mrs MacElroy sent to the crash site in Roswell? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | She was a nurse/medic. // she was sent there to offer medical assistance. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
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| 9. | In paragraph 4, what are the other three words/phrases the writer used to refer to the survivor at the crash site in Roswell? (3 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (i) | | | | the being | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (ii) | | | | the alien being | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (iii) | | | | the big head | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | According to paragraph 5, what were the reasons that the earth was used as a prison planet? (2 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (1) The earth was relatively isolated. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
|  | (2) The earth was unstable and not suitable for any sustainable civilisations. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |
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| 11. | What do the following phrases refer to? (2 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **Phrases** | | | | | | **Meaning** | | | | | | | | | |  | | | |
|  | the flesh (line 56) | | | | | | the biological body (inhabited by a soul) | | | | | | | | | |  | | | |
|  | the clean slate (line 58) | | | | | | the soul whose memories of this life have been wiped out | | | | | | | | | |  | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12. | This flow chart shows how “the process” (line 59) in paragraph 5 worked. Fill in each blank with a word or phrase from paragraph 5. You should make sure that your answers are grammatically correct. (4 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A human being was a  (i) soul which lived in a physical body.  The body occupied by a soul stopped  (ii) functioning when it expired.  The soul without a body would receive very strong (iii) electronic shocks to remove all the memories.  The soul without  (iv) memories would be given a new body and a new cycle of life started. |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 13. | According to paragraph 6, what were the reasons readers gave *Alien Interview* low ratings? (2 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (1) They thought the book is a hoax. (Any two) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (2) They found most of the terms and concepts were directly borrowed from | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | the works of Lafayette Ronald Hubbard. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | (3) They thought that the book was part of the marketing strategy to advertise | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | another book of the author. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14. | In paragraph 3, find ONE word which has a similar meaning to “believers of deity” (line 79). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | theists | | | | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 15. | What is the purpose of saying “There is no harm appreciating creativity and imagination, is there” (lines 80-81)? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | A. | | | To encourage devoted believers of deity to read *Alien Interview* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | B. | | | To encourage readers to appreciate the creativity and imagination displayed in *Alien Interview* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | C. | | | To encourage devoted believers of deity to think about questions such as “who are we?” and “we did we come from?” | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | D. | | | To question the authenticity of *Alien Interview* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | |  | | | | | | | A | | B | | | C | | | | D |
|  |  | | |  | | | | | | | ● | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | ○ |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16. | According to paragraphs 1 - 6, are the following statements True (**T**), False (**F**) or Not Given (**NG**)? (6 marks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  | | | | | | | | | | **T** | | | **F** | | | | **NG** | |
|  | (a) | The materials from Mrs MacElroy were published verbatim. | | | | | | | | | | ○ | | | ● | | | | ○ | |
|  | (b) | The writer does not understand why Spencer destroyed all the original documentation. | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | ○ | | | | ○ | |
|  | (c) | There were other alien-beings found at the crash site in Roswell. | | | | | | | | | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | ● | |
|  | (d) | Mrs MacElroy was able to communicate with Airl in oral English. | | | | | | | | | | ○ | | | ● | | | | ○ | |
|  | (e) | Laozi managed to keep the memories of his past life. | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | ○ | | | | ○ | |
|  | (f) | *Alien Interview*’s sequel is not free of charge. | | | | | | | | | | ○ | | | ○ | | | | ● | |
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| 17. | According to paragraph 7, which of the following statements best describe the writer’s view on *Alien Interview*? Put a tick ☑ in the appropriate box. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  |  | “I have doubts about the concepts and theories suggested in the book | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | but it is definitely a must read for everyone.” | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  | | | | | | | | | |  | |  | | | | | |  |
|  | ✓ | “The source of information leaves me skeptical but it does shed some | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | light on questions which people have always been finding answers to.” | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  | | | | | | | | | |  | |  | | | | | |  |
|  |  | | “This is a great science fiction book that opens my mind.” | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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**END OF SUGGESTED ANSWERS**

**Annotated Text**

**Review of *Alien Interview***

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| 5  10  15  20  25  30  35  40  45  50  55  60  65  70  75  80 | **Book title:** *Alien Interview*  **ISBN:** 9780615204604  **Editor:** Lawrence R. Spencer  **Publisher:** Lawrence R. Spencer  **Year of publication:** 2008  **Total no. of page:** 320  **[1]** *Alien Interview* presented a collection of letters, official transcripts classified as Top Secret by the U.S. Army Air Force, and personal notes from Matilda O’Donnell MacElroy that were entrusted to Lawrence Spencer in August 2007. These materials centre on the same topic – MacElroy’s interview with an alien being after the Roswell Incident in July 1947. Spencer explained from top to bottom how he got hold of the materials from Mrs MacElroy and presented the materials verbatim wherever possible to keep its completeness and originality except for necessary sequencing and supplementary commentary added as footnotes.  **[2]** Spencer stated explicitly in the disclaimer that the book should be considered a work of fiction although specific dates, locations, names and incidents described in *Alien Interview* might be factual in nature. The personal letters from Mrs MacElroy presented later in the book, however, suggested that the disclaimer was more than a mere statement dismissing the factual nature of the materials. It was an amulet protecting Spencer from any possible death threats that would come along with the disclosure of these materials. The release of the materials could lead to catastrophic consequences as it might jeopardise the vested interests of some political, religious and economic parties which were shielded by the label “national security”. Spencer also claimed that he had destroyed all the original documentation from Mrs MacElroy. The claim, however, does not seem logical because the editor left nothing to prove the authenticity of the source while trying to create the impression that he was portraying real events.  **[3]** Spencer organised the notes and transcripts of the interviews into 16 chapters mostly in chronological order. A few chapters, however, are put together according to different themes. The editor took the liberty to insert footnotes and commentary to the original scripts where he found additional information or supplementary explanation might help readers understand the historical context and clarify certain terms and events. The footnotes, which take up half of the book, appear in the appendix at the end of the book. The first six chapters document the first few interviews Mrs MacElroy had with the alien being, Airl, and explained how Airl could later communicate telepathically with Mrs MacElroy in English. The subsequent seven chapters are organised according to different themes, namely ancient history, recent history, time line of events, biology, science, immortality and the future. These chapters recount a series of events in the long history on the earth from another perspective. Airl also provided interesting points of view towards different religions, which devoted theists may want to skip.  **[4]** Matilda O’Donnell MacElroy was a flight nurse of the U.S. Women’s Army Air Force. In July 1947, there was a crash in Roswell, New Mexico. As a medic, Mrs MacElroy was assigned to the crash site to offer medical assistance. A survivor was found conscious but the survivor didn’t look quite the same as us. The survivor had a head disproportionately huge with a flexible skull. The concave nose, deeply-set large eyes and black skin convinced Mrs MacElroy the being lying in front of her did not belong to the same planet as she did. While no other personnel on-site managed to communicate with the alien being, Mrs MacElroy was somehow able to communicate with the survivor in the form of telepathy. The ability of being able to communicate telepathically with the big head had given the nurse the duties of communicating and interviewing the alien being in the following six weeks.  **[5]** According to one of the personal letters Mrs MacElroy wrote to Spencer, the interview transcripts provided insights into some questions that had never been answered, including:   * Who are we? * What is our purpose on the earth? * Is mankind alone in the universe?   According to Airl, the earth was a relatively isolated and unstable planet which was not suitable for any sustainable civilisations. The planet was, therefore, used as a prison planet where all the beings on this planet were trapped with force screens generated by some electronic monitoring machinery. All the human beings on the earth were souls inhabiting biological bodies. Once the flesh the soul inhabiting expired and ceased to function, the soul would be given overwhelming electronic shocks to wipe out all the memories of this life. The clean slate would then be assigned to inhabit a new body and start a new cycle of life all over again. The process would continue, unless the electronic monitoring systems were destroyed, for eternity. The only soul which managed to overcome the amnesia system and escape from the prison planet in the history of the earth was Laozi, a Chinese philosopher and the writer of the famous *Tao-te Ching.*  **[6]** The book receives polarising views. Readers either love it or hate it. Readers who gave high ratings considered the book enlightening and a “must read” item as it was thought-provoking, encouraging them to question their own belief systems and assumptions about science and religions. Readers rating the book low considered it a hoax. They regarded the claim of destroying the original documentation as the evidence of a cover-up. They also found that most of the terms and concepts were directly borrowed from the work of Lafayette Ronald Hubbard, a science fiction author and the founder of the Church of Scientology. Some even suggested that the PDF format of the book being available on the Internet for free download was a marketing strategy to create a fan base for its sequel, “The Domain Expeditionary Force Rescue Mission”, which definitely cost more than just a few clicks.  **[7]** *Alien Interview* is definitely an intriguing read. Despite my reservations over the authenticity of the source of information, the concepts and theories suggested provide a new perspective for answering some philosophical questions such as “who are we?”, “where did we come from?” and “where are we going?”. I wouldn’t go to great lengths to say it is a “must read” but I would recommend the book to people who are eager to answer the above questions with an open mind. For devoted believers of deity, *Alien Interview* serves well as a science fiction read. There is no harm appreciating creativity and imagination, is there? | Q1, Q3, Q2  Q16a  Q4  Q16b  Q5  Q6a  Q16d  Q5  Q6b. Q14  Q7  Q8  Q16c  Q9(i)  Q9(ii)  Q9(iii)  Q9(ii)  Q10  Q12(i)  Q11  Q12(ii), (iii)  Q11, Q12(iv)  Q16e  Q13  Q13  Q13  Q16f  Q17  Q14  Q15 |

**END OF ANNOTATED TEXT**