

MOCKS 2: Paper 2 STORIES

MODEL RESPONSE

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1. How do the closing sentences of the first paragraph establish the appeal of stories? (2m)

From the passage	Suggested paraphrase
<u>Everything</u> – faith, science, love – <u>needs a story</u> for people to find it <u>plausible</u> . No story, no sale. (para 1)	(a) <u>Regardless of the/ Across all</u> subject matters/ topics, (b) stories are <u>necessary</u> (a+b 1m) (c) for people to <u>believe in</u> them. (1m) <i>*Degree has to be shown for (a).</i>

2. What reasons does the author provide to support her claim **in line 7** that ‘We all like stories’? (2m)

From the passage	Suggested paraphrase
When we <u>do not have a story we look for one</u> . Journalists go to extreme ends to pursue their subjects. Boy Scouts...make it up as the tale unfolds. <u>Religions are so successful because they tell stories</u> , though, to be sure, some of their stories have nice morals and some are not nice at all. (para 2)	(a) We create stories when they are <u>absent/ missing</u> . (b) Also, <u>religions are popular/ have a wide following</u> because they are able to <u>make use of stories to attract</u> followers. (1m) <i>*For (a), accept answers which cite the examples of journalists and boy scouts, but not if they merely paraphrase the examples</i>

3. In paragraph 3, what similarity does the author see between ‘strong scientific theories’ and ‘good stories’? (2m)

From the passage	Suggested paraphrase
It is that they <u>make claims so astonishing</u> that they seem <u>instantly very different from all</u> the other stories we have ever heard.	a) They <u>both</u> make <u>assertions/ suggestions/ involve statements</u> that are b) so <u>shocking/ unbelievable</u> (a+b = 1m)

(para 3)	c) that they appear/ seem <u>groundbreaking/ ingenious/ revolutionary</u>. (1m) <i>*Degree has to be shown for (c) ('so astonishing... all the other stories').</i>
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4. How does the author show that 'stories, in the form of news, are to the mind what sugar is to the body' (lines 49-50)? (3m)

From the passage	Suggested paraphrase
<u>News is easy to digest. The media feeds us small bites of trivial matter, tidbits that do not really concern our lives and do not require thinking.</u> That is <u>why we experience almost no saturation</u>. Unlike reading books and long magazine articles (which require thinking), we <u>can swallow limitless quantities of news flashes, stories which are brightly coloured candies for the mind.</u> (para 7)	a) Just as the body is able to <u>ingest/ absorb</u> sugar <u>effortlessly</u>, news does not require much <u>analysis</u>. (1m) <i>*The idea of 'mind' must be shown.</i> b) since they <u>involve non-essentials/ irrelevancies in small doses/ measures</u>. As such, we will not feel <u>overloaded/ overwhelmed/ swamped with</u> too much sugar or news [OR 'either']. (1m) c) Like the <u>detrimental effects</u> sugar has on the body, trivial news <u>stories that swarm our lives</u> are harmful to <u>the mind</u>. (1m) <i>*Comparison must be clear.</i>

5. Explain the irony in lines 55-57. (1m)

From the passage	Suggested paraphrase
The <u>power to astonish</u> that stories have is true <u>even of seemingly long or complicated novels that no one is said to read (but they do anyway).</u> (para 8)	a) <u>Long and complicated novels are supposed to be so unattractive/ boring/ such a put off</u> that people do not read them. b) <u>In reality, the potency/ appeal of stories is so strong</u> that people do read them. (a+b for 1m) <i>*Do not accept 'the reverse is true'. The irony must be clear [clearly show the contrast between expectation and reality]</i>

6. How is the idea that stories will excite people for 'millenia more' (line 60) reflected in the opening lines (lines 1-3)? (1m)

From the passage	Suggested paraphrase
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<u>Stories</u>, more than the wisdom that has been <u>passed down through the ages</u>, <u>are the building blocks of human character and society</u>, and look likely to last longer than fossil fuel. (para 1)	a) It is the idea that stories have long been handed throughout history, shaping individuals and social natures. b) Thus, stories will remain a part of society for a very long time./ the new generations will continue to tell stories. (a+b for 1m) <i>*Degree and context have to be shown. *Allow lifting of 'society'.</i>
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SUMMARY WRITING

7. Summarise how stories alter our way of thinking and the way we engage with the world.

Write your summary in no more than 120 words. (8)

Pt.	From the passage	Suggested paraphrase
1 (p2)	begins, as many <u>learning</u> processes do, with <u>mimicry</u>	Stories <u>teach</u> us by <u>imitating</u>
3	<u>imagine</u> other people's thoughts and <u>emotions</u> .	and <u>envisioning others' thoughts and feelings</u> .
2	stories <u>help</u> our brains <u>map that of the storyteller</u>	They enable us to <u>mirror / trace/ follow</u> the storyteller's <u>thought process</u> .
4	the stories we absorb seem to <u>shape our thought processes</u>	thereby/ thus <u>influencing</u> our <u>own thinking</u> .
5	in much the same way lived experience does	just like <u>real-life situations</u> do.
6	When... told <u>moving true stories</u> , ... <u>identified with</u> the <u>stories</u> and characters...	When we hear <u>touching/ poignant/ heart-warming real events</u> , characters and <u>storylines resonate</u>
7	on a <u>visceral</u> level OR The fMRI data showed that <u>emotion-driven responses</u> to stories... OR <u>gut-level</u> empathetic response	<u>Instinctively / intuitively</u> . *Do not accept 'deeply' and 'strongly'.
8	...started in the brain stem, which	This <u>triggers/ elicits</u> physical <u>reactions</u> ,

	<u>governs basic physical functions</u> OR (inferred) when we read about a character facing a heart-wrenching situation, it's perfectly natural for our own hearts to pound	
9 (p3)	<u>inspire</u> people to <u>behave differently in the real world</u>	and, <u>drives / motivates / influences</u> us to <u>change</u> our <u>actions</u> .
10	(inferred) <u>all the other stories</u> that have <u>changed</u> our <u>perception</u> in the <u>interim</u>	This <u>change</u> to our worldview is <u>gradual/ cumulative</u> , [<u>informed by/ accumulated through myriad stories--optional</u>].
11	We <u>argue</u> with stories... We <u>talk back</u> .	Stories cause us to <u>debate, retort/ rebut</u> .
12	We <u>praise</u> . We denounce.	<u>compliment</u> or <u>objection/ condemn</u> .
13	Every story ...[begins] a conversation,	Each story triggers <u>dialogue/ discussion</u>
14	with ourselves...others OR internal and external	with <u>other parties and oneself</u> .
15	(inferred) exactly what <u>educators</u> are <u>counting</u> on to unleash stories' change-creating potential	Stories are thus <u>powerful teaching tools</u> . *The context of education must be given.
17	<u>biggest transformation...when children actively engage</u>	<u>Crucially</u> , when students <u>understand a story</u> . *Award only if 19 is present
18	– even <u>empathise</u> – with a particular narrative,	<u>genuinely commiserating/ feeling</u> for characters,
19	recognising how it matters to them OR they are also thinking about similar matters closer to home	they gain insights <u>relevant / applicable</u> to their own experience.
20	their <u>thoughts and choices</u> <u>shift measurably</u>	They <u>change</u> their <u>decisions significantly / greatly / noticeably</u> . *Award only if the degree of change is captured.
21	show <u>more empathy and concern for others</u>	<u>Compassion increases / They care more</u> *Must capture increase *Award BOD for 'they become better people'

22	more <u>likely to intervene</u> when other students are bullied	and the <u>possibility</u> that they would <u>protect / stand up</u> for others <u>heightens</u> .
23 (p4)	(inferred) Depressed people often cling to <u>long-established internal narratives</u> with refrains like 'I'm not good enough to achieve much.'	Some <u>personal dialogues/ introspections</u> <u>perpetuate/ reinforce undesirable/ negative mindsets/ beliefs</u> and
24	some <u>enthraling</u> inner narratives can <u>damage mental horizons</u>	<u>captivating</u> ones can <u>destroy our worldview / how we perceive the world</u> .
25	these are stagnant inner monologues which should be discarded	These must be <u>replaced with / abandoned for</u>
26	and <u>substituted with fresh ones</u> OR persuasive is not, in itself, a <u>virtue</u>	<u>more meritorious / beneficial</u> beliefs / thought patterns. *‘Fresh ones’ must be contextualised.

[first 23 points in 118 words]

1. Passage 1 asserts that 'Studies show that people who read a lot of novels have better social and empathetic abilities, are more skilful navigators, than those who do not.' (line 22-23).

Identify one specific **observation** in Passage 2 which can be used to **support** this statement. Justify your answer. (2m)

From the passage	Suggested justification
Our mental response to stories begins... with <u>mimicry</u> ... <u>stories help our brains map that of the storyteller, and imagine other people's thoughts and emotions</u> . What is more, the <u>stories we absorb seem to shape our thought processes</u> in much the same way lived experience does. When research subjects are told moving true stories, their brains revealed that they <u>identified with the stories and characters on a visceral level</u> . (para 2)	An idea raised in passage 2, paragraph 2 is that <u>stories trigger our brains to identify with the conditions [or: ideas and feelings] of others</u> . Further, we may even <u>connect with their situations in a very deep-rooted/ instinctive way</u> . [Interpretation-1m] It supports the idea in passage 1 because the impact of <u>stories in strengthening our capacity to and care for others is similarly evident in the noteworthy mental and emotional effects of powerful narratives</u> . [Justification-1m] (Accept any answer as long as the justification is valid in relation to the correctly identified point)

2. Passage 2 states that 'we have known intuitively that stories alter our thinking

and, in turn, the way we engage with the world'. (line 4-5).

Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to **undermine** this statement. Justify your answer. (2m)

From the passage	Suggested justification
It wasn't until <u>my thirties that I recognised I have a story worth telling and appreciating</u>. A story that <u>doesn't need to be edited, reframed, and fit into any boxes</u>. A story that has been <u>unfolding for years and is unfolding with every new day</u>. (para 2)	The author asserts in passage 3, paragraph 2 that the value of our personal stories is <u>not naturally/ immediately grasped</u>. We may also not appreciate the individualistic aspects of these stories that have been uniquely shaped by our years of experience until we are older. [Interpretation-1m] The fact that it was <u>only in her adulthood</u> that the author <u>discovered how her life constitutes a meaningful story</u> undermines the point in passage 2 because it contradicts the assertion that <u>humans can naturally sense a story and utilise them to interact with our world</u>. <i>(Accept any answer as long as the justification is valid in relation to the correctly identified point)</i>