

**Reading passage 1**

BOOKS, FILMS, AND PLAYS

- A The novelist's medium is written word, one might almost say the printed word; the novel as we know was born with the invention of printing. Typically the novel is consumed by a silent, solitary reader, who may be anywhere at the time. The paperback novel is still the cheapest, most portable and adaptable form of narrative entertainment. | It is limited to a single channel of information – writing. However, within that restriction it is the most versatile of narrative forms. The narrative can go, effortlessly, anywhere: into space, people's heads, palaces, prisons and pyramids, without any consideration of cost or practical feasibility. In determining the shape and content of his/her narrative, the writer of prose fiction is constrained by nothing except purely artistic criteria.
- B This does not necessarily make the task any easier than that of the writer of play and screenplays, who must always be conscious of practical constraints such as budgets, performance time, casting requirements, and so on.
- C The very infinity of choice enjoyed by the novelist is a source of anxiety and difficulty. But the novelist does retain absolute control over his/her text until it is published and received by the audience. He or she may be advised by their editor to revise the text, but if the writer refused to meet his condition no one would be surprised. It is not unknown for a well-established novelist to deliver his or her manuscript and expect the publisher to print it exactly as written. However, not even the most well-established playwright or screenplay writer would submit a script and expect it to be performed without any rewriting. This is because plays and motion pictures are collaborative forms of narrative, using more than one channel of communication
- D The production of a stage play involves, as well as the words of the author, the physical presence of the actors, their voices and gestures as orchestrated by the director, spectacle in the form of lighting and "the set", and possibly music. In film, the element of spectacle is more prominent in the sequence of visual images, heightened by various devices of perspective and focus. In film too, music tends to be more pervasive and potent than in straight drama. So, although the script is the essential basis of both stage play and film, it is a basis for subsequent revision negotiated between the writer and the other creative people involved; in case of the screenplay, the writer may have little or no control over the final form of his or her work. Contracts for the production of plays protect the rights of authors in this respect. They are given "approval" of the choice of director and actors and have the right to attend rehearsals. Often a good deal of rewriting takes place in the rehearsal period and sometimes there is an opportunity for more rewriting during previews before the official opening night.
- E In film or television work, on the other hand, the screenplay writer usually has no contractual right to this degree of consultation. Practice in this respect varies very much from one production company to another, and according to the nature of the project and the individuals involved. In short, while the script is going through its various drafts,

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the writer is in the driver's seat, albeit receiving advice and criticism from the producer and the director. But once the production is under way, artistic control over the project tends to pass to the director. This is a fact overlooked by most journalistic critics of television drama, who tend (unlike film critics) to give all the credit or blame for success or failure of a production to the writer and actors ignoring the contribution, for good or ill, of the director.

### Reading passage 1 – Task 1

Complete the summary below with words taken from the passage. Use **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD** for each answer. **COPY** the expressions from the **PASSAGE**.

The novel is arguably the most versatile **1)** \_\_\_\_\_ written medium. But the artistic freedom this brings with it can cause challenge and **2)** \_\_\_\_\_. Unlike other writers, the **3)** \_\_\_\_\_ can expect his or her work to be accepted with few, if any alterations because the work represents one channel of communication only.

### Reading passage 1 – Task 2

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in the reading passage?

Write:

**TRUE** if the statement agrees with the writer

**FALSE** if the statement contradicts the writer

- 4) Novelists have fewer restrictions on their work than playwrights.
- 5) Novelists must agree to the demands of their editors.
- 6) Music is a more significant element of theatre than cinema.
- 7) Screenplay writers have to tolerate that their work can be subject to changes.

Reading passage 2

HARVARD GRADUATES

- A What are the views and experiences of the bright young people leaving Harvard University? These will be the movers and shakers in US society in the years ahead, many of them about to step into influential jobs in business and government. Harvard's in-house magazine has provided a fascinating snapshot of this young US elite, based on a sample of about half of this year's leavers. How do these offspring of the internet age view the world?
- B Perhaps most startling – and saying something about the pressures and practices of modern students – 42% had sought mental health counselling during their time at Harvard. This is a profile of a year group by numbers – so there's no commentary to explain these figures. But if these are going to be the politicians and financial leaders of the future, there are 17% who admitted cheating during their studies. Furthermore, they stated being suspicious of each other, estimating that 53% of their classmates had cheated.
- C The list of shocking findings doesn't stop at that. Among those planning to enter government or politics, 39% have used marijuana while students. There are 15% of Harvard graduates who are gay – and this survey shows widespread acceptance of same-sex marriage. Among college leavers who identify themselves as "conservative or very conservative" there are 59% who support same-sex marriage.
- D In terms of politics, 80% of these youngsters who voted said they backed former Harvard student, Barack Obama at the 2012 presidential election. They are much more liberal than the general population – with 59% describing themselves as liberal or very liberal, compared with 14% who are conservative or very conservative.
- E These graduates are also an example of a deep geographical divide, which in turn represents a social divide. They are disproportionately likely to come from four places – New York, Washington DC, Massachusetts or California. And a huge 64% of them intended to live in one of these four clusters. In terms of career aspirations, the most popular destinations are finance, consultancy and technology. Only 26% of people planning to go into finance described themselves as liberal or very liberal".
- F In this mosaic of US identity, fewer than two in five, 38%, are atheists or agnostic. There are contrasting experiences among their private lives. The most typical response was to have had two sexual partners while at university. Among male students, 48% said they regularly watched pornography, while 59% of female students said they never watched pornography. For both male and female students, social life often involved drinking alcohol. More than a third of ethnic minority students reported feeling "marginalised because of their race" while at university.
- G This report represents a fragmented view of America's gilded youth, the people who could be mid-century US leaders – not really fitting into any neat categories and with sharply polarised personal experiences.

**Reading passage 2 – Task 1**

**In which paragraph can you find the following information regarding the Harvard students as reported in the article? Choose a letter A – G. Each letter can be used more than once.**

- 8) lack of mutual trust among the students
- 9) a partial picture of the US elite
- 10) drug abuse experience
- 11) inappropriate study practices

**Reading passage 2 – Task 2**

**What is the best ending to the following sentences?**

**Choose the best option A, B, C or D for each question.**

**12) Slightly less than half of the Harvard graduates**

- A) get a very important position in the state administration or in business.
- B) are heading into finance.
- C) suffer from mental problems.
- D) would like to live in California, New York, Washington DC and Massachusetts.

**13) The reason why many Harvard students struggle with mental health is likely to lie in**

- A) lack of family support.
- B) stress connected with the study.
- C) lack of intimate relationships.
- D) lack of friends.

**14) More than half of the Harvard college leavers of conservative orientation**

- A) condemn same-sex marriages.
- B) have no objections to same-sex marriages.
- C) have engaged in a homosexual relationship.
- D) have a conflicted view over same-sex marriages.

**15) The proportion of the racial ethnic minority students who feel excluded**

- A) exceeds one third of them.
- B) has not been identified.
- C) falls below third of them.
- D) equals one third of them.

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### Answer Key

#### Reading passage 1 – Task 1

- 1) Narrative
- 2) Anxiety
- 3) Novelist/novelists

#### Reading passage 1 – Task 2

- 4) T
- 5) F
- 6) F
- 7) T

#### Reading passage 2 – Task 1

- 8) B
- 9) G
- 10) C
- 11) B

#### Reading passage 2 – Task 2

- 12) C
- 13) B
- 14) B
- 15) A