



4171/02

ENGLISH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE

HIGHER TIER

UNIT 1 (READING)

A.M. TUESDAY, 4 November 2014

1 hour plus your additional time allowance

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Resource Material.

An 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink, black ball-point pen or your usual method.

Answer ALL questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided. You may also write your answers on a separate answer sheet if preferred.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark available for this unit is 40.

The number of marks in brackets will give you an indication of the time you should spend on each question or part-question.

Answer ALL of the following questions.

On pages 5 to 7 is an internet blog, ‘Not all reality TV shows are bad for kids’, by Hollie McKay.

The SEPARATE RESOURCE MATERIAL is a magazine article, ‘Should We Really Watch Reality TV?’ by Austin Cline.

Read the internet blog, ‘Not all reality TV shows are bad for kids’, which starts on page 5.

- 1. What does Hollie McKay think and feel about reality TV programmes? [10 marks]**

Now read the first six paragraphs of the magazine article in the Resource Material: ‘Should We Really Watch Reality TV?’ [From ‘TV channels around the world have discovered...’ to ‘may explain their appeal.’]

- 2. According to the magazine article, why do people watch reality TV programmes? [10 marks]**

Now read the rest of the article [From ‘Reality television shows are not documentaries’ up to the end]

- 3. What does Austin Cline dislike about reality TV programmes? How does he make it clear he dislikes them? [10 marks]**

To answer the next question you will need to refer to both texts.

- 4. Compare and contrast what these two writers say about the people who take part in reality TV programmes. [10 marks]**

You must make it clear which text you are taking your information from.

NOT ALL REALITY TV SHOWS ARE BAD FOR KIDS

Barely a week goes by without an article in the press about the dangers of television. Reality television, which features ordinary people rather than celebrities, takes a lot of this criticism, with studies and parenting experts pointing the finger of blame at programmes such as GEORDIE SHORE and BIG BROTHER. Critics of reality television claim that the people who appear on these shows promote irresponsible behaviour and have a negative impact on impressionable young viewers.

But not all reality TV shows are ruining today's youth. Several shows can actually have a very positive impact on toddler to teen audiences, experts say. Many reality TV programmes are educational, even if they are not explicitly labelled as such. Take JUNIOR APPRENTICE for example, which gives kids an interesting insight into the world of business. It helps them to develop good leadership and public speaking skills as well as attention to detail. These skills are essential in everyday life and for the world of work. Indeed, kids learn many things from TV role models such as emotional intelligence, social skills, the value of cooperation and the importance of helping others.

Many of these are quality shows families can watch together. They tackle real life issues and they also introduce kids to new ideas in science and technology.

Reality TV is a different way of exposing kids to big topics because they are focused on real people going to real places and doing real things. It can be extremely motivational. Reality TV is also a new way to tell involving and interesting human stories, stories that make a difference to people's lives. REAL LIVES for example, is a show where two inspirational teams race around the world facing physical and mental challenges as well as having to navigate, interact with locals and solve clues.

Nicole Weider, founder of a teenager advice website, gives her thumbs up to a popular weight loss challenge show, THE BIGGEST LOSER. This programme is about much more than just losing weight. It shows what is possible when people set goals for themselves and work hard at it, without making excuses.

However, encouraging young viewers to watch sensible programmes such as CAKE BOSS instead of the controversial and exciting REAL HOUSEWIVES is difficult. Young viewers are so hooked on watching people in painful and embarrassing situations that it's hard for them to see that there's more to reality TV than complete idiots in drunken arguments and catty drama. The networks also know that this over-the-top drama hooks viewers and ultimately increases the size of the audience. Sadly, viewing figures mean success and success means money in the world of television; quality doesn't always come into it.

Most networks are focused on what already works, and sadly that means crazy and senseless reality shows are going to triumph over shows that are educational, inspirational and informative.

Hollie McKay

Adapted from www.foxnews.com