

Books and Films

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you like to read books?

Marie: Yes ... I love reading ... I like nothing more than **to be engrossed in** a good book ... I regularly **take out** books from the library and usually read them **from cover to cover** in no time ... and I can't go to sleep at night without some good **bedtime reading** ...

- **to be engrossed in**: to be completely focused on one thing
- **bedtime reading**: something to read in bed before you go to sleep
- **to take out (a book from the library)**: to borrow a book from the library
- **to read something from cover to cover**: read a book from the first page to the last

Examiner: How often do you go to the cinema?

Jemma: Unfortunately we don't have a cinema near us so we have to go into the nearest town **to catch the latest movie** ... I usually avoid seeing popular **box-office hits** which I'm not always keen on seeing ... I prefer **low-budget films** ... **sci-fi** especially ... and there's a great cinema I go to that has frequent **showings** of films like these ...

- **showings**: performances of a film
- **a low budget film**: a film made with a small amount of money
- **a box office hit**: a financially successful film
- **sci-fi**: science fiction
- **to catch the latest movie**: to see a film that has just come out

Examiner: Do you prefer reading books or watching films?

Louisa: I'm not really **a big reader** ... I find books quite **heavy-going** ... so I much prefer to see a film ... perhaps it's the **special effects** or the **soundtrack** ... I don't know ... I just prefer a film ...

- **to be a big reader**: someone who reads a lot
- **to be heavy-going**: difficult to read
- **special effects**: the visuals or sounds that are added to a film which are difficult to produce naturally
- **soundtrack**: the music that accompanies a film

Part 2-style task

Describe a book you have read or a film you have seen. You should say:

- what this book or film was
- when you read or saw it
- why you decided to see the film or read the

book and say if you enjoyed it and why.

Pauline I like reading ... especially English novels ... it's a great way to improve your vocabulary and there are so many fantastic authors to choose from ... one book that **came highly recommended** by my teacher was *The Mayor of Casterbridge* ... I was studying at a school in The UK at the time and she said it would give me a picture of what life was like years ago in the area I was living ... well I have to say I absolutely loved it ... It was **a real page-turner** ... it's a **historical novel** and **the setting** was a fictional town called Casterbridge ... but actually it was **based on** a town near where I was studying called Dorchester ... it had such a great **plot** ... to cut a long story short **it tells the story of** the downfall of a man called Henchard **the central character** who lives during a period of great social change around the time of the industrial revolution ... the reason I enjoyed it so much ... apart from the great story ... it gave me a picture of what life had been like in the place I was studying at the time ... I really **couldn't put it down** ... a fantastic story ...

- ***a historical novel***: a story set in the past
- ***a page turner***: a book that you want to keep reading
- ***to come highly recommended***: to be praised by another person
- ***to be based on***: to use as a modal
- ***plot***: the main events in a film or book
- ***the setting***: where the action takes place
- ***couldn't put it down***: wasn't able to stop reading a book
- ***the central character***: the main person in a film or book
- ***to tell the story of***: to outline the details of someone's life or an event

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Is reading as pleasurable in digital format?

Alise: Personally I prefer reading a **paperback** or **hardback** ... especially if I'm reading a **classic** which I don't think feels right as an **e-book** ... but I can see it can be good for others ... my grandmother has an **e-reader** and she loves the way you can

enlarge the text ...

- ***an e-book***: a digital book
- ***an e-reader***: a device for reading e-books
- ***paperback***: a book with a flexible cover (see 'hardback' above)
- ***hardback***: a book with a rigid cover (see 'paperback' below)

Examiner: Do you think bookshops will survive the digital revolution?

Thomas: I think so ... at least I hope so ... I love **flicking through** books in a bookshop ... online shopping is useful ... finding out on Amazon if a book you want has **got a good review** ... maybe getting one that is difficult to find ... but I still love the experience of being in a bookshop ...

- ***to flick through***: to look quickly through a book
- ***to get a good/bad review***: to receive positive or negative feedback

Examiner: Statistics show that visits to the cinema are up despite the availability of DVDs and online downloads. Why do you think this might be?

Jamie: I think it's the whole experience that the cinema offers ... going out **to see a film** when it **goes on general release** ... and seeing it **on the big screen** is more exciting than **watching the film** at home on TV ... especially if it's **an action movie** ... and watching it with others makes it even more special ...

- ***to go on general release***: when a film can be seen by the general public
- ***on the big screen***: at the cinema
- ***an action movie***: a film with fast moving scenes, often containing violence
- ***to see a film***: to see a film at the cinema (see 'watch a film' below)
- ***to watch a film***: to watch a film on TV (see 'to see a film' above)

Addition:

- ***a blockbuster***: a film that is a big commercial success
- ***a classic***: of the highest quality