

PART 1 – COMPREHENSION AND INTERPRETATION

TEXT 1

Read the following statements and say whether each one is **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Stated (NS)**. Put a cross in the correct box.

1. The scene is set on a summer afternoon.

T **FX** NS

2. The family's gardener manicures the grounds in preparation for the garden-party later that day.

TX F NS

3. Meg and Laura are sisters.

TX F NS

4. Jose is Laura's brother.

T F **NSX**

5. Laura's birthday is the occasion for the garden party.

T F **NSX**

6. Laura's proposal about where to put the marquee is accepted by the workmen.

T **FX** NS

7. Laura looked like her mother.

T F **NSX**

Answer the questions below. Use complete sentences and your own words. *(suggested answers)*

1. How would you describe the personality of Laura's mother?

Laura's mother wants one of her children to supervise the preparations for the garden party. On the one hand, she sounds detached as if she doesn't want to have anything to do with the party but on the other her aggressive style seems to suggest that, in the end, she will control every single aspect of the event.

SIMULAZIONE 1

--> **ANSWER KEY**

2. What happens when Laura tries to imitate her mother when dealing with the unfamiliar men? What does it suggest to you about Laura's personality?

When Laura stops being herself and begins talking to the workmen as her mother would have done to give orders, she feels ashamed and sounds as if she was unable to speak (l. ...: "she was ashamed and stammered like a little girl"). This episode seems to imply that Laura is struggling between the desire to be herself and the behaviour she knows is expected of her as a member of a wealthy family.

3. How does the conversation between Laura and the workmen illustrate the theme of class division?

Laura is fascinated by the workmen, impressed by their tools. At a certain point the narrator remarks that "his smile was so easy, so friendly that Laura recovered. What nice eyes he had, small, but such a dark blue!" This sentence shows Laura is not prejudiced against the workmen. Their friendly smile comforts her after she has spoken unnaturally to them.

However, she is also intimidated by them and behaves nervously. In her mind there is a clear difference between her social class and that of the workmen. When Laura suggests the marquee should be set up on the lily-lawn one of the workmen disagrees and says the marquee should be placed where it can "give you a bang slap in the eye" (l. ...) Even if the narrator says Laura understands the workman's "bang slap" remark, she doesn't. This happens because the two worlds are too different to be able to understand each other.

TEXT 2

Read the following statements and say whether each one is **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Stated (NS)**. Put a cross in the correct box.

1. The increase in the number of elderly people in a population is leading to a decrease in the number of people who are working.

T F NS

2. Both boomers and millennials have consumption and work behaviors that differ from those of previous generations.

T F NS

Answer the questions below. Use complete sentences and your own words. *(suggested answers)*

- 1 How is the rise in dependency ratios affecting global economy? Why is productivity becoming increasingly important in this context?

Global economy is experiencing a rise in dependency ratios after nearly half a century of declines. As a result, labor inputs are slowing in advanced economies, which is putting pressure on the importance of productivity in driving overall growth and policy in boosting labor force participation. In the US, women and men who are just starting work have been withdrawing from the labor market, thus further exacerbating this trend.

2. What factors have contributed to the way Millennials behave as workers and consumers?

Millennials, i.e. those people who were born between 1980 and 2000, exhibit different consumption and work behaviors compared with previous generations. This is due in part to the fact that they are the first group to come of age after the arrival of digital technology, which has resulted in heightened expectations of immediacy, participation, and transparency. Additionally, many Millennials became economically active during the Great Recession, which may have influenced their attitudes towards risk and confidence in major institutions.