YEAR 11 | ENGLISH READING COMPREHENSION

STUDENT PAPER — original practice assessment

Name: _____ Date: _____

Suggested time: 60–75 minutes. Show reasoning, cite evidence where appropriate, and answer in complete sentences.

Read this original non-fiction passage

1. The town library opened its doors an hour earlier each morning. At first, only three people came: a cleaner on her break, a student waiting for the bus, and a man who read newspapers without borrowing them. Within a month, the reading tables filled. The council described the experiment as an efficiency measure, but visitors spoke of something less measurable. For some, the library was the only warm, quiet place where nobody expected them to buy anything. Others came simply to be around people without having to speak. When budget cuts threatened the extra hour, the council published attendance figures; the visitors brought stories. Both sides had evidence, but they were not measuring the same thing.

Section A — Understanding and inference (20 marks)

1. Identify two details showing that early attendance was modest. (4)

2. What does “nobody expected them to buy anything” suggest about the library’s social role? (4)

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3. Explain why the author lists three very different visitors at the beginning. (4)

4. What is the effect of contrasting “attendance figures” with “stories”? (4)

5. What does the final sentence imply about public decision-making? (4)

Section B — Analytical writing (20 marks)

1. Write 250–350 words: How does the writer persuade readers that a public library’s value cannot be measured by visitor numbers alone? Refer to at least three specific phrases. (20)

ANSWER KEY & TUTOR GUIDANCE

English Reading Comprehension

The following pages contain suggested answers, marking points and tutor guidance. For open-ended tasks, answers are indicative rather than the only acceptable responses.

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TUTOR GUIDE — indicative responses and marking points

Read this original non-fiction passage

1. Key reading: contrast between quantitative attendance evidence and lived social value; library as inclusive public space; measured versus unmeasured benefits.

Section A — Understanding and inference (20 marks)

1. Only three visitors came; examples of their distinct routines. 2 marks each.

2. Free, non-commercial refuge; access and dignity regardless of income. 2 inference + 2 textual support.

3. Emphasises broad, everyday appeal and establishes individuals behind statistics. 2 method + 2 effect.

4. Quantitative and qualitative evidence capture different aspects of value. 2 contrast + 2 interpretation.

5. Metrics alone may omit wellbeing and community impact; sound decisions weigh multiple types of evidence.

Section B — Analytical writing (20 marks)

1. Assess thesis 4, embedded textual evidence 5, language/structural analysis 7, coherent writing 4. Discuss opening anecdote, humanising details, contrasting vocabulary, and final aphorism.

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