

Paper 1 Section A: Reading

REVIEW IT!

The extracts in this section come from the beginning of Monica Ali's novel *Brick Lane*. Rupban is pregnant and plucking a chicken when she suddenly goes into labour. The local midwife arrives. The baby's name is Nazneen.

- 1 How many minutes should you spend reading the questions and the text extract (source)?
- 2 What should you do before you read and while you read the text?
- 3 What is the focus of Question 1? (What is it testing?)
- 4 How many minutes should you spend answering this question?

5

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Hamid ran from the latrine, although his business was unfinished. He ran across the vegetable plot, past the towers of rice stalk taller than the tallest building, over the dirt track that bounded the village, back to the compound and grabbed a club to kill the man who was killing his wife. He knew it was her. Who else could break glass with one screech? Rupban was in the sleeping quarters. The bed was unrolled, though she was still standing. With one hand she held Mumtaz's shoulder, with the other a half-plucked chicken.
Mumtaz waved Hamid away. 'Go. Get Banesa. Are you waiting for a rickshaw? Go on, use your legs.'
-----”

List four things from this part of the text about urgency. [4 marks]

EXAM-STYLE
QUESTION

- 6 What is the focus of Question 2?
- 7 How many minutes should you spend answering Question 1?

8 Banesa arrives but pronounces the baby dead.

“-----
'See your daughter,' Banesa said to Rupban. 'Perfect everywhere. All she lacked was someone to ease her path to this world.' She looked at Cheepy-cheepy lying next to the bereaved mother and hollowed her cheeks; a hungry look widened her eyes slightly although they were practically buried in crinkles. It was many months since she had tasted meat, now that two young girls (she should have strangled them at birth) had set up in competition.
'Let me wash and dress her for the burial,' said Banesa. 'Of course I offer my service free. Maybe just that chicken there for my trouble. I see it is old and stringy.'
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How does the writer use language to introduce Banesa?
You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

[8 marks]

EXAM-STYLE
QUESTION

- 9 What is the focus of Question 3?
- 10 How many minutes should you spend answering Question 2?