

Question A3: Making sense of information

You should re-read the second text. This will be the nineteenth-century non-fiction text. There will be 3 marks for this question, so aim to spend about 3–4 minutes answering it.

What exactly must I do?

Check which text you are answering on first. Read the question carefully. Select the right details from the text by writing them down clearly and putting your ideas into your own words or quoting briefly from the text.

The question will tell you which text you should be looking at, so read the instructions carefully.



ACTIVITY 1

Read this extract. Lady Eastlake writes about a visit to Devonshire House in 1850.

We drew up under a large portico, where, as it was raining, hundreds of servants were clustered. Then we entered a very large hall, with pillars in couples looking like the crypt of the whole building. This hall led to the grand staircase, which encompasses a space big enough for billiard table, statues, etc. Nothing could be more grand and princely than the view – groups sitting and lounging about the billiard table, where the Duke of Argyll and others were playing – crowds leaning over the stairs and looking down from the landing above: the stairs themselves splendid shallow broad steps of the purest white marble, which sprang unsupported with their weight of gorgeous crystal balustrade from the wall; and such a blaze of intense yet soft light, diffused round everything and saloon at Devonshire everybody by a number of gas jets on the walls. The apartments were perfect fairyland, marble, gilding mirrors, pictures and flowers; couches round beds of geraniums and roses, every rare and sweet oddity lying about in saucers, bouquets without end, tiers of red and white camellias in gorgeous pyramids, two refreshment rooms spread with every delicacy in and out of season, music swelling from some masterly instrumental performers, and the buzz of voices from the gay crowd, which were moving to and fro without any crush upon the smooth parquet.

From Journals and Correspondence of Lady Eastlake, Volume 1

Use your reading strategies to try to work out the meanings of the following words in the passage:

- 1 portico
- 2 encompasses
- 3 balustrade
- 4 diffused
- 5 camellias
- 6 parquet

**ACTIVITY 2**

- 1 What reading strategies could you use to try to help you understand these words?

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- 2 What is the meaning of explicit information?

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- 3 Give an example from the text.

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- 4 Name three ways in which the people in the house entertained themselves.

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**ACTIVITY 3**

- 1 What is the meaning of implicit information?

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- 2 Give an example from the text.

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- 3 What three things in the passage that tell you that Lady Eastlake was impressed with the house?

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Extended practice

Read this report from April 1879. The author, Emma Paterson, discusses 'domestic service', the practice of the upper classes employing servants, often female, from a young age. They would live and work at their place of work and the hours were usually long and the work hard.

There are many reasons for the great disinclination which girls have for domestic service, but it would take too long to go fully into these. In all but large, rich households, where there is much idleness and waste, domestic service is incessant hard work at all hours of the day and sometimes of the night also. It is at best but a kind of slavery, and when a girl has a home it is only a human feeling, and one that we should respect, if she prefers to undertake work in trades, because she can return at night and on Sundays to the home circle. At a meeting last year of factory women in Bristol who were earning only 5s. or 6s. per week, I urged upon them the advisability of going out to service rather than submit to such low wages, but without an exception the advice was rejected by all ...

From 'The Organisation of Women's Industry' by Emma Paterson (from *Women's Union Journal*, April 1879)

1 Give one reason why, according to the author, girls prefer to 'work in trades'. [1]

2 How much money does she say the factory girls in Bristol are earning? [1]

3 What words or phrases give you the impression that Emma Paterson disapproves of domestic service? [1]