Extended response: Reading — Various texts

This sample is intended to inform the design of assessment instruments in the senior phase of learning. It highlights the qualities of student work and the match to the syllabus standards.

Criterion assessed

- Reading

Assessment instrument

The response presented in this sample is to assessment items.

General instructions

Read the attached extracts from the French press online and answer the questions in English, providing full relevant details. The original assessment instrument contained three French texts.

Note: Due to copyright restrictions, the following texts have been translated and summarised.

Text one

Text one outlined how Barack Obama would distribute his Nobel prize money among various humanitarian causes. Fisher House, an NGO that provides accommodation for the families of sick former military personnel, and the Bush-Clinton foundation providing aid to Haiti following the earthquake will receive specified amounts. The rest will be shared between a series of other organisations mainly involved in educational projects or development aid in Africa and Asia.

Question 1

Write a summary of how Barack Obama is proposing to use his Nobel Prize award money.

Text two

Text two is an article about two women who refused to put themselves under a scanner at Manchester airport because of religious and medical objections. They were chosen at random but, as they refused to pass the scanner, they missed their flight. The authorities could justify their actions because of the threat of a terrorist attack and because the choice was random.

Question 2

Read the article on the incident in England. How would the two women and the British authorities justify their actions? Refer only to material contained in the extract.
Text three

The third text was a news report on the internet about an earthquake in Tibet and the resulting deaths and destruction. The military were deployed to help. Houses were destroyed and inhabitants left without shelter. The Chinese press agency reported a crack in a local dam, which they were trying to fix. The injured were everywhere and there was a lack of resources. The Dalai Lama was praying for the victims. The Tibetan plateau regularly suffers earthquakes but casualties are usually limited; however, the Sichuan earthquake caused thousands of deaths. The destruction angered the population and there were accusations of corruption. The Japanese offered aid but the Chinese declined.

Question 3

i. What is the probable meaning of l’effondrement (line 4)?

ii. What problem do people in the county of Yushu now face?

iii. Summarise how the Chinese authorities have responded to the earthquake and say why, according to the article, they may have been anxious to do so in a thorough manner.

iv. In what context is a dam mentioned? Give full details.

v. What is the spokesman for the local authority reported as saying?

vi. According to the article, how serious is this earthquake by local standards in terms of victims?

vii. Which fact might lead one to believe that the Chinese government is in control of the situation?
Instrument-specific criteria and standards

Student responses have been matched to instrument-specific criteria and standards; those which best describe the student work in this sample are shown below. For more information about the syllabus dimensions and standards descriptors, see www.qsa.qld.edu.au/4908.html.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard A</th>
<th>Standard B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The student work has the following characteristics:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• a comprehensive range of information is presented, including gist, main</td>
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<tr>
<td>points and relevant details</td>
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<td>• the meaning of familiar and complex language is accurately and clearly</td>
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<td>demonstrated</td>
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<td>• the purpose of the text and the writer’s perspective and intention are</td>
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<td>clearly evident</td>
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<td>• subtleties are recognised</td>
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<td>• detailed analysis and thorough evaluation are evident</td>
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<tr>
<td>• plausible interpretations of unfamiliar language are drawn from context</td>
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<tr>
<td>• well-constructed conclusions and well-substantiated decisions are made</td>
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<td>• cultural meanings are integrated into responses where appropriate.</td>
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Note: Colour highlights have been used in the table to emphasise the qualities that discriminate between the standards for knowing and understanding and reason and responding.
# Student response — Standard A

The annotations show the match to the instrument-specific standards.

## Text 1 Comments

A comprehensive range of information, including gist, main points and relevant details.

**Question 1**

Write a summary of how Barack Obama is proposing to use his Nobel Prize award money.

*He announced that he will split the money 1.4 million between different humanitarian causes.* Of the sum, 250 000 dollars will be given to Fisher House, an American NGO which accommodate, families of former veterans with sicknesses/injuries. 200 000 dollars will go to new Bush-Clinton funds to aid Haiti after the earthquakes. The rest will be spread between a series of other organisations, mainly in education plans on in helping development in Africa and Asia.

## Text 2 Comments

A comprehensive range of information, including gist, main points and relevant details.

**Question 2**

Read the article on the incident in England. How would the two women and the British authorities justify their actions? Refer only to material contained in the extract.

*The two women refused to put themselves under the scanner* for the following reasons:
- The first lady refused due to religious reasons
- The second lady refused due to medical reasons thus, they were not allowed to embark the plane.

The two women were chosen at random by security service and as they refused to pass the scanner, they missed their flight and lost the cost of their tickets.

The British authorities could justify their choice due to the following:
- The introduction of the scanners was put in place to enforce security of air traffic after the failed terrorist attack of the Amsterdam-Detroit Flight on Christmas day
- They were chosen at random. Some 15 000 people have passed the scanners at Manchester since February — 5% of passengers.

## Text 3 Comments

Plausible interpretations of unfamiliar language are drawn from context.

**Question 3**

i. What is the probable meaning of *l’effondrement* (line 4)?

Could possibly mean the *destruction or collapse of the buildings*.

ii. What problem do people in the county of Yushu now face?

*The majority of houses had been destroyed and a number of people in the region will be without shelter – will need to face the low temperatures.*

iii. Summarise how the Chinese authorities have responded to the earthquake and say why, according to the article, they may have been anxious to do so in a thorough manner.

*The Chinese authorities have responded by the following: The military had been deployed in the Quinghai province to some people and helped them escape. Private organisations have sent aid to in Xining and the Yushu county devastated by the earthquake. They would be anxious to do so as a majority of houses had been destroyed and a number of inhabitants. Would be without shelter with temperatures oscillating around 0 degrees at Yushu or even lower at villages of different altitudes.* Also authorities were accused of corruption after the earthquake of 2008.
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<td>iv. In what context is a dam mentioned? Give full details.</td>
<td><em>The Chinese agency reported that a crack had been detected in the dam in that (Yushu) region and employees are hurrying to stop the water from escaping and spreading.</em></td>
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<td>v. What is the spokesman for the local authority reported as saying?</td>
<td><em>He is reported saying that he saw injured people everywhere and the principal problem present is that they launched tents, medical equipment, medical and health people.</em></td>
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<td>vi. According to the article, how serious is this earthquake by local standards in terms of victims?</td>
<td><em>By local standards, the earthquake is quite serious as the plateau is regularly shaken earthquakes and the number of victims is generally limited due to the weak population density. This earthquake however caused 400 deaths. The earthquake is also however small compared to the devastating earthquake which hit Sichuan in May 2008 and caused 80,000 deaths.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>vii. Which fact might lead one to believe that the Chinese government is in control of the situation?</td>
<td><em>The fact that Peking declined help from the Japanese government (at this stage) suggests that the Chinese government may be in control of the situation.</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Text 1 Comments

**Question 1**
Write a summary of how Barack Obama is proposing to use his Nobel Prize award money.

The plans to donate **250 000 dollars to the fisher Mouse charity**, American organization who help the families of wounded veterans. Another 2 million to help Haiti after the earthquake through Bill Clinton’s and G.Bushes Frontline Aid group. The rest will be given to a series of other orgs, principally being to projects of education and development in Africa and Asia.

### Text 2 Comments

**Question 2**
Read the article on the incident in England. How would the two women and the British authorities justify their actions? Refer only to material contained in the extract.

The two women refused to pass security body scanners done to motives of religion and medical at Manchester Airport on the 19 February. It's the first case where persons have not been let on to the plane as they would not be scanned because the scanned personnel would invade their privacy. An application of directives will be put in place by the government in subject of the scanners as many women will be exposed, and made to removal of tickets.

### Text 3 Comments

**Question 3**

i. What is the probable meaning of l’effondrement (line 4)?

The rebuilding, the amount of effort/money to rebuild

ii. What problem do people in the county of Yushu now face?

The cold, without homes they will be at home with temperatures as low as 0 degrees.

iii. Summarise how the Chinese authorities have responded to the earthquake and say why, according to the article, they may have been anxious to do so in a thorough manner.

The military has been deployed to help with the rescuing and rebuilding, and the majority of houses to be destroyed and the number of inhabitants to be re accommodated due to the low temperatures. Many aid organizations have set up in the capital province Xining, to commit their aid to the devastation in Yushu. The authorities did not handle the 2008 Earthquake situation well.

iv. In what context is a dam mentioned? Give full details.

That the dam could be at risk in a barrage earthquake on the region and are diverting the water.

v. What is the spokesman for the local authority reported as saying?

I see many blessings the principle problem is to get up the tents, medical equipment, and sanitation persons.

vi. According to the article, how serious is this earthquake by local standards in terms of victims?

Not very bad compared to the earthquake in Sichuan, in May 2008, with 80 000 deaths.
vii. Which fact might lead one to believe that the Chinese government is in control of the situation?

*As they declined the offer of the assistance from the Japanese.*

**Acknowledgments**

The QSA acknowledges the contribution of the French State Panel in the preparation of this document.